

# “No Drugs Down the Drain!”



## Statewide Campaign Update

Jen Jackson

August 25, 2008

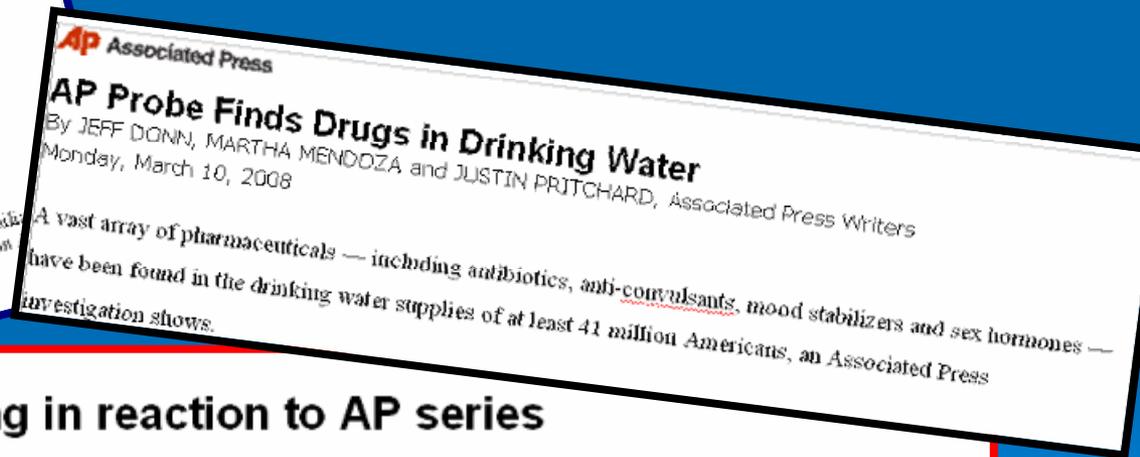
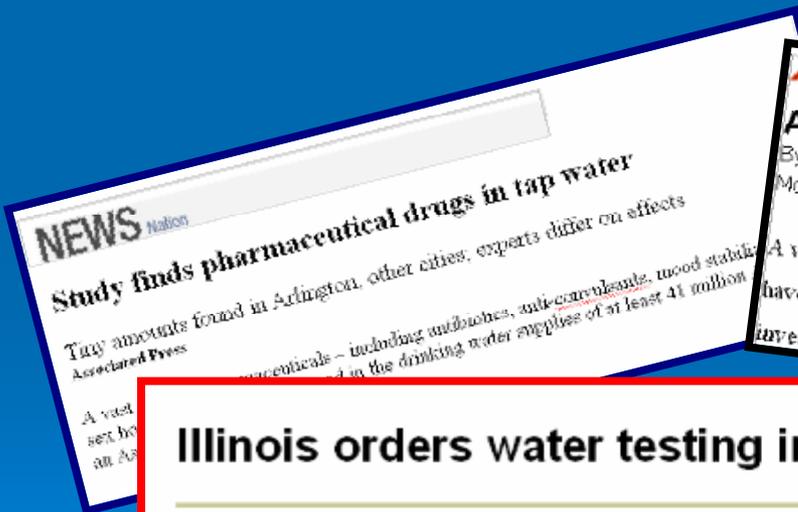
# Background

- Pharmaceuticals are in many surface waters
  - USGS 2002 Study → 80% of waterways surveyed contaminated with one or more pharmaceutical or personal care product compound
- Sources of pharmaceuticals in surface water
  - Animal feedlots
  - Human excretion
  - Disposal of leftover meds down the drain by households, hospitals, hospice, long-term care facilities
  - Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs)

# Background

## ➤ Should we be concerned?

- AP study (2008) → drinking water supplies
- Public eye on government agencies



## Illinois orders water testing in reaction to AP series

By Martha Mendoza - Associated Press

The governor of Illinois ordered screening of the state's waterways for pharmaceuticals Wednesday in reaction to an Associated Press investigation into the presence of trace amounts of medicines in U.S. drinking water.

