

Proclamation

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING**

MAY 6, 2003 as "WORLD ASTHMA DAY"

WHEREAS, asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting about 15 million people; and

WHEREAS asthma is the leading cause of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed school days each year; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the World Health Organization and the National Institute of Health established an annual "WORLD ASTHMA DAY" in order to increase awareness of this important health issue; and

WHEREAS, 9% of children and 6.1% of adults in San Mateo County reported a diagnosis and symptoms of asthma in a recent year; and

WHEREAS, 1,824 hospitalizations for asthma were recorded in San Mateo County over a recent three year period; and

WHEREAS, exposure to allergens and irritants such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke can bring on an asthma episode; and

WHEREAS, there are simple steps people can take to reduce their exposure to asthma triggers; and

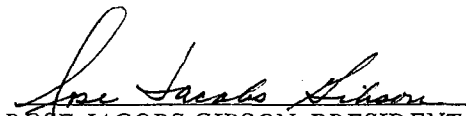
WHEREAS, people with breathing problems should be encouraged to seek early diagnosis and treatment and follow through with their medical care; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Asthma Coalition and the East Palo Alto Asthma Task Force are encouraging the people of San Mateo County to identify and reduce their exposures to environmental triggers in home and schools, and to seek early diagnosis and treatment of breathing problems:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors designates May 6, 2003 as "WORLD ASTHMA DAY" throughout San Mateo County.

DATED: May 6, 2003

SUPERVISORS:


ROSE JACOBS GIBSON, PRESIDENT