

**C O U N T Y   A D M I N I S T R A T O R**SUSAN S. MURANISHI  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATORDONNA LINTON  
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

September 12, 2012

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Administration Building  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT:   AMENDMENT TO THE 2012 ALAMEDA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM:  
Support for AB 1442 (Wieckowski): Pharmaceutical Waste****RECOMMENDATION:**

The following legislative item was considered by the PAL (Personnel, Administration and Legislation) Board Committee at its meeting on September 17, 2012 and is hereby recommended for your Board's approval. If approved, this item will be included as an amendment to the County's 2012 Legislative Program.

1. Support for AB 1442 (Wieckowski): Pharmaceutical Waste

**DISCUSSION:**

The existing Medical Waste Management Act, administered by the State Department of Public Health, regulates the management and handling of medical waste, as defined. Existing law requires that all medical waste be hauled by either a registered hazardous waste hauler or by a person with an approved limited-quantity exemption granted pursuant to specified provisions of law. Existing law also states that pharmaceutical drugs can be sent to healthcare facilities through common carriers, or standard shipping means. Through the use of common carriers, unused drugs can sometimes be returned to the manufacturer for credit. However, existing law requires that expired and non-dispensable drugs be shipped as "Medical Waste", requiring expensive hazardous waste shipping, instead of shipping via a common carrier. This is unnecessarily expensive for pharmacies, hospitals, and other health care facilities who are returning the same drugs that were shipped to them by common carrier.

AB 1442 would exempt a pharmaceutical waste generator or parent organization that employs health care professionals who generate pharmaceutical waste from specified medical waste hauling requirements under specified conditions.

AB 1442 is aligned with Alameda County's policy goals and new Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance focused on improving public safety and reducing environmental health hazards. In addition to AB 1442, the approach taken in health care facilities to ship all unwanted pharmaceuticals to permitted Medical Waste Transfer stations or treatment facilities via common carriers should be applied to pharmacies and other possible collection venues as allowed under this legislation. If reverse distribution via common carrier can be used, it will greatly reduce the cost to recover waste pharmaceuticals. Support for this legislation is requested, as it removes barriers for medical facilities to dispose of pharmaceuticals correctly to further protect water quality.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Muranishi  
County Administrator

SSM:LLJ:pkp

Leg/pal/09\_18\_12agenda

c: Affected County Agencies/Departments  
CAO Analysts  
State and Federal Legislative Advocates  
Board Committee Clerk

# PAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REQUEST FORM

- » Complete this form in order to propose a legislative advocacy position before the PAL Committee.
- » Instructions for completing this form, including due dates, are shown on the back. Work through your CAO Analyst and with the County's State and/or federal legislative advocate!
- » Please be clear and brief as you complete this form. If you have questions, contact your department's CAO Analyst and/or the County's State and/or federal legislative advocate.

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## REQUESTER INFORMATION:

**Name:** Supervisor Miley  
**Position:** Supervisor, Fourth District  
**Agency/Department:** Board of Supervisors  
**CAO Analyst:** Laura Lloyd-Jenkins  
**County Legislative Advocate:** State

## REQUESTER'S RECOMMENDATION:

**Recommendation:** Support for AB 1442 (Wieckowski): Pharmaceutical Waste

## BILL INFORMATION:

**Bill Number:** AB 1442  
**Bill Title:** Pharmaceutical Waste  
**Legislative Author:** Wieckowski

**Current Bill Status:** Enrolled for Governor's signature.

**Current Law/Context:** The existing Medical Waste Management Act, administered by the State Department of Public Health, regulates the management and handling of medical waste, as defined. Existing law requires that all medical waste be hauled by either a registered hazardous waste hauler or by a person with an approved limited-quantity exemption granted pursuant to specified provisions of law. Existing law also states that pharmaceutical drugs can be sent to healthcare facilities through common carriers, or standard shipping means.

**Description of Bill:** AB 1442 would exempt a pharmaceutical waste generator or parent organization that employs health care professionals who generate pharmaceutical waste from specified medical waste hauling requirements under specified conditions.

**Potential Impacts to Alameda County:**

**Anticipated Opposition:**

**Proposed Amendments:**

**PAL / BOS MEETING DATE REQUESTS:**

## EXPLANATION OF ACRONYMS:

PAL..Personnel, Administration, and Legislation Committee  
CAO..County Administrator's Office

BOS.....Board of Supervisors  
QIC.....County Quick Code System

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***SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO THE BOARD COMMITTEE CLERK (QIC: 20101)***

***SEND COPIES TO: (1) CAO Legislative Analyst; and (2) Your Department's CAO Budget Analyst (both at QIC 20102)  
For updated PAL meeting information, contact the Board Committee Clerk (x-23916)***

v:/leg/palrequestform.doc) – Revised 9/27/99