IN BRIEF

SB 54/AB 1080 will ensure California is on the forefront of reducing pollution from single-use plastic packaging and products. The bills set ambitious waste reduction and recycling goals and establish a framework for packaging producers to keep the most problematic plastic disposable items out of our environment, saving local governments millions of dollars in disposal costs and protecting our environment.

BACKGROUND

Every day, single-use packaging and products in California, particularly those made of plastic, generate tons of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste impacting our health, natural environment, and local governments.

Plastic pollution starts with fossil fuel extraction to create plastic and affects individuals, communities, and ecosystems all along the supply chain; from when the products are manufactured, transported, and used, to when they degrade and emit greenhouse gases or impact the environment as litter. Oil refineries, plastic manufacturers and incinerators tend to be located in low income communities, which then must bear the brunt of the associated health impacts from industry, such as higher asthma rates. With a planned 40-percent increase in plastic production over the next decade, plastic production will account for 20 percent of global fossil fuel consumption unless we make major policy changes to significantly counter this. Packaging accounts for 42 percent of all non-fiber plastic produced.

Unlike natural materials that decompose, nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in our landfills or in the environment. As these items fragment into smaller particles, they concentrate toxic chemicals and contaminate our food and drinking water sources. Exposure has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems.

While the state and local communities in California have tried to reduce the burden from single-use packaging since the 1980s, taxpayers and local governments still spend over $420 million annually in ongoing efforts to clean up and prevent litter in streets, storm drains, parks and waterways. Not only is cleanup expensive, but it cannot keep pace with the production of single-use items, which continues to grow exponentially.

Less than 9 percent of plastic is recycled, and that percentage is dropping since the implementation of China’s National Sword and policies in other countries, which severely restricted the amount of foreign waste these countries accept. These materials are now either piling up in recycling centers, being landfilled, or sent to illegal facilities in Southeast Asia where they are incinerated, or simply dumped in impoverished areas where it is never dealt with. California must reduce the amount of single use plastics as a result of these realities.

We can no longer afford to wait on this issue. This is why the European Union and other countries that are major purchasers of consumer goods are implementing comprehensive waste reduction frameworks which urge producers to share in the responsibility of reducing waste and designing products to be reusable, recyclable and/or compostable. As the world’s fifth-largest economy, California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis.

SOLUTION

SB 54/AB 1080 establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste crisis and set a statewide goal of ensuring that manufacturers reduce the waste generated by single-use plastic packaging and food ware products by 75% by 2032 through source reduction, recycling, and composting. Specifically, the bills do the following:

- Require producers to design their plastic packaging to reduce unnecessary waste and be fully recyclable or compostable by 2032, as well as meet specified recycling rates over time.
Require that priority single-use plastic food service ware products, including plates, bowls, cups, utensils, stirrers, and straws be source reduced, and manufactured with only recyclable or compostable material by 2032.

Require CalRecycle to conduct a robust stakeholder process to develop regulations to guide producers in complying with these requirements, and to establish incentives and policies to encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.

**SUPPORT**

**Statewide Leaders**
Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer
California Coastal Commission
Eric Sklar, California Fish and Game Commissioner
Samantha Murray, California Fish and Game Commissioner

**Newspaper Editorial Boards**
Mercury News
Los Angeles Times
San Francisco Chronicle

**Local Governments**
California State Association of Counties
City of Agoura Hills
City of Alameda
City of Albany
City of Arcata
City of Beverly Hills
City of Buena Park
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
City of Carlsbad
City of Coachella
City of Concord
City of Culver City
City of Dana Point
City of Danville
City of Del Mar
City of El Cerrito
City of Encinitas
City of Fort Bragg
City of Fountain Valley
City of Goleta
City of Half Moon Bay
City of Hayward
City of Hesperia
City of Imperial Beach
City of Inglewood
City of Lakeport
City of Long Beach
City of Los Angeles
City of Livermore
City of Malibu
City of Marina
City of Mill Valley
City of Monrovia
City of Montclair
City of Monterey
City of Moorpark
City of Norwalk
City of Novato
City of Oakland
City of Orinda
City of Pasadena
City of Piedmont
City of Placencia
City of Pleasanton
City of Union City
City of Rancho Cucamonga
City of Redwood City
City of Riverside
City of San Diego
City of San Luis Obispo
City of Santa Monica
City of Sebastopol
City of Solana Beach
City of South Pasadena
City of Sunnyvale
City of Thousand Oaks
City of Torrance
City of Tustin
City of Tracy
City of Vallejo
City of Watsonville
County of Marin Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
East Bay Municipal Utilities District
League of California Cities
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities
Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers
Mayor Darrell Steinberg, City of Sacramento
RecycleSmart (Central Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority)
Rethink Waste (South Bayside Waste Management Authority)
Rural County Representatives of California
San Francisco Department of the Environment
San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority
StopWaste (Alameda County Waste Management Authority)

**Labor Unions & Advocates**
Communication Workers of America District 9, AFL-CIO
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
ILWU Local 13
ILWU Local 63
ILWU Local 94
La Cooperativa Campesina
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
Service Employees International Union California
Teamsters Local Union No. 396
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council

