

# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Resolution To Mitigate Plastic Pollution

Whereas, the amount of plastic pollution on our shores and in our waters is reaching crisis status.

Whereas, the planet's ocean is experiencing increasing amounts of plastic pollution, covering habitats from beaches to the deepest oceanic trenches.

Whereas, a 2019 study by Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute found there is high concentration of microplastics in the Monterey Submarine Canyon.

Whereas, international and regional coastal cleanup data show that plastic items comprise eight of the top 10 most littered items.

Whereas, plastic is being identified as a common cause of marine organism mortality.

Whereas, microplastics are now found throughout the human food systems and specifically in items such as fish, sea salt, honey, tap water and bottled waters.

Whereas, human health studies indicate plastics are now found in human tissues, including blood.

Whereas, cleanup efforts are an insufficient response to a serious systemic problem.

Whereas, the recycling system in California and across the U.S. lacks common collection and sufficient material markets.

Whereas, successful international efforts on extended producer responsibility can serve as a model.

Whereas, results from coastal cleanups demonstrate that ordinances regulating single use plastic packaging and plastic products are effective.

Whereas, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has passed plastic pollution mitigation resolutions previously, most notably relative to single use plastic bags.

Therefore, be it resolved that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council hereby supports a comprehensive approach, at all local to international jurisdiction levels, to plastic pollution mitigation including:

1. education and outreach to plastic producers, distributors, retailers, consumers and decision makers;
2. source reduction, including
  - decreases in the volume of materials used;
  - elimination of unnecessary packaging and product components;
  - minimization of single-use items;
  - minimization of non-recyclable and non-compostable plastics;
  - support for extended producer responsibility;
  - strengthening of incentives and mandates for recycling technology and infrastructure; and
  - general support for innovative and sustainable circular, closed-loop production systems.