

RESOLUTION NO 1107

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES RECOMMENDING THAT THE SANTA ROSA CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A LETTER OF CONCEPTUAL SUPPORT TO THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION FOR EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF A SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Russian River Watershed Association, a coalition of twelve cities (including Santa Rosa), counties and special districts in the Russian River watershed that work together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries and watershed enhancement, is seeking the attached letter of conceptual support from the City of Santa Rosa, along with its other member agencies, for evaluation of the feasibility of a safe medicine disposal ordinance that would address the long term need for prescription drug disposal within the region; and

WHEREAS, a manufacturer-funded collection and disposal program for unwanted, expired and unneeded prescription drugs would significantly increase safe and convenient disposal options for residents within the City of Santa Rosa, enabling collection of larger quantities of unwanted, expired and unneeded prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals and reduce any potential impacts to public health, safety, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, unwanted, expired and unneeded prescription drugs or pharmaceuticals are currently collected in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties through the Safe Medicine Disposal Program (Program) and since the Program's inception in 2007, over 90,000 pounds of pharmaceuticals have been collected and properly disposed of regionally, demonstrating a considerable demand for disposal options; and

WHEREAS, Program collection totals have increased every year without reaching a plateau, 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; and

WHEREAS, out of concern for public health, safety and the environment, local government agencies, by default, have carried the burden of financing and managing prescription drug or pharmaceutical take-back (aka, safe medicine disposal) programs, historically funded by taxpayers or utility ratepayers ; and

WHEREAS, with consideration to the potential impacts of improperly disposed of pharmaceuticals to public health, safety and the environment, including water quality within the watershed, RRWA has substantial interest in evaluating the feasibility of a safe medicine disposal ordinance and the potential development of a regional drug stewardship program to provide safe and convenient collection and disposal options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Public Utilities, by resolution, recommends that the City Council approve the letter of conceptual support to the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) for evaluation of the feasibility of a safe medicine disposal ordinance and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter


DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the City of Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities this 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015.

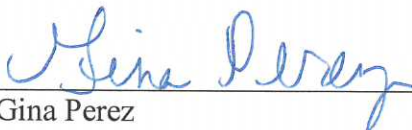
AYES: (6) GALVIN, KAUN, ARNONE, DOWD, HOLT, WATTS

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (1) TIBBETTS

ABSTAIN: (0)

APPROVED:   
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Daniel J. Galvin III  
Chair

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina Perez  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

Attachment: Letter of Conceptual Support