

Communication from Public

Name: Kathy Schaeffer
Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 01:02 PM
Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I support 21-0064 for the first important steps in reducing single-use plastic. Requiring City departments and City events to have zero waste is important to model and help everyone practice ways of creating less waste. There are no benefits to the use of polystyrene since many alternative products are available. It should be eliminated immediately. Additionally, single-use plastic bags are a huge source of pollution that cannot be recycled, and should not be allowed.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 02:03 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Single-use plastics need to be eliminated from use because they are detrimental both to human health and to the natural environment on which we depend. As a voter, I support a complete polystyrene ban. City departments should lead the way in demonstrating zero waste practices by requiring city events to have zero waste. To do this, single-use plastic bags should not be allowed.

Communication from Public

Name: Ann Dorsey

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 02:05 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Plastic pollution is the second greatest environmental threat to our collective well-being. Action must be taken and this legislation is a good first step. I urge the council to approve it. Thank you, Ann Dorsey Northridge, CA 91325

Communication from Public

Name: Frances Lee

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 02:06 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I approve of the following measures: City departments should lead the way in demonstrating zero waste practices. City events should be required to have zero waste practices. Single-use plastic bags should not be allowed. There should be a total ban on polystyrene from restaurants and street vendors.

Communication from Public

Name: Holly Brody

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 02:20 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles is drowning in waste. Everywhere you look trash is overfilling waste bins, littering streets, and making its way to our oceans harming land and marine mammals. I appreciate LA City's aggressive and straightforward approach to not only reducing waste but to preventing waste with zero waste facilities and events and only selling reusable water bottles and implementing hydration stations. This will also reduce the traffic, noise and pollution associated with hauling so much waste. Council file No. 21-0064 will truly make LA City a better place to live, work and visit so we can all sing "I Love LA" and mean it. Sincerely, Holly

Communication from Public

Name: Tara Strand

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 11:19 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Even as I've taken measures for years to reduce my own use of plastic, I'm faced with fistfuls of it on a daily basis to somehow find a way to deal with responsibly which, unfortunately is not always even an option. At the same time, every time I'm faced with another condiment container from a restaurant that I didn't ask for, or head of "organic" cauliflower at the grocery store that comes wrapped in plastic, I'm reminded me of how little we've done to properly address even this one aspect of the destructive, suicidal way we're running our world. That being said, legislation like this is a long-time dream come true and an encouraging symbol of our moving in the right direction. Please pass Zero Waste Bans and Single Use Bans!

Communication from Public

Name: Eric Newton

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 11:25 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council Members, Los Angeles is drowning in waste. I appreciate that you passed Skip the Stuff last year! It was a big step forward in reducing single use plastic waste! BUT we can & must do more! A great approach is adopting more guidelines on reducing SUP with zero waste facilities and events and only selling reusable water bottles and implementing hydration stations. In fact, CMs Cedillo & de Leon co sponsored an amazing zero waste event last Sunday in Highland Park: The Right to Shade. Not only was there great music and environmental justice orgs, but the recycLA hauler, UWS, provided Zero waste education and monitors at the zero waste stations. All events could be zero waste and serve as not only a waste reduction measure but education as well. Council file No. 21-0064 will truly make LA City a better place to live, work and visit! Sincerely,
Eric Newton

Communication from Public

Name: leslie klein

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 11:43 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: We need to start somewhere to reduce our plastic use and production. As a Family Practice Physician, i cannot state enough the importance of protecting ourselves and the environment, reduce plastic waste !

Communication from Public

Name: Kristen Egermeier

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 12:02 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I, a Silver Lake resident, fully support the phasing out of single-use plastics at all City facilities and City-sponsored events, including a ban on EPS (expanded polystyrene) in the City of Los Angeles. I would like this to be expanded across all aspects of our city, reducing all single use items, in public and private institutions.

Communication from Public

Name: Tatiana Becker

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 09:12 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: We have one planet and billions of pieces of waste. Let's ban single use plastics and work towards reducing our waste, to save our planet for future generations.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 09:46 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council Members, We must reduce waste in our beautiful city LA. I appreciate LA City's aggressive and straightforward approach to reducing waste and preventing waste with zero waste facilities and events and only selling reusable water bottles and implementing hydration stations. This will also reduce the traffic, noise and pollution associated with hauling so much waste. Council file No. 21-0064 will truly make LA City a better place to live, work and visit. Please support this important step to keep LA clean.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Craven

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 09:47 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: This literally couldn't be more important. Plastic pollution is killing us!!

