

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.6
(ID # 27188)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

FROM : SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ:
Evaluation of the Public Health and Safety Implications of Kratom.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Directs the Executive Office to work in collaboration with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office, Riverside University Health System (RUHS) Behavioral Health, RUHS Public Health, and County Counsel to evaluate the public health, public safety, and legal implications of kratom use, sale, distribution, and regulation within Riverside County.
2. Based on the findings, develop recommendations for potential regulations and/or an ordinance governing kratom use and/or sales in Riverside County, if deemed necessary, including enforcement mechanisms and costs associated with those mechanisms.
3. Provide a report to the Board of Supervisors in approximately 45 days with findings and/or proposed recommendations.

ACTION:Policy


Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

2/19/2025


Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Supervisor 2nd District

2/19/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: February 25, 2025
xc: BOS-D2, BOS-D5., DA, EO, Sheriff, RUHS-BH, RUHS-PH

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a botanical product native to Southeast Asia that has been used for centuries as a natural stimulant and pain reliever. At low doses, kratom produces stimulant effects with users reporting increased alertness, physical energy, and talkativeness. At high doses, users experience sedative effects. Kratom consumption can lead to addiction. Several cases of psychosis resulting from use of kratom have been reported, where individuals addicted to kratom exhibited psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, delusion, and confusion.

In the United States, kratom is widely available in various forms, including capsules, powders, and extracts. Despite its increasing popularity, concerns have been raised regarding potential health risks, including addiction, contamination, and overdose-related incidents.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved kratom for medical use, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has classified it as a "Drug and Chemical of Concern." In California, kratom remains legal, but recent legislative efforts, such as Assembly Bill 2365 (2023-2024 session), sought to regulate its sale by requiring product testing, labeling, and restrictions on sales to minors. Despite unanimous support on the Assembly floor and unanimous support in the Senate Health committee, the bill did not pass having been placed on suspense file in the Senate Appropriations committee.

A wrongful death lawsuit filed in Pennsylvania recently claimed that an individual died from mitragynine toxicity, a primary active compound in kratom, raising further concerns about its potential health impacts.

Given mixed reports on its benefits and risks, the Board of Supervisors seeks to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the appropriate regulatory approach for Riverside County.

The Executive Office is to coordinate with relevant departments to assess the prevalence, risks, and benefits of kratom in Riverside County. Stakeholder engagement, including discussions with public health experts, law enforcement, business owners, and community members, should be conducted.

A report with findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board for further discussion and potential action.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Studying kratom regulation aligns with Riverside County's commitment to public health and safety. If regulations are enacted, they could help ensure consumer protection, reduce potential misuse, and mitigate health risks while balancing the interests of businesses that legally sell kratom products.

ATTACHMENT:

- Assembly Bill 2365

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2024

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2024

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2024

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2365

Introduced by Assembly Member Haney
(Coauthors: Senators Rubio and Wiener)

February 12, 2024

An act to add Article 16 (commencing with Section 111224.8) to Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2365, as amended, Haney. Public health: kratom.

Existing law, the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law, provides for the regulation of various subjects relating to the manufacturing, processing, labeling, advertising, and sale of food, drugs, and cosmetics, under the administration and enforcement of the State Department of Public Health (department) and in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. A violation of the act is a crime.

This bill would add kratom products, as defined, to the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law and require processors of kratom products to register with the department. The bill would authorize the department to establish an annual fee for processors and would authorize the fee to be based on certain criteria, including annual sales in California. The bill would prescribe specified quantities of alkaloids present in kratom

products and would establish labeling and packaging requirements. The bill would require that kratom products be registered with the department annually, which would include certification by a laboratory specifying that the product meets certain qualifications. The bill would prohibit the sale of kratom leaf and kratom products to those under 21 years of age. *age. age and would prohibit the sale and manufacture of a kratom product that is attractive to children or an inhalable kratom product. The bill would authorize the department to take various enforcement actions, including executing interagency agreements for the implementation of these provisions, among others. The bill would authorize a kratom processor who is operating in conformance with these provisions and in good faith compliance with their responsibilities to manufacture or sell kratom or kratom products without authorization until April 1, 2025.* By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 16 (commencing with Section 111224.8)
2 is added to Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 104 of the Health and
3 Safety Code, to read:

4
5 Article 16. Kratom Consumer Protection Program

6
7 111224.8. As used in this article, the following terms have the
8 following definitions:

9 (a) "Attractive to children" means any of the following:
10 (1) Use of images that are attractive to children, including, but
11 not limited to, images of any of the following, except as part of
12 required health warnings:
13 (A) Cartoons, toys, or robots.
14 (B) Any real or fictional humans.
15 (C) Any fictional animals or creatures.

1 (D) Fruits or vegetables, except when used to accurately
2 describe ingredients or flavors contained in a product.

3 (2) Any likeness to images, characters, or phrases that are
4 popularly used to advertise to children.

5 (3) Any imitation of candy packaging or labeling, or other
6 packaging and labeling of cereals, sweets, chips, or other food
7 products typically marketed to children.

8 (4) The terms “candy” or “candies” or variants in spelling
9 such as “kandy” or “kandee.”

10 (5) Brand names or close imitations of brand names of candies,
11 cereals, sweets, chips, or other food products typically marketed
12 to children.

13 (6) Any other image or packaging that is easily confused with
14 commercially available foods that do not contain kratom and are
15 typically marketed to children.

16 (7) Anything else that the department determines in regulation
17 to be attractive to children.

18 (8) Anything else that is attractive to children in light of all
19 relevant facts and circumstances.

20 (a)

21 (b) “Kratom leaf” means the leaf of the kratom plant, also known
22 as *mitragyna speciosa*, in fresh or dehydrated form, and subjected
23 to no postharvest processing except for drying or size reduction,
24 by cutting, milling, or similar procedure, and to cleaning or
25 sterilization through application of heat, steam, pressurization,
26 irradiation, or other standard treatments applied to food ingredients.
27 The total alkaloid content of kratom leaf material used in a kratom
28 product shall not exceed 4 percent on a dried weight basis.

29 (b)

30 (c) “Kratom leaf extract” means the material obtained by
31 extraction of kratom leaves with a solvent consisting of water,
32 ethanol, or food grade carbon dioxide, or any other solvent
33 authorized by regulation to be used in manufacturing a food
34 ingredient and that meets all of the following requirements:

35 (1) That contains an amount of residual solvent not to exceed
36 the amount specified in Chapter 467 of the United States
37 Pharmacopeia and the National Formulary.

