



Secretary of the Senate

GREGORY SCHMIDT

ROOM 3044, STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 651-4171

September 15, 2008

Mr. Phil Bobel
City of Palo Alto
2501 Embarcadero Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear Mr. Bobel:

By the direction of the State Senate, I am transmitting herewith a copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 126, which was recently adopted by the State Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg P Schmidt".

GREGORY P. SCHMIDT
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 126

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 119

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 126—Relative to drug waste.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 2, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 126, Simitian. No Drugs Down the Drain Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of October 4 to October 11, 2008, inclusive, as “No Drugs Down the Drain Week” to raise awareness among the public about the environmental problems caused by flushing unwanted drugs down the drain.

WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey conducted a study in 2002 sampling 139 streams across 30 states and found that 80 percent had measurable concentrations of prescription and nonprescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive hormones; and

WHEREAS, Articles reported by the Associated Press in March of 2008 have corroborated the findings of the United States Geological Survey; and

WHEREAS, Exposure, even to low levels of drugs, has been shown to have negative effects on fish and other aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, The effects of trace concentrations of drugs in the environment on human health are unknown; and

WHEREAS, A pathway for prescription and nonprescription drugs to enter the environment is the disposal of unwanted and unused drugs down drains that lead to community sewer systems, which convey untreated wastewater to municipal wastewater treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, Many of these municipal wastewater treatment facilities discharge to surface waters in the state; and

WHEREAS, Municipal wastewater treatment facilities remove some, but may not remove all, of the drugs that enter the community sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, The safest methods of disposal of unwanted drugs are not well understood by the public and therefore a public education campaign is necessary to educate consumers; and

WHEREAS, A coalition of federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations are organizing a statewide public education campaign from October 4 to October 11, 2008, inclusive, to encourage the public not to flush unwanted drugs down the drain; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the state to encourage the public not to flush unwanted drugs down the drain; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature has directed the California Integrated Waste Management Board to adopt model programs for the proper collection and

disposal of drug waste and to provide recommendations to the Legislature for the implementation of a statewide program by December 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, During No Drugs Down the Drain Week, the public will be educated about the currently available safe disposal options for unwanted drugs; and

WHEREAS, In many areas, special take-back events or household hazardous waste collection events will be held during No Drugs Down the Drain Week to accept unwanted drugs from the public; and

WHEREAS, Information about No Drugs Down the Drain Week is available at www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the week of October 4 to October 11, 2008, inclusive, as “No Drugs Down the Drain Week” for the state, to raise awareness among the public about the environmental problems caused by flushing unwanted drugs down the drain and to encourage the use of proper disposal methods; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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