

March 6, 2018

Honorable Mark Stone  
State Capitol, Room 3146  
Sacramento, CA 94249

*Support for AB 2308 (Stone) Cigarettes: single-use filters, as introduced*

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

The City of Palo Alto greatly appreciates your leadership on AB 2308, which would prohibit the sale of cigarettes with single-use filters in California. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, cigarette filters are unnecessary because they offer no health benefit to smokers and research shows that they may actually exacerbate certain types of lung cancer. Cigarette filters are also an environmental health problem, as they are a top source of litter and contribute to water pollution.

The City of Palo Alto supports this bill based on data we collect annually from two creek clean-up events. Year after year, cigarette filters are one of the most ubiquitous types of litter removed from our community's creeks, which flow to the San Francisco Bay. As you know, these filters are made from cellulose acetate—a plastic that does not biodegrade and which leaches thousands of chemicals, including 50 different carcinogenic toxins, into the water and soil.

Despite Palo Alto's regular street sweeping services, public education, and local smoking ordinances, cigarette filters continue to enter our waterways and litter our streets and sidewalks. Cigarette filter pollution is a particularly challenging problem for Bay Area cities like Palo Alto that are required to achieve the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit requirement of zero litter entering creeks and local waterways from stormwater conveyances by 2022.

State-wide, cigarette filter pollution contributes to the millions of dollars annually spent by taxpayers for litter removal. The most effective and least expensive strategy to prevent cigarette filter litter and water pollution is to prevent it before it starts. AB 2308 would make a tremendous difference to the environment, to city and county agencies charged with protecting local watersheds, and to the public which funds extensive litter removal programs. Therefore, the City of Palo Alto is happy to support AB 2308 as introduced.

Sincerely,



Liz Kniss  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

cc:  
Senator Jerry Hill  
Assembly Member Marc Berman  
Palo Alto City Council  
Palo Alto City Manager James Keene  
Townsend Public Affairs