

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer, and HHS Department Director

**DATE:** September 13, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Approve a Proclamation declaring September 2011 to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Placer County

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Proclamation declaring September 2011 to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Placer County.

**BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Each year, the President of the United States, the United States Senate, and the Governors of most States issue Proclamations declaring September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Many counties and cities across the country also recognize Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September by issuing their own Proclamations.

Today there are more than 2.3 million men living with a history of prostate cancer. It is the second most diagnosed cancer in men today, following only skin cancer. After lung cancer, prostate cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in men. The American Cancer Society estimates that one in six men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime, with 240,890 estimated new cases of the disease in the USA in 2011, which will result in 33,720 deaths. The early stages of the disease usually show no symptoms, but early detection is the key to survival. The five-year survival rate for prostate cancer is 100 percent if the disease is treated early. The percentage rate drastically drops to 30 percent if the cancer has metastasized.

In California, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer among men in almost all racial/ethnic groups and more men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in California than any other state. California also has the highest number of deaths from the disease. The expected number of new cases for 2011 is 25,030 men, with new deaths expected to be 4,330. The American Cancer Society recommends that every man be offered an annual prostate examination beginning at age 50. Men at average risk should receive this information at age 50, and African-American men and men with a father or brother diagnosed with prostate cancer before age 65 should receive this information beginning at age 45. Men with multiple family members diagnosed with prostate cancer before age 65 should receive this information beginning at age 40.

This Proclamation declaring September 2011 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month will help save lives by raising awareness of the importance of screening and early detection. By educating others and ourselves about this disease, we can improve our ability to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately cure prostate cancer.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**In the matter of a Proclamation declaring  
September 2011 to be "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"  
in Placer County.**

**WHEREAS**, other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in American men and the second cause of cancer deaths in men, exceeded only by lung cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Cancer Society estimates one in six men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime, and there will be 240,890 new cases of the disease in the USA in 2011, resulting in 33,720 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, in California, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in almost all race and ethnic groups, and African-American men are over 33% more likely to develop this disease than non-Hispanic white men and over 46% more likely than Hispanic men; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 25,030 men in California will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year and 4,330 California men will die from this disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the survival rate approaches 100% when prostate cancer is diagnosed and treated early, but drops to 30% when it spreads to the other parts of the body; and

**WHEREAS**, early prostate cancer usually has no symptoms and familial predisposition may be responsible for 5 percent to 10 percent of the disease cases; and

**WHEREAS**, recent studies suggest that a diet high in processed meat or dairy foods may be a risk factor, and obesity appears to increase risk of aggressive prostate cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, obesity and smoking are associated with an increased risk of dying from prostate cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Cancer Society recommends that men should have an opportunity to have a discussion with their health care provider in order to make an informed decision about early detection and testing for prostate cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Placer County Board of Supervisors joins communities across our nation to increase the awareness about the importance of early detection and treatment of this disease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN** that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby declares September 2011 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Placer County.

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Supervisor, District 1

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