

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
RESOLUTION

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 governmental 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, nonwoven wipes are increasingly being marketed by manufacturers as "flushable" and, as a result, are being flushed down the toilet more frequently by consumers; and

WHEREAS, despite marketing claims, "flushable" wipes do not breakdown after being flushed; and they contain microplastics which are known to be harmful to marine life; and

WHEREAS, nonwoven wipes tend to accumulate in sewer collection systems, clogging up system pumps and causing backups and equipment failures; and

WHEREAS, a sewer collection system clog in South Carolina was caused by thousands of pounds of "flushable" wipes and took 3 days to clear; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) and Heal the Bay conduct the "Don't Flush That" campaign to educate customers on what they can do to reduce or eliminate the amount of "flushable" wipes and other trash that gets into the sewer collection system; and


WHEREAS, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) has also started an awareness campaign called "Wipes Clog Pipes"; and

WHEREAS, AB 1672 (Bloom), introduced on February 22, 2019, seeks to prohibit manufacturers from labeling wipe products as "safe to flush", "safe for sewer system", or "safe for septic systems" unless the products meet certain performance standards ensuring they breakdown after being flushed; and

WHEREAS, eliminating nonwoven wipes marketed as "flushable" from sewer collection systems would save ratepayers and sewer system collection agencies millions of dollars in costly repairs; and would reduce microplastics from entering the natural environment and harming marine life;

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 1672 (Bloom) which seeks to prohibit manufacturers from labeling wipe products as "safe to flush", "safe for sewer system", or "safe for septic systems" unless the products meet certain performance standards ensuring they breakdown after being flushed; thereby protecting the operation of sewer collection systems and the environment.

PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 07 2019

ORIGINAL

