File No. 150593

Committee Item No.____ Board Item No._____4

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee:_____ Board of Supervisors Meeting Date_____ Date_June 9, 2015

Cmte Board

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Application Public Correspondence
(Use back side if additional space is needed)
California Assembly Bill 888

Completed by:_	John Carroll	Date_	June 4, 2015	
Completed by:_		Date_		

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FILE NO. 150593

RESOLUTION NO.

Microbeads1 Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 888, authored by Assembly Member Bloom, which prohibits, on and after January 1, 2020, the selling or offering for promotional purposes a personal care product containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product. WHEREAS, Plastics do not biodegrade as they are not able to be broken down by microorganisms into organic matter; and WHEREAS, Upon exposure to the elements, plastic photodegrades into smaller pieces of plastic causing land and water pollution, which are then also ingested by filter feeders and other marine animals; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE-2015-16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 888

Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom

February 26, 2015

An act to add Chapter 5.9 (commencing with Section 42360) to Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code, relating to waste management.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 888, as amended, Bloom. Waste management: plastic microbeads. The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) prohibits any person, in the course of doing business, from knowingly and intentionally exposing any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without giving a specified warning, or from discharging or releasing such a chemical into any source of drinking water, except as specified. Existing law prohibits the sale of expanded polystyrene packaging material by a wholesaler or manufacturer. Existing law prohibits a person from selling a plastic product in this state that is labeled with the term "compostable," "home compostable," or "marine degradable" unless, at the time of sale, the plastic product meets the applicable ASTM International standard specification.

This bill would prohibit, on and after January 1, 2020, a person, as defined, from selling or offering for promotional purposes in this state a personal care product containing—intentionally added plastic microbeads *that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product*,

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as specified. The bill would exempt from those prohibitions the sale or promotional offer of a product containing less than 1 part per million (ppm) by weight of plastic microbeads, as provided.

The bill would make a violator liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation. The bill would authorize the penalty to be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in any court of competent jurisdiction by the Attorney General or local officials. The bill would require the civil penalties collected in an action brought pursuant to the act to be retained by the office that brought the action.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5.9 (commencing with Section 42360) 2 is added to Part 3 of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code, to 3 read:

Chapter 5.9. Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law

42360. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
(a) Plastic does not biodegrade into elements or compounds
commonly found in nature like other organic materials, but, instead,
upon exposure to the elements photodegrades into smaller pieces
of plastic causing land and water pollution that is virtually
impossible to remediate.

(b) Plastic pollution is the dominant type of anthropogenic debrisfound throughout the marine environment.

16 (c) Plastic pollution is an environmental and human health 17 hazard and a public nuisance.

(d) Microplastics that are five millimeters or less in diameter
become bioavailable as soon as they enter the marine environment
and are ingested by marine organisms.

(e) Microplastics are persistent organic compounds that attract
other pollutants commonly present in the environment, many of
which are recognized to have serious deleterious impacts on human
health or the environment, including DDT, DDE, PCBs, and flame
retardants.

(f) PAHs, PCBs, and PBDEs from plastic transfer to fish tissue 1 2 when ingested and bioaccumulate.

3 (g) Fish that humans consume have been found to ingest 4 microplastics, which are then ingested by the humans who consume 5 these fish.

6 (h) Consumer personal care products such as facial scrubs, 7 soaps, and toothpaste increasingly contain thousands of 8 microplastics in the form of plastic microbeads that are flushed 9 down drains or make their way into the environment by other 10 means as part of their intended use.

11 (i) Plastic microbeads in personal care products are generally 12 not recoverable through ordinary wastewater treatment and can 13 be released into the environment.

14 (i) Plastic microbeads have been found in surface waters within 15 the United States, as well as in fish, marine mammals, reptiles, 16 mussels, and worms.

17 (k) There are economically feasible alternatives to plastic 18 microbeads used in personal care products, as evidenced by the 19 current use of biodegradable, natural, abrasive materials in personal 20 care products such as beeswax, shells, nuts, seeds, and sand.

21 42361. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the 22 following meanings:

23 (a) "Natural Exfoliant" exfoliant" means a substance occurring 24 in and generated by the natural environment and includes, but is 25 not limited to, the following substances: walnut shells, apricot 26 hulls, sand, clay, or beeswax. 27

(b) "Person" means an individual, business, or other entity.

28 (c) (1) "Personal care product" means an article intended to 29 be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced to, or 30 otherwise applied to, the human body or any part thereof for 31 cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the 32 appearance, and an article intended for use as a component of that 33 type of article.

(2) "Personal care product" does not include a prescription 34 35 drug, as defined in Section 110010.2 of the Health and Safety 36 Code.

37 (d) "Plastic microbead" means an intentionally added solid 38 plastic particle measuring five millimeters or less in every 39 dimension.

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1 42362. On and after January 1, 2020, a person shall not sell or 2 offer for promotional purposes in this state any personal care 3 products containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate 4 or cleanse in a rinse-off product, including, but not limited to, 5 toothpaste.

6 42363. Section 42362 shall not apply to either of the following: 7 (a) A person that sells or offers for promotional purposes a 8 personal care product containing plastic microbeads in less than 9 1 part per million (ppm) by weight.

10 (b) A product containing natural exfoliants that does not contain 11 plastic microbeads.

12 42364. (a) A person who violates or threatens to violate Section 13 42362 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction.

14 (b) (1) A person who has violated Section 42362 is liable for 15 a civil penalty not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars 16 (\$2,500) per day for each violation in addition to any other penalty 17 established by law. That civil penalty may be assessed and 18 recovered in a civil action brought in any court of competent 19 jurisdiction.

20 (2) In assessing the amount of a civil penalty for a violation of 21 this chapter, the court shall consider all of the following:

(A) The nature and extent of the violation.

23 (B) The number of, and severity of, the violations.

24 (C) The economic effect of the penalty on the violator.

25 (D) Whether the violator took good faith measures to comply with this chapter and when these measures were taken. 26

27 (E) The deterrent effect that the imposition of the penalty would 28 have on both the violator and the regulated community as a whole. 29

(F) Any other factor that justice may require.

30 (c) Actions pursuant to this section may be brought by the 31 Attorney General in the name of the people of the state, by a district 32 attorney, by a city attorney, or by a city prosecutor in a city or city 33 and county having a full-time city prosecutor.

34 (d) Civil penalties collected pursuant to this section shall be 35 paid to the office of the city attorney, city prosecutor, district 36 attorney, or Attorney General, whichever office brought the action. 37 42366. This chapter does not alter or diminish any legal 38 obligation otherwise required in common law or by statute or 39 regulation, and this chapter does not create or enlarge any defense 40 in any action to enforce the legal obligation. Penalties and sanctions

imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be in addition to any
 penalties or sanctions otherwise prescribed by law.

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Print Form	
Introduction Form By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor	
I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):	Time stamp or meeting date
$\Box 1. \text{ For reference to Committee.}$	
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.	
$\Delta = 2$. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.	
Image: 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.	
4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor] inquires"
5. City Attorney request.	
6. Call File No. from Committee.	
7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).	
8. Substitute Legislation File No.	
9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).	
\Box 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.	
11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on	
Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the followi	-
Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission	n
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative	
Sponsor(s):	
Supervisor Katy Tang 1	
Subject:	
Supporting Assembly Bill 888 (Bloom) - Prohibiting Sales of Plastic Microbeads	
The text is listed below or attached:	
Please see attached.	
Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:	
For Clerk's Use Only:	