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer Peterson

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 09:58 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council Members, Los Angeles is drowning in trash! Everywhere you look, waste is overflowing garbage bins, littering our streets, and making its way to our oceans where it harms marine animals and humans. I appreciate LA City's aggressive and straightforward approach to not only reducing waste, but to preventing waste with zero-waste facilities and events, only selling reuseable water bottles, and implementing hydration stations. This will also reduce the traffic, noise, and pollution associated with hauling so much waste. Countil File No. 21-0064 will truly make LA City a better place to live, work, and visit, so we can all sing "I Love LA!" and mean it. Sincerely,
Jennifer L. Peterson, Los Angeles voter.

Communication from Public

Name: Dave Rock

Date Submitted: 04/25/2022 11:23 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: In support of the reduction of single-use plastics and the creation of zero waste facilities.

Communication from Public

Name: ianthe zevos

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 03:09 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: i'm writing to strongly support Council File 21-0064. it's a CRUCIAL step in reducing our city's environmental and carbon footprints, reducing our waste stream and the amount of plastic and EPS material being dumped in our ocean. other cities have banned EPS and its time Los Angeles does as well.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Coffee

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 10:41 AM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: LA City Council Members, Comprehensive action to address plastic waste issues in California's largest city is urgent. The proliferation of single-use plastics and plastic waste generally has for decades contributed to litter and environmental pollution problems to an outsized degree, creating a public nuisance and endangering wildlife. Our dependence on and overuse of plastic have also contributed to rampant solid waste management issues, issues that it is increasingly clear cannot be addressed solely through recycling and other measures that do not entail source reduction. Overconsumption of plastics is also inextricably tied to climate change. They are a derivative of fossil fuels, and as such are inextricably linked to the climatological and other harms created by their extraction and refining. Moreover, at the end of its life, plastic creates greenhouse gases while breaking down from exposure to solar radiation or from intentional incineration as a disposal strategy. Action to curb plastic consumption and waste is thus a key element of comprehensive efforts to address climate change, in keeping with the City of Los Angeles' stated climate goals. Council action is all the more timely thanks to the exacerbating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on plastic waste issues and novel research indicating just how dire the crisis is. Regarding the former, the pandemic created an influx of plastic waste, both through a massive increase in the generation of plastic medical waste (much of which cannot be recycled and which easily breaks down into tiny particles called microplastics) and by shifting consumer behavior towards takeout food and delivery services. On the latter point, researchers have in recent years found plastic contamination is ubiquitous on a global scale, with plastic particles being found from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the highest mountains to the lowest depths of ocean, and even in the atmosphere. The prevalence of plastic waste poses a significant concern for human health, as we are now breathing and ingesting plastic on a daily basis with little knowledge of what long-term health harms this may create. In just the last month, groundbreaking studies identified plastic particles in the bloodstreams and the lower lungs of living people for the first time. The situation is dire, and Los Angeles must be part of the solution. Linked for the Council's consideration (due to file size limits) are several documents the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation has produced in the last few years detailing the depth of the plastic crisis in L.A., the effects of the pandemic on plastic waste, and how plastic impacts our environment, our economy, and our health from its production stage to the end of its life. I strongly urge the Council to approve Council File No. 21-0064. Resources:
https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Plastic_Waste_in_LA_County.pdf
<https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Revisiting-Plastic-Waste-in-L.A.-County-Oct-2021.pdf>
<https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/The-Perils-of-Plastics.pdf> Sincerely, Daniel Coffee UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

Communication from Public

Name: James Toner

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 03:54 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached comments from the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) regarding Council File Number 21-0064.



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Alexandria, VA 22314
Ph: 703-647-4616
Fax 703-683-4074
Web: www.bottledwater.org

Los Angeles City Council

Public Comment on Recommendations of the Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Rivers Committee Relative to Reduction of Single-Use Plastics April 27, 2022

Testimony

James P. Toner, Jr.
Director of Government Relations
International Bottled Water Association

President Martinez and members of the Los Angeles City Council, the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to specific recommendations made by the Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Rivers Committee on the Reduction of Single-Use Plastics. IBWA opposes the recommendations, which would prohibit the sale, use, and provision of water packaged in plastic bottles on city property and at city events.

