


# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: April 15, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Council File No: 19-0002-S40  
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No.: 19-04-0327

SUBJECT: Resolution (O'Farrell - Koretz - Krekorian) to SUPPORT AB 1080 (Gonzales) and SB 54 (Allen)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (O'Farrell - Koretz – Krekorian) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1080 (Gonzales) and SB 54 (Allen), the *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act*, which would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations to reduce and recycle 75% of single-use plastic materials sold or distributed in the State by 2030.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (O'Farrell - Koretz - Krekorian), introduced on March 6, 2019, indicates that the United States discards approximately 30 million tons of plastic each year. It states that plastic material is not biodegradable as it simply breaks down into smaller pieces which end up in landfills or polluting the environment.

The Resolution notes that local governments in California spend millions each year to clean up and prevent plastic materials from entering rivers and streams and polluting the ocean. It follows that discarded plastic materials negatively impact marine life, as demonstrated by countless seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals dying from plastic ingestion or entanglement.

The State Legislature introduced AB 1080 (Gonzales) and SB 54 (Allen), the *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act*, which would require the State to adopt regulations to reduce and recycle 75% of single-use plastic materials sold or distributed in the State by 2030.

These bills would also require a manufacturer of single-use plastic materials to demonstrate a recycling rate of not less than 20% on and after January 1, 2022, and not less than 40% on and after January 1, 2026, as a condition of sale.

The Resolution notes that the City of Los Angeles has been a leader in solid waste diversion and recycling, achieving the highest recycling rate among large U.S. cities. In addition, the City recently adopted the Plastic Straws-On-Request Ordinance which seeks to mitigate the impact discarded plastic straws have on marine life and the environment. Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City support AB 1080 and SB 54.

BACKGROUND:

The authors of the proposed *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act* stress that unlike natural materials that decompose, nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in landfills or in the environment. As these items fragment into smaller particles, known as microplastics, they concentrate toxic chemicals and contaminate food and drinking water sources. Exposure to microplastics and associated toxins has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems.

These bills would establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste concerns associated with single-use plastic materials. CalRecycle would be given authority to adopt regulations to meet reduction objectives, including developing criteria to determine which packaging material qualifies as recyclable or compostable. As part of a shift towards a more circular economy, the bills also call for CalRecycle to develop incentives to encourage in-State manufacturing using recycled material.

The City would benefit from the objectives of the proposed *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act* inasmuch as it would allow it to increase its solid resources recycling and landfill diversion rates. In addition, it would help with existing and pressing needs to effectively recycle materials in a local and regional sphere.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED:

Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation

BILL STATUS:

AB 1080

3/26/19 Approved by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee; referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee

SB 54

3/20/19 Approved by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee; referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee



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Rafael E. Prieto  
Analyst

Attachment(s): Resolution (O'Farrell - Koretz - Krekorian)

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the United States discards approximately 30 million tons of plastic each year; and

WHEREAS, plastic material is not biodegradable as it simply breaks down into smaller pieces which end up in landfills or polluting the environment; and

WHEREAS, local governments in California spend millions each year to clean up and prevent plastic materials and other litter from entering rivers and streams and polluting the ocean; and

WHEREAS, discarded plastic materials negatively impact marine life, as demonstrated by countless seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals dying from plastic ingestion or entanglement; and

WHEREAS, to address this matter, the State Legislature introduced AB 1080 (Gonzales) and SB 54 (Allen), the *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act*, which would require the State to adopt regulations to reduce and recycle 75% of single-use plastic materials sold or distributed in the State by 2030; and

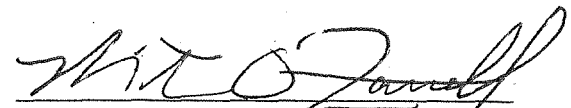
WHEREAS, these measures would also require a manufacturer of single-use plastic materials in the State to demonstrate a recycling rate of not less than 20% on and after January 1, 2022, and not less than 40% on and after January 1, 2026, as a condition of sale; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has been a leader in solid waste diversion and recycling programs for years, achieving the highest recycling rate among large U.S. cities; and

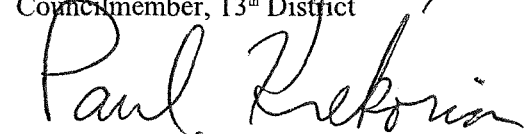
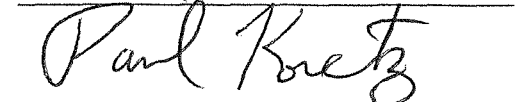
WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles recently approved the *Plastic Straws-On-Request Ordinance* which will mitigate the impact discarded plastic straws have on marine life and the environment and will improve the quality of life in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1080 (Gonzales) and SB 54 (Allen), the *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Act*, which would require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to adopt regulations to reduce and recycle 75% of single-use plastic materials sold or distributed in the State by 2030.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

S-410

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