

February 18, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Fax: (213) 613-1739

**RE: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance –
NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

Dear Supervisor Solis:

The City of Glendale supports the drafting and adoption of Los Angeles County's Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance.

The proposed ordinance would require the development of Stewardship Plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. The ordinance establishes a sustainably-financed program that will provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals and help to prevent them from entering the environment, reduce their availability for drug abuse and misuse, and reduce injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. With access to safe and convenient disposal options, as well as a robust outreach and education program residents will be more informed of the appropriate collection and disposal methods.

It is understood that the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings which included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of these materials, retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective ordinance.

The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. Our City supports this shared responsibility approach as the costs of managing these materials at the end of their life should not solely come from local jurisdictions.

Following adoption of the ordinance by the Board, the City of Glendale is very interested in adopting a resolution to adopt this ordinance so that our residents also have access to safe, convenient, and sustainably-financed collection and disposal methods of pharmaceuticals and sharps.

Sincerely,



Scott Ochoa
City Manager

cc: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Fax (213) 680-3283
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Fax (213) 625-7360
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fax (213) 626-6941
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**Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps
Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance
Frequently Asked Questions**



What is Los Angeles County doing to address pharmaceutical and sharps waste?

- On August 11, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion directing the CEO to work with key County Departments to draft an Ordinance addressing unused/unwanted pharmaceutical and sharps waste. Specifically, the Ordinance would require manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps to develop product stewardship take-back programs to collect and dispose of unused/unwanted pharmaceutical and sharps waste from County residents. The Board of Supervisors requested the Ordinance to be drafted within 6 months, therefore it is expected that the Ordinance could be considered by the Board at their February 16, 2016 meeting.

What is Product Stewardship?

- Product Stewardship, also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), is a policy framework that strives for a shared responsibility for end-of-life costs of products, rather than defaulting to local governments to address these costs. In this way, the costs for disposal of hard to manage products are incorporated into the cost of a product, and producers have an incentive to improve the design of those products to make them easier to collect and recycle, less toxic, and more environmentally friendly.

Why is this Ordinance needed?

- The County recognizes that pharmaceuticals play a critical role in treating diseases and saving lives. However, consumers of pharmaceutical products have limited options for disposal of excess or expired pharmaceutical supplies. The safe disposal of pharmaceutical and sharps waste is a public safety and environmental need that calls for safe, convenient, and sustainable disposal options for residents in Los Angeles County.

What has the County done so far to develop the Ordinance?

- As part of the process to develop the most successful and effective Ordinance, the County conducted several stakeholder meetings which included representatives from manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps, retail associations, pharmacies, hospitals, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, and others.
- The County has also reviewed policies from around the world as well as local ordinances developed by Counties in California to identify best practices and incorporate lessons learned from those programs.

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Where else have such policies been implemented?

- EPR is gaining ground for many products, and EPR programs for pharmaceuticals have been in operation in Europe, Canada and Mexico for many years. More recently, ordinances have been adopted by several jurisdictions in California, including Alameda, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties as well as King County in the State of Washington.

How will this Ordinance be administered? Will it be expensive?

- The program would be overseen by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, however manufacturers of the pharmaceuticals and sharps would be responsible for designing, implementing and financing the stewardship program. The County believes there should be shared responsibility for the management of pharmaceutical and sharps waste at the end of their life, rather than relying on local jurisdictions to take sole responsibility to administer and fund collection programs.
- Producers are typically able to develop programs to collect their products that are more cost-effective than government-funded programs. In areas where such programs have been implemented, the cost of the programs were minimal and not expected to increase the costs for pharmaceuticals. For example, King County, Washington's program is estimated to cost just over \$600,000 for the first year (which includes one-time start-up costs), which amounts to 0.054 percent of total pharmaceutical sales in King County.

What can Cities do if they want to develop a similar program? Would each City need to develop an Ordinance and complete a separate process to adopt it?

- The Ordinance will initially cover the County Unincorporated Communities, however, Los Angeles County serves as the Health Officer for 85 of the 88 cities within the County (with the exception of the Cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon). Therefore, those 85 Cities could choose to adopt the County's Ordinance simply by passing a resolution. This would ensure the same safe, convenient, and sustainably financed collection and disposal options are made available to City residents.
- Cities could also consider sending letters to Board of Supervisors, adopting resolutions in support of EPR, and/or attending the February 16, 2016 Board meeting at which the County's Ordinance will be considered, in order to express support for the passage of the Ordinance.