



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA BARBARA

328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A TEL/FAX (805) 965-2422 email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org
Santa Barbara, California 93101 www.lwvsantabarbara.org

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, October 6, 2015

Re: Agenda Item 2, Safe Drug Disposal

The League of Women Voters has supported safe disposal of hazardous waste for many years, including household hazardous waste, and specifically including safe drug disposal and Santa Barbara County's "Operation Medicine Cabinet". On May 19, we asked your Board to follow the staff recommendation to study ways to expand this program and make it more sustainable. We have also participated in the community meetings on this issue.

Today, we urge you to take the next step. Please approve the Public Health Department's recommendations, and direct them to draft an ordinance for an extended producer responsibility (EPR) drug disposal program.

One important development happened just a week after your May 19 hearing: the U.S. Supreme Court denied a challenge by pharmaceutical companies to Alameda County's EPR program. This has made it much more feasible for other counties, including ours, to institute similar programs. The time is right for you to do so.

We will continue supporting both the development and implementation of this program, because it is so important for both public health and the environment.

Lindsey Baker
Co-President, Program and Action
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
(805)705-7651