

MARIN COUNTY

September 19, 2006

Re: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Dear Colleagues:

Over the course of the past year, Supervisor Adams and I have been working with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Team (CLPPP) to design a policy to prevent childhood lead poisoning from lead based paint. The CLPPP team is a collaboration of Community Development Agency, Environmental Health and Health and Human Services and has been working with the County Administrator's Office, County Counsel and community stakeholders to create a policy that can be reasonably implemented and is effective in preventing childhood lead poisoning through simple and inexpensive work and maintenance practices.

The proposed Board action requires that any contractor or owner-builder who applies for a building permit involving a building constructed prior to January 1, 1978 must show proof of successful completion of the Lead-Safe Work Practices Quiz within the last twelve months. It is the intention of this Board action to put owners and residents of pre 1978 buildings on notice of potential hazards when disturbing existing paint in these structures that there are safe work practices that can minimize or eliminate lead hazards to workers, residents and their children.

There is no budget impact in this action. Outreach, education and enforcement are within the existing scope of work of the departments involved in this effort.

CLPPP was recognized by our Board a year ago for their extraordinary collaborative effort to eradicate one of the major causes of childhood lead poisoning, which causes long-term, adverse, neurological and developmental disabilities. Since more than seventy percent of Marin County homes were built before 1978, this Board action has a significant impact in reducing such preventable causes of lead poisoning.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely.

Cynthia(Murray