

# SV may *Scotts Valley - 1990* snuff public smoking

## City would be first in county to do so

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*12-22-93*

SCOTTS VALLEY — Smoking may be snuffed out in public places under a proposal the City Council is due to consider in 1994.

"If a person chooses to smoke, that's their choice and that's their business, but they do not need to be affecting the health of others who choose not to smoke," said Councilwoman Gina Koshland.

In a discussion scheduled for February, the council will consider whether it should ban smoking in places such as restaurants, office buildings, and retail stores. Current ordinances call for designated smoking and non-smoking areas in public places.



Koshland

Scotts Valley is the first city in the county to consider such a ban. It follows, however, a growing number of cities statewide that have enacted ordinances that ban smoking in public areas.

More than California 40 cities ban smoking in restaurants and workplaces, according to the California Smoke-Free Cities Project, which is funded by a voter-approved surtax on cigarettes.

"We feel it's important that all citizens have the right to breathe clean air when they go to public places," said LeAnne Ravinale, chairwoman of the Santa Cruz County Tobacco Education Coalition.

Second-hand smoke kills some 53,000 U.S. non-smokers each year, making it the third-leading preventable cause of death, Ravinale said, citing data from the American Heart Association.

Koshland, who supports a ban on smoking in restaurants, said she would like to see how well the proposal sits with the community.

She will likely hear from people like restaurant owner Eugene Bustichi.

He is fuming at the idea and plans to tell the council the proposal stinks.

"I'm definitely against it," said Bustichi, a non-smoker and owner of Scotts Valley Joe's. "I think everybody should be able to pick what they want to do."

Bustichi's restaurant seats up to 90 people in the dining area and 30 people in the adjoining bar. A ban on smoking there would kill his business, he said.

"People come here to relax at the bar and a lot of people light up to relax," he said.

About 19 percent of the county's population are smokers, according to a 1992 study by scientists at UC San Francisco.

About a dozen Scotts Valley eating establishments are smoke-free. They include the High County Coffee Co., Hooked on Fish, and Rosie's Espresso Bar. Major employers in the county who also have smoke-free policies include Borland International, Seagate Technology and the Capitola Mall.