



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE
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County Residents Invited to Learn About Healthy Homes Issues and Provide Input into Statewide Strategic Plan

SAN DIEGO, CA—The city of San Diego invites other agencies and county residents to participate in the “San Diego Healthy Homes Symposium 2009” to be held May 28 in San Diego. The free symposium will consist of two sessions:

- A Legislative Summit will be held 1:30-4 p.m. at the Ridgehaven “Green Building” auditorium, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, 92123; and a
- Community Forum workshop will occur from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Price Charities Building, 6th Floor, 4305 University Ave., 92105.

Seating is limited. Registration for all regional meetings in California, including the one in San Diego, is on-line at www.healthyhomescollaborative.org.

Both workshops will focus on important healthy housing programs and interventions currently taking place in San Diego County, and how the programs fit into the larger state and national picture. Participants will identify strategies to advocate for healthy housing in the county.

The San Diego symposium is one of five California regional conferences to develop a statewide healthy housing strategic plan. Results of the various regional meetings will culminate in a symposium to be held in San Francisco on June 16 and 17 and hosted by the California Department of Public Health, National Center for Healthy Housing, and California Endowment. More information about the statewide June meeting can be found at www.californiabreathing.org/.

The San Diego symposium will bring together healthy housing advocates, professionals, researchers and community groups.

City of San Diego Councilmember Donna Frye will give opening remarks at the Legislative Summit workshop. Other speakers are Rebecca Morley, executive director of the National Center for Healthy Housing; Arcela Nunez-Alvarez, PhD, research

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director at Cal State San Marcos, and Doug Farquhar, environmental program director for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

“Homes should be safe havens for families. Sadly, it is the place where children are most likely to be injured or become ill,” said Chris Gonaver, director of the Environmental Services Department.

With both housing and health care sectors in crisis, there is a critical need to tackle the preventable disease and injury caused by unhealthy housing and neighborhood conditions.

Every year in the U.S. there are:

- More than 13 million home injuries
- Nearly 3,000 deaths due to house fires
- Two million emergency room visits for asthma
- An estimated 250,000 children with elevated blood lead levels

Attendees will learn about the link between health and housing, especially as relates to asthma and to reducing health disparities. The program will feature both recent data and promising approaches for application in the field.

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