

Communication from Public

Name: Tom

Date Submitted: 02/06/2026 10:13 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Banning Kratom and 7-oh is senseless will help no one but hurt those who use it for pain or as an safer alternative to opioids or alcohol. It has less overdoses than Tylenol and you can buy Tylenol at every store in the US. Oppose the ban this is LA not Florida.

Communication from Public

Name: laura hughes

Date Submitted: 02/06/2026 10:22 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Please consider my story when taking into consideration any regulations on NATURAL (not 7oh synthetic) Kratom Kratom has saved my life and my sanity. I suffered periodically from debilitating clinical anxiety since my teens (I'm now 70 years old). Panic attacks, shortness of breath, insomnia, racing thoughts, a cluster of symptoms that prescription medications did nothing to assuage. A friend recommended I try kratom twelve years ago and I couldn't believe the effects this had on reducing if not eliminating my symptoms. It was dramatic. I had been on disability for a year, unable to work as a project manager in a high stress construction industry. Kratom allowed me to return to the workplace almost overnight. I couldn't believe after no success with doctors, therapists, medications, a simple natural product restored me to health. I'm not exaggerating, although I'm sure it must sound like it. I have enormous gratitude that I have a solution to a crippling life long problem. One day you, or a loved one, suffering from depression, anxiety or insomnia may be looking for a remedy when psychotropic medication doesn't work. And kratom has NO side effects, at least that's been my experience. Please keep kratom legal and available, not only for me, and others like me, but for YOUR families too! Sincerely,
-Laura from California

Communication from Public

Name: David Richardson
Date Submitted: 02/04/2026 04:59 PM
Council File No: 25-1357
Comments for Public Posting: Kratom saved me from opiate hell. I don't take kratom anymore, but it literally saved my life. You're going to kill people if you ban kratom.

Communication from Public

Name: Connie Sanford

Date Submitted: 02/05/2026 04:29 PM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Synthetic 7-OH is not natural leaf kratom. I've taken natural leaf kratom safely for old work injuries for over ten years. I worked physically hard for most of my life but I had to retire early from repetitive motion muscle injuries. Years of physical therapy and pain medication hadn't helped. After I found kratom all that changed. My quality of life has greatly improved. I'm able to work in the yard, drive again and shop. I can workout, do Tai Chi. Today I actually have the energy to help others. Natural leaf kratom does not meet the FDA's eight factor analysis requirements for scheduling. HHS & FDA have asked the DEA to schedule 7-OH not natural leaf kratom. It's estimated that over 12 million Americans use natural leaf kratom. Please consider regulating not banning this product that has helped me and so many people. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/09/2026 09:27 AM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: I am messaging you in order to stop the banning and criminalization of kratom. I have been a kratom consumer for 10 years now. During that time, I graduated college, started a career, and lived my life to the fullest. This plant has allowed me to do so despite my chronic arthritis. Please protect this plant and allow users to consume this safe product. Also, I want to also be clear and say kratom is much different from 7-OH and other synthetic products. Natural plain kratom leaf has been shown to be safe, and it should not be lumped in with these other products. One way to keep things straight and people safe is to adopt the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. The AKA has used this legislation in many states, and it has had great success. This safety-based approach would help citizens and make kratom accessible as well. So please, listen to the AKA and the science, and make the right choice by keeping kratom legal.

Hello,

I am writing this comment to you in order to stop the banning and criminalization of kratom. I want to make it clear that I am in opposition to the scheduling of plain leaf kratom. People I know have been kratom consumers for 10+ years now. During that time, they were able to relieve the symptoms of debilitating conditions (arthritis, autoimmune diseases, work injury, etc.) Not only that, but I know several business owners whose livelihoods are based on their kratom shops. You would be ruining honest people's lives over a substance that is completely safe. Please protect this plant and allow users to consume this safe product.

Also, I want to also be clear and say plain leaf kratom is much different from 7-OH and other synthetic products. Natural plain kratom leaf has been shown to be safe in numerous scientific studies, and it should not be lumped in with these other products. One way to keep things straight and people safe is to adopt the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. The American Kratom Association has used this legislation in many states, and it has had great success. This safety-based approach would help citizens, and it would make safe kratom accessible as well. So please, listen to your fellow politicians, the American Kratom Association, and the science, and make the right choice by keeping kratom legal.

Sincerely,
Anonymous Citizen

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew

Date Submitted: 02/07/2026 03:34 PM

Council File No: 25-1357

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as a concerned California resident to respectfully request your attention regarding recent actions affecting kratom availability in our state. Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. It belongs to the coffee family (Rubiaceae) and has been used for centuries in traditional cultural and wellness practices. Historically, kratom leaves were chewed or brewed into tea by agricultural workers to support stamina, focus, and physical endurance during long workdays. It was also used in traditional settings to help manage discomfort and support overall well-being. Kratom contains naturally occurring alkaloids, primarily mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which interact with receptors in the body. Depending on dosage, kratom may produce stimulating or calming effects. While some of its alkaloids interact with opioid receptors, kratom is not classified as an opioid and operates through distinct pharmacological mechanisms. In the United States, kratom has been used by adults as a botanical supplement for wellness support, pain management, and harm reduction—particularly by individuals seeking alternatives to prescription opioids or other high-risk substances. For many, kratom has been a tool to improve quality of life while avoiding more dangerous options. I fully support reasonable regulation, including quality control standards, labeling requirements, age restrictions, and consumer education. However, outright bans eliminate access for responsible adults and may unintentionally push individuals toward more harmful substances. A regulatory approach would better serve public health goals while respecting personal choice and acknowledging kratom's long history of traditional use. I respectfully ask that your office consider evidence-based policy approaches to kratom and engage with researchers, consumers, healthcare professionals, and advocacy organizations before supporting further prohibitions. Regulation rather than prohibition would allow California to prioritize safety, transparency, and harm reduction. Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to the well-being of Californians. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and your efforts to balance public health, science, and personal freedom. It is important to distinguish between the raw kratom plant and certain adulterated or highly concentrated products that

have raised legitimate safety concerns. The raw kratom leaf, when used in its traditional and unadulterated form, has a long history of use in Southeast Asia with a relatively low incidence of serious adverse effects. For generations, individuals in Indonesia, Thailand, and neighboring regions have consumed kratom leaves by chewing them or brewing them into tea as part of daily life and labor practices. Concerns associated with kratom in the United States have most often been linked not to the raw plant itself, but to improperly labeled products, synthetic adulterants, or highly concentrated extracts that do not reflect traditional use. These products may pose risks due to inconsistent potency, contamination, or the presence of additional substances. A regulatory framework that focuses on purity standards, accurate labeling, and prohibitions against adulterated or synthetic kratom products would more effectively protect public health than banning the raw botanical altogether. By addressing the true sources of risk—rather than the plant itself—California can reduce harm while preserving access to a natural product that many adults use responsibly. Recognizing the distinction between the raw kratom leaf and processed or adulterated derivatives is essential to crafting sound, evidence-based policy that balances consumer safety with informed personal choice. Respectfully,
Matthew McHolland