



## PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

### **A RESOLUTION OF PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (PAG) TO ENCOURAGE ITS MEMBER JURISDICTIONS TO PROMOTE PROPER DISPOSAL OF UNUSED AND OUT-OF-DATE PHARMACEUTICALS**

**WHEREAS**, unused and unwanted medications are commonly left over when people finish treatments; and

**WHEREAS**, large quantities of unused medications are known to accumulate at health care facilities because patients have moved or become deceased; and

**WHEREAS**, many people wrongly believe that flushing unused medications down the toilet or pouring them down the sink is an acceptable means of disposing of them; and

**WHEREAS**, proper disposal of pharmaceuticals includes throwing them in the trash (after mixing with unappealing substances such as kitty litter or coffee grounds), or dropping pharmaceuticals off at take-back events or drop-off sites; and

**WHEREAS**, unused pharmaceuticals in homes can detrimentally impact the safety and well being of children in those homes; and

**WHEREAS**, prescription medications pose a significant risk to teens because of the increased popularity of recreational consumption and their value as a saleable illegal substance; and

**WHEREAS**, disposal of medications by flushing them down the toilets or pouring them down the sink introduces them into the wastewater stream; and

**WHEREAS**, wastewater service providers and water providers need to prevent pharmaceuticals from being introduced into the wastewater stream; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement presence is required at any take-back event, drop-off site, and during transportation to a licensed incinerator for disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, local government, law enforcement and other interested parties have been meeting since June 2009 to discuss creating pharmaceutical take-back programs throughout the region;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the PAG Regional Council urges member jurisdictions to promote proper disposal of unused, out-of-date, and unwanted pharmaceuticals including supporting take-back events and coordinating public outreach with the purpose of raising awareness and providing guidance on proper disposal methods and opportunities.