



San Juan County 2011 Legislative Priorities

Support Passage of a “Safe Medicine Return Bill” in the 2011 Legislative Session and Support a Pilot Safe Medicine Return Program in San Juan County

Position:

San Juan County pharmacies, law enforcement, and non-profits have partnered to initiate a local “Take Back” program to provide a responsible way of removing unused medications (both controlled and non-controlled substances) from our community. This program successfully kicked off on Lopez, Orcas and San Juan Island in August of 2010. At the State level, the Safe Medicine Return Bill would require the pharmaceutical industry to develop, fund and implement a system to help collect and dispose of unused medications with the goal of helping reduce the abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications, and to reduce the unwelcome presence of these drugs in the environment.

Discussion:

While the proliferation of prescription medications in today’s society has helped improve public health, it has also been accompanied by some undesirable consequences and challenges. Prescription drug abuse is an increasing problem. Most abusers of prescription medication gain access to their drugs from home medicine cabinets.

There is also an increasing concern that prescription medication and other so called “personal care products” are become more prevalent in our natural environment. These products not only make their way into the environment after they pass through a users system, but also through their improper disposal. In the recent past it was a common recommendation to “just flush unused medication down the toilet”.

In San Juan County where the majority of toilets are part of a septic system this provided a direct path to our groundwater sources. Septic systems do not “treat” for the majority of these personal care products, and the products are “passed through” into the environment. The human impacts of long term exposure to the minute concentrations of these compounds are a concern but as yet unverified. However, environmental impacts have been well documented including dramatic evidence such as deformed frogs and gender altered amphibians.

The Safe Medicine Return Bill is currently being supported by over 70 organizations from throughout the law enforcement, healthcare community, and environmental organizations. The Bill was considered in committee during the 2010 Washington State Legislative Session. However, it was vigorously opposed by the pharmaceutical industry, and did not successfully make it out of committee.

The Safe Medicine Return Bill is similar to the “E-Waste” recycling effort that is now available nationwide. The “E-Waste” program is a computer and electronics recycling effort that is being funded by the manufacturers of these products. It has successfully redirected tons of toxin-laden waste from landfills.

The Safe Medicine Return program would not have significant impact on the cost of prescription medications. It is estimated to cost a mere half cent per prescription. This proposed legislation would have no associated cost to San Juan County.



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The San Juan County Water Resources Committee, the Eastsound Water Users Association Board, and the Eastsound Sewer District Commissioners have all endorsed a resolution supporting this legislation in the upcoming State Legislative Session.

In San Juan County, pharmacies, law enforcement, and non-profits have partnered to initiate a local “Take Back” program to provide a responsible way of removing unused medications (both controlled and non-controlled substances) from our community. This program successfully kicked off on Lopez, Orcas and San Juan Island in August of 2010. The program will be moving to medicine take-back lock boxes at local pharmacies (pending approval from the Washington State Board of Pharmacy) and at the Friday Harbor/San Juan Island Sheriff Office and Orcas and Lopez Island Sheriff Sub-Station. Uniformed San Juan County Sheriff Deputies will collect dropped off medicine once a month from the local pharmacies and daily from the Sheriff’s office and sub-stations, weigh and then log as evidence. At some point when critical mass has been obtained, then the collected medications will be taken for incineration.

Action Needed:

Support the pilot safe medicine return program to provide a responsible way of removing unused medications (both controlled and non-controlled substances) from San Juan County.

Pass the Medicine Return Program Resolution as recommended by the San Juan County Water Resource Management Committee, and forward that support to both our State Legislative Representatives and to Margaret Shield, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (206) 263-3059, margaret.shield@kingcounty.gov

Work with the Legislature and Governor to pass a Safe Medicine Return Bill in the 2011 Legislative Session.



