

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Dan Haifley <dan.haifley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 3:01 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Katie Thompson  
**Subject:** I support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products  
**Attachments:** Ban The Butt - Haifley.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Mayor Clarke and Councilmembers-

Please see my letter attached.

Thank you for your service!

Dan Haifley (He/Him)  
(831) 234-8148

**Dan Haifley**  
**2635 Fresno Street**  
**Santa Cruz, CA 95062**  
**(831) 234-8148**

Mayor Joe Clarke and Members of the City Council  
City of Capitola  
420 Capitola Avenue  
Capitola, CA 95010

Re: I support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers -

I am writing to encourage you to encourage adoption of a ban on the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola in order to curb the persistent environmental threat posed by cigarette butts.

Between 2013 - 2023, Save Our Shores alone collected 439,358 cigarette butts from beaches, open spaces, and public areas. As a top littered item locally, we know that number is just a snapshot of the total cigarette litter that continues to negatively impact human and ecosystem health as our organization picks them up too and/or encounters them in our public spaces.

According to a 2023 NOAA study that used community science data, 24.5% of all litter collected on the shoreline of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary between 2017 and 2021 could be attributed to smoking! Cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate, a non-biodegradable plastic, which breaks into microplastics and bioaccumulates in marine organisms. Cigarette butts are toxic waste and leach dangerous chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nicotine into the environment where they can poison small children, pets, wildlife, and marine life. They are also a fire hazard, responsible for burning 88,898 acres in California since 1980.

Local jurisdictions and conservation nonprofits have borne the brunt of the cleanup work and associated costs to protect the sanctuary and its human and nonhuman inhabitants from toxic tobacco pollution while the tobacco industry maintains exorbitant profits. Importantly, cigarette butts on the beach come through storm drains, Soquel Creek, and are otherwise wind-blown or transported to the shoreline mostly through the Soquel Creek watershed. Therefore, they were therefore likely consumed and purchased in the local community.

We have the community support, the decades of litter data, and the regional strategy to justify a strong policy that favors our sanctuary and its people.

Respectfully,



Dan Haifley

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Chris Bostic <bosticc@ash.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 10:03 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** katie@saveourshores.org  
**Subject:** [PDF] Aug. 28 agenda item: Filtered tobacco sales ban  
**Attachments:** TPW support letter\_Capitola\_ASH\_Aug-5-25.pdf

Please find attached a letter in support of a filtered tobacco sales ban which is scheduled for a first reading on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,

Chris Bostic, *Policy Director*

**ASH** > ACTION ON SMOKING & HEALTH

***Dedicated to ZERO Tobacco Deaths.***

1250 Connecticut Ave, NW

Suite 700 – PMB 5019

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: +1 202.659.4310

Mobile: +1 202 413 0069

[\[www.ash.org\]](http://www.ash.org) [www.ash.org](http://www.ash.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Donate Now >](#)

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010

August 5, 2025

Re: Support for a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

I am writing on behalf of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) to support the adoption of a policy that bans the sale of filtered, pre-rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola. This policy is critical to address one of the most persistent litter items in the city and across the globe - cigarette butts.

ASH is the nation's oldest anti-tobacco organization. We take a human rights-based approach to ending the tobacco epidemic. We recognize the importance of a healthy environment in overall health. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits of a ban on filters, such as Santa Cruz County and City have already passed, a sales ban will have a substantial health impact by decreasing youth uptake and helping adults quit.

Cigarette butts are one of the most littered items on Capitola's streets and beaches. According to a 2023 NOAA study, 24.5% of all litter collected on the shoreline of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary between 2017 and 2021 could be attributed to smoking. Cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate, a plastic that breaks down into microplastics and bioaccumulates in marine organisms. Cigarette butts are toxic waste and leach dangerous chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nicotine into the environment, where they can poison small children, pets, wildlife, and marine life. There is no downstream solution available – collecting butts is infeasible, and they cannot be recycled or discarded into the normal waste stream.

We believe there is community and local government support, decades of litter data, and the regional strategy to justify a strong policy that holds Big Tobacco responsible for its corporate pollution. Please ban the sale of filtered cigarettes.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

*Chris Bostic*

Chris Bostic  
Policy Director



**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Luz Areli Sotelo <luz.sotelo@pvpsa.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 2:17 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Katie Thompson  
**Subject:** [PDF] We support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products  
**Attachments:** Signed TEC Letter to Capitola City Council TL.pdf

Dear Capitola City Council,

I hope this email finds you well. Attached is our letter of support for the City of Capitola Policy on Tobacco Filter Waste.

Thank you!

Best,

Luz Sotelo| Youth Program Manager  
Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance  
335 East Lake Avenue Watsonville, CA 95076  
831-728-6445 | 831-540-8387



**Co-Chairs: Katie Thompson  
and Luz Sotelo**



**Member Organizations**

American Cancer Society  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
Cabrillo College  
Capitola Police Department  
Central California Alliance  
for Health  
Cigarette Surfboard  
City of Santa Cruz  
City of Watsonville  
Community Prevention Partners  
Journeyworks Publishing  
Pajaro Valley Community  
Health Trust  
Pajaro Valley Prevention and  
Student Assistance, Inc.  
Salud y Cariño  
Santa Cruz Police Department  
County of Santa Cruz  
Department of Public Works  
County of Santa Cruz Friday  
Night Live  
County of Santa Cruz Health  
Services Agency  
Santa Cruz County Office of  
Education  
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's  
Save Our Shores  
Scotts Valley Police Department  
TUPE  
United Way of Santa Cruz County  
UCSC Student Health (SHOP)  
Watsonville Department of  
Public Works  
Watsonville Police Department



**Community Members  
at Large**

August 6, 2025

City Council and Mayor of Capitola

420 Capitola Ave.

Capitola, CA 95010

**Support for City of Capitola Policy on Tobacco Filter Waste**

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) to encourage your support for a policy in the City of Capitola that puts an end to the sale of single-use plastic "filters" in tobacco products.

The TEC is a nonprofit partnership of Santa Cruz County residents and organizations committed to advocating for a tobacco-free lifestyle and environment. Since 1985, Coalition members have worked to promote health across the county – and for good reason, since tobacco remains the largest preventable cause of death, killing half a million Americans per year. One in four cancer deaths in California are due to smoking.