IBWA is the trade association representing all segments of the bottled water industry, including spring, artesian, mineral, sparkling, well, groundwater, and purified bottled waters. IBWA members include bottlers, distributors, and suppliers throughout the United States, including several small, medium, and large size companies doing business in California.

The Report Recommendations Are Not in the Public Interest

IBWA opposes the recommendation made by the Committee that would implement a Zero Waste City Facilities and Events on City Property policy that would include the elimination of bottled water in plastic containers. This recommendation is not in the public interest, and IBWA would urge the Council not to support any such proposal. IBWA opposes this recommendation because:

- efforts to restrict access to bottled water hinder individuals searching for a healthier beverage alternative.
- bottled water has the lowest environmental footprint of any packaged beverage.
- being strictly regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a food product makes bottled water a safe choice for consumers.
- the recommendations put citizens at extreme high risk should there be a failure of a public water system.

- the bottled water industry has a strong presence and commitment to California and Los Angeles.

We believe it is important for the Committee and the Los Angeles City Council to know the facts about plastic bottled water containers.

- PET bottled water containers have the lowest environmental footprint of any packaged beverage.
- PET bottled water containers weigh less, emit fewer greenhouse gases, and use less fossil fuels and less water to make than any other packaged beverage container.
- All single-use PET plastic bottled water containers are 100 percent recyclable.
- PET plastic bottled water containers are the most frequently recycled PET beverage container in curbside recycling programs.
- Bottled water containers make up only 3.3 percent of all drink packaging in landfills.
- PET plastic bottles are favored by bottled water drinkers, with 79 percent saying so in a recent survey by The Harris Poll.
- When bottled water is not available, 74 percent of people said they would choose another packaged beverage, not drink from a fountain or tap water.

Bottled Water Has the Smallest Environmental Footprint of All Beverages

Attempts to eliminate the use of plastic bottled water would remove the most environmentally friendly packaging option for beverages. A recent report from the American Chemistry Council (ACC), conducted by Franklin Associates, examined the overall impact of plastics on the environment, compared to other materials. The study looked at energy demand, water consumption, solid waste, global warming potential, eutrophication (nutrient runoff from the land into a body of water impacting oxygen levels) potential, smog formation potential, and ozone depletion potential.

The ACC report concluded that, when comparing materials throughout the entire life cycle of a package, plastics leave a much smaller environmental footprint than alternatives, such as glass, aluminum cans, and paperboard cartons.¹ Perhaps the most significant finding from the ACC report is that alternatives to plastic beverage containers would produce about 60 percent more greenhouse gas emissions – a major contributor to climate change.

The ACC study data is consistent with the Life Cycle Assessment prepared for IBWA by Trayak LLC, a product sustainability consulting and software solutions company that enables companies to design and manufacture their entire portfolio of products using sustainable strategies.

In this assessment, Trayak measured several variables to determine the overall impact of specific packaging types, including PET water bottles, PET soda bottles, glass bottles, aluminum canned water, and beverage cartons. The variables measured include fossil fuel use, human impact, water use, mineral resource use, greenhouse gas emissions, and freshwater eco-toxicity and

¹ Life Cycle Impacts of Plastic Packaging Compared to Substitutes in the United States and Canada. April 2018. Available at: <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Reports-and-Publications/LCA-of-Plastic-Packaging-Compared-to-Substitutes.pdf>

eutrophication. The research strongly shows that PET water bottles have lower environmental impacts than the other containers, across each of the considered variables.²

Much of this benefit is derived from the low material usage compared to the other container types, with the average PET water bottle considered using less than half of the material weight of the other container types. Lower material usage means less impact from material extraction and manufacturing, and ultimately results in less material entering landfills or needing to be recycled.

Bottled water has the smallest environmental footprint of all packaged beverages. All bottled water containers are 100 percent recyclable – even the caps. As an industry, we support strong community recycling initiatives and recognize that a continued focus on increased recycling is important for residents and the environment. In addition, PET bottled water containers are the most recognized and most recycled containers in curbside programs, making up nearly 55 percent of all PET plastic beverage containers collected.³

The industry is always looking for ways to strengthen existing recycling programs and help expand recycling efforts ever further. However, even when they are not properly recycled, individual serving size PET plastic bottled water containers make up only 3.3 percent of all drink packaging in U.S. landfills. Soda PET plastic containers make up 13.3 percent, and aluminum cans make up 7.9 percent.

