

## 2019-2020 SUPPORT OF BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTICS AT THE UCS

**WHEREAS**, the University of California has led the way on many different critical issues, such as clean electricity<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, we are in a global plastic crisis, for example less than 10% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled, therefore we are not going to be able to recycle our way out of this problem<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, one-third of all plastic is disposable packaging like bottles and bags, many of which we use for a few minutes and end up littering the environment for hundreds of years<sup>3</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, roughly eight million tons of plastics enter the world's oceans every year and on average 5.5 pieces of microplastics are found in every marine mammal<sup>4</sup><sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, we have been finding microplastics in our tap water, bottled water, table salt, and fish and shellfish from local California fish markets for decades, but a recent study has found microplastics are also in our air<sup>6</sup><sup>7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, research has been found indicating that we are ingesting a credit card's weight of plastic each week<sup>8</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, toxins such as BPA found in these microplastics impair animals at levels considered unsafe by the government and can cause cancer and birth defects in humans<sup>9</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, plastic production is an environmental justice issue as observed in "Cancer Alley", which has a concentration of petrochemical plants and the cancer risk is the highest in the country at 50 times the national average<sup>10</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, plastic is made from petroleum, so not taking action will keep us reliant on fossil fuels and contribute to climate change<sup>11</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, India only consumes 24 pounds of plastic per capita as opposed to 240 pounds in the U.S., and Mumbai is the largest city in India to implement a complete ban on single-use plastic by 2022<sup>12</sup>; and,

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/100-percent-clean-electricity>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/plastic-not-so-fantastic/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whoi.edu/know-your-ocean/ocean-topics/pollution/marine-microplastics/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/31/microplastics-found-every-marine-mammal-uk-study>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/08/20/636845604/beer-drinking-water-and-fish-tiny-plastic-is-everywhere>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/microplastics-pollution-falls-from-air-even-mountains/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-consume-credit-card-worth-plastic.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-health-pollution-waste-microplastics/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2019/may/06/cancertown-louisiana-reserve-special-report>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ciel.org/news/fueling-plastics/>

<sup>12</sup>

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/single-use-plastic-ban-india\\_n\\_5b3a09b6e4b0f3c221a28a07?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6LW93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnVbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAFZ4j-ho7QfAqLrFwclQP937I5J9IIVAD3jVJr6sBSCBIQBjL9qVa0TSwsCGxPL4JF4Qca2fdvntW5wYH3GqIt0-H42QgmM7IqjyWVMc6dXxUIQkkM9QB7RgDVfA2RZ6iIFArfByqjae0WiQ0iX\\_8TW9VXQ8dYnDpZyU8ZIE9bRQp](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/single-use-plastic-ban-india_n_5b3a09b6e4b0f3c221a28a07?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6LW93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnVbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAFZ4j-ho7QfAqLrFwclQP937I5J9IIVAD3jVJr6sBSCBIQBjL9qVa0TSwsCGxPL4JF4Qca2fdvntW5wYH3GqIt0-H42QgmM7IqjyWVMc6dXxUIQkkM9QB7RgDVfA2RZ6iIFArfByqjae0WiQ0iX_8TW9VXQ8dYnDpZyU8ZIE9bRQp)

**WHEREAS**, Tamil Nadu, one of India's most populous states has implemented a plastic ban since January 2019, and seen adequate replacement for previously plastic based goods<sup>13</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, nations such as Antigua and Barbuda have successfully implemented bans on single-use plastic bags since 2016<sup>14</sup>; 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**, 2,000 UCLA students and over 12,000 UC students statewide have signed on in support of going plastic free; and,

**WHEREAS**, paper, aluminum, and certified compostable products are available and better for the environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the feasibility of this is of utmost priority as we want to have an enduring policy to last generations; and,

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge the leniency necessary for research labs and medical facilities on campuses to use single-use plastics, when there are no alternatives, for sanitary and safety reasons;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Student Associated Council affirms its support for eliminating all non-essential single-use plastics UC-wide.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Student Associated Council strongly encourages UCLA to implement the OZZI<sup>15</sup> system or a similar product to provide reusable alternatives.

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tamil-nadu-to-ban-use-of-plastic-items-from-2019/articleshow/64465498.cms>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/latin-america-and-caribbean-bids-good-bye-plastic-bags>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.planetozzi.com/>