# Regulatory Hurdles

## ➤ Federal Controlled Substances Act

- Does not allow patients to transfer certain addictive pharmaceuticals to anyone other than law enforcement
- Examples: Codeine, Vicodin, Ritalin

## ➤ CA Medical Waste Management Act

→ Use a Medical Waste hauler

## ➤ CA State Board of Pharmacy

Over the  
Counter  
Drugs

Controlled  
Substances

Prescription  
Drugs

5-10% of  
medications are controlled  
substances

# What can we do?

## ➤ Treatment

- Ozone, reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation processes (AOPs) can remove/degrade many pharmaceuticals
  - No silver bullet
    - Expensive infrastructure = rate increases?
    - Brine/waste disposal
    - Greenhouse gases
    - Some pharmaceuticals may persist

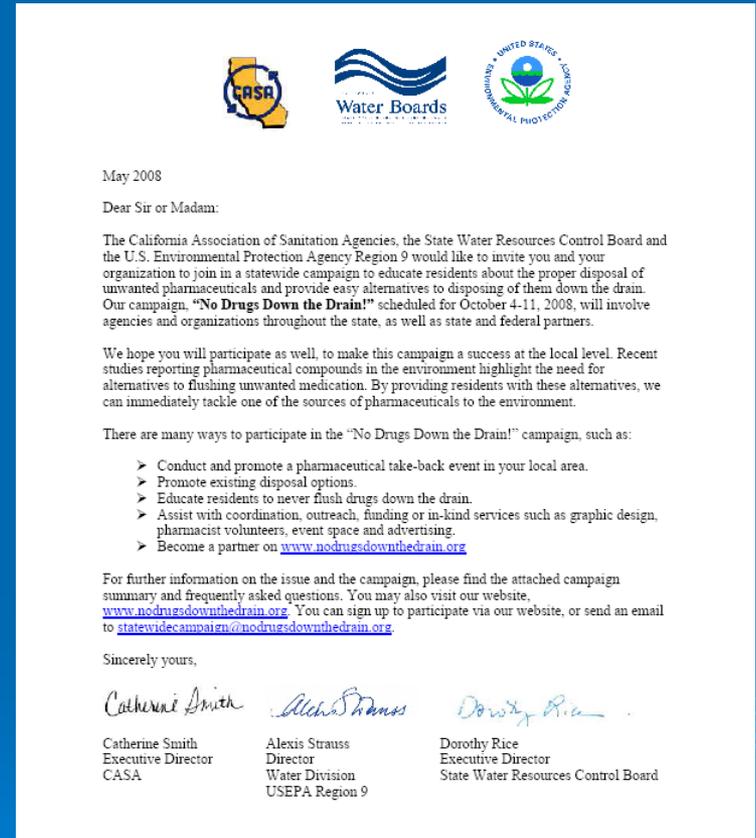


## ➤ Pollution Prevention

- Can implement in near term
- Education that toilets and drains are not appropriate for the disposal of toxics.
- Statewide campaign

# Statewide Campaign Development

- 2008 TriTAC Initiative
- U.S. EPA Region 9
- State Water Resources Control Board
- In-kind services & funding from
  - California Association of Sanitation Agencies
  - California Water Environment Association
  - Bay Area Clean Water Agencies
  - Central Valley Clean Water Association
  - Southern California Association of Publicly Owned Treatment Works
  - Local agencies



Letter from USEPA, California State Water Board, and California Sanitation Agencies inviting organizations to participate in a statewide pharmaceutical collection.

