



CITY OF SANTA MARIA  
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
Business Services • Regulatory Compliance  
Solid Waste Services • Water Resources

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May 19, 2015

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Attention: 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Doreen Farr  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Sent via email to [sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTYWIDE ORDINANCE  
FOR PHARMACEUTICALS COLLECTION & DISPOSAL**

The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department ("City") supports the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' ("Board of Supervisors") continued efforts to remove unwanted pharmaceuticals from the County's wastewater stream and protect the watershed that serves the Santa Maria Valley.

Since 2009, the City has collaborated with the County Sheriff's Department and County Public Works Department to educate the public on the proper disposal of unwanted medications and promote a permanent drop site location. Despite these efforts, there is still an increasing volume of pharmaceutical waste.

A successful program for the proper disposal of unused medication rests on our community's understanding of the dangers associated with casual disposal of unused medications and the availability of safe and convenient disposal methods and locations. Engaging pharmacies to host take-back bins as a means of expanding medical collection and disposal receptacles may be a cost-effective means to guard against contamination of the environment.

The City supports efforts by the Board of Supervisors to address this issue countywide, and looks forward to reviewing the County's proposed ordinance when it becomes available for stakeholder input.

Sincerely,

**SHAD S. SPRINGER, P.E., MPA**  
Director of Utilities

C: Alice Patino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria  
Rick Haydon, City Manager, City of Santa Maria  
Jeffrey Clarin, Utilities Manager/Deputy Director, City of Santa Maria