



CITY OF AUBURN

Public Works Department

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Free Collection Event on October 11 for Unwanted Medications *Placer County Residents Urged to Keep Pills and Medications Out of the Sewer System*

AUBURN, Calif. – October 2, 2008 – With drug sales outpacing population growth, pharmaceutical waste is quickly becoming a major issue for the environment. The old habit of flushing pills down the toilet to protect children from accidentally ingesting them is no longer appropriate. Today, all unused medications should be properly disposed of at a waste collection facility like the WPWMA or at a sanctioned collection event.

The City of Auburn in partnership with Placer County will hold a free collection event on October 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the City of Auburn Administration Building at 1225 Lincoln Avenue in Auburn. Any Placer County resident can drive through the parking lot and hand over their unused medications where they will be taken to an incinerator for proper disposal. Any medication **except** syringes or “sharps” will be collected. Citizens are asked to black out any personal information from prescription containers but leave the labels intact.

The collection event is part of a statewide “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign, a collaborative effort between the US Environmental Protection Agency, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and local agencies like the City of Auburn and Placer County. Roseville will also collect pharmaceutical products on October 11 from 10:00-2:00 at the Roseville Sports Center Parking Lot at 1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard.

“Pharmaceutical waste in our sewer system is a growing problem and we hope to stop residents from flushing medications down the toilet or pouring them down the drain,” said Jack Warren, public works director for the City of Auburn. “This collection event is one way to raise awareness about the proper way to dispose of unwanted medications.”

For more information about the statewide campaign and collection events throughout the region, visit NoDrugsDownTheDrain.org or visit the Healthy Auburn Waters website and click on the “meds” link (www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org).

About the No Drugs Down the Drain Campaign

The No Drugs Down the Drain Campaign is a public outreach program to educate California residents about the negative impact of pharmaceuticals on fish and wildlife. Flushing or pouring unwanted medications is not considered to be proper disposal. Agencies around the state are holding outreach campaigns and collection events throughout the week of October 4-11, 2008. More information can be found at www.NoDrugsDownTheDrain.org.

About the Healthy Auburn Waters Campaign

The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign--sponsored by the City of Auburn-- is a public education program that teaches residents and businesses how to properly dispose of chemicals; pesticides; cooking fats, oils and grease; motor oil and fuel. The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign seeks to protect Auburn waterways and reduce the costs to upgrade the Auburn Wastewater Treatment Plant. For more information, visit www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org.

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