San Juan County 2011 Legislative Priorities

EXHIBIT A

2011 Legislative Priorities

Ranked As Follows

Federal Legislative Priorities

1. Support Improved Oil Spill Prevention, Readiness and Response (Federal and State Legislative Priority)
2. Secure Federal Funds for Cattle Point Road Realignment Project
3. Support Funding for Enforcement That Enhances Orca Protection
4. Secure Funding to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Washington State (Federal and State Legislative Priority)
5. Support Long-Term Protection of Bureau of Land Management Properties in San Juan County through a National Conservation Area Designation
6. Secure the Reconciliation of the Federal National Marine Fisheries Biological Opinion with Washington's Shoreline Management Act (Federal and State Legislative Priority)

State Legislative Priorities

1. Priorities for Washington State Ferries
2. Support Improved Oil Spill Prevention, Readiness and Response (Federal and State Legislative Priority)
3. Support the Development of Stormwater Regulations for Rural Areas and Counties
4. Secure State Capital Funds for the Following San Juan County Capital Projects:
 - i. Repair and/or replacement of leaking wall in County Courthouse: Est. \$2.5 M
 - ii. Complete the funding for restoration of historic Brann Cabin in San Juan County Park: Est. \$60,000
5. Support for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funding in the 2011-2013 Biennium Budget
6. Request San Juan County Seat on the Eco-System Coordination Board
7. Secure the Reconciliation of the Federal National Marine Fisheries Biological Opinion with Washington's Shoreline Management Act (Federal and State Legislative Priority)



San Juan County 2011 Legislative Priorities

EXHIBIT B

Additional Unranked 2011 State Legislative Priorities

- Secure Funding to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Washington State (Federal and State Legislative Priority)
- Request Clarification of REET Allowable Uses - Capital Funding Definitions
- Support Full Funding of Public Schools
- Support Priority Action Agenda Strategies
- Support Legislation that Will Waive or Extend all Due Dates on State Mandates Related to the Growth Management Act Until these Mandates Can Be Fully Funded
- Secure Necessary Funding to Assist Seniors to Stay Independent at Home in Their Communities
- Support Full Funding of County Fairs
- Support Passage of a "Safe Medicine Return Bill" in the 2011 Legislative Session and Support a Pilot Safe Medicine Return Program in San Juan County
- Support State-Wide Consistency Regarding the Assessments of Affordable Housing Properties with Resale Restrictions
- Support Revisions to Regulations Regarding the Granting of Liquor Licenses near Public Schools
- Support the Maintenance of Mental Health Funding Levels for Individual and Community Safety

RESOLUTION NO. 44 - 2010

REGARDING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BACKGROUND

A. In anticipation of the 2011 Legislative Session of the Washington State Legislature and United States Congress, the San Juan County Council has discussed its legislative priorities.

B. The council has reviewed and considered the nature and scope of proposed legislative actions with White Papers developed by Council Members, staff of the County, and members of the public.

C. On 31 August 2010 and 20 September 2010, the council received comments from the public on the legislative priorities.

D. The council desires to state, confirm and ratify its legislative priorities for the 2011 legislative session, subject to the reservation of rights to make amendments to this list as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, as follows:

1. The 2011 Legislative Priorities as set forth in Exhibit A are hereby adopted.
2. The Additional Unranked 2011 State Legislative Priorities as set forth in Exhibit B are hereby adopted.
3. The Council hereby reserves the right to take action on additional legislative issues; to identify, rank, and re-rank the legislative priorities; and to respond to legislation proposed by others.

ADOPTED this 12th day of October 2010.

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

By: Ingrid Gabriel
Ingrid Gabriel – Clerk
Date: 10.13.10

REVIEWED BY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR

Pete Rose
Pete Rose Date: 10-12-10

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY
RANDALL K. GAYLORD

By: R. Gaylord
Date: 10/13/10

Richard Fralick
Richard Fralick, Chair
District 4, Orcas West/Waldron

Lovel Pratt
Lovel Pratt, Vice-Chair
District 1, San Juan South

Richard Peterson
Richard Peterson, Member
District 2, San Juan North

Howard Rosenfeld
Howard Rosenfeld, Member
District 3, Friday Harbor

Gene Knapp
Gene Knapp, Member
District 5, Orcas East

Bob Myhr
Bob Myhr, Member
District 6, Lopez/Shaw