Bottled water also has the lowest water and energy-use ratios of all packaged beverages. On average, it takes only 1.39 liters of water to produce 1 liter of finished bottled water (including the 1 liter of water consumed), which is the lowest water-use ratio of any packaged beverage product. And, on average, only 0.21 mega joules of energy are used to produce 1 liter of bottle of water.⁴

The amount of water used for bottling water in the United States is very small — less than 0.01 percent of the total groundwater withdrawn each year. While that figure may vary slightly by location, the amount of water used for bottled water is only a small fraction of overall water use in any state. To put it in context, the entire U.S. bottled water market was about 15 billion gallons in 2020. In contrast, the city of Los Angeles goes through that amount of tap water in 10 weeks.

In addition, most of the bottled water that comes from a state's water sources is sold in that state. In fact, the vast majority of bottled water companies in the United States use local water sources and distribute their products to nearby towns and states. Bottled water is 100 percent intended for human consumption. However, less than one-half of 1 percent of tap water is drunk by humans.

² Life Cycle Assessment for the IBWA. 2021. Available at:

<https://votervoice.s3.amazonaws.com/groups/ibwa/attachments/IBWA%20Trayak%20Report%2032321.pdf>

³ National Association for PET Container Resources' 2018 Postconsumer PET Bottle Bale Composition Analysis.

⁴ Water and Energy Use Benchmarking Study. Antea Group, prepared for the International Bottled Water Association. November 14, 2018. Available at: https://bottledwater.org/wp-content/uploads/attachments/IBWA_ExecSummary_14Nov2018_0.pdf

While bottled water is just one of thousands of consumer items packaged in plastic, the bottled water industry has gone to great lengths to reduce the environmental impact of its packaging, including developing new technologies in product packaging, such as the use of recycled content, light-weighting, reduction of plastic used in caps and shrink-wrapping, and reduction of paper used in labels and shipping cardboard.

Recycled Content Usage and Light-weighting

IBWA member companies are increasing their use of recycled PET (rPET), and many bottled water companies already use bottles made from 50, 75, and, in some cases, 100 percent rPET. Furthermore, the bottled water industry is continually developing additional ways to reduce its environmental footprint from production to distribution to consumption. Those efforts include development of “green” bottling facilities, as well as utilization of more fuel-efficient means of producing and transporting product to market.

Bottled water companies have also reduced the environmental footprint of their plastic containers by continually light-weighting PET bottled water plastic packaging, which has resulted in the average weight drop to 9.25 grams per 16.9 ounce single-use container. That is over 50 percent less PET than the amount it takes to make soda and other drink containers, which need to be thicker due to carbonation and manufacturing processes and weigh, on average, 23.9 grams. Between 2000 and 2014, the average weight of a 16.9 ounce single-use PET bottled water container was reduced by 51 percent, according to the Beverage Marketing Corporation, the leading research company for the beverage industry. This saved 6.2 billion pounds of PET resin during that time period.

Water Is the Healthiest Beverage Choice

For those who want to eliminate or moderate calories, sugar, caffeine, artificial flavors or colors, and other ingredients from their diet or simply wish to opt for a convenient beverage with refreshing taste, reliable quality, and zero calories – choosing water is the right choice no matter the delivery method. Bottled water is a smart decision and a healthy choice when it comes to packaged beverage options. Efforts to eliminate or reduce access to water, via any delivery method, only hinder attempts to encourage people to choose healthier drink options and is not in the public interest.

For over a decade, the majority of the growth in bottled water consumption relative to other beverages has come from people switching to bottled water from other less-healthy packaged drinks (44 percent between 2010 and 2020). One of the simplest changes a person striving to live healthier can make is to switch to drinking water instead of other beverages that are loaded with sugar and calories. According to the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) and the American Journal of Preventative Medicine, two-thirds of American adults are overweight with one-third of those individuals being obese, and over the last 30 years, children’s obesity rates have climbed from 5 percent to 17 percent. Drinking zero-calorie beverages, such as water, instead of sugary drinks is regularly cited as a key component of a more healthful lifestyle, and promoting greater consumption of water from all sources, including from bottled water, can only benefit those efforts.

In today's on-the-go society, most of what we drink comes in a package. Restrictions on bottled water only help to promote less healthy options among other packaged beverages, like juices and soda that have *more plastic packaging, more ingredients (many artificial), and greater environmental impacts* than bottled water. Research shows that if bottled water isn't available, 74 percent of people will choose another packaged drink – not water from a drinking fountain, filtered tap water, or tap water⁵.

