

**South Bay Environmental Services Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A DANGEROUS COCKTAIL FOR OUR OCEANS IS CREATED WHEN UNUSED DRUGS
ARE NOT DISPOSED OF PROPERLY**

South Bay - In the past, it was accepted practice to flush unused, unwanted and expired medications down the toilet. That is no longer the case. A combination of pharmaceuticals, including prescription drugs such as hormones, antidepressants, and antibiotics; over the counter medicines such as pain relievers, cold/flu remedies and antiseptics and veterinary medicines combine to make a dangerous cocktail for our oceans. To date two cities in the South Bay – Manhattan Beach and Gardena - as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff have stepped up to the plate to create a helpful solution to this environmental problem.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments working through its Environmental Services Center reminds those who have unused or expired drugs and medications that there are several safe South Bay locations to drop them off. At the city and county police stations, there are boxes located where unused legal drugs and medications can be deposited at any hour.

One of the SBCCOG's partners at the South Bay Environmental Services Center is the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. Through their program "No Drugs Down the Drain", the SBCCOG staff went to the City of Manhattan Beach whose Police Department to better understand how the program worked. Manhattan Beach was the first city in the South Bay to deploy safe drop off containers for unused and/or expired medications, "Once we learned the details"

stated Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director “we went to Sheriff Lee Baca who embraced the program and took it to the next level by creating the County’s Safe Drug Drop off program which includes taking legal drugs as well as illegal drugs and sharps.” In the true spirit of recycling, retired U.S. Postal boxes were re-used for the Safe Drug Drop off program.

Recently, the City of Gardena through their Police Department adopted the Manhattan Beach model of accepting legal unused drugs and medications. Any questions regarding these and other water, energy and environmental programs, please call SBESC at 310-371-7222.

SBCCOG

The SBCCOG is a joint powers authority of 16 cities and the County of Los Angeles that share the goal of maximizing the quality of life and productivity throughout the South Bay and surrounding communities. Members are [Carson](#), [El Segundo](#), [Gardena](#), [Hawthorne](#), [Hermosa Beach](#), [Inglewood](#), [Lawndale](#), [Lomita](#), [Manhattan Beach](#), [Palos Verdes Estates](#), [Rancho Palos Verdes](#), [Redondo Beach](#), [Rolling Hills](#), [Rolling Hills Estates](#), [Torrance](#), and the Harbor City/San Pedro communities of the [City of Los Angeles](#), along with the [County of Los Angeles District 2 and 4](#). The SBCCOG values what makes its cities unique and independent, and realizes there are times when collective endeavors get better results. This vision of what it can do for its communities drives SBCCOG efforts and motivates its members. It can best be described three ways: Partnership, Persuasion and Performance. Since its inception in 1994 the SBCCOG has been successful in achieving goals toward that end.

SBESC

The SBESC is the South Bay's local clearinghouse for energy and water efficiency training, materials and other environmental information. SBESC works closely with the sixteen South Bay cities and County Unincorporated Areas of the South Bay on the implementation of energy and water saving projects that reduce greenhouse gases as well as costs. SBESC provides resources and tools to assist residents, businesses, and public agencies in better understanding the potential for energy and water efficiency within their homes and businesses. The Center hosts a wide variety of seminars, training sessions, and participates in many community events to assist consumers in making the best decision regarding energy and water use. The SBESC is operated by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) which partners with The Gas CompanySM, Southern California Edison, West Basin Municipal Water District, City of Torrance Water Department, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and County of Los Angeles. Visit www.sbesc.com for the latest activities, schedules and opportunities to participate in a greener South Bay.