Outlook

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT: Re: September 10, 2026 Agenda Item 8.E - Chapter 8.40; Urgency Ordinance No. 1077 and Proposed Ordinance No. 1078

From Victoria Travis <victoria@med-project.org>
Date Wed 9/9/2026 3:13 PM
To City Council <citycouncil@cityofcapitola.gov>
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1 attachment (155 KB)
MED-Project Letter to City of Capitola City Council re Expanding of SB212 Program 20260909.pdf;

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL.

Members of the Capitola City Council:

MED-Project USA appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter for the Capitola City Council's consideration at its September 10, 2026 meeting concerning Agenda Item 8.E.

Thank you,

Victoria

Dr. Victoria Travis, PharmD, MS, MBA
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September 9, 2026

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Capitola City Council
City of Capitola
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

citycouncil@cityofcapitola.gov

Re: September 10, 2026 Agenda Item 8.E - Chapter 8.40; Urgency Ordinance No. 1077 and Proposed Ordinance No. 1078 (re City's Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal Ordinance)

Members of the City Council:

MED-Project USA ("MED-Project") appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter for the Capitola City Council's (Council) consideration at its September 10, 2026 meeting concerning Agenda Item 8.E. Following its review of the Council's September 3, 2026 Special City Council Meeting and the associated Agenda Packet, MED-Project seeks to correct and clarify certain information others presented to the Council concerning the sunset of the City of Capitola Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal Ordinance, Capitola Municipal Code Chapter 8.40 ("Ordinance"). Specifically, MED-Project provides the following information regarding the transition of pharmaceutical and home-generated sharps waste stewardship services provided under the Ordinance, to MED-Project's statewide stewardship programs established pursuant to California Senate Bill 212 ("SB 212").

MED-Project wants to clarify for the Council that the sunset of the Ordinance will not result in the discontinuation of producer-funded pharmaceutical and home-generated sharps waste stewardship services in Capitola. Rather, following the sunset of the Ordinance, MED-Project will transition applicable services provided through the City program into MED-Project's approved statewide programs for Covered Drugs and Home-Generated Sharps Waste (collectively, the "State Programs"). For more information, see https://calrecycle.ca.gov/epr/pharmasharps/.

MED-Project LLC has been operating a stewardship program in Capitola pursuant to the Ordinance. Following the sunset of the Ordinance, California law and MED-Project's approved State Program stewardship plans provide a mechanism for transitioning the City from its local stewardship program to the State Programs.

Pursuant to California Public Resources Code sections 42032.2(e) and 42036.2, when a local jurisdiction repeals or sunsets its local stewardship program ordinance, MED-Project must expand its State Programs into that jurisdiction. MED-Project's CalRecycle approved State Program stewardship plans specifically provide for this transition and establish a period of up to 270 days following the effective date of the local ordinance repeal or sunset to complete expansion of the State Programs. MED-Project has real world experience in executing the transition from local programs to the State Program, in both Santa Cruz County and the City of Santa Cruz. MED-Project has successfully and seamlessly transitioned both jurisdictions to the

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State Program without disruption to services for the safe and secure collection of unwanted medicine and home-generated sharps waste from California residents.

During this transition period, MED-Project will coordinate the transition of applicable existing services, assess implementation requirements, work with participating sites, implement the applicable State Program service model, and conduct education and outreach regarding the State Programs. MED-Project's objective is to provide for an orderly transition from the City program to the State Programs and to avoid unnecessary disruption for Capitola residents and participating locations.

Covered Drugs Program

For Covered Drugs, the transition should be largely familiar to Capitola residents because secure medication collection receptacles are also an important component of MED-Project's statewide SB 212 Covered Drugs Program. MED-Project has previously completed comparable transitions in the County of Santa Cruz and the City of Santa Cruz. In those jurisdictions, participating unwanted medicine collection sites transitioned into the State Program without interruption (a gap) in the collection service.

Under MED-Project's approved statewide Covered Drugs stewardship plan, MED-Project operates a network of "Authorized Collection Sites" (e.g., sites with drop boxes – see PRC Section 42030) where "Ultimate Users" (e.g., residents – see PRC Section 42030) can conveniently and safely dispose of Covered Drugs through secure collection receptacles. MED-Project also provides mail-back services and education and outreach regarding proper disposal options.

As part of the transition into the State Program, MED-Project intends to seamlessly transition eligible medication drop box sites currently participating in the Capitola program into the statewide Covered Drugs Program as Authorized Collection Sites. MED-Project will work directly with these participating sites to complete the operational and administrative steps necessary for the transition.

For residents, the practical effect is that medication collection opportunities currently available through participating medication drop box locations are intended to continue, and those locations will operate under MED-Project's statewide SB 212 Covered Drugs Program rather than under the Ordinance.

In addition to secure medication drop boxes, the State Program provides additional options for the safe disposal of Covered Drugs, including prepaid and pre-addressed mail-back services. Information regarding available disposal options and participating locations is provided through the MED-Project website and toll-free call center.

Home-Generated Sharps Waste Program

The transition of sharps services will involve a change in the method by which the State Program provides residents with safe disposal opportunities, and robust collection services will remain available without disruption for City residents.

