

# Safe Drug Disposal Takashi Wada, MD, MPH

### Background

- BOS received a report on the harmful impacts of the accumulation of unused pharmaceuticals on May 19, 2015 from Supervisor Farr's office
- BOS directed the Public Health Department to conduct stakeholder outreach and return in October with recommendations for the establishment of a permanent and sustainably funded model to collect and safely dispose of unwanted medications

### The Problem

- Current Sheriff's Office Program Operation Medicine Cabinet – is unsustainable, inconvenient, and insufficient
- Accumulation of unused household medication poses significant public health and safety risks

# The Opportunity

- New federal regulations open the door to engage pharmacies as part of the solution
- Wave of other counties are looking to drug manufacturers and pharmacies help to share the responsibility of offering this service to the public
  - ✓ Alameda
  - ✓ King County
  - ✓ San Mateo
  - ✓ Marin
  - ✓ Santa Clara

- ✓ Santa Cruz
- ✓ San Francisco
- ✓ Los Angeles
- ✓ San Luis
  Obispo

### **Community Outreach**

- Community meetings on July 14 (SB) & July16 (SM)
- Meeting with Sanitation Agencies Management Association, July 8
- Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back, August 20
- Santa Barbara Medical Society, September 8
- County Law Enforcement Committee, September 30
- Many individual meetings and conversations





Feedback across a broad spectrum of stakeholders consistently voiced a need for a sustainable and convenient drug disposal program in Santa Barbara County.

### Areas of Agreement

- High level of interest and need for a more sustainable and convenient Safe Drug Disposal program
- High level of agreement that drug producers should fund this type of program
- There are complexities in the regulations that will guide the development

### **Areas Needing Further Analysis**

- Roles of pharmacies
- Locations of bins
- Meeting safety and security needs
- Methods of collection
- How to best serve the needs of all target populations (seniors, long-term care facilities, youth, home-bound disabled)

#### Recommendations

- Public Health, with support from other departments, to draft an extended producer responsibility ordinance
- Public Health staff to seek input from key stakeholders on the draft ordinance
- Return early in 2016 with ordinance