NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt Fourth District, San Bernardino County

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Ovitt Brings Asthma Education Program to the West End

San Bernardino – The Board of Supervisors announced funding for an Asthma referral and education program at today's Board Meeting. San Bernardino County received a \$500,000 dollar grant to fund projects and programs related to air pollution mitigation, research, public outreach and education, as well as health treatment centers designed to help improve air quality and the quality of life for affected residents of the West End. The grant was received as a result of Supervisor Ovitt and Chino Mayor Denis Yates' work serving as board members of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Eric Frykman, Interim Director of Public Health stated, "The project will focus on education and assistance to parents, school staff and medical professionals on asthma triggers, how to control asthma, and provide home visits to participating families. The department will use a portion of funds received to purchase air cleaners which will be distributed to families within the community."

The risk of exposure to air pollutants for children in the West End District of the County is significantly higher than most other sister Districts. Increased traffic patterns along the 10 & 15 freeways, as well as commercial jet services from the Ontario International Airport have contributed to poorer air quality and an increase in Asthma related cases among children.

Supervisor Ovitt stated, "The Department intends on serving hundreds families residing in the West End of San Bernardino County. This program is long overdue, and I am very excited to see resources being allocated to combat the poor air quality our families suffer from on a daily basis."

The Department of Public Health will fund one position to conduct the education of school staff and medical professionals, in addition to a health services assistant whose responsibility will be to provide home visits and educate participating families on modern day asthma treatments.

For additional information contact Supervisor Ovitt's District Office at 909-465-1895.