

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

*The Heart of Silicon Valley*sm

456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (408) 730-7473

May 15, 2015

Jim Griffith
Mayor

Tara Martin-Milius
Vice Mayor

David Whittum
Councilmember

Pat Meyering
Councilmember

Jim Davis
Councilmember

Glenn Hendricks
Councilmember

Gustav Larsson
Councilmember

County of Santa Clara
Office of the Board of Supervisors
County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

RE: Ordinance NS-517.89 Disposal of County Residents' Unwanted
Pharmaceuticals – SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to support Ordinance NS-517.89 Disposal of County Residents' Unwanted Pharmaceuticals, which would require drug manufacturers to manage and fund collection and disposal of county residents' expired and unwanted medications. Sunnyvale supports this Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach. EPR, also called "product stewardship", is a public policy option that assigns to the manufacturer some of the responsibility for managing the end of life consequences for some consumer products.

For too long, municipal governments have cobbled together local collection options that fail to meet public demand for safe disposal, draw resources from other vital government functions, create a patchwork of local regulations and fail to realize the efficiency that would come from a county program. As a result, pharmaceuticals are frequently stockpiled in medicine cabinets, making them a prime target for drug abusers. If not stored, many are inadvertently landfilled or flushed down the toilet, threatening our water quality, as even the most advanced wastewater treatment processes cannot remove these pharmaceutical compounds from the water.

To protect public health and safety, the City of Sunnyvale spent \$16,255 in 2014 to collect pharmaceuticals at our fire stations. Between the years 2007 and 2013, it cost a total of \$68,000 to properly manage and dispose pharmaceutical waste with the cost trend steeply increasing annually.

The City of Sunnyvale has adopted a Zero Waste policy to protect the environment and conserve natural resources, prevent pollutants from entering the air, land, and water, create a more efficient economy and to preserve the environment for future generations. This policy states that

Sunnyvale shall reduce the amount and toxicity of waste being disposed and put policies in place that favor environmental and economically sustainable practices. Sunnyvale is also a member of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). On June 10, 2008 the City adopted the model CPSC Product Stewardship resolution which supports managing product waste using an EPR approach.

The City of Sunnyvale supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation as a way to alleviate the burden imposed upon local governments in managing products at the end of their useful life while shifting a reasonable proportion of that responsibility over to the manufacturers and producers of those products. For the foregoing reasons, Sunnyvale supports Ordinance NS-517.89 Disposal of County Residents' Unwanted Pharmaceuticals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James R. Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jim Griffith
Mayor

cc: City Council
Deanna J. Santana, City Manager, City of Sunnyvale
John Stufflebean, Director, Environmental Services Department