

1 [Supporting the Plastics Free California Ballot Measure on the November 2022 California
2 Ballot]

3 **Resolution supporting the California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act,**
4 **also known as Plastics Free California, a ballot measure qualified to appear on the**
5 **statewide California ballot for the general election to be held on November 8, 2022.**
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7 WHEREAS, On November 8, 2022, California voters will vote on the California
8 Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act (hereinafter, “Plastics Free California”), an
9 initiative aimed at reducing the impact of plastic pollution on the state’s lands, waters, and
10 communities, which would significantly advance California’s waste policy goals by focusing on
11 reduction of single-use plastics; and

12 WHEREAS, The ballot measure follows a brutal year for eco-friendly legislative
13 initiatives and environmental advocates, which saw the defeat of every major environmental
14 measure at the California State Capitol either killed or shelved during the most recent
15 legislative session; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite an extraordinary drought, worsening wildfires, a two-thirds
17 Democratic majority in the state legislature, and the best efforts of San Francisco’s legislative
18 delegation, the staggering environmental defeats of the most recent legislative cycle, including
19 of Assembly Bill No. 1371 (Friedman, Gonzalez, Ting) and Senate Bill No. 54 (D-Allen),
20 demonstrate the grip of fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists, whose products are used to
21 produce plastics, over state policymakers; and

22 WHEREAS, A recent report from the nonprofit World Economic Forum found that even
23 in 2021, more than 70 percent of the plastic produced is put in landfills or lost to the world’s
24 increasingly fragile waterways; plastic production accounts for 6 percent of global oil
25 consumption, a number that will hit 20 percent in 2050, and 1 percent of the global carbon

1 budget; the damage caused by plastics in our waterways costs \$13 billion annually in losses
2 for the tourism, shipping and fishing industries, while disrupting marine ecosystems and
3 threatening food security for people who depend on subsistence fishing; and that unless
4 urgent action is taken, fish will be outweighed by the amount of plastic in the ocean by 2050;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Although San Francisco is a worldwide leader on landfill diversion and the
7 production of plastics with less than 0.5% contamination, less than 10% of all the plastic ever
8 made has been recycled, with the rest dumped into landfills, burned, or let loose in the ocean
9 and on the ground, while petrochemical companies shamelessly ramp up production of single-
10 use plastic; and

11 WHEREAS, Plastics Free California would require producers to transition to reusable,
12 recyclable, or compostable single-use packaging and foodware by 2030; require producers to
13 reduce the amount of single-use packaging and foodware generated by no less than 25% by
14 2030, relative to a 2023 statewide baseline; require producers to reduce or eliminate products
15 and packaging deemed unnecessary; establish guidelines defining reusable, recyclable and
16 compostable and use of recycled content and renewable materials; standardize labeling and
17 marketing of plastic items to increase likelihood of their proper sorting and eventual reuse;
18 ban the use of Styrofoam by food vendors statewide; and improve consumer access to
19 recycling programs; and

20 WHEREAS, Plastics Free California would also establish a fee on plastic producers of
21 up to 1 cent per item, to generate funds for programs and activities intended to reduce waste,
22 expand upon recycling efforts, and to mitigate impacts of plastic pollution on low income and
23 disadvantaged communities who have historically borne the brunt of environmental
24 degradation; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Revenue generated by Plastics Free California would be distributed to
2 CalRecycle, the California Natural Resources Agency, and local governments to support
3 initiatives to, among other things, remediate streams, rivers, beaches and coastal waters from
4 the impacts of plastic pollution; maintain and expand recycling and composting infrastructure;
5 improve farming and ranching practices that increase carbon sequestration, reduce
6 greenhouse gas emissions, and improve water quality, soil health, and climate resilience in
7 agriculture; prevent food waste; create, improve, and sustain markets for recyclable and
8 compostable products; deploy reusable and refillable alternatives to single-use plastic
9 products; and fund grant programs to support litter abatement, public education, community
10 recycling and composting infrastructure; and

11 WHEREAS, The Plastics Free California initiative was filed on December 19, 2019 and
12 approved by the Attorney General’s office on January 8, 2020; on August 11, 2020,
13 supporters submitted more than 870,000 voter signatures to qualify for the November 2022
14 California ballot; and on July 19, 2021, Secretary of State Shirley Weber notified county
15 elections officials that the measure had qualified for the ballot, with more than the 623,212
16 valid signatures submitted; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the City and County of the Board of Supervisors formally endorses
18 the California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act on the statewide California ballot
19 for the general election to be held on November 8, 2022; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of the City and County of San
21 Francisco shall forward a copy of this Resolution to representatives of the Plastics Free
22 California coalition.

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