38 (2) That contains mitragynine as the most abundant alkaloid on
39 a weight-by-weight basis and at a level that is more than twofold
40 that of any other alkaloid present.

(3) The ratio of mitragynine to other alkaloids is the same or greater than that of the starting material.

(e)

(d) (1) “Kratom product” means a food, ingredient, or dietary supplement that meets all of the following requirements:

(A) Consists of or contains kratom leaf or kratom leaf extract.

(B) Does not contain any synthesized kratom alkaloids or other synthesized kratom constituents, or synthesized metabolites of any kratom constituent.

(C) The level of 7-hydroxymitragynine on a percent weight basis is not greater than 1 percent of the amount of total kratom alkaloids confirmed with a high-performance liquid chromatography or an ~~ultra-performance~~ *ultrapformance* liquid chromatography testing method.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, “synthesized” means produced using directed synthetic or biosynthetic chemistry rather than traditional food preparation techniques, such as heating or extracting.

(d)

(e) “Processor” means the party responsible for manufacturing, packaging, labeling, or distributing kratom products, or the party that advertises, represents, or holds itself out as manufacturing, preparing, packaging, or labeling kratom products.

(e)

(f) “Total kratom alkaloids” means the sum of mitragynine, speciociliatine, speciogynine, paynantheine, and 7-hydroxymitragynine in a kratom product.

111224.81. (a) A kratom product produced, manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale, if consisting of or containing kratom leaf extract, shall not exceed the amount specified for pharmaceutical products in Chapter 467 of the United States Pharmacopeia and the National Formulary of any residual solvent used in manufacturing of the extract.

(b) A product containing a synthesized kratom alkaloid or other synthesized kratom constituents, or synthesized metabolites of a synthesized kratom constituent, shall not be produced, manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale.

111224.82. A kratom product produced, manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale shall have a label that clearly

1 and conspicuously provides all of the following information on
2 each retail package:

3 (a) A recommendation against the use by individuals who are
4 under 21 years of age, who are pregnant, or who are breastfeeding.

5 (b) A recommendation to consult a health care professional
6 prior to use.

7 (c) An advisement that kratom may be habit forming.

8 (d) The following statement: “These statements have not been
9 evaluated by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
10 This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent
11 any disease.”

12 (e) The name and place of business of the processor,
13 manufacturer, packer, or distributor.

14 (f) Directions for use that include all of the following:

15 (1) A recommended amount of the kratom product per serving.

16 (2) A recommended number of servings that can be safely
17 consumed in a 24-hour period.

18 (3) Quantitative declarations of the amount per serving of each
19 of the following:

20 (A) Total kratom alkaloids.

21 (B) Mitragynine.

22 (C) 7-hydroxymitragynine.

23 111224.83. (a) A kratom product shall be packaged in a retail
24 container that clearly marks the number of servings in the
25 container.

26 (b) A kratom product offered for retail sale that is in liquid form
27 and contains more than three servings shall include a calibrated
28 measuring device.

29 (c) If the kratom product is in powdered form, the package shall
30 include a calibrated measuring device.

31 111224.84. (a) A processor shall register pursuant to Section
32 111224.86 and shall annually register each kratom product it
33 manufactures, packs, distributes, or labels. A product that contains
34 the same kratom ingredients in the same kratom delivery form but
35 a different container, package, or volume shall be included under
36 the processor’s individual registration.

37 (b) Annual registration of a kratom product shall include a
38 certificate of analysis from an independent laboratory. The
39 laboratory shall be accredited under the standards of the
40 International Organization for Standardization 17025:2017

1 accreditation from an accreditation body that is a signatory to the
2 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual
3 Recognition Arrangement.

4 (c) The certificate of analysis shall confirm the contents of the
5 kratom product, and include a certification that the product
6 complies with the requirements for a kratom product described in
7 Sections 111224.8 and 111224.81.

8 (d) The manufacturer shall certify that the kratom product does
9 not contain a substance listed in Section 11054, 11055, 11056,
10 11057, or 11058.

11 (e) Upon receipt of evidence that suggests a kratom product
12 may be adulterated, the department may require an independent
13 third-party test of a registered kratom product by a laboratory of
14 the department's choice, and the processor shall be required to
15 submit payment for the test and equitable administrative fee within
16 a reasonable timeframe. If the processor does not tender payment
17 to the department within 30 days of receipt of the invoice for the
18 testing and administrative fee, the department shall revoke the
19 registration for that product.

20 111224.85. (a) An individual, business, or other entity shall
21 not sell, offer for sale, provide, or distribute kratom leaf or a kratom
22 product to a person under 21 years of age.

23 (b) An online retailer or marketplace of kratom leaf or a kratom
24 product shall implement an age-verification system to ensure
25 compliance with subdivision (a).

26 *(c) An individual, business, or other entity shall not produce,*
27 *sell, or distribute a kratom product that is attractive to children.*

28 *(d) The manufacture or sale of an inhalable kratom product is*
29 *prohibited.*

30 111224.86. (a) The department, in implementing this article,
31 may establish an annual fee or assessment for any processor
32 registering to produce, manufacture, or offer for sale kratom leaf
33 or a kratom product. Except as otherwise required by law, an
34 individual or entity registering pursuant to this article is not
35 required to register pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section
36 110460).

37 (b) Commencing February 1, 2026, and every February 1
38 thereafter, the department shall report to the Legislature and publish
39 both of the following on its internet website:

40 (1) A list of estimated fees.

1 (2) A report of all costs for activities of the Kratom Consumer
2 Protection Program, including, but not limited to, both of the
3 following:

4 (A) Projected workload and costs for applicants and annual
5 registrants, including workload costs for inspection and
6 enforcement activities.

7 (B) A staffing and systems analysis to ensure efficient and
8 effective utilization of fees collected, proper allocation of
9 departmental resources to registration activities, inspections,
10 complaint investigations, enforcement and appeal activities, and
11 data collection and reporting.

12 (c) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall
13 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
14 Code.

15 (d) The department may develop registration fees based on the
16 number of units produced by registrants and total annual sales in
17 California. The fee schedule may consist of tiers of registration
18 fees denoted by unit production, total annual sales in California,
19 and corresponding fees to the number of units produced and annual
20 sales in California. The fees shall not exceed the reasonable
21 regulatory costs of administering this article. The calculation of
22 estimated fees is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act
23 (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of
24 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

25 111224.87. A local authority shall not impose additional
26 restrictions greater than those enumerated in this article or enact
27 additional requirements on the manufacture of kratom leaf, kratom
28 extract, or a kratom product.

