
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 182
Author: Dixon (R), et al.
Amended: 8/8/24 in Senate
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Read and adopted, 6/10/24

SUBJECT: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution promotes and encourages solutions and resources for keeping the oceans and coastlines healthy and eliminating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (Patch) is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean and it is the largest of the five offshore plastic accumulation zones in the world's oceans.
- 2) The Patch, also known as the Pacific trash vortex, consists of two distinct collections of spinning debris bounded by the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre: the Western Garbage Patch, located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between Hawaii and California.
- 3) The presence of the Patch is causing extensive environmental, ecological, and economic impacts. Eighty-four percent of the Patch's plastics and microplastics contain at least one persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemical, such as bisphenol A (BPA), which leaches out when certain plastics break down through photodegradation, negatively impacting seawater.
- 4) PBTs, BPAs, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and other chemicals have entered our food supply through a process called bioaccumulation, where animals feeding on plastic ingest chemicals, and the chemicals are then passed

up the food chain to humans, exposing animals and humans to the maleffects of the chemicals.

- 5) The Patch's microplastic mass concentration is increasing exponentially, with an estimated 1,150,000 to 2,410,000 tons of plastic entering the world's oceans each year from rivers. Intercepting plastic in rivers is more cost effective than removing plastics once they are in the ocean waters.
- 6) In 2023, the State of California approved funding for the Newport Bay Pollution Control Project, which will remove human-made pollutants before they enter the Pacific Ocean.
- 7) Efforts to eliminate the Patch address the pressing need to safeguard our oceans and coastlines for future generations. Central to these efforts is combating the pervasive threat posed by millions of tons of plastic pollution that inundates our oceans annually and that predominantly enter the oceans from rivers.

This resolution promotes and encourages solutions and resources for keeping the oceans and coastlines healthy and eliminating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Comments

According to the Author, "Ensuring our oceans are clean is incredibly important. It is our job to protect our coastline, and ACR 182 provides us an opportunity to make that commitment. We must reduce the amount of trash flowing into our oceans. There is much to do when it comes to protecting our beautiful coastline, and I am committed to working with all stakeholders to help prevent pollution"

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/8/24)

City of Huntington Beach

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/8/24)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-1520
8/14/24 14:03:17

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