



Distributed on:
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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Kerrie Romanow

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 9, 2014

Approved

Date

9/10/14

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF 50 ADDITIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL TAKE-BACK BINS

In an effort to bolster environmentally safe medication disposal practices, Santa Clara County residents will soon have access to an additional 50 permanent, conveniently located sites to drop off their unused medications.

Through a partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council's *Don't Rush to Flush* campaign, the City of San José and County of Santa Clara will be installing secured medication disposal bins in pharmacies, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies throughout Santa Clara County.

To begin raising public awareness of proper medication disposal and the expanding number of disposal locations, the City of San José's Environmental Services Department, will host pharmaceutical collection events at four sites including San José's City Hall Rotunda during National Pollution Prevention Week, September 13 through 20, 2014. In addition to collecting unwanted or expired medicines and old mercury thermometers at the events, staff will provide information about the grant program and other ways to prevent water pollution. Attached is a flyer listing dates, times and locations of the upcoming events.

The program, funded in part through a grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Safe, Clean Water Program, is designed to help educate the public about the proper and safe way to dispose of unused medications while expanding the number of permanent disposal bin locations. Proper disposal ensures our pets, children, and water are better protected, by removing unused medicine from the home and keeping them from being misused.

The *Don't Rush to Flush* program was successfully launched in Sacramento and Yolo Counties in 2013 through a public/private partnership and this year it is expanding into Santa Clara and

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Contra Costa counties. Currently, there are 15 Santa Clara County collection bins that serve 1,800,000 County residents, which equates to one bin for every 122,500 residents. Providing an additional 50 bin sites markedly improves that number to one bin for every 28,000 residents. The team is currently recruiting host locations with the goal of dispersing them geographically throughout San José and the rest of Santa Clara County. A list of existing bin locations can be found at www.hhw.org/medicines.

The need for additional collection options throughout the county has never been more apparent. The 2014 National Drug Control Strategy from the Office of the President lists four major pillars¹ and interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one being to increase take-back disposal programs because 70% of people misusing prescription drugs are getting them from friends and relatives. Additionally, studies show nearly 40 percent of prescription medications end up unused and that up to 80 percent of water streams, i.e., creeks, nationally have measureable concentrations of prescription drugs. Each year, \$225 billion in medications are prescribed and that number is expected to grow to \$550 billion per year by 2017 according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Collection bins and events offer one of the safest ways to dispose of these medications.

For additional program information, please visit the website at www.DontRushToFlush.org.

/s/

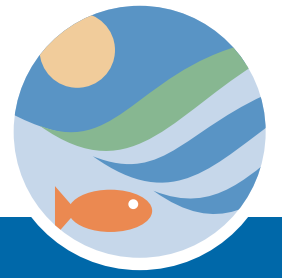
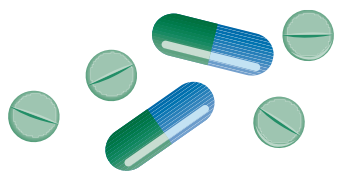
KERRIE ROMANOW

Director, Environmental Services

For more information, please contact Casey Fitzgerald, Environmental Services Program Manager, at (408) 793-5378.

Attachment: National Pollution Prevention Week Event Flyer - English version (Flyer will be translated into Spanish and Vietnamese)

¹ See 2014 National Drug Control Strategy, http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/ndcs_2014.pdf, p. 8.



DON'T RUSH TO FLUSH

**MEDS in
the BIN.
We All
WIN!**

**You can dispose of expired
and unneeded meds at the
following events and locations.**

*NO sharps or needles can be accepted at collection events

**Join us at one of our National Pollution Prevention Week Events
September 13-20, 2014.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Barbara Lee Senior Center

40 N Milpitas Blvd., Milpitas

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cupertino Senior Center

21251 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino

Safely Dispose of your old **Mercury Thermometers at these four events, too!**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rotunda San Jose City Hall

200 E Santa Clara St., San Jose

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Kaiser San José (Farmers Market)

Camino Verde & Santa Teresa Blvd., San Jose

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

National Take-Back Initiative

(pharmaceuticals only) More info at:

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

If you can't make it, you can still drop off your pharmaceuticals at any of our current drop off locations. In 2015, we will be adding 50 more drop boxes for your convenience. Choose a location close to you at www.hhw.org/medicines



**San José-
Santa Clara
Regional
Wastewater
Facility**

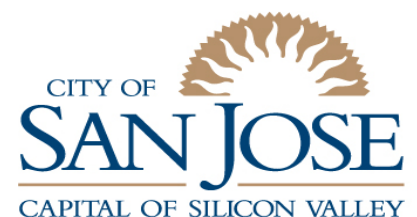
*Serving the cities of San José, Santa Clara,
Milpitas, Cupertino, Campbell, Town of Los
Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga.*

DROPPING OFF HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS IS NOW MORE CONVENIENT!

All Santa Clara County residents can make an appointment at the new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility by visiting www.hhw.org or calling 408.299.7300.



Located at the San José Environmental Innovation Center, a building with many green features. www.sjenvironment.org/eic



Environmental Services

To request an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, call 408-535-3500. Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese-language services are available upon request. City of San José is committed to open and honest government.

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