29 111224.88. *A kratom processor who is operating in*
30 *conformance with this article and in good faith compliance with*
31 *their responsibilities under this article may manufacture or sell*
32 *kratom or kratom products without authorization until April 1,*
33 *2025.*

34 111224.89. (a) *A violation of this article shall be grounds for*
35 *denying, suspending, forfeiting, revoking, or surrendering a*
36 *registration.*

37 (b) *The department may deny, suspend, forfeit, revoke, or order*
38 *to surrender a registration issued under this article when a peace*
39 *officer, state official, or local official has notified the department*
40 *that a processor within its jurisdiction is in violation of state law*

1 relating to this article, and the department, through an
2 investigation, has determined that the violation is grounds for, or
3 contributes to, other factors for denial, suspension, forfeiture,
4 revocation, or surrender of the processor's registration. An
5 investigation conducted pursuant to this subdivision shall include
6 reasonable notice to the processor and an opportunity for the
7 processor to defend any allegations of a violation.

8 111224.9. (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
9 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
10 Code, the department shall have the authority to promulgate
11 regulations as may be necessary to implement this article.

12 (b) The department may execute an interagency agreement with
13 other state or local government agencies in the performance of
14 any or all of the requirements of this section.

15 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
16 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
17 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
18 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
19 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
20 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
21 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
22 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
23 Constitution.

Online

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Jennifer Gillis

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

Lopez, Daniel

From: Aquia Mail
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 12:42 PM
To: jennw0913@gmail.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20250225**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on February 24, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jennifer

Last Name

Gillis

Phone

[901-288-3902](tel:901-288-3902)

Email

jennw0913@gmail.com

Agenda Date

02/25/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

#27188

State your position below

Neutral

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Online

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Misty Brown

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. *Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.*

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

Lopez, Daniel

From: Aquia Mail
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 11:53 AM
To: mistyb0512@gmail.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20250225**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on February 24, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Misty

Last Name

Brown

Phone

[7205527492](tel:7205527492)

Email

mistyb0512@gmail.com

Agenda Date

02/25/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

27188 SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ: Evaluation of the Public Health and Safety Implications of Kratom.

State your position below

Neutral

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Comments

I wish to give my testimony regarding Kratom.

I was addicted to FDA approved pain pills, benzos and muscle relaxers for 11 years straight, 2008-2019.

I got fired from chronic pain management in April 2019 because I didn't show up for a per contract pill count. I was 11 pills short and my drug dealers didn't have any pink oxy 10's.

After that, I went to the streets and started doing cocaine while I was searching for a new pain management doctor.

In June 2019, whilst in cocaine withdrawal, I watched that documentary "A Leaf of Faith." My journey with Kratom began the very next day.

Kratom shut that "I need one more snort, one more pill, one more escape" noise off in my brain. It allowed me to work on my whys of addiction. I have not been back to pain management in over 5 years.

I am a functioning member of society again. I am a thriving mother again. I pay taxes again. I am no longer a burden to my kids. I am now a first time grandma.

I will be forever grateful and thankful that I accidentally found lab-tested whole-leaf powder Kratom.

I now pass on my journey, wisdom and science to help those struggling with addiction, chronic pain, anxiety and depression.

Yours truly, Kratom advocate/activist from Colorado est. 2019.

Online

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Twinkle VanFleet

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. **YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.** The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

Online

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Susan Epphard

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

Lopez, Daniel

From: Aquia Mail
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9:06 AM
To: switchinz@yahoo.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20250225**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on February 25, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Susan

Last Name

Eppard

Phone

[2312864498](tel:2312864498)

Email

switchinz@yahoo.com

Agenda Date

02/25/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Kratom

State your position below

Support

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Comments

My 22 year old son Matthew Eller died from Kratom powder (the least potent form of kratom available in the United States). Kratom caused him to have a seizure, go into cardiac arrest and die. His toxicology showed he died from the "TOXIC effects of Mitragynine" an alkaloid found only in kratom. He had no prescription drugs, no street drugs nor alcohol in his system when he died, and his autopsy showed he had no underlying health conditions.

Online

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Dr. Heidi Sykora

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

Lopez, Daniel

From: Aquia Mail
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 11:53 AM
To: Heidi.sykora1@gmail.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20250225**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on February 24, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Heidi

Last Name

Sykora

Address (Street, City and Zip)

25921 W. Elmwood Ave

Phone

[2625737848](tel:2625737848)

Email

Heidi.sykora1@gmail.com

Agenda Date

02/25/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

3.6 Evaluation of Kratom

State your position below

Support

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No

Comments

Dear Board Members,

My name is Heidi Sykora, I am a retired Nurse Practitioner and Health Care Executive.

I suffer from multiple chronic conditions, including Chiari Malformation (a congenital condition causing my brain to extend below my skull putting pressure on my spinal cord), Tethered Spinal Cord, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Hereditary Alpha Tryptasemia and Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. These conditions cause severe pain, weakness and fatigue.

Kratom reduces the pain enough for me to exercise and stretch, which prevents further injuries and debility. Thanks to Kratom my health has improved enough for me to enjoy our grandchildren. In my experience, Kratom is by far the most effective and safest option for pain control.

Contrary to misconceptions, the natural plant is not intoxicating. It improves my focus, balance, and sleep. I have taken it safely without side effects for more than 5 years.

I have tried every pharmaceutical option and experienced serious adverse effects. For me, it's Kratom or nothing. Kratom, for me, is hope for a future and a better quality of life.

I have witnessed the lifesaving effects of kratom not only for chronic pain sufferers but also for Veterans with PTSD, individuals suffering from rare conditions such as Fascio Scapular Humeral Dystrophy, and those struggling with addiction to alcohol and other substances.

I encourage and support the Kratom Consumer Protection Act to ensure safe, quality kratom for adults. When evaluating kratom, I encourage you to examine the science that reveals that natural kratom is a lifeline for millions of consumers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Sykora DNP, GNP-BC (retired)

✓

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Roy Bezman

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

Lopez, Daniel

From: Dan Horn <dhorn7122@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 2:28 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom/ Evaluation of the Public Health and Safety Implications

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisor Spiegel and Gutierrez,

I'm writing to share my support for keeping kratom legal. Many people, including myself, have benefited from its natural, time-tested effects for managing pain and boosting energy. Banning it would only push its use underground, risking safety.

Instead of a ban, I believe we should look into smart regulations that ensure quality and education while keeping it available for those who need it.

Thanks for considering this perspective.

