



**CITY OF  
WEST HOLLYWOOD**

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**OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER**

PAUL AREVALO  
CITY MANAGER

January 13, 2016

Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, First District  
500 West Temple Street, Room 856  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL:  
[FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov) and [EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV](mailto:EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV)

**SUPPORT IN GENERAL. REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals  
and Sharps EPR Ordinance**

Dear Board Chair Solis:

I am writing to express the City of West Hollywood's support for the proposed Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance and for creating a county wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines from households. Almost all of us have leftover or expired medicines in our homes, and many of us also have needles (medical sharps).

We need a secure and safe way to dispose of these drugs and needles to protect our families and protect our environment. We appreciate the Sheriff collection sites for medicines and/or for sharps in the county but they are not convenient and there are not enough of them or easy enough to find.

Currently, the City of West Hollywood is spending over \$20,000 per year in General Funds to operate a Sharps Disposal by Mail program, which distributes postage paid sharps containers to our residents.

While we believe the proposed ordinance offers a fair and balanced solution so that communities in our county have safe and convenient take-back locations for pharmaceuticals and sharps, we would also like to recommend the Board to consider additions to the text of the proposed ordinance:

Honorable Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors





January 13, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

- 1) Limit the number and duration of extensions the Director can grant to “responsible parties” establishing the plans mandated by the proposed ordinance.
- 2) Include additional language specifically describing the frequency by collection sites must be emptied, and whether there will be any monitoring of this provision by the County’s designated enforcement and compliance monitoring unit.
- 3) Request that collection sites clearly display a contact number for the County’s designated unit to monitor the compliance of the enacted ordinance so that members of the public can report problems related to collection and/or maintenance of the designated sites.

Therefore, on behalf of the City of West Hollywood, I encourage the Board of Supervisors to consider the above-referenced suggestions and pass the ordinance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 323-848-6460. Your staff can also contact Hernan Molina, Governmental Affairs Liaison at 323-848-6364.

Sincerely,

Paul Arevalo, City Manager

PA:hgm

c: Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Elan Shultz, Health Deputy (Kuehl)

