

Sent Via U.S. Mail and electronic submission

Governor Gavin Newsom
California Governor's Office
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento CA 95814

Attorney General Rob Bonta
Attorney General's Office
California Department of Justice, Attn: Public Inquiry Unit
1300 "I" Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Enforcement of Existing California Laws on Plastic Bags and Films

Dear Governor Newsom and Attorney General Bonta,

We, the undersigned, urge you to enforce existing laws on labeling of plastic bags and films and distribution of thicker plastic bags. Plastic waste and pollution are harming California's ecosystems and economy. In particular, plastic bags and films fill our landscapes and contaminate the state's recycling and composting systems. California has existing laws in place to regulate labeling and distribution of plastic bags and films to protect the State's consumers, environment, and economy. Enforcement of existing laws will benefit Californians and reduce environmental and economic damage.

We support [the letter sent by California Statewide Commission](#) on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling on December 3, 2021, calling for the elimination of recycling symbols and labels on plastic bags and films sold in California. As detailed in the Commission's letter, **plastic bags and films cannot legally be claimed as "recyclable" under existing California law.** California law ([Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17580](#) and [Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 42355.5](#)) and the federal Green Guides ([16 C.F.R. § 260.2](#)) require substantiation for recycling for claims such as this. We agree that this claim is not provable.

Furthermore, we urge you to instruct California retail stores to stop selling thicker plastic film bags since they are not "recyclable in the state" as required by law ([Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 42881](#)). Californians are being deceived by instructions to "Return the plastic bag to a participating store for recycling" and sent on a wild goose chase with no benefit. It is time to end [The Great Store Drop-Off Charade](#) in California. There is not a functioning store take-back system in California because (1) it is not required by law and (2) mixed post-consumer plastic film waste is worthless so there is no reason for stores to voluntarily collect it. Few take-back bins exist and there is no proof that collected materials are actually recycled into new products. In a comprehensive survey of thicker plastic bags sold by California retail stores performed by The Last Beach Cleanup in November 2021, the most commonly sold thicker plastic bags were

made from agricultural plastic film waste and three major chain stores imported plastic bags with recycled content from Europe. These bags do not contain recycled content from California's own plastic bags and are destined for California's landfills or landscapes. (See Appendix 1 of the Commission's letter for the full results of the survey).

The time for action is now. Thank you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Dianna Cohen, CEO & Co-Founder
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Los Angeles, California



Jan Dell, Independent Engineer
The Last Beach Cleanup
Dana Point, California

The Last
Beach Cleanup

Jackie Nuñez, Founder
The Last Plastic Straw
Santa Cruz, California



David Krueger, President of the Board
Northern California Recycling Association
Berkeley California



Ashley Draeger
Pacific Policy & Communications Manager
Oceana
Monterey, California



Nicole Kurian, Policy Analyst
Californians Against Waste
Sacramento, California



Ruben Hernandez, Representative
Government & Legislative Affairs
Marin Sanitary Service
San Rafael, California



Miho Ligare, Manager
Plastics Pollution Policy
Surfrider Foundation



Jennifer Koney, Policy Analyst
350 Bay Area Action
Hayward, California



Mary Kay Benson, Steering Council Manager
350 Butte County
Chico, California



Sherry Lear, Organizer
350 South Bay Los Angeles
Torrance, California



Michael Rochmes, Steering Committee
350 Southland Legislative Alliance
Culver City, California



Alison Waliszewski, Program Coordinator
5 Gyres Institute
Los Angeles, California



Leslie Tamminen, Director
7th Generation Advisors
Los Angeles, California



David Diaz, Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley
El Monte, California



Brady Bradshaw, Founder
Aquamen
San Diego, California



Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SUP
Pasadena, California



Molly Morse, Project Scientist
Benioff Ocean Initiative
Santa Barbara, California



Judith Enck, President
Beyond Plastics
Bennington, Vermont



Shweta Patil, Advocacy Volunteer
BringIT For a Better Planet
Palo Alto, California



Victoria Bogdan Tejeda, Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity
Oakland, California



Lendi Slover & Andy Hattala, Co-Chairs
Plastic Pollution Committee
The Climate Reality Project - LA
Los Angeles, California



Kathi King, Director
Climate Education and Leadership
Community Environmental Council
Santa Barbara, California



Gail Woon, Founder
Earth Care
Freeport, Grand Bahama



Ann Blake, Ph.D., Founder & Principal
Environmental & Public Health Consulting
Alameda, California