Best regards,

Dan Horn

Lopez, Daniel

From: Terry Quinn <terry.tq.quinn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 2:18 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom Safety

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors. Please take my story into consideration when you are discussing the safety of kratom. I am a 74 year-old woman who has been taking kratom for approximately 10 years. Due to severe Arthritis, I have two 12 inch rods in my spine and multiple artificial joints. 10 years ago I was taking opiates for pain related to the many surgeries and the ongoing Arthritis.

After using kratom for just a month, I was completely off the opiates, and now have an incredible quality of life.

There are countless stories like mine, people who are now contributing to society because of kratom use.

Many people like me don't use kratom to get high, only to get pain-free and be able to function productively.

I implore you to keep kratom legal and affordable for the majority of people who use kratom responsibly. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Terry Quinn 541-788-8293
38424 Via La Colina, Murrieta, CA 92563

Lopez, Daniel

From: Pamela O Desert <realrussi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 7:46 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom Safety

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I am a 72 year old retired grandmother who has safely used Kratom for decades. In its natural form the powdered leaves make a bitter tea which works wonders on arthritic pain. There are zero side affects and no addictive qualities to this wonder leaf. I am surprised and concerned when I hear how the media wrongly portrays Kratom. It is certainly not a recreational drug. It has given me a quality of life I would not possess if I had to rely on dangerous narcotics for pain relief. I hope you will listen to the many testimony's I'm sure you will hear/read like mine. Please keep safe and legal in Riverside County. Thank you,

Sincerely,
Pamela Desert
Palm Springs, CA.

Sent from POD'S iPad

Lopez, Daniel

From: katebaker21.kb@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:36 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom safety

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board:

I wish to just be an anecdotal example of the good from Kratom (mitragyna speciosa powder).

About 10 years ago after three major back surgeries and two hip replacements, pain meds like Norco (hydrocodone) were not helping anymore, plus they had unpleasant side effects like chronic constipation. Then I learned about Kratom. I was amazed at how well it worked on my pain without leaving me feeling impaired or anything. And no negative side effects that I noticed.

I'm 74 and have been using it daily since 2015, and I'm healthier and have less pain than ever before in my life. I do think it should be restricted to adult use, but pure Kratom used correctly is obviously not dangerous. I credit it with saving my life.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Baker
Palm Springs, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Lopez, Daniel

From: Tom LaBasco <tomlabasco@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom Advocacy

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a 69 year old retired male. My previous employment was as the Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer for a highly respected environmental, planning, design and construction business. I directly and indirectly managed a staff of over 75 employees.

I am a responsible adult who has no interest in harming myself. I regularly exercise and play competitive softball as a retiree. Frankly, it is difficult for me to understand why a governmental agency has the right to control my personal interests and how I treat my body.

Since my retirement I have undergone numerous knee repairs to both my right and left knees. I have had knee issues since I was a sophomore in high school. Treatment typically meant prescribed pain medications, especially since being retired.

For about the last five years I've decided to do away with the pharmaceutical pain medications and instead try Kratom to see how it would perform. It has worked phenomenally and I have not used pharmaceutical pain medications since that time.

I can only surmise that the different governmental agencies are attempting to ban Kratom because these agencies are being influenced by pharmaceutical companies. My assumption is that these pharmaceutical companies are concerned that their profits could be negatively impacted by the effective use of a very affordable natural herb.

Please do what is right and continue the unfettered use of Kratom. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Lopez, Daniel

From: Marcelle Morfin <msmarcellemartin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an Army veteran who injured my back while on active duty. I've since been diagnosed with spinal cord compression (cervical stenosis with myelopathy aka degenerative cervical myelopathy) along with nerve root compression (radiculopathy) and other painful health conditions too long to list. The spinal cord compression was not caught early enough and so it has caused some permanent damage and the nerve compression causes significant pain. I had surgery in March of 2018 in order to avoid becoming a quadriplegic and will require another surgery within the next five years for another problematic level of my cervical spinal cord. In the spring of 2017, I was on the edge looking down. I could not see living with the pain and significant limitations for much longer. The pain, along with depression and anxiety was causing me to start planning my suicide. Just when I was about to give up, over the course of two days, I kept seeing people mention plain leaf powdered Kratom in one of my support groups. They discussed how it had helped to ease their pain. I decided to give it a try because at this point I felt I had nothing to lose. Since then I am able to be a mother, fiancé, sister, and friend again. No, I am not made perfect by Kratom, but I have some quality of life back and no longer want to end my life. It has also helped ease my depression and anxiety and I am in better moods as a result. Kratom has changed my life for the better and allowed me enough relief from pain, anxiety, and depression to want to continue living. It has allowed me to be able to play a more active role in my life, rather than watching my life completely pass me by. Kratom has made this possible.

Sincerely,
Marcelle Morfin
Disabled Veteran
California, USA

Lopez, Daniel

From: Denise Lizarraga <neesyrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 2:35 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: A Plant Saved my Life

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have been a Registered Nurse for 32 years and currently work as an RN case manager. Throughout my career, I have worked with diverse populations, including the elderly, children and adolescents, veterans, and individuals struggling with various medical and mental health conditions. My experience spans public health, school districts, medical and mental health facilities, and health insurance, including governmental entitlements for active-duty service members (ADSMs), veterans, and their families.

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles people face when dealing with insurance and federal regulations. I have seen patients—including myself—lied to, misled, and taken advantage of by large government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and the medical industry. As I cared for individuals suffering from chronic pain and psychological distress, I began to struggle with my own battles with anxiety, depression, and chronic pain.

While I was younger, I managed to push through—I raised two children, worked full-time as a nurse, pursued higher education, and remained active in my community. But I silently suffered. Over time, my symptoms took a toll on me, and I became terrified. How would I continue my responsibilities if my condition worsened with age?

It was about 10 years ago, while working with veterans and ADSMs, that I first learned about Kratom. I saw patients experiencing profound benefits—relief from chronic pain, freedom from dangerous narcotics and alcohol dependency, and significant improvements in anxiety and depression. The most striking aspect? They were not “high” or intoxicated. They were simply functioning, happy, and alive again.

Curious, I researched Kratom myself. Of course, initial internet searches were filled with negative propaganda. But when I dug deeper, reading true studies and personal testimonials, I saw the reality of what Kratom could do.

At that time, I was 45 years old—physically and emotionally broken, dependent on multiple medications, and living in fear of my worsening condition. The antidepressants, mood stabilizers, and pain medications I was prescribed had serious side effects and withdrawal risks. So, I decided to try Kratom.

