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Proclamation

Issued by the Mayor

Children's Dental Health Month February 2002

WHEREAS, children's oral health is important to their overall health and well being and no child can be truly healthy unless he or she is free from the burden of oral diseases and compromised oral health; and

WHEREAS, tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease – five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever – in which over half of all first-graders already have a cavity; and

WHEREAS, dental disorders can have a profound effect on children, including effects on growth, speech development, school attendance, self-esteem, and medical complications of untreated oral disease; and

WHEREAS, California children have twice as much untreated decay as their national counterparts and dental disease is a chronic problem among many low-income and minority families and those with special health care needs; and

WHEREAS, the cases of dental caries in permanent teeth have declined dramatically among school-aged children largely as a result of various preventative programs such as a community water fluoridation and school-based sealant programs that are among the most cost-effective and underutilized means of protecting children's teeth from tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Sacramento school children have benefited for over 20 years from the important oral health activities of the California Children's Dental Disease Prevention program which includes fluoride treatments, toothbrush instruction, oral health screenings, dental sealants, and classroom oral health education; and

WHEREAS, the important work of Sacramento's Children's Dental Disease Program in promoting oral health by providing access to primary preventative and early intervention services to Sacramento's children, thereby addressing the important public health goal of reducing dental caries and untreated dental decay in our most needy school children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heather Fargo, Mayor of the City of Sacramento, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2002 as **Children's Dental Health Month** in the City of Sacramento and acknowledge that oral and dental diseases are among the most common health problems affecting all people at all stages of life, especially among low-income and minority children.

ISSUED: This 19th Day of February 2002.

Heather Fargo

**HEATHER FARGO
MAYOR**