

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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NOVEMBER 2, 2021

**Supporting the California Plastic Waste Reduction Regulations Initiative (2022)**

The California Plastic Waste Reduction Regulations Initiative is currently eligible for the ballot in California for the November 8, 2022 election. If passed by voters, it would reduce single-use plastic and create a "pollution reduction fee" that would be distributed to State agencies and local governments for recycling/composting programs and plastic pollution mitigation. This ballot measure would require the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations to reduce plastic waste by: (1) requiring single-use plastic packaging, containers, and utensils be reusable, recyclable, or compostable, and to reduce such waste by 25 percent, by 2030; (2) prohibiting polystyrene container use by food vendors; and (3) taxing producers of single-use plastic packaging, containers, or utensils by January 1, 2022, and allocate revenues for recycling and environmental programs, including local water supply protection.

The financial impacts caused by plastic pollution have resulted in local taxpayers

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in California spending more than \$420 Million annually in ongoing efforts to clean up and prevent plastic and other litter from entering and polluting our waterways.

There is growing alarm about the prevalence of plastic pollution in our environment, and its lasting negative impacts for our ecosystems and public health. Large and small plastic particles are increasingly found in streams, rivers and coastal ecosystems degrading habitat conditions for wildlife and contaminating fish, plants and other organisms. Plastic particles have also been found in drinking water, bottled water, table salt, fish and shellfish from local California fish markets. Furthermore, disadvantaged and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by the human health and environmental impacts of plastic pollution and fossil fuel extraction.

This initiative would hold producers responsible for ensuring that single-use plastic packaging and single-use foodware pollution and waste is reduced, recycled, or composted, and would establish a target to reduce the amount of California-generated single-use plastic packaging and single use foodware waste that is disposed by 80% by the year 2030. This initiative in combination with recent Board actions related to single use plastics, such as the County's Plastic Straws and Stirrers Upon Request Ordinance and efforts to limit polystyrene in County buildings, will help the County to achieve the waste and pollution reduction goals established by the OurCounty Sustainability Plan and Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors take an official position to support the California Plastic Waste Reduction Regulations Initiative to further reduce plastic pollution and its impacts on the State's ocean, coastal and freshwater environments, and further protect the communities of Los Angeles County by providing funding for local recycling and composting infrastructure, as well as environmental programs, that will create new jobs and promote economic recovery in the County.

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