



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA ☐ HACN

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Title: Ordinance No. 686-AC, Amending Chapter 14, Article I, of the Needles Municipal Code by Adding Section 14-21, "Sale of Kratom Prohibited."

Background: Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a botanical substance containing psychoactive alkaloids that may produce stimulant and opioid-like effects and has been associated with dependence, withdrawal, and other adverse health consequences. Kratom products are commonly sold in powders, capsules, extracts, beverages, and other forms, often without standardized manufacturing practices, labeling requirements, dosage controls, or consumer warnings.

The attached Ordinance No. 686-AC amends Chapter 14, Article I, of the Needles Municipal Code by adding Section 14-21, "Sale of Kratom Prohibited." The ordinance prohibits the commercial sale, offer for sale, advertisement for sale, distribution, or possession with intent to sell kratom products within the City while preserving exemptions for personal possession and authorized medical, academic, and scientific research activities.

Commercially available kratom products vary significantly in potency and purity and are frequently marketed without consistent ingredient verification, dosage information, or consumer warnings. Public health concerns associated with kratom include reports of dependence, withdrawal symptoms, respiratory depression, liver toxicity, seizures, hallucinations, and other adverse health effects. In the absence of a comprehensive statewide regulatory framework governing the commercial sale of kratom, several California cities, including San Buenaventura, Newport Beach, Dana Point, Tustin, and Stanton, have adopted local ordinances prohibiting its sale.

The proposed ordinance is intended to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by reducing the availability of unregulated kratom products and providing the City with clear enforcement authority. Violations would be enforceable through criminal, civil, and administrative remedies consistent with the Needles City Charter and Municipal Code.

Fiscal Impact: Implementation of the proposed ordinance is not expected to result in a significant fiscal impact. Enforcement will be administered using existing City resources. No budget adjustment is required.

Recommendation: Approve **Ordinance No. 686-AC**, Amending Chapter 14, Article I, of the Needles Municipal Code by Adding Section 14-21, "Sale of Kratom Prohibited."

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Management Review: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 8/6/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____