

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 22, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER

BY: RAMIRO ADEVA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN ON TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AB 2236 (BAUER-KAHAN) AND SB 1053 (BLAKESPEAR), TWO BILLS THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE EXISTING EXEMPTION OF PLASTIC FILM BAGS AND REQUIRE GROCERY AND CERTAIN RETAIL STORES TO NO LONGER PROVIDE PLASTIC FILM BAGS TO THEIR CUSTOMERS

On May 14, 2024, Mayor Buckley Weber received an email requesting her to sign an official letter of support for AB 2236 (Bauer-Kahan) and SB 1053 (Blakespear), two bills that would eliminate the existing exemption of plastic film bags and require grocery and certain retail stores to no longer provide plastic film bags to their customers.

Given that cities are preempted by SB 270 from banning thick plastic bags, cities and counties have had to bear the financial and logistical burden of managing this waste issue, without having the power to address it on a local level. As such, it is especially important for the State Legislature to understand that city and county officials support these bills.

Studies have shown that plastic waste is detrimental to the environment and human health. Plastic is mostly made from fossil fuels and its production releases toxic substances into our air and water. When disposed of, plastic does not biodegrade, but spreads toxic chemicals into our groundwater. As such, it is necessary to curb California's plastic production as much as possible.

Although the City's approved Legislative Platform and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) seem to align with the spirit of these two bills, with regard to environmental protection and preservation, the Legislative Platform does not explicitly include a statement that addresses this issue which is the reason the item is being brought to the entire City Council for consideration.

Should the City Council approve this item, the Mayor would be authorized to include her electronic signature alongside other Mayors and elected public officials that have also added their signature to the online letter that is being sent on behalf of all those agencies wishing to collectively support AB 2236 and SB 1053.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action would have no additional fiscal impact to the adopted Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign on to the City and County official Letter of Support for AB 2236 (Bauer-Kahan) and SB 1053 (Blakespear), two bills that would eliminate the existing exemption of plastic film bags and require grocery and certain retail stores to no longer provide plastic film bags to their customers.