Claudia Truesdell, Director
EngageOn Palo Alto, Climate Action
Palo Alto, California



Yvette Arellano, Executive Director
Fenceline Watch
Houston, Texas



Shannon Smith, Interim Executive Director
Fractracker Alliance
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Marcie Keever, Program Director
Oceans & Vessels
Friends of the Earth
Berkeley, California



David Stitzhal, President
Full Circle Environmental, Inc
Seattle, Washington



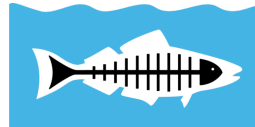
Lisa Ramsden, Senior Oceans Campaigner
Greenpeace
Washington, District of Columbia



Janice Kaplen, Co-Chair
Harrison Sustainability Committee
Harrison, New York



Katherine Pease, Director of Science & Policy
Heal the Bay
Santa Monica, California



April Peebler, Executive Director
Heirs to Our Oceans
Redwood City, California



Doug Bender, Member of Steering Committee
Indivisible South Bay LA
Torrence, California



Melissa Jung, Program & Outreach Manager
Inland Ocean Coalition
Mesa, Arizona



Blaze Bhence, President
ITServUs
Cypress, California



Emy Kane, Director of Strategy
Lonely Whale
New York, New York



Amy Wolfrum, Senior Manager
California Ocean Policy
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey, California



Alicia Nichols Gonzalez, Organizing Manager
Mothers Out Front California
San Diego, California



Brittany Gamez, COO
Muuse
Singapore



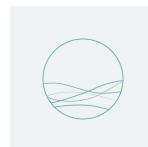
Jordan Wells, Director
Advocacy & Communications
National Stewardship Action Council
Sacramento, California



Cassia Patel, Program Director
Oceanic Global
New York, New York



Chloe Brown, Founder
Open Ocean Minded
Monterey, California



Eva Cicoria, Founder
Paddle Out Plastic
Los Angeles, California



Matthew Warren, Co-founder, Science Advisor
Plastic Free Future
Pacifica, California



Ingrid Steinberg, Board President
Resilient Palisades
Pacific Palisades, California



Mitch Barlas, President
Revolusation
Santa Cruz, California



Lynne Plambeck, President
Santa Clarita
Organization for Planning the Environment
Santa Clarita, California



Mary Scheller, Master Recycler
Santa Cruz Master Recyclers
Santa Cruz, California



Erica Donnelly-Greenan, Executive Director
Save Our Shores
Santa Cruz, California



Laura Anthony, Program Coordinator
Save the Albatross Coalition
Sebastopol, California



Shell Cleave, Founder
Sea Hugger
Half Moon Bay, California



Brad Nahill, President
See Turtles
Portland, Oregon



Ara Marderosian, Executive Director
Sequoia Forest Keeper
Kernville, California



David McGuire, Director
Shark Stewards
San Francisco, California



Lauren Cullum, Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California
Sacramento, California



Jack Eldt, Co-Founder
Socal +350 Climate Action
Los Angeles, California



Newara Brosnan-Faltas, LA Chapter Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter
Santa Monica, California



Chris Coyle, Founder & CEO,
TAO: Leading Blue Economy, Tech & Ecosystems Consultancy
New Canaan, Connecticut

Christopher Chin, Executive Director
Center for Oceanic Awareness,
Research & Education
Oakland, California



Sam Pearse, Lead Campaigner
The Story of Stuff Project
Berkeley, California



Scott Webb, Advocacy & Policy Manager
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Olema, California



Shira Lane, Founder
Atrium 916
Up Kindness, Inc
Sacramento, California



Miriam Gordon, Policy Director
Upstream
San Francisco, California



George Shillinger, Executive Director
Upwell Turtles
Monterey, California



Olivia Kelly, Director of Strategic Growth
Usefull
Santa Monica, California



Michael Kuehnert, Co-Director
Video Project, Inc
San Francisco



Patricia Thomas, Steering Committee Member
West Marin Climate Action
Point Reyes Station, California

Mati Waiya, Executive Director
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
Ventura, California



WISHTOYO
CHUMASH FOUNDATION
FIRST NATIONS ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Margaret Gainer, Board Member
Zero Waste Humboldt
Bayside, California



Ruth Abbe, President
Zero Waste USA
Sebastopol, California