In 2020, only 5 percent of the bottled water market was manufactured and sold in glass, cans, or other packaging material⁶. Plastic, of all sizes and types, has been the main delivery container for bottled water for good reasons. It is flexible, lightweight, easy to transport, and is hygienic and shatterproof. Research shows that plastic is the preferred packaging material of not only industry but also consumers. PET packaging uses less water and energy to produce than other packaging types (e.g., aluminum, glass, paperboard containers, and PET soda bottles). Removing a consumer's access to even just one size or type of plastic container greatly increases the likelihood of them choosing a less healthy option with more adverse environmental impacts.

Bottled Water Is Always There When You Need It

The bottled water industry has always been at the forefront of relief efforts during natural disasters and other catastrophic events. Clean, safe water is a critical need for citizens and first responders immediately following a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Unfortunately, the availability of water from public water systems is often compromised in the aftermath of such an event (e.g., hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and boil alerts). During these times, bottled water is the best option to deliver clean safe drinking water quickly into affected areas.

Removing all access to bottled water during times of need could result in an extremely dangerous situation for citizens in need and have a drastic effect on the state's ability to respond in a timely and efficient manner. The bottled water industry would not be able to provide safe, clean drinking water to Los Angeles citizens when their public water systems are compromised without a viable commercial market. This provides the industry with the capital and resources to respond quickly when needed. The bottled industry cannot, and should not, exist only for disaster responses – something some critics of the bottled water industry desire. We urge committee members to remember that the bottled water industry is called upon every year to provide drinking water during critical times throughout the city and the state.

Bottled Water Is an Economic Force in Los Angeles

Companies in Los Angeles that manufacture, distribute, and sell bottled water employ as many as 1,972 people in the city and generate an additional 5,550 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. These include jobs in companies supplying goods and services to manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, as well as those that depend on sales to workers in the bottled water

⁵ Harris Poll, conducted on behalf of the International Bottled Water Association. January 2020. Available at <https://bottledwater.org/nr/consumers-want-bottled-water-to-be-available-wherever-drinks-are-sold-and-if-its-not-most-will-choose-another-packaged-beverage-that-uses-much-more-plastic/>

⁶ Beverage Marketing Corporation

industry. Not only does the manufacture and sale of bottled water create good jobs in Los Angeles, but the industry also contributes to the economy as a whole. In fact, the bottled water industry is responsible for as much as \$1.85 billion in total economic activity in the city.

On top of these everyday economic numbers, California receives a large sum of dollars from the existing bottle deposit program. That money goes beyond what the state takes from unclaimed deposits and impacts money generated and received by businesses through the handling fee and the non-refundable container fee. With a substantial amount of that money being produced by the purchase and return on single-use plastic beverage containers, the state and businesses tied to the deposit program can expect a significant reduction in monies delivered.

Additional Considerations

Some additional questions to consider when debating the possibility of removing plastic bottled water as a beverage option in Los Angeles:

- What will be the cost to install and maintain water fountains and bottle refilling stations throughout the city and in city facilities in an attempt to replace access to bottled water?
- How will residents and visitors have access to water should they forget to bring a reusable container?
- With these water fountains and refilling stations basically being shut down over approximately the last two years due to COVID-19, is it feasible or safe to make residents and visitors reliant upon these high-touch surfaces during times of emergency?
- Is the consideration of consumer preference being addressed? Results from a Harris Poll found the following: among bottled water drinkers who have a packaging preference (86 percent), nearly 8 out of 10 (79 percent) prefer it packaged in plastic bottles. Fifteen percent said glass, 4 percent said metal cans, and 2 percent said paper cartons or box.⁷

IBWA and several of our members are actively involved with important organizations focused on recycling and waste reduction across the country. Membership in and support of groups like Keep America Beautiful, The Recycling Partnership, and local community groups addressing concerns over litter, waste, and recycling are vital to ensure that consumers are aware of and given every opportunity to dispose of everyday waste. This not only included financial support but also input on program development, education, and in-kind sponsorships. IBWA and all our members are continually seeking additional ways to assist these groups and looking for new organizations in this arena for future involvement.

IBWA hopes that this information has provided you with better insight into the bottled water industry and the importance of bottled water for the people of Los Angeles. We appreciate this opportunity to offer these comments and are available at any time to discuss information on the industry and the essential products we provide.

