

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

TENTATIVE RESOLUTION NO. R9-2008-0128

**TO
SUPPORT THE “NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN” CAMPAIGN
FOR
PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICATION DISPOSAL
IN THE
SAN DIEGO REGION**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:

1. Pharmaceuticals and chemicals from other types of personal care products have been detected in approximately 80% of streams sampled by the U.S. Geological Survey, throughout the United States;
2. Improper disposal of pharmaceutical medications has a potentially negative impact on California’s water quality, the health of its people, and the environment;
3. Pharmaceutical compounds contained in unused prescription and non-prescription medication and non-metabolized excrement enter sewage treatment plants via the sanitary sewer system;
4. In the San Diego Region, sewage treatment plant effluent containing pharmaceutical compounds is either discharged directly to surface waters, such as the Ocean, or discharged to land where the compounds can migrate to ground waters;
5. Conventional wastewater treatment processes at sewage treatment plants do not currently have the capability of removing most pharmaceutical compounds; thus source control is the best available measure to minimize impacts to water quality and beneficial uses;
6. Very few disposal options for unused or outdated pharmaceutical medications are currently available to the citizens of California; and
7. The “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign offers disposal information and site-specific pharmaceutical take-back locations through a website available to the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board endorses and supports the goals of the "No Drugs Down the Drain" pharmaceutical medication disposal and education campaign, and will help establish and promote the goals of the campaign by providing a link on the Regional Board's website to the "No Drugs Down the Drain" website. The Executive Officer is directed to send a letter to the sewer collection and treatment agencies in the Region, requesting that they assist in educating the public and sponsoring "take-back" programs within their service areas for pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical medication.

I, John H. Robertus, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, on November 12, 2008.

JOHN H. ROBERTUS
Executive Officer