

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, A new approach is needed in California to reduce the impacts of single-use  
8 plastic products on San Francisco and California's environment and economy; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment is committed to the tenets of  
10 producer responsibility as essential to reaching San Francisco's Zero Waste goals; now,  
11 therefore be it,

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment strongly  
13 supports statewide legislation to create a Marine Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility  
14 Program ("Program"); and, be it,

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

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the State Legislative Committee  
21 to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to develop the Program to  
22 effectively define and cover the items most commonly found as pollution, particularly plastic  
23 packaging; and be it,

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the State Legislative Committee  
25 to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to develop the Program to shift


1 a fair share of the financial burden of managing single-use plastic products and plastic  
2 packaging at the end of its useful life to producers of the products, thereby substantially  
3 reducing financial burden for implementation of marine plastic pollution prevention  
4 infrastructure and activities on local governments, taxpayers, and regional water districts, and  
5 supporting California's economy; and be it,

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the Program to include provision  
7 for ongoing monitoring to show impacts of the Program such as the measurable reduction of  
8 plastic pollution in the marine environment and to better understand the sources, pathways,  
9 and impacts of marine plastic pollution; and be it,

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the State Legislative Committee  
11 to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to develop a Program that does  
12 not preempt state or local plastic bag laws, the California Beverage Container Recycling and  
13 Litter Reduction Act, or other demonstrably effective laws related to reduction or recycling of  
14 the most prevalent items found in marine plastic pollution; and be it,

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the State Legislative Committee  
16 to urge the California Legislature to pass statewide legislation to develop a Program that does  
17 not permit use of high temperature material destruction technologies (often called "waste-to-  
18 energy" or "conversion technology") activities in achieving stated goals.

19 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the  
20 Environment's Meeting on May 28, 2013.

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23 Monica Fish, Commission Secretary  
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- 1 VOTE: Approved (4-0) 3 Absent
- 2 AYES: Commissioners Arce, Gravanis, Stephenson and Wald
- 3 NOES: None
- 4 ABSENT: Commissioners Josefowitz, King, and Mok

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