August 5, 2003

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael  CA  94903

SUBJECT:  Division of Health Services and Supervisor’s Rose request to proclaim August as “National Breastfeeding Month”.
(Proclamation)

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:
1. Supervisor Rose requesting a Proclamation declaring August as “Breastfeeding Awareness Month” in Marin County.

SUMMARY:  Marin County’s Women Infants and Children and Maternal Child Health programs are continuing to develop and expand programs to promote and support breastfeeding. Research documents significant medical benefits to both mother and child from breastfeeding, including less incidence of minor illnesses and allergy, lower risk of childhood cancer, diabetes, SIDS and asthma, and, in women who breastfeed, lower risk of some cancers and osteoporosis. Current research has also focused on the economic benefit of breastfeeding, demonstrating significant savings in health care costs for breastfeeding infants.

FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT:  There is no net County cost.

REVIEWED BY:  
[ ] Auditor Controller   [ X ] N/A
[ ] County Counsel   [ X ] N/A
[ ] Human Resources   [ X ] N/A

Respectfully submitted:

Larry Meredith, Ph.D., Director
Department of Health and Human Services