

RESOLUTION NO. 4339

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPITOLA RECOGNIZING TOBACCO WASTE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

WHEREAS, cigarette butts are the most littered item on Santa Cruz County's riverways and beaches, where they are washed into the Monterey Bay and contribute to a common form of litter in the world's oceans; and

WHEREAS, cigarette butts are an unsightly blight on City of Capitola sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, recreation trails, Capitola Beach, and other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Since 2018, local nonprofit Save Our Shores has collected 116,748 cigarette butts from Monterey Bay beaches, open spaces, and public areas; and

WHEREAS, cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate, a non-biodegradable plastic, which breaks down into microplastics and bioaccumulates in marine organisms; and

WHEREAS, cigarette butts are not just litter but toxic waste, leaching dangerous chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nicotine into the environment; and

WHEREAS, improperly discarded cigarette butts can poison small children, pets, wildlife, and marine life; and

WHEREAS, improperly discarded cigarette butts are a fire hazard, responsible for burning 88,898 acres in California since 1980; and

WHEREAS, cigarette butts do not actually filter out harmful chemicals from cigarette smoke and provide no demonstrated health benefits to smokers; and

WHEREAS, emerging forms of tobacco waste include electronic cigarettes or vaping devices, and the e-juice, cartridges, batteries, and accessories associated with them; and

WHEREAS, tobacco waste is a health equity issue, disproportionately found in lower income communities and communities of color; and


WHEREAS, Big Tobacco takes no responsibility for its toxic waste, forcing the physical and financial burden of cleanup onto local government agencies and volunteer organizations; and

WHEREAS, previous approaches including anti-litter laws, anti-smoking signage, increased waste disposal containers, and robust cleanup efforts have failed to solve the problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Capitola City Council hereby recognizes and declares tobacco waste a public health and environmental threat to the residents of the City of Capitola.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Capitola, California, at a regular meeting held this 12th day of October, by the following vote:

AYES: BROOKS, CLARKE, PEDERSEN, BROWN, KEISER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

ATTEST: 
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Julia Gautho, City Clerk

DocuSigned by:



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Margaux Keiser, Mayor