⁷ Jan. 2020 IBWA Harris Poll

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 04:29 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I support Council File 21-0064.

Communication from Public

Name: Sherrell

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 04:55 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support Council file 21-0064. Los Angeles must be a leader in eliminating single use plastics. City events should be zero waste to set an example and lead the way. Polystyrene and single use plastic utensils should be abolished citywide, and single use plastic bags of all kinds should be abolished. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Gundzik

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 05:15 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the measure to ban single-use plastics and polystyrene. City departments should lead the way in demonstrating zero waste practices, and City events should be required to have zero waste practices. We are creating trash at a record pace that will exist long after we are all gone. It is finding its way into our food supply and there is not enough space to dispose of it.

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Brown

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 06:50 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, It is impressive that the City of Los Angeles is leading, not only the state, but the nation and the world in taking plastics out of the waste stream. As a global advocate to improve ecosystems on Planet Earth, I hold up Los Angeles City as a bright example to the world on how to respond to the climate crisis, reduce our landfill burden, and the lessening the reliance on fossil fuels for in the food service industry. Thank you for leading us \n the right direction and voting for this important policy. My regards, Stephanie Brown Member California Indivisible State Strong 408-693-1273

Communication from Public

Name: Marilyn Fuss

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 07:00 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: To the City Council, this is my affirmation of support for the measure to reduce and ultimately eliminate single-use plastics in the City of Los Angeles. Plastics are virtually swallowing the earth! They have contributed to the decimation of the population of countless species of sea life, and harmed much of life on land. There's a huge number of us, also, who are frustrated by wasting water and time trying to clean plastics for recycling, when plastic recycling has not succeeded significantly during these past 52 years since the first Earth Day. Sincerely, Marilyn Fuss, District 13

Communication from Public

Name: Rhonda Plank-Richard

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 07:35 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I support this council file because we are drowning in single-use plastics which should urgently be eliminated for both our climate stability and our health. I applaud the vision and wisdom of all who have crafted these measures. It gives me some hope in these terrifying times of escalating climate catastrophe to see city leadership of this caliber. It's so utterly clear: Single-use plastic bags should not be allowed and polystyrene should be completely banned now that we know the terrible damage these materials are causing. There are so many convenient and viable alternatives! The remains of these "convenient" products are now found everywhere, including inside our bodies. We can't phase out fossil fuel use for transportation and buildings, but then shift it to more and more plastics production if we hope to sustain a livable future for our children. To move our culture in this direction and bolster a circular and sustainable economy, city departments must lead the way in demonstrating zero waste practices by requiring city events to have zero waste practices. There is literally no time to waste in implementing these crucial policies.

Communication from Public

Name: Pilar

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 08:39 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council Members, Los Angeles is drowning in waste. The decision to reduce our plastic footprint is long overdue. Everywhere you look trash is overfilling waste bins, littering streets, and making its way to our oceans harming land and marine mammals. I appreciate LA City's aggressive and straightforward approach to not only reducing waste but to preventing waste with zero waste facilities and events and only selling reusable water bottles and implementing hydration stations. This will also reduce the traffic, noise and pollution associated with hauling so much waste. Council file No. 21-0064 will truly make LA City a better place to live, work and visit so we can all sing "I Love LA" and mean it. Sincerely, Pilar Reynaldo

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 09:20 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I support 21-0064 and believe that single use plastics should be banned along with all polystyrene products. I believe that it is past time to work in the direction of creating less waste and our city can lead in a positive direction.

Communication from Public

Name: Noel J McCarthy

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 09:32 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Do your duty to the planet. Prove to us that the Plastic Council isn't more powerful than the people. Do the right thing.

Communication from Public

Name: Reusable LA
Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 10:03 PM
Council File No: 21-0064
Comments for Public Posting: Please see support letter attached.

April 25, 2022

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: April 27, 2022 Los Angeles City Council Meeting Agenda Item #7 - SUPPORT

Submitted electronically via <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/?cfnumber=21-0064>

Dear Honorable President Martinez and Council Members:

Reusable LA, a coalition of over 30 local organizations working to fight plastic pollution in Los Angeles, commends the collaborative leadership between the Los Angeles City Council and LA Sanitation on plastic pollution reduction measures and their dedication to solving the City's waste problems. The recommended policies outlined in the March 2022 Report on Various Motions on the Reduction of Single-Use Plastics and Zero Waste Events and Facilities (CF 21-0064) are far-reaching and comprehensive in scope. **We would like to express our strong support for these policies and the recommendations for Council Action from the Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River (ECCEJR) Committee, particularly those focused on source reduction and reusable alternatives, as they will result in multifold benefits to both our environment and economy.**

