



April 3, 2014

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent by Fax: (916)-651-4919

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 1014 (JACKSON) – SAFE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT - SUPPORT

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

VIRGINIA PORTER
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 833 2553

www.rrwatershed.org

Dear Senator Jackson,

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) strongly supports Senate Bill (SB) 1014 (Jackson), which asks producers of pharmaceuticals, as defined, to create, finance and manage a collection system for California consumers to safely and conveniently dispose of expired and unwanted pharmaceuticals - a system structured after the existing program in Canada which the industry has efficiently operated for 15 years.

Pharmaceuticals are collected in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties through the Safe Medicine Disposal Program. Funding for the Program is provided by RRWA, the City of Santa Rosa's Subregional Reclamation System, and the Sonoma County Water Agency. Partnering agencies provide ongoing staff support for the Program's outreach coordination and events. Since the Program's inception in 2007, over 57,000 pounds of pharmaceuticals have been collected. The collection totals have increased every year, so it is logical to project that the collection totals will continue to increase. The cost to manage the program and conduct outreach and education is also projected to increase year to year.

The Problem:

Prescription drug abuse has skyrocketed in recent years,¹ as have hospitalizations for drug overdoses.² Accidental child poisonings from medications are a growing problem, affecting over 67,000 children in the US in 2011.³ One of the four top recommendations of the National Strategy on Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse is to have a safe and convenient method of disposal for prescription, over the counter drugs and vet medicines we have in our homes. In addition, the lack of safe and convenient disposal options ensures that consumers choose less than desirable options including home storage, flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage.

¹ California State Task Force on Prescription Drug Misuse. (2009, March 30). Summary Report and Recommendations on Prescription Drugs: Misuse, Abuse and Dependency. Retrieved from State of California Alcohol and Drug Programs: www.adp.ca.gov/director/pdf/Prescription_Drug_Task_Force.pdf

² O'Callaghan, T. (2010, April 6). More people hospitalized for prescription drug overdose. Retrieved from Time: <http://healthland.time.com/2010/04/06/more-people-hospitalized-for-prescription-drug-overdose/#ixzz2fkIm3CMT>

³ Safe Kids Worldwide (2013, March). An In-Depth Look at Keeping Young Children Safe Around Medicine. <http://www.safekids.org/medsreport>

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, creates a patchwork of regulations and fails to realize the efficiency that would come from a statewide program.

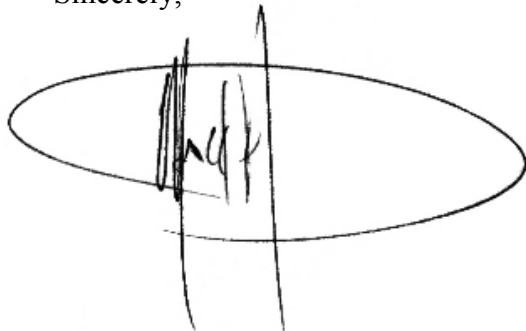
The Solution:

SB 1014 springboards off of the good work already being done by pharmaceutical companies in Canada and Europe. SB 1014 is a free-market approach that allows manufacturers to design the program in whatever way is most cost effective – with minimal oversight from state regulators. We know that this program will work because of the public surveys in Canada demonstrating the public awareness and use of the program, the volumes collected and the fact that 96% of the pharmacies host collection bins.

SB 1014 is the right solution to this pressing problem because it creates a privately managed and financed system to allow consumers to properly and conveniently dispose of their unwanted pharmaceuticals.

For these reasons, the Russian River Watershed Association supports SB 1014. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Andy Rodgers, Deputy Director, RRWA at 707-823-2324 or andy@rrwatershed.org.

Sincerely,



Mark Landman, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors

cc: Senator Kevin de Leon, fax: (916) 651-4922
Senator Ted W. Lieu, fax (916) 266-9343
Business and Professions Committee Consultant Sarah Mason fax (916) 266-9343
Heidi Sanborn, California Product Stewardship Council, email: heidi@calpsc.org
Russian River Watershed Association Board of Directors



April 9, 2014

Mayor Scott Bartley
City of Santa Rosa
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Santa Rosa's Lower Colgan Creek Restoration Project Phase 2

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
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- Town of Windsor

VIRGINIA PORTER
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
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Dear Mayor Bartley,

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is a coalition of eleven public agencies in the Russian River watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water and watershed enhancement. RRWA is pleased to voice support for the second phase of the City of Santa Rosa's Lower Colgan Creek Restoration Project. The three-phase Colgan Creek Restoration Project is comprised of the rehabilitation of approximately 1.4 miles of Colgan Creek.

In addition to improving flood control, this restoration would protect and preserve ecological values including seasonal wetlands, a seasonal creek, and California tiger salamander habitat. The project would restore lower Colgan Creek to a healthy riparian corridor, consistent with the Lower Colgan Creek Concept Plan and the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan.

The project also would create a pedestrian and bicycle pathway along the creek with connections to existing and future regional trail systems, including the Santa Rosa Creek Trail, Joe Rodota Trail, Roseland Creek Trail, proposed SMART Trail, and upper Colgan Creek Trail leading to the proposed Taylor Mountain Regional Park. The project would result in much needed open space and parkland in a park-deficient area of southwest Santa Rosa.

Lastly, the project presents an opportunity to partner with local schools and non-governmental organizations on the development of interpretive outdoor education programs focused on wetland, grassland, and riparian habitats.

