

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION



December 5, 2016

Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II
309 Diablo Road
Danville, CA 94526

RE: Support for Adoption of Pharmaceutical Collection Ordinance, 2016-24

Dear Chairperson Andersen:

The Hazardous Materials Commission voted 11-0 at their meeting on December 1, 2016 to support the adoption of the pharmaceutical collection ordinance, 2016-24, being considered at your December 6, 2016 Board meeting. This ordinance is needed to help protect human health from the unintentional or inappropriate consumption of pharmaceuticals, and to protect the environment from the disposal of unused pharmaceuticals in the trash or in the sewer system.

The Commission first identified the need for a more robust and convenient collection system for home-generated unused pharmaceuticals in a report we submitted to the Board of Supervisors in 2010, concerning household hazardous waste management. Since that time, the Commission has actively promoted awareness of the need to properly dispose of home-generated unused pharmaceuticals, first by sponsoring a forum on safe disposal in 2013, and then by supporting the creation of a disposal education poster in 2014.

The Commission has closely followed the adoption of the Alameda County pharmaceutical collection ordinance, the first of its kind in the country, and the subsequent adoption of several other similar ordinances by Counties in the Bay Area. The Commission supports the Extended Producer Responsibility approach taken by these ordinances that require the manufacturers of pharmaceuticals to finance the collection system. This is also consistent with Resolution 2010-225 that the Board of Supervisors adopted in 2010 concerning the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility. The Commission also supports this type of ordinance for Contra Costa County and therefore urges you to adopt Ordinance 2016-24.

Sincerely,

George Smith, Hazardous Materials Commission Chairperson

cc. Supervisor John Gioia, District I
Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, District III
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, District IV
Supervisor Federal Glover, District V

Members: George Smith, Chair, Rick Alcaraz, Don Bristol, Matthew Buell, Lara DeLaney, Frank Gordon, Fred Glueck, Steven Linsley, Jim Payne, Ralph Sattler, Leslie Stewart, Usha Vedagiri