

1 [Urging the State of California to Require a Minimum of 25% Post-Consumer Recycled
2 Content in Plastic Beverage Containers]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to require all single-use plastic**
4 **beverage containers sold in the state to have a minimum of 25% post-consumer**
5 **recycled content.**

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7 WHEREAS, California's landmark climate law, California State Assembly Bill 32
8 (AB 32) (Nunez-Pavley, 2006) requires a reduction in statewide greenhouse gas pollution to
9 1990 levels by 2020; and

10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has adopted citywide goals of 75
11 percent landfill diversion by 2010 and zero waste by 2020; and

12 WHEREAS, In order to be consistent with state goals of greenhouse gas reduction (AB
13 32) and source reduction and recycling (California State Assembly Bill 341), the city must
14 create a closed loop recycling system, support in-state recycling and manufacturing to
15 increase the amount of products sold in California containing recycled content; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the last 30 years, largely in part due to California's Beverage
17 Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act ("Bottle Bill"), Californians have increasingly
18 recycled their beverage containers, and the state's recycling rate now hovers about 85%, and
19 according to CalRecycle, since 1987 when the program began, more than 300 billion
20 aluminum, glass, and plastic beverage containers have been recycled; and

21 WHEREAS, Most Californians are unaware that while our *collection* for recycling rates
22 are high, much of the materials are in fact exported overseas for recycling, for example 50%
23 of PET beverage containers collected for recycling are still exported out of state or out of the
24 country to China, Vietnam, and elsewhere, and because all collection in California is
25 subsidized by California consumers, the respective subsidy also goes out of the country; and

1 WHEREAS, Post-consumer PET is a resource California should not be shipping to
2 Asia in exchange for importing their cheap virgin resin, because it increases pollution; and

3 WHEREAS, California consumers should reasonably expect that the beverage and
4 food containers they buy are made out of recycled content given our high recycling collection
5 rates; and

6 WHEREAS, If more used plastic beverage containers are recycled into new containers
7 in a closed-loop system, instead of ending up in domestic landfills or being exported with
8 unknown outcomes, this would lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions,
9 energy use and pollution associated with the mining and processing of virgin materials; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a 71% reduction in GHG emissions from the use of recycled PET
11 compared to virgin resin, and 67% reduction for using recycled HDPE compared to virgin
12 resin; and

13 WHEREAS, By collecting, processing and manufacturing materials collected in
14 California into new products we can support a sustainable and prosperous California
15 economy; and

16 RESOLVED, That the city of San Francisco urges the California legislature to require
17 all single-use plastic beverage containers sold in the state to have a minimum of 25% post-
18 consumer recycled content.

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