That was 12 years ago, and Kratom gave me my life back. Today, at 58 years old, I no longer suffer from chronic, debilitating pain. I am physically stronger than ever. I have no anxiety or depression. I have reduced my medications from five to just one.

Thanks to Kratom, I have achieved more than I ever thought possible. I completed my degree, advanced in my career, and now work for one of the most prestigious healthcare systems in Southern California. My son is about to graduate from college. I was also able to care for my aging father before his passing. None of this would have been possible if I had been dependent on narcotics.

Despite using Kratom daily for years, I have never tested positive on a drug screening—because Kratom is not an opiate. It is a plant with alkaloids that provide pain relief and support neurotransmitter function in the brain. I take the same dose every day, and if I take too much, I feel nauseous—just as someone would if they drank too much coffee. Could you overdose on Kratom? Maybe. But could you also overdose on aspirin, Tylenol, vitamins, or coffee? What about alcohol? Absolutely—probably much easier than on Kratom.

Am I addicted? No more than I would be to coffee or tobacco. Yes, stopping Kratom suddenly might cause discomfort, just as quitting caffeine or cigarettes would. But let's not forget—all antidepressants, mood stabilizers, and pain medications have withdrawal symptoms, often requiring a doctor's guidance for tapering.

Here's the nightmare scenario: if Kratom were taken away, my chronic pain and psychological suffering would return—not because of Kratom withdrawal, but because those conditions existed before Kratom. Kratom is the only thing that has ever worked for me, as it has for many others.

The FDA has spread falsehoods about Kratom's dangers and alleged deaths, all while turning a blind eye to the true epidemic: the devastation caused by opioids and pharmaceutical greed. This isn't about public safety—it's a political power struggle that threatens the well-being and quality of life for countless people.

I am not a scientist or a politician. I am a nurse, a mother, and an American. If you want to fight a battle, go after the real threats—Big Pharma, the FDA, and the drug cartels. But please, let me sip my Kratom tea so I can continue serving my patients—your mothers, fathers, siblings, and children.

Do your research. Dig deeper than the first few search results. The truth is out there—if you're willing to look for it.

Best Regards,

Denise Lizarraga - Murrieta, CA

Lopez, Daniel

From: Avery Lieberman <avery.lieberman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 4:28 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: My Plea to Keep Kratom Accessible

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a 64-year-old retired dentist and dental school professor residing in Palm Desert, and I appreciate all of the good things you do for our county. Regarding the possibility of eliminating access to Kratom, I implore you not to do so.

For decades, I've suffered from both treatment-resistant depression and from spinal degenerative disk disease-related chronic pain. I began taking Kratom approximately 10 years ago and it's been the only thing that's given me enough relief to function well in society and to enjoy my life. It elevates my mood, relieves most of my pain, and helps me sleep soundly through the night. While doing so, it does not impair my judgement in any way and it's never caused any addiction issues. In every respect for me, it's far more effective and safer than other widely available substances like alcohol or cannabis.

Regarding safety, I have always stayed abreast of all available literature and unequivocally know that it poses no significant health risk. Additionally, I have complete blood panels and medical check ups done twice a year and there has never been even the slightest problem associated with my Kratom usage.

All available high quality and reputable scientific literature regarding Kratom makes it clear that, unless it's consumed in extraordinarily high doses in conjunction with extremely large quantities of other potentially toxic substances, it is very safe and helpful for a large number of people who suffer from a wide range of medical problems. I urge you to avoid questionable information sources with anecdotally-based and sensationalized claims of toxicity.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this letter. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in your decision making.

Sincerely,

Avery Lieberman, DDS
73381 Tamarisk Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260
(415)260-8911

Lopez, Daniel

From: dijonevans <dijonevans@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 2:09 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom saved my life!

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kratom has literally saved my life and given me the hope that I had lost due to the opioid epidemic and my medical history. I have full body CRPS with organ involvement, optical, occipital and trigeminal Neuralgia, multiple organ failure and more than 240 surgeries and procedures. I wasn't supposed to live to be 30, but here I am after a very difficult 30 years and several near death escapes, I just turned 61. I have had amputations, pulmonary embolisms, sepsis, gangrene, 17 bouts of osteomyelitis and now also have osteonecrosis of my jaw, sinuses and facial bones, including the left inner ear,,and soon to be the right, with it affecting the entire inside of my skull. There is nothing that can be done for me because I am too high risk for the needed surgeries to repair my skull and inner ears. They can't do surgery because of the high risk that I will develop osteomyelitis and it will lead to the infection of my brain. If by chance that I didn't develop osteomyelitis, there's an even higher risk that the surgical bone placement would fail because of the necrosis. The only places that could put me into a medically induced coma and provide prophylaxis antibiotic, and then do the surgery while still keeping me in a comatose state, are far enough away that I would have to be flown to, which cannot be done because I don't have any bone in-between my brain and inner ear which provides protection to our brains when we experience pressure changes while in flight. So, now with everything else that I have encountered and fought to live through, I am nearing the end of the road. For over 15 years I was bedridden and unable to care for myself, everything had to be done for me, and it included in home nursing care for the PICC lines.. When opioids were removed from the picture, even though I was diagnosed as terminal, I wasn't a terminal cancer patient, so I wouldn't be able to get through the worst known pain to us is what I experience daily. It feels like I am being electrocuted from the inside out and my tissues are being seared together. That's on a good day! Unfortunately I was not able to take it anymore and I was ready to take my own life. After spending most of my younger years in college, including medical school, I am very good at research and the word kratom was introduced to me. After several months of research, talking to my medical team and my mentors, I decided that if I was going to look at ending my own life, that kratom would definitely be worth a shot. I ordered some pure, unadulterated kratom leaf powder from a reputable vendor and waited. Because of a holiday, and a weekend, it took longer than expected to arrive. But I thought that it was just a scam anyway and held out no hope that it would help. I was, after all from the science background and I held no belief in dietary supplements. I have spent the past 8 years eating crow for that belief because as I said, kratom quite literally saved my life. As I was leaving the house to follow through with my plans to take my own life, the mailman showed up with my first package. I had ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO LOSE, but EVERYTHING TO GAIN by going back in the house and trying kratom. I did. Approx.20ish minutes later, my pain was at a tolerable level, instead of being in bed, crying and begging for the torture to end, my partner came home and found me sitting on the couch smiling. He knelt beside me and cried. He knew that the kratom had arrived and it was helping. Kratom doesn't get rid of all of my pain, it allows me tolerable levels.