For the last eight years, TEC members have been educating the public and local policymakers about issues with tobacco waste. We have conducted public opinion polls and key informant interviews, given presentations, and provided informational trainings. We have educated youth and engaged media throughout Santa Cruz County. We've held a tobacco waste photo contest, and even hosted a "Tobacco Butt Night" at the Museum of Art and History. Coalition members and community partners have picked up tens of thousands of cigarette butts throughout the area, including from Capitola parks and beaches.

The tobacco industry embeds single-use plasticized pieces in tobacco products as a deceptive tool: calling them "filters" to decrease the public's perception of how harmful tobacco products are, while not actually providing any meaningful protection. Tobacco industry marketing efforts have attempted to create the *illusion* that cigarette "filters" have some impact on the harmful chemicals in cigarette smoke. Yet, according to the World Health Organization, "There is no evidence that filters have any proven health benefits." As early as 1958, Philip

P.O. Box 962 ♦ 1070 Emeline Avenue ♦ Santa Cruz, CA 95061

(831) 454-4141 ♦ FAX (831) 454-5048

Morris scientists recognized that selective filtration of the harmful compounds in cigarette smoke was “a thermodynamic impossibility.”

Nonetheless, smokers continue to litter cigarette butts on Capitola streets, parks, and beaches, degrading residents’ quality of life, making public spaces less attractive to both locals and visitors, and forcing local governments and conservation nonprofits to bear the costly burden of cleanup.

Fortunately, the City of Capitola has already passed a resolution recognizing tobacco waste as a public health and environmental threat, as have the four other jurisdictions within the county.

Tobacco Education Coalition members have frequently worked to support local leaders in addressing concerns related to passing tobacco prevention policies. Our work will continue if the tobacco “filter” policy passes: tobacco retailers will need guidance in transitioning away from the sale of “filtered” products and will be provided information on items that are acceptable to sell. People who smoke “filtered” tobacco products will need quit-smoking services and support. Coalition members will continue to work towards meeting the needs of all local constituents as we advocate for a health-promoting, tobacco-free lifestyle and environment for the community.

Coalition members believe that the Capitola City Council has community support, research-based evidence on the science and history of tobacco filters, as well as extensive data on health issues and plastic pollution locally, to justify a policy on tobacco filters that is pro-health, pro-family, and pro-environment. Please consider joining the Unincorporated County of Santa Cruz and the City of Santa Cruz and help put an end to the sale of health-deceiving, environment-damaging, single-use plastic waste in tobacco products.

Sincerely,



Luz Sotelo

Co-Chair, Santa Cruz County Tobacco Education Coalition

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Laura Perkins <perkinsl@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025 4:32 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Katie Thompson  
**Subject:** I support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products.

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman:

I am writing to say that banning the sale of filtered tobacco products would have a huge positive impact on the health of our environment and community. This policy is a critical step to address one of the most littered items on the planet: toxic cigarette butts.

I have lived in Felton for the past 17 years and I love our redwood forests, our wetlands, and our seashore. I am so grateful that our County Board of Supervisors and the City Council of Santa Cruz have already passed this policy.

My daughter is starting at Cabrillo Community College this fall, my partner teaches at UCSC, and our family spends a great deal of time enjoying all of Santa Cruz County.

The City of Capitola is too smart to accept the tobacco industry's disinformation about filters.

These filters are designed to fool people into thinking they make cigarettes safer to smoke.

Before 1950, less than 1% of commercial cigarettes were filtered. But the increasing press coverage of the potential dangers of smoking led to an explosion of filter development and marketing. By 1960, filtered cigarettes represented 51% of the market. By 2005, they represented 99% of the market. (See the NLM's [How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease](#).)

This National Library of Medicine report cites studies that show filters do **not** make cigarettes safer to smoke. They actually increase the risk of harm.

As unhealthy as they are for the people who use filtered tobacco products, they also pollute our environment with toxins, carcinogens, and microplastics.

Please pass a policy banning the sale of filtered tobacco products. Santa Cruz County residents, visitors, animals, and marine life deserve an environment free of toxic tobacco waste.

Sincerely,

Laura Perkins

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Yvette Brooks <ybrooks@unitedwaysc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 12:07 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); katie@saveourshores.org  
**Subject:** [PDF] We support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products.  
**Attachments:** UWSCC support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products (1).pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please see attached letter of support on banning the sale of filtered tobacco products.

### Yvette Lopez Brooks

CEO, United Way Santa Cruz County  
4450 Capitola Rd, Ste 106  
Capitola, CA 95010  
| Main: 831-479-5466 x205 | Helpline: 211  
<https://www.unitedwaysc.org/>



Book time to meet with  
me



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Santa Cruz County



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PO Box 1458  
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Capitola, CA 95010  
831-465-2205

[www.unitedwaysc.org](http://www.unitedwaysc.org) | <https://211santacruzcounty.org/>



Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman

On behalf of United Way of Santa Cruz County, we are writing to express our strong support for a local ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products.

As a community-focused organization committed to improving health, education, and financial stability for all residents, we are deeply concerned about the widespread health risks and environmental damage caused by filtered tobacco products. Despite common misconceptions, cigarette filters do not reduce health risks; rather, they perpetuate smoking by making it easier to inhale toxins and by falsely suggesting reduced harm. This has a particularly dangerous impact on young people, who are more likely to start smoking under the belief that filtered cigarettes are a safer choice.

The environmental toll is also significant. Cigarette filters are among the most littered items globally and right here in Santa Cruz County. These non-biodegradable plastic filters leach harmful chemicals into our land, waterways, and marine ecosystems, directly undermining our community's environmental values and sustainability goals.

A ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products would align with public health best practices and environmental protection strategies. It would demonstrate Capitola's leadership in prioritizing the well-being of its residents and natural resources.

United Way of Santa Cruz County urges the City Council to move forward with this ban and set an example for other communities across the state and nation.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing commitment to public health and environmental justice.

Sincerely,  
Yvette Brooks  
CEO

**United Way Santa Cruz County**

[Ybrooks@unitedwaysc.org](mailto:Ybrooks@unitedwaysc.org)

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Santa Cruz Policy <policy@santacruz.surfrider.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Jack Ward; Katie Thompson  
**Subject:** I support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman

I urge you to take action against one of the most pervasive and harmful forms of litter - cigarette butts. These toxic plastic filters are a major environmental, health, and economic burden on our community.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world, and locally, they wash into Monterey Bay, contributing to ocean pollution and harming marine life. These filters do not biodegrade; instead, they break into microplastics and leach toxic chemicals like lead, arsenic, and nicotine into our environment. They are also a fire hazard, responsible for burning nearly 89,000 acres in California since 1980.

The financial burden of cigarette butt cleanup falls on local governments and volunteers rather than the tobacco companies responsible for the waste. In California alone, Caltrans spends nearly \$14 million annually on cigarette litter cleanup.

I urge you to support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products in the City of Capitola.

Eliminating these non-essential and harmful filters will significantly reduce pollution, protect public health, and lessen the financial strain on our local government.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue. I look forward to your support of this ordinance.

Best,  
Morganna Johnson and Jack Ward on Behalf of the Policy Committee for the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.



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**[PDF] We support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products**

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**From** Wilcox, Naia <WilcoxN@countyofmonterey.gov>

**Date** Mon 8/11/2025 9:36 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

**Cc** katie@saveourshores.org <katie@saveourshores.org>

 1 attachment (605 KB)

LOS Capitola Filter Ban.pdf;

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

I am writing on behalf of the Monterey County Collaborates regarding the upcoming agenda item on August 28<sup>th</sup> which will discuss a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products. We would like to express our support for the ban ordinance in the city of Capitola and have attached our letter of support to this email.

Best,



**Naia Wilcox** (*she/her/ella*)

Pathways Fellow

*Health Department, Public Health Bureau*

*1441 Schilling Place – South 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Salinas, CA 93901*

*831-755-4362*

[wilcoxn@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:wilcoxn@countyofmonterey.gov)





### *Mission Statement*

To support, educate, and empower youth and families to create safe and healthy environments.

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### **Members**

*Blue Zones Project  
Monterey County*

*Breathe California of  
the Bay Area, Golden  
Gate, and Central  
Coast*

*Monterey County  
Health Department*

*Monterey County  
Office of Education*

*Monterey County  
Prescribe Safe  
Initiative*

*Sun Street Centers*

*Transportation  
Agency for Monterey  
County*

### **Co-chairs**

*Kendra Howell*

*Jorge Rubio*

August 28, 2025

### **Support for a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products**

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

We are writing on behalf of Monterey County Collaborates to support the adoption of an ordinance that bans the sale of filtered tobacco in the city of Capitola. This policy is critical to address one of the most persistent litter items in Santa Cruz County which pollutes our local environment and damages our community's health.

We are an organization dedicated to advocating for a safe and healthy Monterey County, which includes working to reduce the toxic tobacco product waste that puts our environment and health at risk. We believe that the recent ordinance adopted by Santa Cruz County and the city of Santa Cruz serves as a progressive policy that will lead to positive change across the state in a firm rebuttal to Big Tobacco's continued attack on the health and safety of our communities.

With the recent decision by the city of Santa Cruz to adopt the filter ban ordinance, we are one step closer to the county-wide implementation and enforcement of this policy. We ask that Capitola takes the final, necessary step in ensuring this policy is implemented across all of Santa Cruz County to protect the health of the environment and residents.

We are working towards the same goal of ending tobacco product waste and hope to follow your leadership example by pursuing a filtered product ban in our County. We look towards a bright future in which the entirety of the Monterey Bay is free from this persistent and harmful waste.

As your neighbors and the community that shares the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary with you and others, we encourage you to continue protecting the health of our shared environment and neighboring communities. We affirm our support for this ordinance that will ban the sale of filtered tobacco products and assure you that we are working towards the same goal of reducing tobacco product waste.

Thank you for your time and continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kendra Howell".

Kendra Howell

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jorge Rubio".

Jorge Rubio

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** George Leonard <george.h.leonard@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 1:37 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Katie Thompson  
**Subject:** SUPPORT – Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products  
**Attachments:** Leonard\_Butt Support Letter\_Capitola\_Council\_May\_2025\_Final\_081125.docx

Dear Capitola City Council Members:

As a 25-year resident of Santa Cruz and a frequent visitor to the city of Capitola and its beaches, I support the adoption of the policy before the Council to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products in the city of Capitola.

Attached, please find a support letter articulating the reasons for my support.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Cheers,

George

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George H. Leonard, PhD  
[george.h.leonard@gmail.com](mailto:george.h.leonard@gmail.com)  
831-454-6477 - cell  
[LinkedIn](#)

August 11, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010

Delivered via email: [citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us)  
cc: [katie@saveourshores.org](mailto:katie@saveourshores.org)

Re: **SUPPORT** – Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Capitola City Council Members:

As a 25-year resident of Santa Cruz and a frequent visitor to the city of Capitola and its beaches, I support the adoption of the policy before the Council to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products in the city of Capitola. This policy is a critical component of the companion policy already approved by the County and City of Santa Cruz.

I commend the leadership of local policy makers in addressing the ongoing problem of tobacco waste throughout the Santa Cruz region, including on its beaches, in its rivers and waterways, and throughout the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). I am a marine biologist who has studied, worked on, and dove in Monterey Bay since my time as a student at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in the 1990's. The MBNMS is the crown jewel of the Central Coast, hosting 36 species of marine mammals, nearly 200 species of seabirds and shorebirds, over 500 species of fish, and countless species of invertebrates and seaweed. A clean Sanctuary, free of harmful tobacco pollution, is vital to the health of the coastal community of Santa Cruz, Capitola, and all its inhabitants, humans and otherwise. And keeping tobacco waste out of the local ocean will also help elevate Capitola's ocean stewardship as the most recent addition to the World Surfing Reserve.

Numerous NGOs have documented the problem of tobacco waste. For nearly 40 years, Ocean Conservancy has organized the International Coastal Cleanup, the largest volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 18 million of their volunteers have removed nearly 380 million pounds of trash and plastics from over 150 countries around the world, including across all 50 U.S. states. These volunteers have catalogued every piece of trash collected and year after year, cigarette butts have been the number one item collected by count. The numbers are staggering: 63 million butts collected worldwide; 35 million butts removed across the U.S, with 8.5 million collected in the state of California. From 2013-2023, Save Our Shores alone collected over 400,000 cigarette butts from the beaches, open spaces, and public areas in the Santa Cruz region, including Capitola's beaches.

The consequences of this tobacco waste to human health and the environment are well-documented and severe. In short, cigarette filters are bad for the marine environment, bad for marine wildlife, and bad for people. Filters are toxic waste, leaching lead, arsenic, nicotine, and

a host of other chemicals into the marine environment. Butts are plastic and like other plastics they don't degrade but rather break apart into thousands of microplastics; plastic fibers from cigarettes and other sources have been found throughout the marine food web, from the smallest zooplankton to the largest whales, including the fish and shellfish that are vital to a healthy and sustainable seafood supply. To make matters worse, cigarette filters do not make smoking safer; 60 years ago, the U. S. Surgeon General confirmed that filters were ineffective at protecting smokers from diseases caused by smoking and later research provided evidence that filters can actually *increase* the risk of certain types of cancer in smokers.

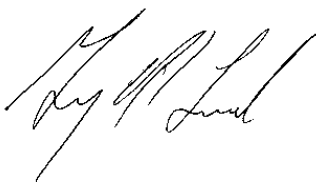
The tobacco industry takes zero responsibility for their toxic waste, forcing the physical and financial burden of its cleanup onto local volunteer organizations, government agencies, and residents like me and my friends and neighbors.

Given this host of concerns, I strongly urge you to adopt the proposed policy to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos and little cigars in the City of Capitola.

As the Trump Administration continues to gut environmental protections, independent science, and NOAA and the national marine sanctuaries, Capitola, Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay must remain leaders in science-based public policy. Now is not the time to back down. It is the time to lead. The vision shown by you, your fellow city councils and the Board of Supervisors will serve as inspiration for other jurisdictions throughout the state and across the nation.

Thank you for your continued leadership and action on behalf of the ocean and all residents of the City of Capitola.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George H. Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent.

George H. Leonard, Ph.D.  
129 Ladera Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
George.h.leonard@gmail.com

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** fastcar67302@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 8:24 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Possible Spam Vote request

Please vote to Ban the Butt. Health and safety for all. Second hand smoke kills.  
Dina Schillings  
Clares St, Capitola

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Katie Thompson <katie@saveourshores.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2025 3:31 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** [PDF] We support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products  
**Attachments:** Capitola City Council\_Filtered tobacco ban\_AUGUST 2025.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

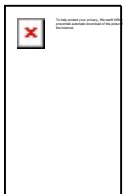
Dear Capitola City Council Members,

Please find attached our letter in support of the ban on the sale of all filtered tobacco products in the city of Capitola.

Thank you for your continued leadership on making the environment safer and cleaner for Capitola residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Katie



**Katie Thompson, M.M.A. (she/her)**

Executive Director, Save Our Shores

Office: [1.831.462.5660](tel:18314625660) x8

Website: [www.saveourshores.org](http://www.saveourshores.org)

Address: 345 Lake Ave, Suite A. Santa Cruz, CA 95062

We are located on the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe, represented by the [Amah Mutsun Tribal Band](#)



August 5, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave.  
Capitola, CA 95010  
[citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us)

Re: We support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

We, as local representatives of environmental organizations and community members, support the adoption of a policy that bans the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola. This policy is critical to address one of the most persistent litter items in Capitola and across the globe: cigarette butts.

Cigarette butts are one of the most littered items on Capitola's beaches and have been for decades. Between 2013 and 2024, Save Our Shores collected **15,238 cigarette butts from beaches, open spaces, and public areas in Capitola**—making them the second most common item found during cleanups, after plastic pieces. However, cigarette butts remain **the most recognizable type of litter**. As a top littered item locally, we know that number is just a snapshot of the total cigarette litter that continues to negatively impact human and ecosystem. According to a 2023 NOAA study that used community science data, an astounding 24.5% of all litter collected on the shoreline of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary between 2017 and 2021 could be attributed to smoking.

Cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate, a non-biodegradable plastic, which breaks into microplastics and bioaccumulates in marine organisms. Cigarette butts are toxic waste and leach dangerous chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nicotine into the environment where they can poison small children, pets, and wildlife. They are also a fire hazard, responsible for burning 88,898 acres in California since 1980.

Local jurisdictions and conservation nonprofits have borne the brunt of the cleanup work and associated costs to protect the sanctuary and its human and nonhuman inhabitants from toxic tobacco pollution while the tobacco industry maintains exorbitant profits. It is time for an upstream solution that holds Big Tobacco responsible for its own corporate pollution.

We believe that we have the community and local government support, the decades of litter data, and the regional strategy to justify a strong policy that favors our sanctuary and its people over the profit motives of an exploitative industry. Please ban filtered cigarette products. Thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,

Katie Thompson, Executive Director, Save Our Shores  
Laurie Egan, Executive Director, Coastal Watershed Council  
Tracey Weiss, Executive Director, O'Neill Sea Odyssey

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Jason Scorse, Middlebury Institute <profscorse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025 12:41 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Katie Thompson  
**Subject:** Filtered tobacco product ban  
**Attachments:** Scorse\_Butt Support Letter\_Capitola\_City Council.docx

To The Capitola City Council,  
Please see the attached letter in support of the ban of filtered tobacco products.  
Thank you,  
Jason

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***"Animals are the main victims of history, and the treatment of domesticated animals in industrial farms is perhaps the worst crime in history." Yuval Noah Harari***

***"The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity." W.B. Yeats***

***"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities." Voltaire***

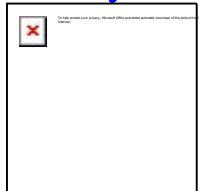
***"Humanity can and must do better." All sane and decent people***

Jason Scorse, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Chair, [Environmental Policy and Management Program](#)  
Director, [Center for the Blue Economy](#)  
[Middlebury Institute of International Studies](#) at Monterey

**[Office Hour Appointments](#)**

**[Zoom Meeting Room](#)**: Passcode7sQnmz

**[Faculty Webpage](#)**





August 12, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010

Re: **SUPPORT** – Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Capitola City Council Members:

As a more than 30-year resident of Santa Cruz, I support the adoption of the policy before the Council to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products in the city of Capitola.

I am the Director of the Center for the Blue Economy and have served on numerous boards dealing with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The MBNMS is the crown jewel of the Central Coast, hosting 36 species of marine mammals, nearly 200 species of seabirds and shorebirds, over 500 species of fish, and countless species of invertebrates and seaweed. A clean Sanctuary, free of harmful tobacco pollution, is vital to the health of the coastal community of Santa Cruz, Capitola, and all its inhabitants, humans and otherwise.

The tobacco industry takes no responsibility for their toxic waste, so I strongly urge you to adopt the proposed policy to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos and little cigars in the City of Capitola.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason Scorse  
Director, Center for the Blue Economy  
[Profscorse@gmail.com](mailto:Profscorse@gmail.com)

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Gage Dayton <gagedayton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 5:07 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** [PDF] Butt letter  
**Attachments:** Dayton\_Butt Support Letter\_Capitola\_Council.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dead Capitola City Council,

Please find the attached letter in support of the butt ban in Capitola.

Thank you,

Gage

August 14, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010

Delivered via email: [citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us)  
cc: [katie@saveourshores.org](mailto:katie@saveourshores.org)

Re: **SUPPORT** – Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Capitola City Council Members:

As a 15-year resident of Santa Cruz County and a frequent user of Capitola and Live Oak beaches, I support the adoption of the policy before the Council to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products in the city of Capitola. This policy is a critical component of the companion policy already approved by the County and City of Santa Cruz.

Numerous NGOs have documented the problem of tobacco waste. For nearly 40 years, Ocean Conservancy has organized the International Coastal Cleanup, the largest volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 18 million of their volunteers have removed nearly 380 million pounds of trash and plastics from over 150 countries around the world, including across all 50 U.S. states. These volunteers have catalogued every piece of trash collected and year after year, cigarette butts have been the number one item collected by count. The numbers are staggering: 63 million butts collected worldwide; 35 million butts removed across the U.S, with 8.5 million collected in the state of California. From 2013-2023, Save Our Shores alone collected over 400,000 cigarette butts from the beaches, open spaces, and public areas in the Santa Cruz region, including Capitola's beaches.

Cigarette filters are bad for the marine environment, bad for marine wildlife, and bad for people. Butts are plastic and like other plastics they don't degrade but rather break apart into thousands of microplastics; plastic fibers from cigarettes and other sources have been found throughout the marine food web, from the smallest zooplankton to the largest whales, including the fish and shellfish that are vital to a healthy and sustainable seafood supply. To make matters worse, cigarette filters do not make smoking safer; 60 years ago, the U. S. Surgeon General confirmed that filters were ineffective at protecting smokers from diseases caused by smoking and later research provided evidence that filters can actually *increase* the risk of certain types of cancer in smokers.

The tobacco industry takes zero responsibility for their toxic waste, forcing the physical and financial burden of its cleanup onto local volunteer organizations, government agencies, and residents like me and my friends and neighbors.

Given this host of concerns, I urge you to adopt the proposed policy to ban the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos and little cigars in the City of Capitola.

Thank you for your continued leadership and action on behalf of the ocean and all residents of the City of Capitola.

Sincerely,  


Gage H. Dayton  
1881 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
gagedayton@gmail.com

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Thomas Novotny <tnovotny@sdsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2025 11:42 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** katie@saveourshores.org  
**Subject:** I support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman:

I write to support the proposed ban on the sale of cigarette filters in Santa Cruz County, passed by the board of supervisors last October. This bold, singular accomplishment demonstrates how local communities can address a global problem and provide an example for others to follow. I have been involved for more than 20 years in the research that demonstrates the importance of cigarette filters as environmental pollutants and fraudulent marketing gimmicks. They are designed to fool people who smoke into thinking they are protected against the harms of smoking. Instead, they just make it easier to start smoking, to sell cigarettes, and to pollute our beaches with toxic plastic waste. California leads global efforts to overcome the enormous harms of cigarette smoking, and public health advocates have led the way in this fight. Now we join with environmental advocates to take on the tobacco industry in order to protect our citizens' health and our treasured coastal environments. Santa Cruz can lead the way with this important intervention if Capitola joins in. Businesses will adapt; other communities will follow; beaches will be cleaner; and no one will die or leave the county because filtered cigarettes are not available there. In fact, Beverly Hills and Manhattan Beach banned all tobacco product sales, and they seem to be doing just great. I would be happy to provide additional information about filters, tobacco use, environmental harms, or economic concerns regarding a ban on the sale of filtered cigarettes or single-use nicotine products.

Respectfully,

--

Thomas E. Novotny MD MPH  
Professor Emeritus  
San Diego State University  
School of Public Health

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Julia Alber <julia.m.alber@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** katie@saveourshores.org; tobaccofreeslo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [PDF] Letter of Support for Ban on the Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products  
**Attachments:** TCC Letter of Support for Capitola filter ban.pdf.pdf

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan and Council Members Jensen, Orbach and Westman,

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Tobacco Control Coalition, I am attaching a letter of support for the adoption of the ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products in the city of Capitola, scheduled to be heard at your August 28, 2025 meeting.

Thank you,

Julia Alber

Chair, San Luis Obispo County Tobacco Control Coalition



August 15, 2025

**Support for the ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products in Capitola**

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan and Council Members Jensen, Orbach and Westman,

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Tobacco Control Coalition (TCC), I am writing to support the adoption of the ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products in the city of Capitola, scheduled to be heard at your August 28, 2025 meeting.

Our coalition's vision is that all people in the County of San Luis Obispo enjoy smoke-free air and a tobacco-free environment. We applaud your proposed ordinance to ban the sale of filtered cigarettes as we believe that it would both help people reduce their use of filtered cigarettes and will benefit the environment.

We recognize cigarettes filters as a marketing ploy by the tobacco industry to persuade cigarette users that filtered cigarettes would be made safer than non-filtered cigarettes. In fact, filters have been called the 'deadliest fraud in the history of human civilization'<sup>1</sup>. Research has revealed that modern cellulose acetate cigarette filters in fact do not stop – and rather may increase<sup>2</sup> - the carcinogenic tar and toxins that make cigarettes so deadly. Thus, there is no health value to maintaining filters on cigarettes.

Additionally, banning filtered cigarettes is critical to addressing one of the most persistently littered items on California's coast and, indeed, the world. This particular piece of litter pollutes our environment with microplastics and leaches toxins into our soils and waterways. A fact that always astounds is that one cigarette filter leaches enough nicotine and toxins to kill fish in a liter of water<sup>3</sup>.

In short, there is no healthful reason for filters nor is there a place for filters in our environment. We encourage your Council to protect the health of our communities and the environment by approving the ordinance to ban the sale of filtered cigarettes. Our Coalition is eager to follow your leadership and seek similar protections for our County.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this issue,

Sincerely,

Julia Alber  
Chair, SLO County Tobacco Control Coalition

<sup>1</sup>Kennedy P. Who made that cigarette filter? 2012. New York Times Magazine

<sup>2</sup>Song M-A, Benowitz NL, Berman M, et al. Cigarette filter ventilation and its relationship to increasing rates of lung adenocarcinoma. J Natl Cancer Inst 2017;109. 10.1093/jnci/djx075. [Epub ahead of print: 01 Dec 2017].

<sup>3</sup>[Cigarette Butts Toxic to Marine Life | News | SDSU](#)

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Ben Judkins <benjudkins1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 7:45 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** [PDF] Letter of Support from The Cigarette Surfboard Filmmaker  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support from The Cigarette Surfboard Filmmaker (2).pdf

To the Capitola City Council,

My name is Ben Judkins and I am the co-founder of The Cigarette Surfboard Project, and Director/Co-Producer of the 90min documentary, [The Cigarette Surfboard](#). I've spent the past 8 years documenting the issue of single-use cigarette filters, both in Santa Cruz County and around the world. I've learned all about their environmental, economic, and human health impacts. After screening the documentary around the world this past year, with over 80 screenings at film festivals, high schools, and universities, I've witnessed firsthand how deeply this issue resonates with communities and the thousands of folks who have seen the film. More than 600 people came out to our two screenings in Santa Cruz, and attendees were truly moved by this issue and the political work within Santa Cruz County to push forward such policies.

I strongly support the Capitola City Council passing an ordinance banning the sale of single-use filters. Thank you for taking action and leading the way for other jurisdictions to follow.

All the best,

Ben Judkins (he/him)  
Filmmaker, *The Cigarette Surfboard*  
[thecigarettesurfboard.com](http://thecigarettesurfboard.com)  
[@thecigarettesurfboard](#)



To the Capitola City Council,

My name is Ben Judkins and I am the co-founder of The Cigarette Surfboard Project, and Director/Co-Producer of the 90min documentary, [The Cigarette Surfboard](#). I've spent the past 8 years documenting the issue of single-use cigarette filters, both in Santa Cruz County and around the world. I've learned all about their environmental, economic, and human health impacts. After screening the documentary around the world this past year, with over 80 screenings at film festivals, high schools, and universities, I've witnessed firsthand how deeply this issue resonates with communities and the thousands of folks who have seen the film. More than 600 people came out to our two screenings in Santa Cruz, and attendees were truly moved by this issue and the political work within Santa Cruz County to push forward such policies.

I strongly support the Capitola City Council passing an ordinance banning the sale of single-use filters. Thank you for taking action and leading the way for other jurisdictions to follow.

All the best,

Ben Judkins (he/him)  
Filmmaker, *The Cigarette Surfboard*  
[thecigarettesurfboard.com](http://thecigarettesurfboard.com)  
[@thecigarettesurfboard](https://www.instagram.com/thecigarettesurfboard)

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Deane Plaister <dmp3mail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Ban on single-use cigarette filters

Dear Councilmembers,

I am not a resident of your lovely town, but I do live down the coast in Santa Barbara, and I'm active with our chapter of Surfrider Foundation. In the beach cleanups we put on, we used to find cigarette butts as the most common item. Santa Barbara passed a ban on smoking at the beach, and the volume dropped dramatically. As I understand it, your council is considering a ban on single-use cigarette filters. This is a great idea, even better than a beach-smoking ban.

Cigarette butts are not only unsightly, they carry toxic chemicals, and absorb other bad substances from the environment. They are then consumed by marine animals that mistake them for bits of food. This is disastrous for the marine environment, and getting butts out of the ocean (or anywhere) is good policy. I urge you to continue the momentum started by the City and County of Santa Cruz, and vote to ban single-use cigarette filters in your city.

Many thanks,  
Deane Plaister  
30 W. Valerio #7  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** John <jxmuly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 4:55 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Pass the cigarette butt ban

It's both the right thing to do and good for business.

Warmly JM

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Tanya Payyappilly <tanya@lungsrus.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 3:40 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** katie@saveourshores.org  
**Subject:** [PDF] Breathe California Supports Ban on the Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products  
**Attachments:** BreatheCA\_Letsupport CapitolaCity Filter Ban.pdf

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

I am very excited to hear that the City of Capitola is considering a ban on filtered tobacco products that was adopted by the county last year. Attached here is Breathe California's letter of support for the same. Hope this provides all the information you need to decide about this issue.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me in case you have any questions.

Warmly,  
Tanya Payyappilly, MD, MPH  
CEO



1469 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: (408) 998-5865 | Web: [www.lungsrus.org](http://www.lungsrus.org)

*Breathe California is dedicated to fighting lung disease, advocating for clean air and promoting public health in our local communities.*

**Breathe California  
of the Bay Area,  
Golden Gate, and  
Central Coast**

1469 Park Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95126  
Phone: (408) 998-5865  
Toll-Free: 1-877-3-BREATHE  
Fax: (408) 998-0578  
www.lungsrus.org  
info@lungsrus.org

Tax ID#: 94-1156307

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A member of the  
**Breathe America™**  
Alliance



August 18, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave,  
Capitola, CA 95010

**Re: Support Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products**

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

Breathe California of the Bay Area, Golden Gate and Central Coast urgently requests your support for the adoption of a city-wide policy prohibiting the sale of all filtered, rolled tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, within Santa Cruz. This decisive action is vital to directly address the pervasive issue of cigarette butt litter, a persistent pollutant not only on our land in Santa Cruz County and globally, but also with devastating consequences for the delicate ecosystems of Santa Cruz County's precious coastal and ocean environments.

For over a century, Breathe California has steadfastly championed healthy lungs across California, striving to make our state a leader in respiratory health. Since our founding in 1911, we have been a strong voice for lung health in all its dimensions, including environmental health. We have witnessed and actively countered decades of manipulative strategies employed by the tobacco industry, which has profited from the addiction of young people. While public understanding of the health dangers of Big Tobacco's products has increased, the significant yet often overlooked problem of toxic environmental pollution, especially its insidious impact on our marine life, remains a critical concern.

The term "filters" on cigarettes deceptively suggests a safer smoking experience. However, the World Health Organization clearly states that filters offer "no benefit in preventing the adverse health effects of smoking." Instead, they serve as another marketing tactic employed by an industry with a long history of public deception, resulting in devastating consequences for human health and our shared environment.

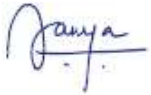
Beyond their harm to individuals, these filtered products become a significant source of pollution, leaching toxins, carcinogens, and microplastics into our soils and, critically, into our waterways and the ocean. These discarded filters are frequently mistaken for food by marine animals, leading to ingestion, starvation, and even death. The chemicals they release further contaminate the marine food chain, posing a threat to biodiversity and potentially impacting human health through seafood consumption.

Local governments and environmental nonprofits have disproportionately shouldered the burden and expense of cleaning up this toxic tobacco waste from our beaches and coastal areas, while the tobacco industry continues to generate excessive profits.

It is time for a proactive, upstream solution that holds Big Tobacco accountable for its corporate pollution and protects our invaluable marine resources.

Our community possesses decades of litter data and a well-established regional strategy. Working together, with your crucial support, we can enact a robust policy that prioritizes the well-being of our residents over the exploitative profits of the cigarette industry. A ban on filtered cigarettes is essential to protect our vulnerable environment. We strongly urge you to join the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the City of Santa Cruz in passing this vital policy to safeguard our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tanya', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Tanya Payyappilly,  
CEO

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Tico Andrea <tico.andrea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach and Westman

I am writing to you in support of the adoption of a policy that bans the sale of filtered, pre-rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola. This policy is critical to address one of the most persistent litter items in Capitola, the county of Santa Cruz and across the globe: cigarette butts.

Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter worldwide, and they represent one of the worst pollutants for our local coastline. They may look small, but cigarette filters are made of plastic fibers that do not biodegrade and can leach toxic chemicals such as arsenic, lead, and nicotine into the sand and ocean. These toxins harm marine life, contaminate water quality, and threaten the health of beachgoers. Birds, fish, and sea turtles often mistake the butts for food, leading to ingestion, choking, and poisoning.

We believe there is community and local government support, decades of litter data, and the regional strategy to justify a strong policy that holds Big Tobacco responsible for its corporate pollution. Please ban filtered cigarettes.

Thank you for your continued environmental leadership.

Tico Andrea

--

**Tico Andrea**

Program & Product Management Leader  
Corralitos, CA | 831 421 1891 | Tico.andrea@gmail.com  
[linkedin.com/in/ticoandrea](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ticoandrea)

**Expertise:** International Expansion | Product & Program Leadership | Localization (L10n/i18n)

**Tools & Skills:** Tableau · GA · Amplitude · SQL · Figma · Jira · Asana · Smartling · DeepL

**Languages:** Dutch (native), English, French, German

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Tico Andrea <tico.andrea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:03 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach and Westman

I am writing to you in support of the adoption of a policy that bans the sale of filtered, pre-rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola. This policy is critical to address one of the most persistent litter items in Capitola, the county of Santa Cruz and across the globe: cigarette butts.

Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter worldwide, and they represent one of the worst pollutants for our local coastline. They may look small, but cigarette filters are made of plastic fibers that do not biodegrade and can leach toxic chemicals such as arsenic, lead, and nicotine into the sand and ocean. These toxins harm marine life, contaminate water quality, and threaten the health of beachgoers. Birds, fish, and sea turtles often mistake the butts for food, leading to ingestion, choking, and poisoning.

We believe there is community and local government support, decades of litter data, and the regional strategy to justify a strong policy that holds Big Tobacco responsible for its corporate pollution. Please ban filtered cigarettes.

Thank you for your continued environmental leadership.

Tico Andrea

--

**Tico Andrea**

Program & Product Management Leader  
Corralitos, CA | 831 421 1891 | Tico.andrea@gmail.com  
[linkedin.com/in/ticoandrea](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ticoandrea)

**Expertise:** International Expansion | Product & Program Leadership | Localization (L10n/i18n)

**Tools & Skills:** Tableau · GA · Amplitude · SQL · Figma · Jira · Asana · Smartling · DeepL

**Languages:** Dutch (native), English, French, German



August 19, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave,  
Capitola, CA 95010

RE: California Marine Sanctuary Foundation supports a Ban on the Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

I am writing on behalf of the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to express our strong support for the proposed ban on the sale of filtered, pre-rolled tobacco products in the City of Capitola. This policy represents a critical step toward addressing the persistent and pervasive issue of tobacco waste, particularly cigarette butts, which are a significant environmental hazard in our community.

As an organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of marine and coastal environments, we are acutely aware of the detrimental impact cigarette butts have on our local ecosystems. Tobacco filters are the most littered item on California streets, parks, and beaches. They contain toxic chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nicotine, which leach into our soil and water, posing a poisoning risk to small children, pets, wildlife, and marine life.

A 2023 study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) highlights the severity of this issue, attributing 25% of the debris found on the shores of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to smoking. It is alarming to note that, on a global scale, an estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered on the planet at any given time. Moreover, the 2024 Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee Report indicates that discarded cigarette filters may release nearly a half million tons of microfibers into the aquatic environment annually.

For too long, the environmental community has overlooked the issue of cigarette butt litter, while the tobacco industry has taken no responsibility for this toxic waste. Instead, the burden of cleaning up this hazardous material has fallen on local volunteers, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. An economic model developed by San Diego State University's Center on Tobacco and the Environment estimates that the City of Santa Cruz spends over \$2 million annually on tobacco waste mitigation—a cost that could be better allocated to other pressing community needs.

Furthermore, research indicates that cigarette filters provide no health benefits to smokers. According to the World Health Organization, there is no evidence that filters reduce the harmful effects of cigarette smoke. In essence, these filters serve no purpose other than to contribute to the global problem of plastic pollution.

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Katelyn Sprofera <katelyn@californiamsf.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:57 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Katie Thompson; Robert Mazurek  
**Subject:** [PDF] California Marine Sanctuary Foundation supports a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products  
**Attachments:** Capitola City Council Ban the Butt.pdf

Hello,

Please accept our letter of support for the ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products.

Kind Regards,

Katelyn Sprofera

--

Katelyn Sprofera  
Program Manager and Evaluation Specialist  
*California Marine Sanctuary Foundation*  
[CaliforniaMSF.org](https://californiamsf.org)  
[CaliforniaMPAs.org](https://californiampas.org)



The policy under consideration by the Capitola City Council is a straightforward solution to this widespread problem. By banning the sale of filtered tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, the City of Capitola can take a decisive step in protecting both public health and the environment. This ban would reduce the toxic waste entering our ecosystem, protect wildlife and marine life, and alleviate the economic burden on local communities.

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation stands in full support of this groundbreaking local policy. The health of our ocean, marine life, and coastal communities depends on proactive measures like this one. We urge you to adopt this policy and help the City of Capitola lead the way in addressing the environmental and health impacts of tobacco waste.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to environmental stewardship. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Sprofera  
Program Manager & Evaluation Specialist  
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Aster Peng <asterpeng@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:15 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Ban Cigarettes!

Dear City Council,

I urge you to take action against one of the most pervasive and harmful forms of litter - cigarette butts. These toxic plastic filters are a major environmental, health, and economic burden on our community.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world, and locally, they wash into Monterey Bay, contributing to ocean pollution and harming marine life. These filters do not biodegrade; instead, they break into microplastics and leach toxic chemicals like lead, arsenic, and nicotine into our environment. They are also a fire hazard, responsible for burning nearly 89,000 acres in California since 1980.

The financial burden of cigarette butt cleanup falls on local governments and volunteers rather than the tobacco companies responsible for the waste. In California alone, Caltrans spends nearly \$14 million annually on cigarette litter cleanup.

I urge you to introduce and support a ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products in our city.

Eliminating these non-essential and harmful filters will significantly reduce pollution, protect public health, and lessen the financial strain on our local government.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue. I look forward to your response.

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** daniel aims <dcaims@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 11:54 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Re: Ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products

August 20, 2025

Dear Honorable Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach and Westman,

I am writing to you in support of the adoption of a policy that bans the sale of filtered, pre-rolled tobacco products including cigarettes, cigarillos, and little cigars, in the City of Capitola. This policy is critical to address one of the most persistent litter items in Capitola, the county of Santa Cruz, and across the globe: cigarette butts.

Cigarette butts are one of the most commonly littered items that consistently appear on beautiful beaches, disrupting natural ecosystems and polluting even protected lands.

Let's not forget what cigarette butts are: single use plastics.

There is community and neighboring local government support, decades of litter data, and the regional strategy to justify a policy that helps protect Capitola's beautiful shores, marine life, and people. Please ban the sale of filtered cigarettes.

Thank you for your continued environmental leadership.

Daniel Aims

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Sandy Brown <Sandy.Brown@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** Clarke, Joe; Margaux Morgan; Gerry Jensen; Melinda Orbach; Westman, Susan  
**Cc:** Gautho, Julia; Justin Cummings; Manu Koenig  
**Subject:** [PDF] Support for proposed ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products  
**Attachments:** 25\_Capitola Filtered Tobacco Ban Support Letter.pdf

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice Mayor Morgan and Members of the Capitola City Council,

Please find attached a letter of support from Supervisors Koenig and Cummings for Capitola's proposed ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products. Let us know if you have any questions in advance of the hearing.

Kind regards,



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FIFTH DISTRICT

August 21, 2025

The Honorable Joe Clarke and  
Capitola City Councilmembers  
420 Capitola Avenue  
Capitola, CA 95010

Dear Mayor Clarke and City Councilmembers,

We strongly support the proposed ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products in Capitola.

In 2023, Capitola recognized tobacco waste as a public health and environmental threat. On April 10, 2025, you unanimously voted to draft this ordinance—your leadership is critical to making it law. Cigarette butts remain the most common toxic litter on our beaches and in our waterways. By banning filtered tobacco sales, Capitola can significantly reduce this waste, protect public health, and ease the burden of cleanup on residents and agencies.

This action would align Capitola with County and City of Santa Cruz ordinances and activate enforcement of the County's ban. It also reflects the City's long-standing leadership on environmental issues, including your vital role in shaping the County's tobacco waste policy. While a short transition period may be needed, similar tobacco policies have shown no long-term harm to local businesses. With an 18-month implementation window, this ordinance strikes a thoughtful balance between public good and economic consideration.

Please continue your leadership and join us in advancing this meaningful policy for a cleaner, healthier Capitola and region.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN CUMMINGS  
Third District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

MANU KOENIG  
First District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Faris Sabbah <fsabbah@santacruzcoe.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 8:00 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Support for Capitola's Proposed Ban on the Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products  
**Attachments:** Support for Filtered Tobacco Ban - Santa Cruz COE - 8-21-25.pdf

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

Please find attached a letter of support urging the Capitola City Council to adopt the proposed ordinance banning the retail sale of filtered tobacco products.

As Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, I have joined with students, families, and community partners in advocating for this critical policy. Following adoption by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Cruz City Council, Capitola now has the opportunity to become the third jurisdiction to enact this ordinance — ensuring that it will take effect countywide by January 1, 2027.

I respectfully encourage your leadership on this issue to protect our public health, environment, and community well-being.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Faris Sabbah  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

**Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

[www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)







**SANTA CRUZ**  
COUNTY OFFICE OF  
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August 21, 2025

Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010

Re: Support for Banning Filtered Tobacco Products

Dear Mayor Clarke, Vice-Mayor Morgan, and Council Members Jensen, Orbach, and Westman,

As Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, I write today to urge your Council to adopt the proposed ordinance banning the retail sale of filtered, rolled tobacco products such as cigarettes and cigarillos within the City of Capitola. This critical policy will help address one of the most pervasive and harmful forms of litter within Santa Cruz County and beyond: toxic cigarette butts.

As you know, in October, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a groundbreaking ban on the sale of filtered tobacco products in the unincorporated area of the County. Earlier this year, the City of Santa Cruz became the first incorporated city to follow suit, adopting its own version of this important policy. However, the County ordinance includes an amendment delaying enforcement until at least three local jurisdictions have enacted similar policies. By taking action now, Capitola has the opportunity to become the third jurisdiction to ensure this landmark policy goes into effect countywide by January 1, 2027.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) has long been committed to tobacco use prevention and education. Through our Tobacco Use Prevention and Education (TUPE) program, we provide support, training, and technical assistance to school districts to help them implement tobacco-free policies and practices. We also offer direct education to students and families on the dangers of tobacco addiction, strategies to resist peer pressure, and resources to support quitting tobacco use.

Our students recognize that tobacco waste is not just a litter problem; it is a matter of environmental justice and health equity. Filtered cigarette butts are disproportionately found in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Composed of cellulose acetate, a non-biodegradable plastic, these filters break down into microplastics that bioaccumulate in marine life and leach hazardous chemicals like lead, arsenic, and nicotine into our soil and waterways. They pose a serious threat to children, pets, wildlife, and marine ecosystems. In fact, the World Health Organization has found that cigarette filters offer no proven health benefit over unfiltered cigarettes.

The City of Santa Cruz has already taken a vital step by adopting a resolution in 2021 declaring tobacco waste a public health and environmental threat and following through with a ban on filtered tobacco products. That leadership, paired with the County ordinance, sets the stage for Capitola to complete the

necessary third step. By doing so, your Council will help protect our beaches, waterways, and public spaces, while advancing public health and environmental stewardship for the entire region.

On behalf of our school community, and in solidarity with students who have worked to clean up tobacco waste and educate others, I urge you to join the County and the City of Santa Cruz in banning the sale of filtered, rolled tobacco products within Capitola. Together, we can make Santa Cruz County a statewide and national leader in ending the environmental and health harms caused by filtered tobacco products.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Faris Sabbah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Faris" and last name "Sabbah" clearly legible.

Dr. Faris Sabbah  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools