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Marin Joins List Of County Drug Takeback Ordinances As Local EPR Goes Nationwide

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Following in the footsteps of four other Bay Area counties, Marin County has now passed its own ordinance mandating producer-funded drug takeback programs. The Marin language mirrors those of the three Counties (San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara) which passed ordinances this year, after legal rulings allowed the first-in-the-nation version in Alameda County to proceed.

This brings the total number of California counties that have passed a version of drug takeback, all unanimously, to five. During the Marin hearing, proponents testified that other additional localities studying their own possible proposals are the counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Sonoma, and the City of Long Beach.

While these ordinances have been centered on County governments due to their waste management jurisdictions, leaders from the City level have shown their own interests for the proposals. In San Francisco, which is incorporated as both a City and a County, the Mayor does weigh in on matters before the Board.

Here's following passage of the Board's ordinance

Hence, following passage of the Board's ordinance earlier this year, it was signed by Mayor Ed Lee allowing it to become law. Similarly, during the Santa Clara County debate in the spring, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo sent a strong letter of endorsement to the Supervisors. In Marin, Fairfax Vice Mayor Renee Goddard was an integral part of the County's working group and helped to shepherd a unanimous supportive resolution through her Town Council.

Further, at their recent national meeting in San Francisco, the US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution entitled "In Support of Municipal Zero Waste Principles and a Hierarchy of Materials Management." This resolution advocated Extended Producer Responsibility and encouraged localities around the nation to take up its cause. It also included a call "upon the federal and state governments to recognize the rights of local governments to enact ordinances that support strategies to reduce waste in their local communities."

CLSA continues to advocate the industry's perspective on these matters county by county, and throughout other local government activities. For questions, contact Reese Isbell, our Associate Director of Government Affairs, at risbell@califesciences.org.



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