I have had 8 years that I never thought would be possible with my partner, James, my daughter Amanda and my 3 grandchildren. I was able to get out of bed and into my wheelchair to not just see the pictures of my grandkids high-school graduations, but I was able to attend all three of their graduations.

This goal for me, was to simply survive to be able to see the pictures. But it was a dream come true when I could attend each.

This never would have been possible without kratom!

I'm still terminal, and I still have very severe pain and health challenges every single day, but for the most part, I am able to get up, and be extremely thankful to have found kratom..

Without it, I would not be able to do so.

Please don't take this away from me and millions of others.

It is our lifeline!

As a California resident, I am literally begging you to protect our rights to be able to manage our health.

My medical team is very aware of kratom and that it has literally saved my life, and they are behind me!

Please don't be the ones who take it away!

Sincerely,

Dijon Evans

Sent from my Metro by T-Mobile 5G Device

Lopez, Daniel

From: John <jmshinholser1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: Lora Romney; Dr. Heidi Sykora
Subject: policy calender 3.6 Kratom
Attachments: AKA testimoney letterhead 2_24_25.docx

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please consider and send to council for consideration when it comes to the value of Kratom , especially to our seniors and veterans , thank you

--



John Shinholser
Director of Advocacy, American Veterans for Kratom Safe

8042419424 | shinnholser@americankratom.org

Create your own [email signature](#)





**AMERICAN VETERANS
FOR KRATOMSAFE!**

An American Kratom Association Program

**JOHN SHINHOLSER,
DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY**

Shinholser@americankratom.org

KratomAnswers.org

I am John Shinholser, the Advocacy Director for the American Kratom Safe Initiative. I'm a USMC veteran, father, son, husband, and a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorders, over 42 years sober.

My qualifications below are to testify expertly about the value of genuine Kratom products made from plants that comply with FDA GMP standards.

Kratom experience:

Around 2012, Kratom began appearing on our random drug tests for program participants; these individuals showed no signs of substance use and were exemplary participants, unlike those on pharmaceutical medications, such as methadone, suboxone, and other psychotropic drugs, which were visibly apparent meds. When we asked what kratom was and why they took it, they responded that it helps with their anxiety, PTSD, and ADHD, as well as alleviating opiate cravings, etc.

Then we started hearing it helps alleviate the harsh detox symptoms of opiate withdrawal.

In 2016, we conducted a "pilot survey" in collaboration with a scientist. Essentially, we took to the streets and engaged 30 opiate addicts, offering them a week in sober living along with access to powdered Kratom. Of those, 29 out of 30 participants successfully completed 7 days opiate-free, with many ending up completely substance-free by the end (we utilized a step-down Kratom system), much like the old days with buprenorphine. Shortly after this survey, Virginia expanded Medicaid, and now it seems there's a Suboxone clinic on every block.

I spent many years connecting with thousands of kratom consumers nationwide. I reviewed over 500 scientific studies to conduct a deep dive into understanding the "good, bad, and ugly."

This is what I find to be factual and truthful:

- All responsible adult consumers of genuine kratom products do not face issues with consumption. Additionally, kratom serves as a solution for any condition, problem, or purpose of use.

- Only addicts abuse kratom; according to the Johns Hopkins study, kratom has a 3% addiction profile.
- The few consumers who become addicted can easily access clinical intervention or other recovery pathways and successfully recover in full.
- The only objections to regulating kratom for over-the-counter sales come from suboxone doctors, pharmacists, bureaucrats, trial lawyers, and people affected by their loved ones' addictions.
- Fentanyl addicts use kratom while searching for their next fix to alleviate cravings. Additionally, other illicit and legal drug and alcohol users turn to kratom to minimize harm or cease the use of more dangerous substances.
- For those who “chase the dragon,” kratom has a “ceiling” when it comes to getting high and does not suppress the heart. Essentially, you can’t overdose. When consumed in higher amounts, it can act like a partial agonist (similar to buprenorphine). Kratom is not a full agonist (like opiates).
- Every case I’ve encountered where a consumer experienced an adverse effect has been due to adulterated products, polydrug use, or abuse.
- Kratom has significantly contributed to the decline of our nation’s overdose deaths. It has also played a crucial role in reducing other substance use disorders, such as alcoholism, prescription misuse, and the illicit use of other substances.
- Responsible adult consumers desire the freedom to choose healing botanicals rather than being forced to use pharmaceuticals that often cause more harm in many cases.
- Veterans, retirees, individuals with chronic pain, and underserved populations consider kratom a vital support for their quality of life.
- Virginia has enacted a Kratom Consumer Protection Law, similar to legislation in twelve other states, which allows adults to access FDA guidance on GMP products over the counter. Virginia does not have issues with authentic GMP kratom products and is not facing a public safety problem. Scientific evidence indicates that kratom has minimal to no effect on driving. In simple terms, kratom works effectively!
- Special interest groups and uninformed ideologues have demonized kratom.

- Good American adult consumers are horrified, angry, and frustrated that their “solution” is colonizing them and destroying their lives.
- The 1994 DSHEA Act congressionally guarantees that genuine kratom products may be imported and processed according to FDA regulatory guidelines for good manufacturing practices.
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has heavily invested in kratom research and clearly supports its development, as have many other industry leaders. Kratom has well over 500 scientific studies completed, with more than 100 peer-reviewed. Many of our nation’s (and worldwide) universities and medical research institutions have ongoing human trials and studies.
<https://vimeo.com/711837665>
- The FDA clearly shows a bias against kratom and oversteps its authority to undermine the value of kratom, suspiciously guarding its funding resources.

In simple terms, Kratom saves lives and is highly beneficial for responsible over-the-counter access for adults. Yes, it does need regulation, much like the 13 other states that have successfully done so. Kratom is an excellent harm reduction tool, one of the best I have ever encountered.

I know you have plenty of scientific evidence. When the facts and the truth are combined with common sense, all will be well.

Qualifications:

John Shinholser served as President and then as President Emeritus of the McShin Foundation. It was founded in 2004 and named after its two recovering co-founders, John Shinholser and Carol McDaid—Virginia’s largest and most valued Authentic Recovery Community Organization. He is a United States Marine Corps veteran and previously owned a successful contracting business for over 30 years. He was President of the Richmond Chapter of the Painting and Decorating Contractors Association during that time.