It's crucial that we phase out single-use plastics at the source as soon as possible. Throughout the entire lifecycle of plastics, human health is jeopardized. Extraction and refining for the fossil fuels necessary to make plastics contributes to air pollution and climate change, and disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities. Once in consumer hands, plastics leach harmful toxins into our food and bodies that are known endocrine disruptors, can cause birth defects, and are even carcinogenic. At the end of life, plastic is rarely recycled and continues to pollute either at incineration facilities, in landfills, or in the natural environment. We must listen to science and phase-out single use plastics all together.

Reusable foodware and reuse systems continue to be the safest and most responsible choice for our communities and environment. After ten long years of effort, we are thrilled to see the City making significant progress towards reducing plastic pollution and safeguarding our community. **Reusable LA strongly encourages the Council to vote in support of all fourteen ECCEJR Committee recommendations for Council action, including the immediate implementation of the following measures:**

1. Ordinance development for a City-wide expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban with required CEQA analysis;
2. Ordinance development and workshops supporting an Ordinance for Zero Waste Facilities and Events on City Property;
3. Expansion of the Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance with required CEQA analysis

In addition to the presented recommendations from the ECCEJR Committee, we also strongly encourage the Council and staff to consider adding additional actions based on the recent passage by the LA County Board of Supervisors of an ordinance that would ban expanded polystyrene foodware, require reusables for dine-in at full service restaurants, and require all single-use foodware to be either recyclable or compostable. We recognize that some of these provisions are already being explored by the City, however, **we strongly recommend that the City Council add to these recommendations an additional ordinance that would, at minimum, require reusables for dine in at food facilities.**

Switching to reusable options is widely considered the most effective method to reducing plastic pollution and was cited in the UCLA Luskin Center report¹ as the best solution to the problem of plastic pollution and waste associated with single-use disposables in Los Angeles. Requiring reusable foodware for on-site dining is one of the best tools available to benefit our environment and communities by reducing pollution, while also benefiting businesses by providing cost savings. Case studies at hundreds of restaurants and food facilities across the state have shown that switching to reusables is overwhelmingly successful in achieving net cost savings upwards of \$20,000 annually, waste reduction, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.² Similar policies to this Ordinance have already been passed in over 150 jurisdictions across the state and, with proper outreach and support, small businesses have easily come into compliance. Many restaurants in Los Angeles are already putting these requirements into practice and, when doing so, experience cost savings and customer satisfaction. With increasing prices for disposable plastic products looming and affordable alternatives readily available, it makes sense to align with the County of Los Angeles and move forward immediately with a reuse for dine in ordinance.

Reusable LA has been an active stakeholder in the processes of both the City and County of Los Angeles to enact strong and effective legislation to protect our communities against toxic pollution associated with single-use plastics. **We strongly support the ECCEJR Committee's recommended actions to the City Council and urge the Council to vote yes today in support of these recommendations.** Thank you for your leadership on this incredibly important issue and please know that Reusable LA emphatically supports the Council's work to reduce plastic pollution and act as leader in California. We look forward to continued work with the council and staff to implement these actions.

Sincerely,
The Reusable LA Coalition

¹ Coffee et al. [Plastic Waste in Los Angeles County: Impacts, Recyclability, and the Potential for Alternatives in the Food Service Sector](#). UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, 2020.

² <http://www.rethinkdisposable.org/businesses> See also, [Reuse Wins](#), Upstream Solutions.

Communication from Public

Name: Terry Saucier

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 10:15 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: I am a member of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance; I'm commenting on behalf of myself in full support of Council File 21-0064. LA City departments should lead the way in demonstrating zero waste practices. This includes banning EPS (expanded polystyrene) in the City of Los Angeles and phasing out single-use plastics at all City facilities and events.

Communication from Public

Name: Polly Estabrook

Date Submitted: 04/26/2022 11:06 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council Members, I am writing to urge you to pass CF 21-0064. Los Angeles' is drowning in plastic. The majority of plastic is NOT recyclable. We need to ban single use plastic and reduce plastic use to those cases where it is absolutely necessary. Please mandate that reusables are used, ban EPS and create Zero Waste Facilities and Events. Thank you, Polly Estabrook