

Santa Cruz County public position tally for AB186

Questions asked individually to each official:

- 1). Do you support California AB186? (Controlled substances: safer drug consumption program)
- 2). Do you support the inclusion of Santa Cruz County on the proposed Safe Injection Site pilot list?

Sections below are divided into No Response, Support, and Oppose

No Response/Position:

[Cynthia Chase](#), Mayor, City of Santa Cruz (responded but did not take a position)

[Sandy Brown](#), Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz

[Chris Krohn](#), Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz (responded but did not take a position)

[John Leopold](#), Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County

[Zach Friend](#), Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County

[Greg Caput](#), Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County

[Giang Nguyen](#), Director, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency

[Martin Bernal](#), City Manager, City of Santa Cruz (responded but did not take a position)

Support:

<none>

Oppose:

Richelle Noroyan, Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz

David Terazzas, Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz

Ryan Coonerty, Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County

Bruce McPherson, Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County*

Martine Watkins, Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz*

Cynthia Matthews, Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz

Jim Hart, Sheriff, Santa Cruz County

* response did not rule out supporting a similar program in the future

Richelle N: “No, I do not support AB 186. No, I do not support Santa Cruz County being on the proposed injection site pilot list. It is extremely bad form and against protocol for a state legislator to include a municipality or local level government entity on a pilot program bill without asking or even informing those entities listed.”

David T: “1) No. 2) No. Further, I strongly oppose the potential for the County to establish the proposed program in the City of Santa Cruz should the legislation be enacted.”

Ryan C: “I cannot support AB 186 as currently written because I don’t think Santa Cruz County should be included as a pilot site. I have written, with Supervisor McPherson, to the bill’s author requesting that it be removed from the list. Santa Cruz County does not have the appropriate geography or resources to implement a pilot program.

If Santa Cruz County was removed from the bill, I would be open to supporting AB186 in concept because we are in the midst of a national epidemic of opioid addiction and current approaches are not working adequately. I support governments testing new approaches and rigorously determining what works.”

Jim Hart: “I have read and examined the possible benefits and negatives of AB186, titled “The Safer Drug Consumption Program”. I do not see a compelling argument how this piece of legislation enhances public safety in Santa Cruz County and I am not in support of implementing this bill locally.”

Martine Watkins: “Everyone I have spoken to agrees that the impact of opioids in our community is at a epidemic level and that we need to do something about it. They want solutions, and feel like clearly what we have now isn’t enough. They also recognize that if we don’t have significant resources for treatment, then this type of policy is incomplete in its offerings... therefore, they too refer to the county analyzing the policy and our readiness for participation based on the larger resource conversation.

I trust our BOS in their assessment of feeling like Santa Cruz County is not prepared for this type of pilot at this time (therefore I support them if they advocate to take us out of the legislation, and if we remain in, I would support them in asking we opt out at this time).

Ideally, if the bill passes other communities are prepared and resourced to the levels required to pilot it and Santa Cruz can learn from them to assess if it would work for our community. I also support us exploring other policy options to address opioid use in our community in the meantime...”

Cynthia Chase: “Thank you for reaching out about AB 186. In researching the bill and its analysis, I understand that while Santa Cruz has been identified as an authorized county, implementation of supervised injection sites must be approved by either the County of Santa Cruz or cities within the County of Santa Cruz “to establish and operate a safer drug consumption program for persons 18 years of age or older”. Therefore, our local governments have the ultimate authority to consider and authorize such a facility. As I am sure you are aware, it is an “opt in” proposal. Passage of the Bill does not mean Santa Cruz will have an injection site.

Given that, I will be carefully watching the bill as it navigates through the committees and ensuring that, should it pass, the City and County of Santa Cruz are working closely to understand all of its implications. Our recent work to increase and formalize our collaboration

with the County by establishing a 2x2 committee that meets regularly about shared policy issues is an ideal place to discuss issues such as this."