Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: Request of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency - Public Health Department and the Binational Health Week Committee to proclaim October 03 - 15th, 2009 Bi-national Health Week.

RECOMMENDATION:

Proclaim October 03 – 15, 2009 Bi-national Health Week.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION/FINDINGS:

The Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency and the Public Health Department continue to support the efforts of the Binational Health Committee in their effort to address the Health Issues of Mexican and Latin American origin immigrants and their families in relation to healthcare services provided in Alameda County. During Binational health week health fairs, educational workshops, blood pressure testing & glucose screening, emergency preparedness, HIV/STD education and other events are held throughout the county, in conjunction with other counties throughout the nation, to address the health disparities of Mexican and Latin American people.

FINANCING:

There are no costs associated with this Proclamation. There is no change in net County cost.

Very truly yours,

Alex Briscoe, Acting Director
Health Care Services Agency

MRR: bhwc
cc: Auditor-Controller
    County Counsel
ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PROCLAMATION OF OCTOBER 3-15, 2009 BI-NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

This proclamation would call on all the people of Alameda County to join the people of Latino origin in observing and participating in the Ninth Annual Bi-national Health Week, to take place the week of October 03 to 15, 2009.

WHEREAS, The Secretariat of Health and of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, the Mexican Social Security Institute, California’s Department of Public Health, The California Endowment, the California Healthcare Foundation, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the Health Initiative of the Americas, a program of the University of California at Berkeley, School of Public Health, have recognized the necessity of improving access to health services for the underserved Latino population in the United State of America; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2008 United States Census, this country is home to more than 46.9 million people of Latin origin; and

WHEREAS, Improving the health of mobile populations requires multiple approaches in service design, delivery, funding priorities, and most fundamentally, requires strong bi-national commitment; and

WHEREAS, In October 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 the Health Initiative of the Americas, and partnering organizations convened the first eight Bi-national Health Weeks, an unprecedented effort overseen by multi-agency taskforces, which conducted health promotion and education activities for the underserved Latino population in the United States and over 1,000,000 people benefited from the health care activities; and

WHEREAS, Bi-national Health Week reflects coordinated efforts between the United States, Mexico, Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to improve the quality of life of underserved populations by expanding their access to health care, increasing their health insurance coverage, and reducing their unmet health needs; and

WHEREAS, the Health Initiatives of the Americas, and the consular network in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, are coordinating the Ninth Annual Bi-national Health Week, and activities throughout the country will be centered in the regions with a high level of community health needs; and

WHEREAS, the State of California acknowledges the many organizations and volunteers collaborating in the organization of health fairs and educational health workshops; and

WHEREAS, Bi-national Health Week provides an opportunity to highlight critical health issues in the State of California and throughout the United States and will serve as the basis for future bilateral efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is committed to recognizing and honoring those observances that are dedicated to the best ideals of public services, and Binational Health Week is one such worthy observance;

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT PROCLAIMED that the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors and all member of the State of California Assembly that in honor of those efforts to improve public health, the week of October 03 to 15, 2009 be declared, "The Ninth Annual Bi-national Health Week" throughout the State of California.

ALICE UJ-SITKER, President
Supervisor, Third District

NATE MILEY, Vice President
Supervisor, Fourth District

SCOTT HAGGERTY
Supervisor, First District

GAIL STEELE
Supervisor, Second District

KEITH CARSON
Supervisor, Fifth District