

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill 888 (Bloom) - Prohibiting Selling of Plastic
Microbeads]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 888, authored by Assembly**
4 **Member Bloom, which prohibits, on and after January 1, 2020, the selling or offering for**
5 **promotional purposes a personal care product containing plastic microbeads that are**
6 **used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product.**

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8 WHEREAS, Plastics do not biodegrade as they are not able to be broken down by
9 microorganisms into organic matter; and

10 WHEREAS, Upon exposure to the elements, plastic photodegrades into smaller pieces
11 of plastic causing land and water pollution, which are then also ingested by filter feeders and
12 other marine animals; and

13 WHEREAS, These small pieces of plastic absorb persistent toxic organic chemicals
14 over time and can become highly concentrated with poisons that threaten wildlife and
15 humans; and

16 WHEREAS, These toxic chemicals include dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT),
17 dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), and flame
18 retardants, many of which are known to have detrimental effects on human health and the
19 environment; and

20 WHEREAS, Microplastics that are five millimeters or less in diameter become
21 bioavailable as soon as they enter the marine environment and are ingested by marine
22 organisms; and

23 WHEREAS, Upon ingestion, these toxics bioaccumulate in fish, which can then be
24 ingested by humans; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition
2 65) prohibits any person, in the course of doing business, from knowingly and intentionally
3 exposing any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive
4 toxicity without giving a specified warning, or from discharging or releasing such a chemical
5 into any source of drinking water; and

6 WHEREAS, Consumer personal care products such as facial scrubs, soaps, and
7 toothpaste commonly carry thousands of microplastics in the form of plastic microbeads that
8 are flushed down drains or make their way into the environment by other means; and

9 WHEREAS, Plastic microbeads are not removed by wastewater treatment plants as
10 they are not designed to remove such minute particles and are then released into the
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Plastic microbeads have been found in surface waters within the United
13 States, as well as in fish, marine mammals, reptiles, mussels, and worms; and

14 WHEREAS, There are economically feasible alternatives to the use of plastic
15 microbeads in personal care products, such as shells, beans, beeswax, seeds, and sand; and

16 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 888, authored by State Assembly Member Richard Bloom,
17 would, beginning January 1, 2020, prohibit any person from selling or offering for promotional
18 purposes in this state a personal care product containing plastic microbeads that are used to
19 exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product; and

20 WHEREAS, AB 888 will exempt from those prohibitions the sale or promotional offer of
21 a product containing less than 1 part per million (ppm) by weight of plastic microbeads; and

22 WHEREAS, AB 888 will add Chapter 5.9 to Part 3 Division 30 of the Public Resources
23 Code; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports Assembly
2 Bill 888 prohibiting the sale of plastic microbeads which create persistent toxic pollution in our
3 marine environments and throughout the food chain; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its
5 support and protection for our oceans, marine animals, and waterways, and strongly
6 condemns the continued use of plastic microbeads when there are feasible alternatives to
7 these products.

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