

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
February 3, 2026

Preventing Deaths Related to Kratom and 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) in Los Angeles County

Last year, Los Angeles County (County) recorded six fatal overdoses in residents between 18 to 40 years old related to the compound found in kratom known as 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), as identified by the County's Department of Medical Examiner (DME). Given the growing availability of 7-OH products at gas stations, smoke shops, and other online and retail locations, the risks of 7-OH are rising.

According to the County's Department of Public Health (DPH), "7-OH [is] a psychoactive component of kratom leaves, [which] is synthetically concentrated into various products... At low doses, 7-OH can have stimulant-like effects and at a higher dose it has opioid-like effects. They are unregulated and often labeled with terms such as 'plant alkaloids' or 'alkaloid' and marketed as dietary supplements to address a broad range of issues such as pain, anxiety and mood disorders, opioid withdrawal, or energy/general well-being. These products come in various forms such as tablets, gummies, drink mixes, and concentrated ('enhanced' or 'super') liquid extracts or shots for drinking, which significantly increase its adverse and life-threatening effects."¹

¹ <https://lacounty.gov/2025/10/10/additional-fatal-overdoses-tied-to-synthetic-kratom-in-los-angeles-county/>

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In July 2025, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issued a report² to educate the public about 7-OH and related health concerns. This report came after a warning letter to those engaged in “illegal marketing of concentrated 7-OH products” and warned that “regulation and public education [was needed] to prevent another wave of the opioid epidemic.”³ The FDA issued letters warning “seven companies for illegally distributing products,” as well as letters to health care professionals⁴ and consumers alerting them of the risks associated with consuming 7-OH products.⁵

In response to local 7-OH related deaths, DPH issued a warning letter to retailers in October 2025 to “immediately stop selling any 7-OH products, as these are not lawfully marketed in the U.S. as a drug product, dietary supplement, or food additive” and has commenced enforcement actions to remove kratom-related 7-OH products from stores. DPH’s Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau (SAPC) also advised that “[t]he safest thing to do is avoid using 7-OH and kratom-related products all together.”

Several jurisdictions in California, such as the cities of San Diego, Oceanside, Newport Beach and counties of San Diego, Orange, and Riverside, have adopted local ordinances that either ban or restrict the sales or possession of kratom substances. Additionally, Assembly Bill (AB) 1088 was introduced in 2025 to establish statewide regulations that would “prohibit the sale of kratom to individuals under 21, mandate specific labeling requirements, require child-resistant packaging, and ban products that are attractive to children or contain synthetic alkaloids.”⁶

² <https://www.fda.gov/media/187899/download?attachment>

³ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-steps-restrict-7-oh-opioid-products-threatening-american-consumers>

⁴ <https://www.fda.gov/media/187898/download?attachment>

⁵ <https://www.fda.gov/media/187900/download>

⁶ [https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1088/id/3217380#:~:text=\(b\)%20An%20online%20retailer%20or,2](https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1088/id/3217380#:~:text=(b)%20An%20online%20retailer%20or,2)

The County has worked diligently to reduce substance-related overdose deaths through preventative care, education, and harm reduction. In order to get in front of this issue now, we need to look at all the available tools to stop potentially a new surge related to 7-OH and/or kratom and reduce harm and deaths.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Department of Medical Examiner, in consultation with County Counsel, to provide a written report back in 30 days with recommendations on how the County should address and prevent deaths and harm related to kratom and 7-OH, including but not limited to, creating an ordinance, identifying funding and staffing needs, and outreaching to the public to help inform the recommendations to be made.

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