



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

April 22, 2013

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

www.swanacal-leg.org

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

PAUL J. YODER

JASON SCHMELZER

Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.

1415 L Street, Suite 1000

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 446-4656

FAX (916) 446-4316

paul@shawyoderantwih.com

jason@shawyoderantwih.com

CHAIR

LISA WOOD

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

9601 Ridgeway Court #210

San Diego, CA 92123

lwood@sandiego.gov

VICE CHAIR

NANCY L. EWERT, PE.

KERN COUNTY

2700 M Street, Suite 500

Bakersfield, CA 93301

nancye@co.kern.ca.us

TREASURER

MARK BOWERS

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

456 W. Olive Ave

PO Box 3707

Sunnyvale, CA 94088

mbowers@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

SECRETARY

MARK URQUHART, PE.

Senior Project Manager

HDR ENGINEERING, INC

2365 Iron Point Rd. #300

Folsom, CA 95630

(916) 817-4933

Mark.Urquhart@hdrinc.com

The Honorable Jerry Hill
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 727 (Corbett) – Pharmaceutical EPR
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hill,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7700 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. SWANA's California Legislative Task Force (LTF) is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 727 (Corbett)**, which will allow producers of pharmaceuticals to create, finance, and manage an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for California consumers to safely and conveniently dispose of expired and unwanted pharmaceuticals.

Consumers attempting to dispose of used medications in an environmentally-conscious fashion are left to deal with a complicated web of options.

- Consumers can search the CalRecycle "Sharps and Medication Disposal Database" in hopes of finding a collection facility near their home. However, a search of counties (Sacramento – 4 facilities; Fresno – 1 facility; Kern – 6 facilities; Orange – 8 facilities; Riverside – 2 facilities; Solano – 1 facility) demonstrates that there is not adequate infrastructure to make this an easy option for consumers in all areas of the state.
- Consumers can contact their local government to see if pharmaceutical waste is accepted as part of the household hazardous waste program.
- Consumers can attempt to find a take-back event, but these events are uncommon and have their own restrictions because of the requirement that law enforcement be present at take-back events where controlled substances are returned.

Unfortunately, the most common method for disposing of used medications is to flush them down the toilet or throw them into the garbage, neither of which is environmentally friendly. SB 727 is the right solution to this pressing problem because it creates a privately managed and financed system to allow consumers to

properly and conveniently dispose of their unwanted pharmaceuticals with the appropriate oversight and enforcement by CalRecycle of the approved product stewardship plans, created and designed by the producers.

SB 727 also outlines requirements for proper financing, consistent and robust public outreach, and clear performance goals tied to specific dates. This EPR system will ultimately lead to less illegal diversion, reduce the ongoing pharmaceutical drug abuse epidemic in California, and reduce the environmental impacts of pharmaceuticals in waterways, by simply making it easier and more convenient for consumers to empty their medicine cabinets of unwanted and unused pharmaceuticals.

For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 727** and urges you to **VOTE YES** when the bill is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Schmelzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Schmelzer".

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate

cc. Caroll Mortensen – Director, CalRecycle
Martha Guzman-Aceves – Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown