

## RESOLUTION NO.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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Margaux Keiser, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Julia Moss, City Clerk