



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

Thank you for your commitment to addressing the fentanyl crisis gripping our nation. As Governor of California and a father of four young children, I am deeply concerned about the prevalence and lethality of this drug – and the violence that accompanies its trafficking and sale.

I appreciate that the DEA has demonstrated successes in its Operation Overdrive in jurisdictions around the country, including here in our state in Oakland. I am now writing to request that San Francisco be designated as an Operation Overdrive jurisdiction as soon as possible.

Despite significant investment of resources – state and local law enforcement personnel, state funding for overdose reversal medication, local street teams, and both state and local spending on public awareness – San Francisco still has the highest overdose rate of any jurisdiction in California.

Operation Overdrive and its commitment of concentrated federal law enforcement resources is clearly needed in San Francisco.



The public health imperative is clear, and we have no time for delay. I am joined by Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor London Breed in requesting this designation. Our state-local partnership is strong, and we welcome deeper engagement by the Department of Justice generally, and the DEA specifically.

Thank you for both your local staffs' collaborative approach thus far and for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California