# Statewide Campaign Goals

- Raise awareness about the issue of pharmaceutical disposal
- Provide unified message of no drugs down the drain
- Provide local disposal options – interim solution until a long-term solution is in place.
- Proactive approach: Wastewater and water agencies are addressing one of the sources of pharmaceuticals in the environment



# Statewide Campaign

- Statewide coordination
  - Statewide website, public service announcements, media relations, press events, graphics templates, training, support
  - Materials available at [www.ororkepr.com/NDDDD/NDDDD.html](http://www.ororkepr.com/NDDDD/NDDDD.html)
- Local agency implementation
  - Public education
  - Collection events and programs
  - Local media and public outreach

# One-Time or Periodic Events

- Recent OK from DEA to conduct events without police if
  - Outreach clearly states that we do not accept controlled substances
  - Provide list of controlled substances at event for those who ask
- Do not look at/screen any prescription medication, resident places in locked bin
- No sorting; all medication remains locked until hauled for incineration.



# Ongoing Collection Programs



Permanent collection bin  
used at San Mateo  
County police stations

- Some local household hazardous waste facilities accept medication and dispose of as poison solids. Outreach should state, “No controlled substances accepted.”
- San Mateo County: permanent one-way bins at 13 police stations; medical waste hauler removes collected medication periodically. All medication accepted.
- Teleosis Institute: permanent collection sites at pharmacies and medical offices; incoming medication screened for acceptability – no controlled substances accepted; medical waste hauler removes collected medication.
- Marin County: pharmacies accept non-controlled substances; medical waste hauler removes collected medication.

# What will the campaign look like?

No Drugs Down The Drain - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org/

Getting Started Latest Headlines search u3jb

Google Search RS Check AutoLink AutoFill Send to Settings

Norton Phishing Protection on Identity Safe Log-ins

## NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN Statewide Campaign October 4-11, 2008

STATEWIDE SPONSORS | STATEWIDE SUPPORTERS | FOR PARTNERS/AGENCIES

Your local, regional, state and federal agencies have joined together in the No Drugs Down the Drain campaign, a one-week California-wide educational campaign during October 4-11, 2008. Because of the possible environmental consequences, disposing of leftover medication down the toilet is no longer acceptable. To find your local agency's disposal information, enter your zip code below.

 Frequently Asked Questions

**Find Out Where to Drop Off Your Unwanted Medication**

Where? ZIP Code   

Additional Disposal for Los Angeles County, Riverside County, [CLICK HERE](#)

Contact [statewidecampaign@nodrugsdownthedrain.org](mailto:statewidecampaign@nodrugsdownthedrain.org)

Done

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## OLD PILLS PILING UP?

No Drugs Down the Drain Please!

UNUSED MEDICINE THAT IS FLUSHED OR PUT DOWN THE DRAIN CAN END UP IN OUR WATERWAYS AND POLLUTES THE ENVIRONMENT. You can make a difference by disposing of your unused portions properly.

[www.NoDrugsDownTheDrain.org](http://www.NoDrugsDownTheDrain.org)

# Campaign Timeline

- Summer - Agencies and organizations developing outreach plans and collection programs/events
- Early-September – Agencies and organizations provide event information for NDDD website
- Mid-September – Press pitching and media outreach
- Oct 4-11 – Campaign education and collection events/programs occur

# Additional Activities

- EPA
  - Public Service Announcement videos
- SWRCB
  - Resolution
  - Regional boards support
  - Possible governor's PSA
- Legislature
  - Joint house proclamation

# Next Steps?

- Continue campaign coordination at statewide and local levels
- Still time to participate in the No Drugs Down the Drain! campaign

[statewidecampaign@nodrugsdownthedrain.org](mailto:statewidecampaign@nodrugsdownthedrain.org) or  
[jacksonj@ebmud.com](mailto:jacksonj@ebmud.com), 510-287-0818

- Work toward long-term solutions for medicine disposal
  - SB 966 → identify/develop model programs and make recommendations to legislature by 2010
  - National Product Stewardship Institute Dialogue on drug disposal
    - Address federal and state regulatory barriers
    - Promote producer responsibility models