



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

2000 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92648-2702

GRACEY VAN DER MARK MAYOR

July 3, 2024

The Honorable Mark McGuire
1021 O Street, Suite 8517
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Concurrent Resolution 182 (Dixon) Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Dear Senator McGuire,

The City of Huntington Beach strongly supports ACR 182 (Dixon). Assembly Concurrent Resolution 182 will promote and encourage solutions and resources to keep our oceans and coastlines healthy, to help eliminate the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch contains approximately 1.8 billion plastic pieces, has a total mass of about 100,000 tons, and covers over 617,000 square miles, which is an area twice the size of Texas. This results in extensive environmental, ecological, and economic impacts for our oceans, coastline and marine life.

Not only does the Patch harm marine life, but 84% of the Patch's plastics and microplastics contain at least one persistent bio-accumulative toxic chemical that leaches out when certain plastics break down through photodegradation, negatively impacting seawater. PBTs, BPAs, PCBs and other chemicals have entered our food supply through bioaccumulation, where animals feeding on plastic ingest chemicals, and the chemicals are then passed up the food chain, exposing animals and humans. The removal of this trash is essential to the State's environment and economy. Concerted action must be taken to mitigate the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems, emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive strategies, better technologies and resources to protect and preserve our oceans and coastlines for posterity.

As a city with 8.5 miles of coastline, the City of Huntington Beach believes it is crucial to continue to protect our coastlines, our oceans and marine mammal life for generations to come. With the various beaches in our city, it is important to ensure safety among the residents and 11 million annual visitors who visit Huntington Beach. We offer our support to further encourage solutions and resources to help eliminate the Great Garbage Patch.

We strongly urge your support for Assembly Concurrent Resolution 182 (Dixon)!

Sincerely,

Gracey Van Der Mark
Mayor

Cc: Assemblymember Diane Dixon
Senator Janet Nguyen

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 182

Introduced by Assembly Member Dixon
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alanis, Chen, Davies, Flora, Lackey, Ortega, Pellerin, and Waldron)
(Coauthor: Senator Newman)

April 22, 2024

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 182—Relative to ocean pollution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 182, as introduced, Dixon. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

This measure would provide for the promotion and encouragement of solutions and resources for keeping the oceans and coastlines healthy and eliminating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (Patch) is a
2 collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean and it is the
3 largest of the five offshore plastic accumulation zones in the
4 world’s oceans; and
5 WHEREAS, The Patch, also known as the Pacific trash vortex,
6 consists of two distinct collections of spinning debris bounded by
7 the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre: the Western Garbage Patch,
8 located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between
9 Hawaii and California; and
10 WHEREAS, The Patch contains approximately
11 1,800,000,000,000 plastic pieces, has a total mass of about 100,000

1 tons, and covers over 617,000 square miles, which is an area twice
2 the size of Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, Nonbiodegradable debris accumulates in the Patch,
4 including, but not limited to, plastics that break down into pieces
5 called microplastics, which are too small to see without
6 magnification; and

7 WHEREAS, The presence of the Patch is causing extensive
8 environmental, ecological, and economic impacts; and

9 WHEREAS, Loggerhead sea turtles often eat plastic bags after
10 mistaking them for jelly fish, and albatross mistake resin pellets
11 for fish eggs and feed them to their chicks, which then die of
12 starvation or ruptured organs; and

13 WHEREAS, Sea turtles caught in fisheries operating within and
14 around the Patch can have up to 74 percent, by dry weight, of their
15 diets composed of ocean plastics and Laysan albatross chicks from
16 Kure Atoll and Oahu Island have around 45 percent of their wet
17 mass composed of plastics; and

18 WHEREAS, Eighty-four percent of the Patch's plastics and
19 microplastics contain at least one persistent bioaccumulative toxic
20 (PBT) chemical, such as bisphenol A (BPA), which leaches out
21 when certain plastics break down through photodegradation,
22 negatively impacting seawater; and

23 WHEREAS, PBTs, BPAs, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs),
24 and other chemicals have entered our food supply through a process
25 called bioaccumulation, where animals feeding on plastic ingest
26 chemicals, and the chemicals are then passed up the food chain to
27 humans, exposing animals and humans to the maleffects of the
28 chemicals; and

29 WHEREAS, Marine plastic is estimated to have an annual
30 economic cost of \$6,000,000,000 to \$19,000,000,000, stemming
31 from impacts on tourism, cleanups, fisheries, and aquaculture, but
32 not including the costs associated with the impacts on human health
33 and the marine ecosystem; and

34 WHEREAS, The Patch's microplastic mass concentration is
35 increasing exponentially, with an estimated 1,150,000 to 2,410,000
36 tons of plastic entering the world's oceans each year from rivers;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, Intercepting plastic in rivers is more cost effective
39 than removing plastics once they are in the ocean waters; and

1 WHEREAS, Technology and innovation provide the best
2 solutions to creatively capture plastic and trash that flow from
3 rivers to the ocean; and

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Works for the County
5 of Los Angeles has developed a pilot project to test in Marina del
6 Rey a fully automated, solar powered trash collection device
7 designed to capture floating plastic, trash, and litter before they
8 reach the ocean; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2023, the State of California approved funding
10 for the Newport Bay Pollution Control Project, which will remove
11 human-made pollutants before they enter the Pacific Ocean; and

12 WHEREAS, Efforts to eliminate the Patch address the pressing
13 need to safeguard our oceans and coastlines for future generations;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Central to these efforts is combating the pervasive
16 threat posed of millions of tons of plastic pollution that inundates
17 our oceans annually and that predominantly enter the oceans from
18 rivers; and

19 WHEREAS, At the forefront of this crisis lies the Eastern
20 Garbage Patch, situated between Hawaii and California; and

21 WHEREAS, It is imperative that concerted action be taken to
22 mitigate the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution on marine
23 ecosystems, emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive
24 strategies, better technologies, and resources to protect and preserve
25 our oceans and coastlines for posterity; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature promote and encourage
28 solutions and resources for keeping the oceans and coastlines
29 healthy and eliminating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch; and be
30 it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.
33

34
35 REVISIONS: _____

36 Heading—Line 2. _____
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