

FILE NO. 2013-07-COE

RESOLUTION NO.

1 **[Marine Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility]**

2 **Resolution supporting a California Statewide producer responsibility program to**
3 **minimize marine plastic pollution and to help advance San Francisco Zero Waste**
4 **Goals.**

5 WHEREAS, The health of San Francisco and California's waterways, public spaces,
6 coast and ocean is increasingly threatened by the persistent influx of plastic pollution that
7 harms the environment and economy; and

8
9 WHEREAS, The vast majority of litter in California's coast and ocean comes from land-
10 based sources, and it is well documented from more than 25 years of coastal cleanup data
11 that up to 90 percent of floating marine litter is plastic; and

12 WHEREAS, A 2012 study by the Convention on Biological Diversity found that 663
13 marine species have been impacted by marine litter through entanglement and ingestion—a
14 two-thirds increase in impacted species from a similar study in 1998; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Research by the Algalita Marine Research Foundation shows that
17 persistent organic pollutants in the marine environment attach to the surface of plastic debris,
18 and floating plastics have been found to accumulate pollutants and transport them through
19 ocean currents, and marine life that ingests plastics coated with pollutants absorb these
20 pollutants. And,

21
22 WHEREAS, In 2012, the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 estimated
23 west coast cities and counties spend approximately \$520 million each and every year to
24 combat litter and curtail marine debris; and

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1 WHEREAS, The global production and consumption of plastic—especially single use
2 plastic products—is on the rise; and

3 WHEREAS, Existing federal and state laws designed to combat marine litter are failing
4 to keep plastic pollution from entering the ocean and harming marine wildlife and coastal
5 economies; and

6 WHEREAS, Of the many plastic materials that pollute the ocean, single-use plastic
7 items are some of the worst offenders, for example, a bay area litter audit in 2010-2011 found
8 that 2/3rds of the litter entering the bay was single-use food and beverage packaging.; and

9
10 WHEREAS, A new approach is needed in California to reduce the impacts of single-
11 use plastic products on San Francisco and California’s environment and economy; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment is committed to the tenets
13 of producer responsibility as essential to reaching San Francisco’s Zero Waste goals.

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment strongly
15 supports statewide legislation to create a Marine Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility
16 Program (“Program”); and, be it,
17

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment
19 urges the ~~California Legislature~~State Legislative Committee to urge the California Legislature
20 to pass statewide legislation to develop the Program to include specific, aggressive, and
21 enforceable marine plastic pollution reduction and landfill reduction goals, targets and
22 compliance dates; and, be it,
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24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the ~~California Legislature~~State
25 Legislative Committee to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to

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1 develop the Program to effectively define and cover the items most commonly found as
2 pollution, particularly plastic packaging; and be it,

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the California Legislature State
4 Legislative Committee to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to
5 develop the Program to substantially reduce financial burden for implementation of marine
6 plastic pollution prevention infrastructure and activities on local governments, taxpayers, and
7 regional water districts, thereby supporting California's economy, supporting, by shifting a fair
8 share of the financial burden of managing single-use plastic products and plastic packaging at
9 the end of its useful life to producers of the products; and be it,
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11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the Program to include provision
12 for ongoing monitoring to show impacts of the Program such as the measurable reduction of
13 plastic pollution in the marine environment and to better understand the sources, pathways,
14 and impacts of marine plastic pollution; and be it,
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16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the California Legislature State
17 Legislative Committee to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to
18 develop a Program that does not preempt state or local plastic bag laws, the California
19 Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, or other demonstrably effective laws
20 related to reduction or recycling of the most prevalent items found in marine plastic pollution;
21 and be it,
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23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the California Legislature State
24 Legislative Committee to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to
25 develop a Program that does not permit use of high temperature material destruction

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1 technologies (often called “waste-to-energy” or “conversion technology”) activities in achieving
2 stated goals; and be it,

3 ~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission commends Assembly Member Mark~~
4 ~~Stone and Senator Ben Hueso for authoring Assembly Bill 521; and to the extent that this bill~~
5 ~~achieves the principles supported in this Resolution, the Commission applauds AB 521 as a~~
6 ~~model Marine Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Program;~~

7
8 - I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the
9 Environment’s Meeting on.

10 _____
11 Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

12 VOTE:

13 AYES:

14 NOES:

15 ABSENT:
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