

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 10, 2019

TO: City Council

FROM: Stan Gryczko, Public Works Utilities & Operations Director
Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager
Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

SUBJECT: Support for the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, California Senate Bill 54 (Allen, Weiner, Skinner)

Recommendation

1. Approve the Resolution (Attachment 1) supporting the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, California Senate Bill 54; and
2. Authorize the submittal of the Letter of Support (Attachment 2) to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Fiscal Impact

The staff time associated with the preparation of this summary is within the Solid Waste Program budget. The bill would require the City, along with the City's franchise waste hauler, Recology, to provide further annual reporting to CalRecycle, which may necessitate additional resources for the City's Solid Waste Diversion Programs.

Council Goals

The goals associated with this Senate Bill are consistent with the Council goal of Pursuing Environmental Sustainability.

Background

Introduced late last year and passed by the State Senate in May of this year, the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act aims to reduce the amount of single-use plastic waste in California's waste stream. The State is looking to establish a policy goal for manufacturers and retailers in California to reduce waste generated from single-use packaging and products for sale by 75% by January 1, 2030. To accomplish this, CalRecycle (as the regulating body of the State's recycling and recovery programs), would be required to adopt regulations for the following:

- Require manufacturers and retailers to source reduce, to the maximum extent feasible, single-use packaging and priority single-use plastic products; and
- To ensure that all single-use packaging and priority single-use plastic products manufactured in California on or after January 1, 2030 are recyclable or compostable; and
- Require manufacturers and retailers annually report specified information to CalRecycle; and

- Require the development of criteria to determine if single-use packaging or priority single-use plastic products are reusable, recyclable or compostable.

This bill applies to all single-use packaging sold in California, and further requires that manufacturers of single-use plastic packaging or priority single-use plastic products would need to demonstrate:

- A recycling rate of 20% on and after Jan. 1, 2024; and
- Not less than 40% on and after Jan. 1, 2028; and
- Not less than 75% percent on and after Jan. 1, 2030.

This Senate Bill, along with Assembly Bill 1080, passed concurrently by the State Assembly, are the first of their kind in the United States. This legislation looks to require to the “source” producers of plastic waste, the manufacturers and retailers, to aid in the development of alternative materials for products, and to encourage a shift in the way Californians determine what products to purchase. Many other Cities and Agencies across California have signaled support for this regulation, including our local solid waste hauler Recology.

Attachments

1. Resolution
2. Letter of Support

RESOLUTION NO. 19-____, SERIES 2019

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 54, THE CALIFORNIA CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT (ALLEN, WEINER, SKINNER)

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 54, the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, was passed by the California State Senate in May of 2019; and

WHEREAS, this bill aims to reduce the amount of single-use plastic waste in California's waste stream by requiring manufacturers and retailers of plastic packaging and products to produce less plastic, and to use compostable or recyclable packaging instead; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the City Council Goal to Pursue Environmental Sustainability, the City desires to reduce waste, litter and pollution, and increase awareness in our community of the impact of these materials on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City has been at the forefront of the effort to reduce waste associated with plastic materials with the adoption of ordinances restricting the distribution of single-use plastic bags and requiring patrons to request a plastic straw from most restaurants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis does hereby approve the submission of a letter of support for Senate Bill 54 to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis this 10th day of September, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

Brett Lee
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk

City of Davis City Manager's Office
23 Russell Boulevard, Suite 1 – Davis, California 95616
530-757-5602 –TDD: 530-757-5666



September 10, 2019

Assembly Member Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, California 95814
Submit via Online portal: <https://antr.assembly.ca.gov>

Re: SB 54 (Allen, Weiner, Skinner) – The California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act –SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

The City of Davis strongly supports SB 54, which will reduce the amount of waste that burdens taxpayers and local governments, plagues human health, and pollutes our natural environment by decreasing single-use packaging and products sold in California and ensuring the remaining items are effectively composted and recycled.

Every day, single-use packaging and products generate tons of waste in California. Many of these products, which are designed to be used just once and then discarded, are made out of plastic. Though the state and communities in California have been focusing efforts on reducing the burden from single-use packaging since the 1980s, these items are consistently amongst the top littered items found at cleans ups. The City of Davis has been at the forefront of this effort and has adopted Ordinances banning the use of single use plastic bags and requiring patrons to request a plastic straw from most restaurants. Moreover, taxpayers and local governments 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 disposable items which continues to grow exponentially.

Existing recycling infrastructure can't keep pace either. Less than 9 percent of plastic is recycled, and that percentage has been dropping since the implementation of China's National Sword policy, which severely restricted the amount of foreign waste China accepts. The cost of recycling exceeds the scrap value of the plastic material so the markets for plastic packaging that were previously considered recyclable have been lost. These materials are now either piling up in recycling centers, being landfilled, or sent to illegal facilities in Southeast Asia where they are being incinerated. California must close the loop, and as part of a shift towards a more circular economy, the bills also develop incentives and policies to encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.

We can no longer afford to wait on this issue. Though producers of products cannot expect government to fix all the waste problems alone, as the world's fifth-largest economy, California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis. California also has a responsibility to help take some of the burden off of its cities and counties. Significantly reducing California's reliance on single-use packaging and products is critical in meeting the state's climate commitments and reaching its statutory goal of diverting 75 percent of waste from landfills by 2020.

For these reasons we support this important measure. If you have any questions, please contact me at mwebb@cityofdavis.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Webb

City Manager
City of Davis

CC: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Senator Ben Allen
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Scott Weiner
Senator Henry Stern