John also served as president of Central Virginia's SAARA (Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance) and was a former SAARA of Virginia board member from 2001 to 2005. He spent fourteen years on the board of directors of Rubicon, Inc., the last two as Chairman (1999-2013), at the time, Virginia's most comprehensive substance abuse treatment facility (230 beds). John was a subject matter expert for The Peer Recovery Center of Excellence, a peer-led national center providing training and technical assistance for substance use disorder recovery based at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). This center was authorized under Section 7152 of the SUPPORT Act for patients and communities and funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA). John served on the National Peer Recovery Alliance board in 2022 and 2023.

In 2005, John was honored with the prestigious America Honors Recovery Award from the Johnson Institute, being one of six recipients recognized nationally that year. Along with his wife, Carol McDaid, he also received the Caron Foundation's Outstanding Alumni Award in 2005. In 2006, John was awarded the coveted OSAS (Virginia State Office of Substance Abuse Services) Award of Virginia for Significant Contributions to the Field of Substance Use Disorder Recovery, making him the first member of the recovering community to receive this honor. John received the Visionary Leadership Award from the Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies in 2022. Under John's leadership, McShin won the Recovery Community Organization of the Year Award for the United States and the Joel Hernandez Award presented by Faces and Voices of Recovery at a Washington D.C. ceremony in June 2011.

Additionally, under John's guidance, McShin claimed the national SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) Recovery Month 2011 Flicker Award. McShin also won the SAMHSA Special Event of the Year award in 2014. John was honored as a nominee for the Richmond Times Dispatch 2016 Person of the Year. The McShin Foundation is a nationally accredited recovery community organization (CAPRSS). The Council on Accreditation of Peer Recovery Support Services (CAPRSS) is the only accrediting body in the U.S. specifically for Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) and other programs offering addiction Peer Recovery Support Services (PRSS).

John co-wrote the McShin Recovery Coach manual and was featured in numerous publications, including Addiction Professional Magazine, Newsweek, The Richmond Times Dispatch, The Mechanicsville Local, Richmond Free Press, The Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg, VA, North of The James Magazine, and many other local papers across Virginia, the U.S., and the U.K., as well as in the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards 2005 Annual Report. He has appeared in various news broadcasts and national documentaries, including Face the Nation, The Anonymous People, and Heroin, the Hardest Hit, to name a few.

The McShin training curriculum is state-approved in WVA, CT, and NY. John is an approved NAADAC CE Provider in all 50 states. Arkansas has adopted the McShin Model for its emerging Recovery Community Organizations.

John served as an appointed citizen member of the Virginia General Assembly's joint Senate/House subcommittee on substance abuse from 2008 to 2010 (SJ77). He was also a member of the Henrico County Drug Court Advisory Council and acted as an Honorary Deputy for the Richmond City Sheriff's Office. In 2013, John graduated from the Hanover County Sheriff's Citizens Police Academy.

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly honored John Shinholser, Carol McDaid, and McShin with House Resolution 738, recognizing McShin as a pioneer in establishing the peer recovery support model, Recovery Community Organization, and Recovery Residence model in Virginia. John was acknowledged on the House floor of the U.S. Congress (118th) on December 1st, 2023, by Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger. State Senator VanValkenburg presented John with SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 174 from the 2024 Virginia General Assembly.

McShin was the first Virginia organization to train and certify peers; it was also the first National Alliance of Recovery Residence in Virginia. John traveled the country to provide authentic recovery coach training, and he and Carol traveled to Wales in 2011 to participate in the first U.K. recovery walk along with the launch of The Living Room in Cardiff, a Recovery Community Center. John has conducted multiple tours in the U.K., delivering recovery training, and has crisscrossed the country, providing recovery talks and training in correctional facilities across forty-six states.

John has testified, presented, facilitated, and been a keynote/featured speaker over a thousand times at various conferences, conventions, work groups, and forums on topics of recovery and solutions for substance use disorders. John retired from McShin on 12/31/2023 and is currently the Director of American Veterans for Kratom Safe. He resides in Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia, with his wife Carol and is working on his autobiography. He has enjoyed long-term recovery since August 10th, 1982.

Lopez, Daniel

From: Devin Hardwick <devinhardwick@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:20 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom safety

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I wanted to add my voice to the list of Kratom advocates.

I've been a Kratom user for the last 5 years. It has allowed me to stop using Rx pain meds without going through awful withdrawal symptoms.

I get blood work done annually to make sure that the products I use for health (including Kratom) are not having a negative impact on my health.

California has led the way in freedoms to make bodily choices, including THC and state sponsored drug support in SF and LA areas. The only reason I can see for the demonization of Kratom, is that "big Pharma" doesn't get a cut. It is an organic, natural substitute for many things including pain control.

Please keep Kratom legal and available to the public in Riverside

Thank you,

Devin Hardwick

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Lopez, Daniel

From: joey o <j372077@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:13 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: meeting on the health and safety implications of kratom use

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Board of supervisors:

My name is joseph and i am writing to share my kratom experience and knowledge with you. I am a regular user of kratom to help with my chronic severe pain throughout my whole spine, legs, back and neck. i was in several car accidents with the last one being very severe and has made me disabled for the rest of my life. i have done everything you can think of to treat my injuries. spinal epidurals, injections, physical therapy, chiropractic care, pain management. most of these things gave little to no relief. i stumbled upon a documentary about a miracle plant that was helping people and was totally natural and safe its literally just a leaf off of a tree. i thought id give it a try. it is great medicinally because not only does it provide pain relief but it also gives a little energy similar to coffee. in fact its in the coffee family of plants. it is not addictive like other pain medicines, does not have tolerance or withdrawal issues and you cannot die. it is just a leaf. i get regular blood tests from my primary care dr and i have no problems whatsoever with anything as far as organ functions or anything else. another side of this is people are using this so that they dont need to do more dangerous drugs. it saves lives. it must not be banned or restricted or more harm could be done to our residents. adding more people to the dangers of fentanyl use. other states are joining the KCPA (kratom consumer protection act) and we should do the same. CA. this will insure the leaf is unadulterated and safe. please keep kratom available in riverside county to the people who desperately depend on it for a safe alternative.

thank you, joseph
riverside county resident

Lopez, Daniel

From: Adam Blum <adam@freewill.la>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:31 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Kratom

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi everyone,

I wanted to share a bit about how kratom has personally changed my life. Before I started using it, I struggled with persistent pain that made everyday tasks a challenge. Discovering kratom not only provided me with significant relief but also helped boost my energy, allowing me to get back to the activities I love. It's been a natural alternative that has improved my overall well-being.

I'm concerned that an outright ban could push people like me toward unsafe, unregulated alternatives. Instead, I believe we should focus on smart, sensible regulations that ensure quality and accessibility for those who need it.

