

“Joining Environmental and Health Advocacy to Reduce Tobacco's Burden on People and Ecosystems”

on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 2:00 pm EST (60 minutes)

Speaker: **Thomas E. Novotny MD MPH**, Professor Emeritus, San Diego State University School of Public Health

Q: Is there a proper way of disposing of cigarette butts when conducting clean ups?

A: About the best way I think is as hazardous waste. However, I don't believe it is as yet classified as such at the state level. However, the quantities involved would seem to make it such, just as with e cigs confiscated and collected by school officials. In my cleanups, we just used the dumpsters at the university.

Q: Is there a concern about e-cig or vape juice nicotine toxicity in the landfills?

A: Yes, as these chemicals have been detected leaching from landfills. Again, e cigs are classified as hazardous waste and should be handled as such instead of just dumping into landfills.

Q: What about people who live outside SF, but smoke and litter in SF?

A: This was actually adjusted for in the analysis as a deduction from the cost estimate back in 2010. In our model, we will make some sort of adjustment for non-resident butt discards.

Q: Do you think synthetic nicotine is an option to reduce environmental impact of nicotine?

A: Not really. I don't know for sure, but I suspect the toxicity of synthetic nicotine is the same as tobacco derived nicotine. Both poisonous chemicals. Now that FDA has regulatory authority over synthetic nicotine products, we may learn more going forward.