



SF Environment
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GAVIN NEWSOM
Mayor

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Director

March 22, 2007

Senator Joe Simitian
Senate Environmental Quality Committee, Chair
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.322.3519

RE: SB 966 (Simitian and Kuehl) Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal – Letter of Support

Dear Senator Simitian,

The City and County of San Francisco enthusiastically supports your proposal to develop a convenient and safe disposal program for residential waste pharmaceuticals, but urges you to amend SB 966 to call on pharmaceutical manufacturers to establish and fund such a program. San Francisco passed its own Producer Responsibility Resolution in February 2006, calling for support of a statewide effort to hold producers responsible for their product waste.

San Francisco is acutely aware of the need for the proposed pharmaceutical collection program. In May of 2006, we participated in the “Bay Area Safe Medicine Disposal Days” pilot collection event. Through our partnership with Walgreens, we set up temporary collection events at 13 San Francisco Walgreens’ pharmacies throughout our City and in just one weekend of collection, took in more than 1200 pounds of expired and unwanted waste pharmaceuticals from our residents. Since this event, increasing media coverage around the concerns of pharmaceuticals in our water bodies, and growing public awareness about proper disposal of waste pharmaceuticals has lead to a tremendous demand for a permanent and convenient program in our City. We receive many calls daily from residents asking what they should do with their expired and unwanted pharmaceuticals. Your timely proposal will offer the convenient and sustainable solution our residents are in search of.

It’s our understanding that SB 966 may be amended to call for a voluntary pilot collection program. We would like to suggest that such an amendment be strengthened by identifying next steps if a voluntary pilot program does not result in the desired outcome of creating a convenient and safe disposal program. Additionally, we believe that any collection system should be funded by manufactures, whether voluntary or mandated.

We thank you on behalf of our constituents for the tremendous public service this program will achieve.

Respectfully,

Jared Blumenfeld, Director