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**Businesses**
California Grocers Association  
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce  
Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
Alvarado Street Brewery & Grill  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Anna Kauffman, Inc.  
Blue Plate  
Bon Appétit Management Company  
California Cannabis Coalition  
ChicoBag  
Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.  
Communitas Financial Planning  
Conscious Container  
Dillon Beach Resort  
Distance Learning Consulting  
Dr. Bronner's  
E2 | Environmental Entrepreneurs  
Eco-pliant  
Eco Imprints  
FinalStraw  
FullCycle  
Global Eclipse  
GOODONYA®  
Goodr  
GoodLight Natural Candles  
Green Century  
Green Mary - Zero Waste Events  
Green Retirement, Inc.  
Green Valley Community Farm  
Guitarfish Music Festival  
Harley Laguna Beach  
Jeux De Vagues  
Joshua Tree Music Festival  
Kasperorganics  
Kite Music Productions/Flying Kite Motion Pictures  
Lockbox Productions  
Lydia's Kind Foods, Inc.  
MD Global  
MoneyVoice  
Owl Post Calligraphy  
Paddle Method  
Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc.  
Pier 23 Café Restaurant & Bar  
Ponce's Mexican Restaurant  
R3 Consulting Group, Inc.  
Refill Madness, LLC  
Repurpose  
Robin's Restaurant  
S. Groner Associates, Inc.  
Seventh Generation  
Shark Lock Bags  
Shizen & Tataki Restaurants  
SIC Productions Inc  
Six Rivers Brewery  
Smart Planet Technologies  
Steeleys Drinkware  
Symbiosis Gathering  
The Little Chihuahua Mexican Restaurants  
Tiger!Tiger!  
To-Go Ware  
TOMRA Systems ASA  
Tonic Nightlife Group  
Waste Busters, Inc.  
World Centric  

**Solid Waste & Recycling Industry**
California Local Conservation Corps  
C&S Waste Solutions  
CR&R Environmental Services  
LA Hauler  
Monterey Regional Waste Management District  
Napa Recycling & Waste Services  
Pacific Recycling Solutions  
Recology  
Republic Services  

**Public Health Organizations**
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
California Association of Environmental Health Administrators  
Center for Climate Change and Health  
Center For Environmental Health  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles  
Public Health Advocates  
San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility  

**Civic and Public Interest Advocates**
California Alliance for Retired Americans  
CALPIRG  
Civic Sundays  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Watchdog  
Democrats of Pasadena Foothills  
Feminists in Action  
Latinos in Action  
League of Women Voters of California  
Long Beach Gray Panthers  

**Faith-Based Organizations**
California Catholic Conference  
California Interfaith Power & Light  
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California  
St. Francis Center  

**Other**
California Academy of Science  
The Marine Mammal Center  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
Individual Scientists  

**Environmental Groups**
Algalita Marine Research and Education  
As You Sow  
Audubon California  
Azul  
Ban Single Use Plastics (SUP)  
Brent Allen Outside  

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California Coastal Protection Network
California Coastkeeper Alliance
California Compost Coalition
California League of Conservation Voters
California ReLEAF
California Resource Recovery Association
California State Parks Foundation
California Urban Streams Partnership
Californians Against Waste
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education
Cigarette Butt Pollution Project
Clean Water Action
Coastodian
Communications4Good
Communities for Sustainable Monterey County
Community Environmental Council
Conejo Valley Audubon Society
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Ecology Center
Environment California
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Environmental Working Group
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Los Angeles River
Full Circle Environmental, Inc.
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)
Greenpeace
Heal the Bay
Heirs to Our Oceans
Hillcrest Indivisible
Indivisible Alta-Pasadena
Indivisible CA: Statestrong
Indivisible California Green Team
Indivisible Eagle Rock
Indivisible Media City Burbank
Indivisible South Bay LA
Indivisible Statestrong
Indivisible Ventura
Inland Ocean Coalition
Leadership & Strategy for Sustainable Systems
League to Save Lake Tahoe
Long Beach Environmental Alliance
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Monterey Bay Aquarium
National Parks Conservation Association
National Stewardship Action Council
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
No Plastic Oceans
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northern California Recycling Association
Oceana
Ocean Analytics
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Conservation Society
Outdoor Outreach
Pacific Forest Trust
Pacoima Beautiful
Plastic Oceans International
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Resources Legacy Fund
Rooted in Resistance
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
San Diego 350
San Francisco Baykeeper
San Francisco Wildlife Rescue
Save Our Shores
Save The Bay
SeaLegacy
Sea Hugger
Seventh Generation Advisors
Shafir Environmental
Sierra Club California
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Sierra Leadership
Sonoma County Farm Trails
Surfrider Foundation
Sustainable Environmental Management Co.
Sustain LA
TDC Environmental, LLC
The 5 Gyres Institute
The Last Plastic Straw
The Nature Conservancy
The River Project
The Story of Stuff Project
The Watershed Project
TreePeople
Trust for Public Land
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Valley Improvement Projects
Wholly H2O
WILDCOAST
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
Women’s Voices for Earth
Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue of Oakland
Zero Waste Sonoma
Zero Waste USA
350 Bay Area Action
350 Riverside
350 South Bay Los Angeles
350 SoCal Climate Action
350 Sacramento
350 Silicon Valley

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