



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jason Hoppin
Communications Manager
831-454-3401

COUNTY'S SAFE DRUG AND SHARPS DISPOSAL LAW HONORED

The County of Santa Cruz' Safe Drug and Sharps Disposal Ordinance was recently awarded the 2016 Outstanding Policy/Legislative Advancement Award by the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

The annual award was presented to Public Works Planner Tim Goncharoff by CalRecycle Environmental Program Manager Laurie Kikumoto at CalRecycle's annual Household Hazardous Waste Conference in Sacramento, held earlier this month. The ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2015.

The presentation noted: "Santa Cruz County's ordinance set the standard for those that followed, and demonstrated the practicality of an Extended Producer Responsibility approach for the safe disposal of drug and sharps waste.

"Last year alone Santa Cruz County collected more than 27,000 pounds of drugs and more than 10,000 pounds of sharps, dramatically improving health, safety and environmental protection for the citizens of Santa Cruz County and establishing a model that is being adopted, not just across California, but throughout the United States."