



PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (PAG) TO ENCOURAGE ITS MEMBER JURISDICTIONS TO PROMOTE PROPER DISPOSAL OF UNUSED AND OUT OF DATE PHARMACEUTICALS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 pharmaceuticals are commonly left over at homes when people finish treatments; and

WHEREAS, large quantities of unused pharmaceuticals are known to accumulate at health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, unused pharmaceuticals in homes can have a detrimental impact on the safety and well being of children and pose a significant risk to teenagers because of the increased use of these drugs for recreational consumption and their value as a saleable illegal substance; and

WHEREAS, flushing unused pharmaceuticals down the toilet or pouring them down the sinks at home or at health care facilities is an unacceptable means of disposal; and

WHEREAS, prescription pharmaceuticals are introduced into the wastewater conveyance and treatment system when they are flushed down a toilet, or poured down a sink; and

WHEREAS, water and wastewater providers would like individuals and businesses to prevent the unnecessary introduction of pharmaceuticals into the wastewater stream; and

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

WHEREAS, pharmaceutical take-back/disposal programs can help reduce the load of many of these chemicals in the wastewater collection system and treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement presence is required at take-back events, drop off sites must be under law enforcement control, and law enforcement must be in control of medications during transport to a licensed incinerator for disposal; and

WHEREAS, local governments, law enforcement agencies, 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BE IT RESOLVED that the PAG Regional Council urges member jurisdictions to promote the proper disposal of unused, out-of-date, and unwanted pharmaceuticals including the support of take-back events and coordinated public outreach with the purpose of raising awareness and providing guidance on the proper disposal methods and opportunities.