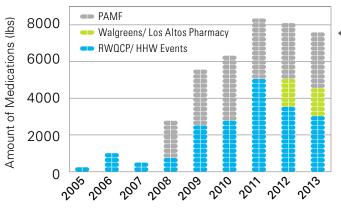
# HISTORY OF PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION

### THE PROBLEM:

Lack of convenient, cost-effective disposal options for unwanted pharmaceuticals results in improper disposal in sinks, toilets and the trash. Since wastewater treatment plants cannot completely remove these chemicals, pharmaceuticals have been detected in wastewater treatment plant effluent, waterways and even drinking water supplies.





## **48,000 POUNDS**

-amount of pharmaceuticals collected in the Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) service area in 2013 at two medical centers, two pharmacies and the RWQCP which includes senior centers and take-back events. This is just a fraction of the estimated 2.2 pounds of pharmaceutical waste per household available in the RWQCP's 220,000 population service area.

## **PHARMACEUTICALS**

detected in wastewater and in the Lower South Bay. (Gemfibrozil is a cholesterol medication) San Francisco Estuary Institute, 2009.

## THE SOLUTION:

Establish industry funded safe and convenient disposal locations at point-of-sale.

### RWQCP Pharmaceutical Collection Program Timeline

#### **200**1

 RWQCP spearheads research on impacts of pharmaceuticals on San Francisco Bay after staff sees pills in the plant influent grit chamber.

#### 2006

- Program expands. Pharmaceutical collection now offered 5 days per week at the RWQCP.
- Pilots regional No Drugs Down the Drain take-back event with pharmacies and police department (required by Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA]). Average household brings 2.2 lbs of pharmaceutical waste.

#### 2011

- PAMF agrees to pay for its own pharmaceutical disposal program after RWQCP paid for a 3-year pilot that disposed of 12,000 pounds.
- Program expands to one Walgreens and the Los Altos Pharmacy.

2000

2005

20'

**ZU15** 

#### 2000

 USGS detects pharmaceuticals and personal care products in urban streams and water bodies.

#### 2002

 RWQCP launches Program by adding pharmaceutical waste collection to it Household Hazardous Waste Events.

#### 2002

- Partnership launched with Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) to collect pharmaceutical waste at the Palo Alto and Mountain View locations
- Supported statewide No Drugs Down the Drain event.

#### 2009

 Supports Federal Safe Disposal Act-House of Representative HR1191 (DEA regulations in process).

#### 2014

- RWQCP continues to promote the Program.
- RWQCP staff provides testimony to support SB 1014.





#### 2007

- Contacts DEA to create mail-back option for controlled substances (supported by Senator Simitian, US Postal Service, and US EPA) (not adopted.)
- Supports Senate Bill 966 (simitian) to allow pharmacies to accept pharms from customers. (passed amended)

#### 2013

- RWQCP promotes five permanent collection sites, funds three and provides outreach to 21 pharmacies in its service area.
- Outreach to pet stores about pet medication disposal.
- Supports SB 272 (deferred to 2 year bill)



Pharmaceutical disposal outreach is provided free of charge to all pharmacies in the RWQCP service area.



The RWQCP maintains an onsite collection bin for pharmaceuticals and sharps.



Residents are asked to consolidate medications before disposal.



Dispose of them properly to protect your pets, family and San Francisco Bay.

What you should know as a pet owner...

**DON'T FLUSH** unwanted pet medications of any kind down the toilet or sink. Some medications can't be removed during wastewater treatment and can enter San Francisco Bay causing potential harm to water quality and wildlife.

TO PROTECT your family, pets and San Francisco Bay, dispose pet medicines properly at a local collection site (see reverse).

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the expiration, use or storage of pet medications ask your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Pharmaceutical disposal outreach is provided to pet owners provided at veterinarian offices and pet stores.