

# *City of San Pablo*

## *Recognizing*

### *Prescription Drug Awareness Month - March 2026*

*WHEREAS, prescription drugs when used as directed, play a critical role in maintaining the health and well-being of individuals across the United States; and,*

*WHEREAS, misused or unused prescription medications can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, and misuse, posing a serious public health challenge nationally and in California; and*

*WHEREAS, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the State of California encourage safe storage, responsible use, and proper disposal of prescription medications to prevent misuse, diversion, and accidental harm; and*

*WHEREAS, in California, opioid overdose deaths and prescription medication misuse continue to impact families, communities, and healthcare systems, highlighting the importance of education and prevention efforts; and*

*WHEREAS, Synthetic opioids, including counterfeit prescription drugs laced with fentanyl, continue to be a significant driver of fatal overdose and in 2024 the rate of overdose from fentanyl in Contra Costa County was 10.2 per 100,000 residents, a significant reduction from the 2023 rate of 14.72 per 100,000 residents; and*

*WHEREAS, In 2023, in Contra Costa County, there were 447,583 opioid prescriptions given to patients, which is an age-adjusted rate of 313.9 per 1,000 residents, higher than the state rate of 345.62; and*

*WHEREAS, In 2024, a total of 17,083 emergency department visits occurred in California that were related to any opioid overdose, and 332 of those visits occurred in Contra Costa County; and*

*WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 105,007 drug overdose deaths occurred nationally in 2023, 80,000 were from opioids (76%), and 183 of those opioid related overdose deaths occurred in Contra Costa County; and*

*WHEREAS, the CCC MEDS Coalition encourages residents of Concord to use prescription medications only as directed by their healthcare providers and to never share medications with others; and*

*WHEREAS, proper disposal of unused or expired medications at pharmacies or Take Back days helps protect public safety and the environment; and*

*WHEREAS, the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 25th 2026 provides a special opportunity for residents to safely dispose of unused medications and participate in efforts to prevent prescription drug misuse in our community; and*

*WHEREAS, promoting awareness, education, and responsible behaviors regarding prescription medications strengthens the health, safety, and well-being of all San Pablo residents;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor of the City San Pablo, do hereby proclaim March 2026 as "Prescription Drug Awareness Month" in the City of San Pablo, California, and encourage all residents to use prescription medications safely, store them responsibly, and dispose of unused medications at local pharmacies or during the April 2026 DEA Take Back Day.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of San Pablo to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2026.*

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*Elizabeth Pabon Alvarado, Mayor*