For these reasons, the Russian River Watershed Association supports the second phase of the City of Santa Rosa's Lower Colgan Creek Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

Mark Landman, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors

cc: Steve Brady, Senior Environmental Specialist
Russian River Watershed Association Board of Directors



April 24, 2014

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attn: Ms. Alydda Mangelsdorf

Transmitted via e-mail to: alydda.mangelsdorf@waterboards.ca.gov

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
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Executive Director

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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRIORITIZATION – MIXING ZONE CREDITS POLICY – DRAFT

Dear Ms. Alydda Mangelsdorf,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan for the North Coast Region. The Russian River Watershed Association formally requests that the Board prioritize the development of a policy for Mixing Zone Credits for Human Health Constituents in this triennial review.

While the State has developed a policy for Mixing Zone Credits for constituents regulated under the California Toxics Rule (CTR), as the Board is aware there is a gap in the Basin Plan for credits for drinking water constituents. The impact of these constituents is more benign than CTR constituents and regulated entities in the North Coast Region have been working with the Regional Board for nearly ten years to address this gap and provide a protective and economically viable compliance path for a number of inland dischargers.

We believe that the Board and the regulated community have come a long way in laying the groundwork for a Mixing Zone Credits Policy. Finalizing the work as part of this triennial review cycle presents an important opportunity to provide focused regulatory relief that will minimize environmental impacts and allow the regulated community to concentrate its valuable resources on cost-effective compliance strategies.

In 2006, the regulated community completed a document titled *Regulatory Mixing Zone Approaches for the North Coast Region*. This document provided technical guidance for the development of mixing zone studies. This document was developed in consultation with the Regional Board and peer-reviewed before completion. It documented as many as 26 entities that could benefit from mixing zone credits and provides a solid starting point for developing a legally and scientifically-defensible policy. In 2011, the regulated community completed a document titled *Evaluation of a Mixing Zone Policy for Human Health Related Constituents* that specifically reviewed seven alternative Mixing Zone Policy approaches and included an environmental analysis and the economic justification for such a policy. This document was also developed in consultation with the Regional Board and provides a strong basis for completing the proposed policy within this triennial review cycle.

The economic analysis focused on six small treatment facilities with average dry weather flows of under 3 million gallons per day. It described the potential compliance costs if mixing zone credits, specifically for nitrate, were not implemented. In 2011, these capital costs were estimated to be over \$3 million per million gallons treated or nearly \$20 million total. Providing regulatory relief in an environmentally sound manner is an important strategy for supporting small utilities, which already have rates that burden disadvantaged customers.

As the Board considers its work plan for the triennial review, we encourage you to prioritize completion of a policy for Mixing Zone Credits for Human Health Constituents. By capitalizing on the good work done to date, the Board, its staff and the regulated community can provide an important and economically viable compliance pathway for a number of utilities, including small utilities in the region.

Sincerely,

Mark Landman, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors

cc: Russian River Watershed Association Board of Directors
Tim Erikson, City of Ukiah Director of Public Works



April 24, 2014

Assembly Member Mark Stone
Capitol Office
Sacramento, CA
P.O. Box 94249-0029

and

Assembly Member Susan
Talamantes Eggman
Capitol Office
Sacramento, CA
P.O. Box 94249-0013

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SUBJECT: AB 1893 (STONE/EGGMAN) – SAFE MANAGEMENT OF USED NEEDLES - DRAFT

Dear Assembly Members Stone and Eggman,

On behalf of Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I write to register strong support for AB 1893, legislation that will reduce costs to taxpayers, reduce needlestick injuries, and help sharps users comply with current law which requires safe containers and bans disposal in trash.

RRWA is a coalition of eleven public agencies in the Russian River watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water and watershed enhancement. Pharmaceuticals are collected in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties through the Safe Medicine Disposal Program. RRWA coordinates outreach, administers collections bins, and hosts medicine take-back events on behalf of the Program. Through years of public engagement regarding medicine disposal, it has become clear that safe sharps disposal options are very limited and poorly understood.

AB 1893 requires that a sharps waste container shall be sold with the purchase of sharps in the state of California. It also requires that sharps consumers receive information about the proper and legal disposal of sharps, including information about disposal locations.

When sharps are improperly thrown away, the public and workers alike are at risk of injury. If sharps are placed in garbage cans or recycling bins, or when they are flushed down the toilet, workers are at risk of needlesticks and blood-borne diseases. Illegally disposed sharps cost local governments scarce taxpayer dollars when workers get injured, or when entire trash sorting operations are shut down to retrieve the needles.

RRWA sponsors annual creek and river cleanups and helps promote regional coast cleanup events. Though volunteers are briefed on the hazards of sharps along cleanup corridors and coordinators carry sharps containers, volunteers are too frequently exposed to the potential dangers of improperly discarded sharps. Safety concerns of these sharps is of great concern to cleanup coordinators and volunteers, and may deter volunteer participation in these beneficial community cleanup events

Right now, far too many used needles wind up in the wrong place because people don't know what to do with them. Consumers are often unaware that used sharps are required by law to be stored, transported and disposed of in a certified sharps waste container, and that sharps are not allowed to be thrown away in home trash or recycling bins. Used sharps are required to be taken to collection locations that will take them to facilities that process medical waste.

AB 1893 is an important step toward helping people who use sharps at home dispose of their used needles safely and legally in a container and bring them to appropriate medical waste collection facilities and we strongly support the bill.

If you have any questions about our position, please contact Andy Rodgers, Deputy Director, RRWA at 707-823-2324 or andy@rrwatershed.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Landman, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors

cc: Dr. Richard Pan, Chair Assembly Health Committee, fax (916) 319-2197
Senator Noreen Evans, fax (707) 576-2773
Senator Lois Wolk, fax (707) 224-1992
Assemblymember Wes Chesbro, fax (707) 576-2297
Assemblymember Marc Levine, fax (707) 576-2735
Heidi Sanborn, California Product Stewardship Council, email: heidi@calpsc.org