



For San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties

**Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens**

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June 5, 2016

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance

Dear Board members:

The Advisory Council of the Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Area Agency on Aging, voted at its May 8, 2015 meeting to support the development of an expanded Safe Drug Disposal program. Now this letter is to present our strong support for the proposed Ordinance that will have a public hearing on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

As you know, this Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council is an advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of this County. In that capacity, we review and consider proposals that may impact older persons. This proposal will have a positive effect on our senior citizen population. As a whole, this population takes a disproportionate share of both prescribed and OTC drugs.

And, we find that our medicine cabinets are full. We need a convenient way to dispose of this accumulation of drugs. And, too many of us 'flush' away our unused pills, causing water quality issues. Or we don't dispose of them at all and then 'self-medicate' or share our pills.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is a successful program within its limitations. This portends a successful safe drug program, even one that is voluntary. We need a more convenient outlet for the unused drugs in the medicine cabinet of over 79,000 senior citizens in Santa Barbara County (DOF population data 2013). Certainly, returning unused drugs to the pharmacy will meet the goal of convenience. This is especially true if the drugs can be from any type of purchase, such as mail order.

You may know that this Area Agency on Aging partners with local agencies and sponsors a Vial of Life program. This Vial of Life container includes appropriate information cards and we would be happy to include an information card regarding convenient, correct and safe drug disposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the implementation of a Safe Drug Disposal program that is convenient to senior consumers and effective.

Sincerely,  
Original signed by

Barry Jay Marks, Chair  
AAA Advisory Council