



Board of Supervisors

Nathan A. Miley, President
Supervisor, District 4

Oakland Office
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
510-272-6694/510-465-7628 Facsimile

Eden Area District Office
20993 Redwood Road
Castro Valley, CA 94546
510-670-5717/510-537-7289 Facsimile

Pleasanton District Office
4501 Pleasanton Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-803-7959

district4@acgov.org

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Media Contact: Kamika Dunlap

Phone Number: (510) 272-3691

E-mail: kamika.dunlap@acgov.org

Website: www.acgov.org/board/district4

www.acseniors-medisposal.net

Additional Contact: Miriam Gordon

California Director of Clean Water Action

Phone Number: (415) 369-9160 x310

E-mail: mgordon@cleanwater.org

Website: www.cleanwateraction.org

Supervisor Nate Miley Convenes Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Stakeholder Meetings

OAKLAND, April 26, 2012_ The Alameda County Drug Disposal Ordinance will be the topic of discussion at series of stakeholder meetings kicking off on **Monday April 30th**. The series of meetings convened by Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's office are designed take a closer look at a new countywide policy that has sparked national attention around extended producer responsibility.

"For years, the community has faced the problem of what to do with unused and expired medication and together we have created a groundbreaking policy solution," said Miley. "Our goal is to reduce teenage prescription drug abuse, expand local medication collection sites in the county and prevent discarded drugs from entering our waterways and landfills."

The ordinance is scheduled to go before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in June and if adopted, the County will be the first in the nation to make pharmaceutical manufacturers take responsibility for the entire lifespan of their products. The ordinance requires drug manufacturers to provide a medication take-back program, just like they already do in other countries including Canada, Spain and France.

According to Miriam Gordon, the California Director of Clean Water Action, "Unused medications that get flushed down the drain contaminate fish and other marine organisms. The industry that profits from the sale of pharmaceuticals has a responsibility for managing them properly at the end of their useful life." She added that "This proposed measure shows that when the feds and the state drop the ball, local government can and sometimes does step in and do the right thing."

Poisoning is the fastest rising cause of accidental death among older adults particularly from overdoses of over-the-counter, prescription and illicit drugs in Alameda County. The Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance aims to reverse that trend by ensuring safe and proper disposal of prescription drugs.

In 2009, Bay Area residents disposed of over 60,000 lbs. of unwanted pharmaceuticals. The goal of the stakeholder meetings is to engage elected officials, pharmaceutical industry representatives and the community to share their perspective on the ordinance. The meetings will explore the feasibility and effectiveness of the ordinance and possible changes to improve policy outcomes.

Stakeholder meetings will be held on the following days and times at the Alameda County Conference Center, 25 12th Street, 4th Floor Oakland CA 94607-6467. Please RSVP with the media contact if you are interested in attending.

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| • April 30 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. | May 9 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. |
| • May 16 | 2 to 4 p.m. | May 23 | 10 a.m. to noon |