

HEALTHY NAIL SALON DAY – DECEMBER 18, 2013

HEALTHY NAIL SALON PILOT PROJECT

WHEREAS, more than 350 business establishments and approximately 1,000 nail technicians provide a variety of nail services within Alameda County;

WHEREAS, nail salon workers and patrons are exposed to chemicals found in nail products used by nail salons that can cause reproductive harm and cause other negative health impacts;

WHEREAS, dibutyl phthalate (DBP) used in nail polish to reduce brittleness and cracking is a reproductive and developmental toxicant that interferes with the growth or health of a child at any point from conception to puberty;

WHEREAS, toluene, a solvent found in nail polish, is a developmental and neurological toxicant that can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, among others;

WHEREAS, formaldehyde, which acts as a disinfectant and preservative in nail polishes, is a carcinogen that can irritate the eyes, nose, throat, skin, and, in the long term, can cause asthma;

WHEREAS, nail polishes and other nail salon products that do not contain DBP, toluene, formaldehyde and other harmful ingredients are readily available, effective, and cost-competitive;

WHEREAS, nail salons workers are often women of child-bearing age with limited English language skills who have difficulty accessing information on chemical ingredients that can cause reproductive harm and other related health hazards;

WHEREAS, poor ventilation and air quality in salons exacerbates the potential for harm by nail product ingredients and effective air purification equipment are a burdensome outlay for most nail salons;

WHEREAS, Alameda County supports and encourages nail salons owners and workers to become aware of the health effects of the chemicals in the products they use, to incorporate products and practices that will be more protective of the health of both workers and consumers;

WHEREAS, the Health Care Services Agency's Environmental Health Department, in partnership with the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, implemented a Pilot Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program in 2013 that has already recognized seven salons in Healthy Nail Salon practices; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaim **December 18, 2013** as "**Healthy Nail Salon Day**" and expresses its appreciation to the Health Care Services Agency's Environmental Health Department, the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, and the first seven nail salon owners to be recognized by the pilot program; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors calls upon the Health Care Services Agency's Environmental Health Department to seek opportunities and funding to institutionalize this program so that more nail salons in the county can become recognized in Healthy Nail Salon practices.