CANCER — OVERVIEW

During 2007, 559,650 Americans are expected to die of cancer, making it the second leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart diseases. Half of all men and one third of all women in the United States will develop cancer during their lifetimes (American Cancer Society (ACS) 2007).

Cancer can’t be defined as a single disease. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI 2007), there are more than 100 different types of cancer that can be divided into the following five categories:

- **Carcinoma** - Begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs
- **Sarcoma** - Begins in bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or other connective or supportive tissue
- **Leukemia** - Starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow and causes large numbers of abnormal blood cells to be produced and enter the blood
- **Lymphoma and myeloma** - Different cancers that begin in the cells of the immune system
- **Central nervous system cancers** - Originate in the tissues of the brain and spinal cord

While the survival rate for specific types of cancer may differ, the current five-year survival rate for all types of cancer diagnosed between 1996 and 2003 was 64.9%. This equates to an estimated 10.7 million Americans with a history of cancer who were alive in January 2004 (NCI 2004).
CANCER (continued)

Comparison of mortality rates related to the four leading types of cancer between the North Inland region and San Diego county found the following:

- Overall, mortality rates among North Inland region residents are higher for female breast, prostate and colorectal cancer than County mortality rates for these cancers.
- Mortality rates for female breast, lung and colorectal cancer among North Inland region residents have all declined since 2000.
- Since 2000, the mortality rate from prostate cancer among North Inland residents has increased by 19.4%.

Cancer mortality rates increase dramatically with age. In fact, in the North Inland region during 2004, 75% of all cancer deaths from female breast, prostate, colorectal and lung cancers occurred among those aged 65 and older. Mortality rates per 100,000 population age 65 and older from the following were:

- Prostate = 213.8
- Female Breast = 93.4
- Colorectal = 103.8
- Lung = 251.3

### Lung Cancer Trends

#### Death Rates, San Diego County, North Inland Region 2000 - 2004

- Death rate per 100,000 population
- San Diego County
- North Inland Region

### Colorectal Cancer Trends

#### Death Rates, San Diego County, North Inland Region 2000 - 2004

- Death rate per 100,000 population
- San Diego County
- North Inland Region

### Female Breast Cancer Trends

#### Death Rates, San Diego County, North Inland Region, 2000 - 2004

- Death rate per 100,000 female population
- San Diego County
- North Inland Region

### Prostate Cancer Trends

#### Death Rates, San Diego County, North Inland Region 2000 - 2004

- Death rate per 100,000 population
- San Diego County
- North Inland Region

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