



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Reviewed by:  Date: 4/14/17
General Manager

DATE: April 14, 2017
TO: General Manager
FROM: Communications and Sustainability Director
SUBJECT: Public Education and Recycling

Medication Take Back Bins Installed in Monterey County

In 2016, the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) received a \$25,000 grant from the Rose Foundation to expand secure pharmaceutical drug disposal collection and education efforts in Monterey County. The District and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Authority (MRWPCA) each pledged an additional \$12,500 plus staff time to increase the grant budget and ensure its successful implementation locally.

After CPSC and the District conducted outreach last fall, Salinas was identified as an underserved area because there were no pharmaceutical take back locations. District staff reached out to Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority staff to invite them to participate in the grant and utilize funding provided by MRWPCA to establish drop-off locations in Salinas. Two Salinas pharmacies have since joined the program and are now accepting pharmaceutical drugs. The monthly cost to service these bins with secure disposal is being paid for with funding from SVSWA and the MRWPCA.



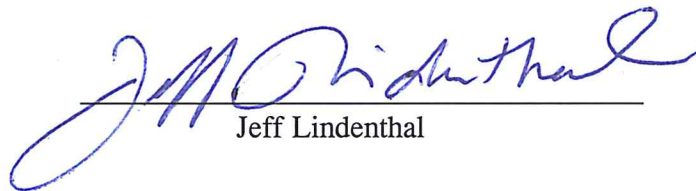
On the Monterey Peninsula, the City of Monterey also did not have any take back locations. Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) stepped up to host two bins, which became available to the public in March. One bin resides in the lobby and accepts uncontrolled over-the-counter medications 24/7. The second bin is available for controlled substances in the pharmacy from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. In the first month, approximately 150 lbs of pharmaceutical drugs were collected in each bin.

The north end of the Peninsula was also underserved with no pharmaceutical drop-off location available. The Marina Police Department enthusiastically agreed to host a pharmaceutical take-back bin for controlled and uncontrolled substances, which is available Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the lobby of the police station. Disposal fees for the three new bins on the Monterey Peninsula are being paid for by the District as part of our contribution to the grant.

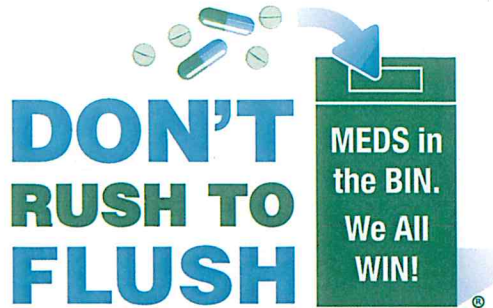
In total, the grant has led to the establishment of five secure drop-off bins at four new locations in the Greater Peninsula-area.

The District, CPSC, Clean Water Action, SVSWA, MRWPCA, CHOMP and other host locations will next be pooling resources to conduct outreach as part of the "Don't Rush to Flush" campaign in April and May to promote the new bin locations. 10,000 copies of the attached flyer with the new locations are being printed and distributed throughout the County. Social media will be used by partner organizations to spread awareness of safe drug disposal and drop off locations which will be reinforced in print ads in local newspapers.

Because of the outreach and networking performed for the grant, the District has become a member of Prescribe Safe Monterey County. This program promoting safe medication handling is a coalition consisting of Monterey County law enforcement agencies, the four County hospitals, and local physicians. The group is now exploring options for getting secure take-back locations cited in South County, which currently does not have any take-back bins.



Jeff Lindenthal



Monterey County Collection Sites

Protect community health and the environment by disposing of unwanted medications free of charge at these collection locations:

Sites accepting controlled & non-controlled medications

Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department
SE corner of Junipero and 4th St.
Carmel, CA 93921
(831) 624-6403

Marina Police Department
211 Hillcrest Avenue
Marina, CA 93933
(831) 884-1210

Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) - Pharmacy
23625 Holman Highway
Monterey, CA
(831) 625-4906

Common controlled medications include Ambien®, OxyContin® and Vicodin®. Visit www.dontrushstoflush.org for information

Pacific Grove Police Dept.
580 Pine Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 648-3143

Walgreens of Seaside
1055 Fremont Blvd
Seaside, CA 93955
(831) 393-9231

Alisal Pharmacy
323 North Sanborn Road
Salinas, CA 93905
(831) 424-7321

Allcare Pharmacy
331 Main St., Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 424-8053

Sites accepting non-controlled medications ONLY

Monterey Regional Waste Management District HHW Facility
14201 Del Monte Boulevard
Marina, CA 93933
(831) 384-5313

Central Avenue Pharmacy
133 15th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 373-1225

Pebble Beach Community Services District
3101 Forest Lake Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953
(831) 373-1274

Easy as 1-2-3! Follow These Steps:

- 1** At home, remove pills from the container and consolidate in a clear zipper bag. Keep liquids & creams in original containers.
- 2** Remove or obscure personal information from medication containers. Recycle empty pill containers in your household recycling.
- 3** Place zipper bag, liquids, and creams into the medication collection bin.



Note: Medications should remain in the original child-proof container until just prior to drop-off.



www.DontRushToFlush.org