

**WHEREAS**, In 1973, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) was first formally identified and named as a disorder by researchers at Washington State University; and

**WHEREAS**, Thirty years later, the rate of heavy drinking during pregnancy, after a sharp rise in the early 1990s, has not declined; and

**WHEREAS**, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, which is 100% preventable, is the leading cause of mental retardation in Santa Clara County and all of western civilization; and

**WHEREAS**, At least 1 in every 100 individuals in the United States has some degree of brain damage from prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a major cause of numerous social disorders including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness and crime. Alcohol causes permanent brain damage that lasts throughout one's lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, Economists estimate that each individual with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder will cost the U.S. taxpayer at least two million dollars in his or her lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, On September 9, 2003 people around the world will observe the fourth International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness Day, on the ninth day, of the ninth month of the year, to remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby proclaim September 9, 2003 as

# FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM AWARENESS DAY

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this Ninth Day of September Two Thousand and Three by unanimous vote.

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Blanca Alvarado, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

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Donald F.

Pete

Gage  
McHugh  
Supervisor, District  
One

Supervisor, District

Three

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James T. Beall,

Liz Kniss

Jr.

Supervisor, District

Supervisor, District

Four

Five

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Attest: Phyllis Perez  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors