

## **SB 54/AB 1080 Fact Sheet**

### **What the bills will do:**

Senate Bill 54 and Assembly Bill 1080 aim by 2030 to reduce by 75% all single-use packaging and the top 10 single-use plastic products most collected at statewide beach cleanups through source reduction, recycling or composting.

The bills apply to:

- 1) all single-use packaging sold in California, and
- 2) the top 10 single-use plastic products that are the most littered in the state

This means the bills are focused on the biggest problems for our waste stream (packaging) and the biggest problems for our environment and health (plastic pollution).

The goal is to first reduce single-use plastic packaging and products from being produced in the first place. Whatever products remain that are still single-use, must either be truly recyclable or compostable.

### **Significance of the bills:**

- We cannot recycle our way out of the single-use plastics crisis. We must reduce the amount of single-use plastic at the source before it gets to consumers.
- SB 54 and AB 1080 will provide the framework we desperately need to turn the tide on this single-use waste problem.
- Many countries are no longer accepting shipments of the United States' single-use plastic waste. These materials are now being stockpiled at waste and recycling centers and more of it is entering landfills here at home.
- If these bills pass, they will be the most comprehensive statewide single-use plastic policies in the nation.

### **Threats of Single-Use Plastics:**

*Single-use plastic is threatening the oceans, public health, and local economies.*

- Plastic pollution has grown into a major global crisis for the oceans, with an estimated 17.6 billion pounds of plastic entering the marine environment every year.
- Plastics never go away. Instead, our single-use plastic convenience items are breaking down into tiny pieces that are having a massive impact on our oceans, air, and our own health.
- Plastics are profoundly flawed by design: They use a material made to last forever but are designed to be thrown away.
- When plastics break down they are choking hazards for wildlife and act as magnets for harmful pollutants that make their way into the food chain.

- Plastic waste is everywhere. It has been found floating on the sea surface, washing up on the world's most remote coastlines, melting out of Arctic sea ice and sitting at the deepest point of the ocean floor.
- Synthetic particles, including microplastics (defined as plastic particles less than 5 mm), were also recently observed in the guts of all seven species of the ocean's sea turtles.
- An average person could be ingesting approximately five grams of plastic every week—the equivalent of one credit card. Everything from salt to honey to beer has been found to contain microplastics.
- This is an expensive problem. Local governments in California spend more than \$420 million in efforts to clean up and prevent plastic and other litter from entering oceans and waterways.
- As the fifth largest economy in the world, the state of California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis.

**Timeline:**

- August 12: legislature convenes from recess
- August 30: deadline for bills to pass fiscal committees
- September 13: deadline for the bills to pass the floor
- October 13: deadline for Governor Newsom to sign or veto bills

**Social Media hashtags:**

#CAMustLead

#YesonSB54 #YesonAB1080

#BreakFreeFromPlastic