



California Narcotic Officers' Association

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The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Chair, Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Prohibiting the Sale and Distribution of 7-OH Products

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson,

On behalf of the 7,500+ members of the California Narcotic Officers' Association (CNOA), I am writing to express our strong support to prohibit the sale, distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and regulating natural kratom.

7-OH, the psychoactive component of kratom leaves, is being synthetically concentrated into various products that are sold in gas stations, smoke shops, and other retail and online venues in the city and county. High doses of concentrated synthetic 7-OH, especially when co-used with alcohol or other substances can cause severe respiratory depression and death. As they are unregulated, many contain unknown concentrations synthetic 7-OH, increasing the risk of unintentional and lethal overdose.

Medical research has shown that 7-OH binds to the same receptors in the brain as traditional opioids, creating a risk for dependency, withdrawal, and overdose when combined with other substances. Despite being marketed as a "natural" product, concentrated synthetic 7-OH has no approved medical use and is widely recognized by public health authorities as dangerous.

In July 2025, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warning letters to firms for illegal marketing of concentrated synthetic 7-OH products and posted product images. The FDA indicated that "7-OH is not lawful in dietary supplements and cannot be lawfully added to conventional foods. Additionally, there are no FDA-approved drugs containing 7-OH, and it is illegal to market any drugs containing 7-OH. **Consumers who use 7-OH products are exposing themselves to products that have not been proven safe or effective for any use.**" Just this past summer, the **FDA formally requested that the DEA designate concentrated synthetic 7-OH as Schedule 1.**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recently issued a news release entitled, **Multiple Fatal Overdoses Tied to Synthetic Kratom Compound in Los Angeles County** which warned its residents about the fatal dangers posed by this synthetic opioid which has resulted in at least 6 deaths.

The Los Angeles Times recently reported on these 6 deaths attributed to concentrated synthetic 7-OH. The reporter highlighted the lack of action by the state legislature.

The CNOA has been extremely active in addressing the recent explosion of the use of kratom and the abuse of concentrated synthetic 7-OH throughout the state. We have been strong advocates for AB 1088 (Bains) which would restrict sales to persons 21 and over and prohibit the marketing of natural kratom to children. The bill also prohibits the sale or distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-OH. AB 1088 passed the full Assembly, with unanimous support from the Los Angeles County delegation. The bill currently awaits action in the Senate Health Committee which will hold an informational hearing on February 18 in Sacramento.

In August, we worked with Orange County Supervisors, resulting in the unanimous passage of their Ord. 25-014, regulating kratom and prohibiting the sale or distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-OH. We also worked with the County of Riverside (Ord. 1004) and the County of Fresno (Ord. 25-031) along with numerous cities throughout the state which have enacted similar local ordinances.

To be clear, the CNOA is not seeking a ban on natural kratom as that product does not pose the deadly threat to our communities that 7-OH does. However, we encourage local officials to limit sales of natural kratom sales to persons 21 and over and prohibit the marketing of natural kratom to children.

Our efforts throughout the state mirror the FDA's approach by focusing on raising awareness and leading the charge to ban concentrated synthetic 7-OH which presents a unique health risk and has been determined to have contributed to numerous deaths.

As previously noted, communities across the state have taken steps to restrict kratom and ban concentrated synthetic 7-OH in the interest of protecting residents, especially young people, from its dangers.

On a daily basis, our dedicated members witness first hand the dangers these substances can pose to our children, families and communities which is why the CNOA urges you to prohibit the sale and distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-OH and limiting natural kratom purchases to persons 21 and over. Taking action now will help prevent future deaths and reduce harm - especially for our youth.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support to prohibit the manufacturing, sale or distribution of 7-OH. Please contact our legislative advocate Ryan Sherman at 916.580.5464 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Devin Chase
President
California Narcotic Officers' Association

The California Narcotic Officers' Association mission is to educate the public and our membership on the dangers of narcotic and drug abuse, provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and the new techniques used by both criminals and investigators; and keep the membership and the public informed of current statute changes and judicial decisions. The over 7,000+ members of CNOA include local, state, and federal peace officers, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and other national and international associates.