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Under the Capitola program, certain participating locations currently host sharps collection kiosks. Those sharps kiosks will be removed as the City program is transitioned to the statewide SB 212 Home-Generated Sharps Waste Program. The removal of those kiosks, however, will not result in termination of MED-Project's sharps disposal services in Capitola. Instead, the service model will transition to the statewide SB 212 sharps mail-back program.

Under MED-Project's Home-Generated Sharps Waste Stewardship Plan approved by CalRecycle, retail pharmacies and other retailers selling covered sharps products to Ultimate Users are Point of Sale Sites for purposes of the State Program. MED-Project supports these sites so that, upon the sale of a sharp, a resident can be provided a Sharps Mail-Back Package or have the distribution of a Sharps Mail-Back Package initiated on the resident's behalf.

Depending upon the service method used by the Point of Sale Site, a resident may receive a Sharps Mail-Back Package directly at the Point of Sale Site or the site may initiate an order for a package to be delivered to the resident's specified address. MED-Project's approved State Program provides online and telephone ordering mechanisms to support these services.

Sharps Mail-Back Packages include an appropriate sharps container and prepaid return packaging, together with instructions regarding proper use and return. This provides residents with a method to safely collect their home-generated sharps and return them for appropriate treatment and disposal at no cost to the resident.

Importantly, access to the State Program is not limited to the transaction at the pharmacy. Residents may also obtain information about Sharps Mail-Back Packages and request packages through MED-Project's website and toll-free call center. The State Program therefore provides multiple convenient pathways for Capitola residents to obtain sharps disposal services.

MED-Project will work with pharmacies and other applicable Point of Sale Sites in Capitola as part of the transition, including providing ordering system support, educational materials, signage and other resources necessary to implement the State Program service model.

The statewide Home-Generated Sharps Waste Stewardship Programs have demonstrated that the mail-back model provides a practical and widely used disposal option for California residents. In 2024 and 2025, the CalRecycle approved programs collectively distributed **over 518,000 sharps mail-back packages** and collected **over 920,000 pounds of home-generated sharps waste.** These statewide results provide a substantial operating record for the same service model that will be available to Capitola residents following the transition to the State Program.

Transition of Existing Capitola Services

MED-Project recognizes the City's interest in providing Capitola residents with convenient disposal options following the sunset of the Ordinance. Accordingly, MED-Project is approaching the transition as a change in the governing stewardship program and, for sharps, a change in collection method, not as an end to pharmaceutical and sharps stewardship services in the City.

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In summary, MED-Project anticipates the following transition:

- **Medication Drop Boxes:** Eligible existing medication drop box locations in Capitola will transition to MED-Project's statewide SB 212 Covered Drugs Program as Authorized Collection Sites, subject to the requirements of the approved State Program.
- **Medication Mail-Back Services:** State Program mail-back services will provide an additional disposal option for eligible Covered Drugs.
- **Sharps Drop Boxes:** The two sharps drop boxes that operated under the City program will be removed as those services transition to the statewide Home-Generated Sharps Waste Program. It should be noted that these drop boxes were not required by the Ordinance and host sites could elect to discontinue sharps drop box services under the local program. Under the State Program, Capitola residents will have access to sharps mail-back services, including packages offered or initiated at points of sale of a covered product and available through MED-Project's website and call center.
- **Pharmacies and other applicable Point of Sale Sites:** The statewide sharps program will provide or initiate the distribution of Sharps Mail-Back Packages at the point of sale of In-Scope Purchases in accordance with the approved State Program.
- **Sharps Mail-Back Services:** Ultimate Users will also have access to information regarding Sharps Mail-Back Packages and may request packages through MED-Project's website and call center.
- **Local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facilities:** The statewide sharps program provides transportation and removal services of collected household sharps at HHW facilities, or reimbursement for such services. HHW facilities are local destinations that communities often know and use, offering safe and accessible ways for residents to drop off household sharps.
- **Education and Outreach:** MED-Project will expand State Program education and outreach activities into Capitola, including information regarding available disposal options and how residents can access those services.
- **Ongoing Site and Program Support:** MED-Project will provide support to participating Authorized Collection Sites and Point of Sale Sites through its established program infrastructure, website, call center and Help Desk.

MED-Project's CalRecycle approved Covered Drugs and Home-Generated Sharps Waste Stewardship Plans specifically address the transition from local stewardship programs to the State Programs following the repeal or sunset of a local ordinance. The plans provide for MED-Project to transition applicable participating sites and services, assess implementation requirements, establish schedules for implementation and education and outreach, coordinate with participating sites, and provide the services required under the State Programs within 270 days of the local ordinance repeal or sunset.

These provisions were included in the approved State Program plans specifically to address jurisdictions such as Capitola that operated under local stewardship ordinances.

Accordingly, the expiration of Capitola's Ordinance does not create a gap in the statutory framework for pharmaceutical and home-generated sharps stewardship. SB 212 and MED-Project's approved statewide stewardship plans establish the framework for an orderly transition and continuation of stewardship services.

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MED-Project has operated pharmaceutical and sharps stewardship services in Capitola for many years. We are committed to working directly with the City, participating pharmacies, and other affected sites, to support a clear and orderly transition.

MED-Project would welcome the opportunity to meet with City representatives to review the transition schedule, participating locations, changes in service methods, and education and outreach activities associated with the expansion of the State Programs into Capitola.

Please let us know if the City Council or City staff would like additional information regarding the transition.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Victoria Travis, PharmD
National Program Director
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CC:

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