Thanks,

Adam

Lopez, Daniel

From: Denise Geltman <denisegeltman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 12:01 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Riverside County Kratom Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs/Madams:

My name is Denise Geltman and I am a 60 year old resident of Los Angeles County who has been taking Kratom since 2016 for my IBS, Migraines, Fibromyalgia and severe chronic nerve damage in my intestines, legs and feet.

Kratom has been a miracle for me. It helps my nerve pain and spasms. I existed in pain 24 hours a day before I started taking Kratom. I missed out on so much of life before Kratom. Because of Kratom I have held a very part time job for the past 9 years. I am able to participate in my life, my family, my community and the economy, instead of laying in my bed in chronic pain.

I don't know if you are aware of this, but Dr. Scott Gottlieb asked the UN/WHO to ban Kratom worldwide this past September and they said NO, because it helps so many people. The documentation for their response is available on the Internet.

Please don't take away the option for your residents of Riverside County to be able to take Kratom because it helps so many of us.

Thank you for your kind consideration to my request.

Sincerely,

Denise Geltman

Lopez, Daniel

From: Stephen C. McIntosh <scm@cakeandbake.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 1:44 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Opposition to Board Item 3.6 (27188) / 2025-FEB-25 / "Evaluation of the Public Health and Safety Implications of Kratom"

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

First, allow me to apologize for the timeliness in providing this material. I just became aware of this matter this evening.

Second, please allow me to thank you for your public service.

Lastly,

I wanted to write to voice my strong Opposition to the item proposed by Supervisors Spiegel and Gutierrez (27188) "Evaluation of the Public Health and Safety Implications of Kratom". My greatest opposition to this matter is that it neglects a key stakeholder--kratom consumers themselves. Those having positive experiences will not be represented by speaking solely to law enforcement and behavioral health.

I am a kratom consumer who became disabled following a massive heart attack and who now experiences constant, substantial, and life disrupting pain. Now residing in San Bernardino Co. for medical reasons, I am a former associate instructor of Mt. San Jacinto College (teaching Computer Information Systems) and resident of the county.

I began using kratom when my pain prescription, from the only health plan I can participate in (via my wife's workplace) without prohibitive costs stopped providing it for me against my wishes. This has become a common problem for pain patients across the US who have done nothing wrong and nothing illegal.

Kratom has reduced the number of days I have been in the hospital, allowed me to do the PT my doctors have recommended, do reasonable housework, and even some "easy" hikes in the area. Medical cannabis did not work for my situation, was expensive, and not very functional. I cannot use NSAIDs. I cannot use TENS/electrode-stimulation therapies due to having a pacemaker. Kratom is not my first choice, but as my last option it has been a godsend. Even while being highly selective about what products I choose, my use costs me less than \$1/day.

Riverside County does not need this. It will do nothing to further public safety or consumer safety.

It will only harm individuals with chronic pain (including those who cannot get adequate pain management or, like me, whose access was abruptly terminated against my wishes and little or no recourse), who are using it to stop the use of illicit substances or harmful excess use of alcohol, or for general well being.

Even merely prohibiting sales in Riverside County reduces safety as consumers won't be able to acquire products they have researched, used/experienced, undergone 3rd party analysis, etc. and will be stuck with whatever they can get in neighboring county storefronts--which may be inadequate for their needs, expensive, or with lower standards of quality. Criminalization will make it impossible for people like me, who have broken no laws, who are in chronic intractable pain, to travel to or through, work, or spend money in Riverside County--this includes visiting families, going to doctors appointments, traveling to state and national parks in Riverside Co. or southward.

I support reasonable efforts to regulate kratom such as labeling, purity, use limited to adults, and would support such a bill if re-introduced in California (without some of the major flaws, ambiguities, and arbitrary product parameters the referenced AB 2365 included).

However, Americans should not have to navigate a patchwork of over 3000 counties and even more municipalities to determine if their medications are legal or drive long distances to buy them so that localities can appease busybodies who are somehow offended to see an item on the shelf that they may have decided is not right for them and want to make the decision for everyone else.

No product or medication is appropriate for all people. The fine wines and made in Temecula are not appropriate for all people (such as myself, for medical reasons). The medical and recreational cannabis grown in Perris and sold in most cities in Riverside Co. are not appropriate for all people (which despite no harm, did not meet my needs). The OTC medications on every shelf in every drugstore in the US are not appropriate for all people (such as NSAIDs in my personal case).

However, I do not, nor should anybody else, interfere in others' lawful and reasonable use of any of these things simply because I may not like them or had bad experiences with them. There has never been greater consumer access to scientific and general consumer health information on all products--including kratom, for individuals to decide for themselves if it is appropriate for them and in what quantities/dose may be appropriate or necessary to potentially meet their goal.

--

Stephen C. McIntosh, MBA

マッキントッシュスティーブン、経営学修士

Software Developer and Associate Instructor of CIS (Ret.)

Lopez, Daniel

From: Alex Karp <akarp111@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 1:08 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: My experience with kratom

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I started noticing the effects from a degenerating disc in high school. After 6-8 months of physical therapy and chiropractic care I was able to manage my pain. Even with this routine, I would experience 4-7 days of extreme pain every 1-2 years. As I became older these periodic pain episodes became more frequent and lasted longer.

During a particularly long 5-month pain episode in 2016, I was not able to walk, sit, stand, or even lay down without mind-numbing pain. My doctor confirmed the pain was due to a worsening degenerating disc between my L5 and S1. I tried EVERYTHING, physical therapy, muscle relaxers, inversion tables, stretching, but nothing seemed to help. My only recommended option was to "manage" the pain and consider a surgery with a questionable success rate of 50/50.

Because of the pain I had stopped playing all sports, I had stopped exercising, stopped going out with friends, stopped traveling...this is when I started to get depressed, angry, and no longer envisioned a future I wanted to be a part of.

In Dec of that year (2016) I heard about and tried kratom for the first time.
In short, kratom was a miracle!!!

When I consume kratom, my pain is reduced from a debilitating '10' to a '2 or 3' and I am able to get my life back. Exercise, mountain biking, yoga, and spending time with friends and family all became possible again! Not only does kratom help with the pain immediately, but it has allowed me to heal my back. 8 years ago I used kratom 3 times per day. Now, less than 3 times per month.

Please follow the science of kratom. We need to help people in pain.

If you'd like to learn more about my story, please let me know.

Regards,
Alexander Karp
630-865-7105