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San Diego City Attorney Opposes Proposed Opioid Settlement

Proposal deemed insufficient, fails to hold drug companies accountable

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott announced today that San Diego is joining other cities and counties across the nation in opposing a proposed settlement between opioid drug manufacturers and four other states' prosecutors.

A letter stating this opposition was sent yesterday to three of the country's largest drug manufacturers on behalf of nine cities and counties.

"For too many years, we have been on the front lines of the opioid epidemic ... Virtually all our families, neighborhoods, and agencies have been impacted by this epidemic," the letter states. "Despite this ... we were not consulted about this settlement, were not involved in negotiating its terms, and were not apprised of its details ... The current proposed settlement is too little, too late."

"Opioid manufacturers have profited handsomely from the human suffering they intentionally inflicted through manipulation and deceit," said City Attorney Mara W. Elliott. **"Our office is committed to holding them accountable for funding drug treatment and education programs that will protect the health and safety of San Diegans."**

The City Attorney's Office filed a federal lawsuit in February 2019 against Purdue Pharma, one of the nation's largest drug makers – and the Sackler family, which runs the company – and other manufacturers and distributors of opioids. San Diego is one of nearly 3,000 cities, counties, states, and tribes nationwide that are suing the drug companies.

Recently, it was revealed that the attorney generals of four states – North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas – had reached a tentative \$48 billion settlement deal with Johnson & Johnson, Cardinal Health, McKesson, AmersourceBergen, and Teva.

Cardinal Health, McKesson, and AmersourceBergen are among the drug companies being sued by the San Diego City Attorney on behalf of the City and the People of the State of California.

The letter notes that the San Diego City Attorney's Office was never consulted about the proposed settlement, and only learned of it through press reports.

"We could overlook those facts if the settlement would provide appropriate and timely funding to do the significant work required to abate this epidemic and hold this industry accountable for its conduct and the harm that it has caused. It does neither," the letter says.

Recent City Attorney media releases can be accessed on the San Diego City Attorney's home page located on the Internet at <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney>

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San Diego is joining other large cities and counties that have been impacted by this ongoing crisis in sending a letter to the CEOs of the three companies, stating that the proposed settlement does not have our support.

“Our office remains willing to participate in good faith negotiations that will make San Diegans whole. We will not, however, shortchange our communities by agreeing to the proposed settlement,” Elliott said.

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