

Support of Phasing out Single Use Plastics in the UC Zero Waste Commitment

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WHEREAS, our economy encourages us to make, use, and toss at the greatest possible speed, which results in using and disposing of an estimated 300 million plastic grocery bags, 70 million styrofoam cups, and half a billion plastic straws every day;¹ and,

WHEREAS, reports have shown that this trash ends up in rivers and oceans, such as in the Pacific Garbage Patch, which has now grown to four times the size of California²; and,

WHEREAS, recent studies have seen plastic in the bellies of half of seabirds and marine mammals, in 100% of sea turtles³, and in our bodies, since we are reported to consume one credit card's worth of microplastics every week⁴; and,

WHEREAS, students have historically been in support of reducing plastic pollution, as seen in the Zero Waste commitment and in CALPIRG's campaign to pass Prop 67 to ban single-use plastic grocery bags; and,

WHEREAS, over 4,500 UC students have signed on in support of going plastic free; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the official platform⁵ of the UC Student Association shall be updated to represent the values expressed in this resolution; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UC Student Association supports the UC system phasing out all single-use plastic cups and containers in the UC Zero Waste Commitment.

¹ <https://pennenvironment.org/feature/pae/zero-waste-pa>

²

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/nation/article/Huge-garbage-sprawl-in-Pacific-ocean-is-much-12773818.php>

³ https://www.pml.ac.uk/News_and_media/News/Microplastics_found_in_all_sea_turtle_species

⁴ <https://www.panda.org/?348371/Could-you-be-eating-a-credit-card-a-week>

⁵ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Q3aR320Os1xSIzP1R6dIFZkBDGiF15swdWYYh6yxtM/edit>

