July 13, 2020

San Francisco Department of the Environment
1455 Market Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94103
Email: safemeds@sfgov.org

Re: PPSWG Public Comments on Inmar Intelligence’s May 22, 2020 Proposed Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Plan

SF Environment:

The Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship Work Group (“PPSWG”) is a membership association with over four hundred members and affiliated companies that produce a broad spectrum of pharmaceutical products. PPSWG submits these comments to the San Francisco Department of the Environment (the “Department”) on the proposed Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Plan, dated May 22, 2020, submitted by Inmar Intelligence (the “Proposed Stewardship Plan”). Thank you for considering these public comments on the Proposed Stewardship Plan.

PPSWG strongly believes that “Stewardship Plans” (as defined under San Francisco Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance (“Ordinance”) § 2202) must be treated equitably, with the Department applying the same standards and interpretations to each plan. See, e.g., Ordinance § 2204 (“Each Stewardship Plan, which must be submitted and reviewed according to Section 2211, shall include . . . .”).

Furthermore, PPSWG supports MED-Project LLC’s (“MED-Project’s”) comments on the Proposed Stewardship Plan. To ensure a level playing field among all Stewardship Plans and their participating Producers, the Department must apply the same approval standards to each Stewardship Plan. Specifically, the Department must require each Stewardship Plan to independently satisfy:

- Ordinance requirements to provide “convenient ongoing collection service for all Unwanted Covered Drugs from City residents in compliance with the provisions and requirements in Section 2205 . . . .” Ordinance § 2204(b).
- Ordinance and Regulation promotion content, reach and frequency, and other promotion requirements. See Ordinance § 2206; Regulation §§ B-D.
- Ordinance requirements for the safe, secure, and compliant collection and disposal of Unwanted Covered Drugs. See Ordinance § 2204(d).
- Ordinance administrative requirements, including reporting, Producer funding, Department funding, and public access requirements. See Ordinance §§ 2208, 2209, 2211, 2215.

The Department has already interpreted and applied these standards in approving MED-Project’s Stewardship Plan. See San Francisco MED-Project Stewardship Plan Notice of Determination (June 5, 2019). It must apply these same standards and interpretations in reviewing any other Stewardship Plan to avoid competitive imbalances among Stewardship Plans and their participating Producers.

PPSWG appreciates the Department considering these comments on the Proposed Stewardship Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Vogel-Marr
Executive Director