



National Prescription Drug *TAKE BACK* Day

September 24, 2012

PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

[Martinez, California] – On Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to one of the following locations:

- Office of the Sheriff Muir Station, 1980 Muir Road, Martinez, CA
(Field Operations Building)
- Office of the Sheriff Bay Station, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond, CA
(West County Detention Facility)
- Danville Police Department, 510 La Gonda Way, Danville, CA
- Lafayette Police Department, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 130, Lafayette, CA
- Oakley Police Department, 3231 Main Street, Oakley, CA
- Orinda Police Department, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

The service is free and anonymous, no questions will be asked.

California residents responded overwhelmingly to the last National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. On April 28, 2012, citizens from Northern and Central California turned in 20,915 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal. A record 552,161 pounds was collected nationwide.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish at home are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information on the Take Back program, visit: www.dea.gov