



Aug 18, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Yana Garcia
Secretary, CalEPA
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Nani Coloretti
Cabinet Secretary, Office of the
Governor
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Zoe Heller
Director, CalRecycle
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Calling on the State to Implement Landmark Plastic Pollution Reduction Law, Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packing Responsibility Act of 2022 (SB 54), as Intended and Oppose May 2025 Draft Regulations

Dear Governor Newsom, Secretary Colloretti, Secretary Garcia, and Director Heller,

We, the undersigned Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR) – urge the State of California to implement the **Plastic Reduction Law Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packing Responsibility Act of 2022 (SB 54)** as intended and oppose the May 2025 draft regulations.

The May draft regulations expand the scope of excluded products and packaging materials, allow hazardous, climate-harming, and polluting technologies to count as recycling, and establish overly lax standards for reusable and refillable packaging. These changes would move Californians away from the intent of the law; rather, they would increase costs to consumers, ratepayers, and businesses, all while increasing plastic pollution that harms our bodies, communities, and environment.

SB 54 is the most comprehensive plastic pollution reduction law in the state, going above and beyond prohibiting specific single-use plastic items. The bill has many provisions that are great for businesses like us, such as increasing investments in reuse infrastructure, creating advancements in composting and recycling services, and incentivizing companies to develop more sustainable packaging alternatives.

As [Ocean Friendly Restaurants](#) that have eliminated unnecessary single-use plastic in our operations, we know what it's like to lead in the fight against the plastic pollution crisis. When you signed SB 54 in 2022, it solidified California as a leader in reducing plastic pollution and protecting our ocean, waves, and beaches for all. This landmark bill, as intended, will significantly reduce plastic packaging and foodware and require that all packaging in the state is recyclable or compostable.

The May regulatory language will exacerbate the impacts of plastic pollution and weaken the intended goal of SB 54. None of the proposed changes to the regulations will alleviate costs to businesses, and some specific elements in the May regulations will do the opposite:

- Without adequate standards for reusable and refillable packaging, it will make it harder for businesses to implement reuse and refill systems in an affordable and effective manner.
- Broad exclusions for more types of products will stifle innovation and cause confusion for business owners without lowering the price of sustainable alternatives.
- Requiring smaller businesses to apply for exemption while large corporations are automatically exempt further burdens smaller businesses, who are already competing with larger producers at a disadvantage.

Currently, 308 restaurants voluntarily participate in Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program in California. We estimate that, collectively, they serve over 23 million single-use plastic free meals a year.

Despite industry's efforts to raise concerns that consumers and businesses will bear additional costs associated with SB 54, [studies show](#) that restaurants can save between \$3,000 and \$22,000 by eliminating single-use plastic. Furthermore, one of our OFRs in Ventura, CA, saves \$900-2,000 a year by running a glass bottle return system after reaching their break-even point. Another OFR in San Diego, CA, saves over \$4,000 a year by switching to reusable wine cups, ramekins, and other reusable items.

We call on you to allow California to implement what you called the "most significant overhaul of California's plastics and packaging recycling policy in history." Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Restaurant Representatives of:

Asiento - San Francisco

Backyard Bowls - Santa Barbara

Beachwood Brewing - Huntington Beach

Blind Lady Ale House - San Diego

Blue Moon Over Avila - Avila Beach

Cesarina - San Diego

Elvira - San Diego

Foray - Carmel-by-the-Sea

Hops and Fog Brewing Co - Pacific Grove

Humbowl - Berkeley

Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant - Pacific Grove

La Méditerranée - San Francisco

Los Bagels, INC - Arcata

Lucky Dog Gelato - San Clemente

Mitch's Seafood - San Diego

Moofish Cafe - Ventura

OceanCiders - Half Moon Bay

Pacific Catch - Campbell

Pacific Catch - Corte Madera

Pacific Catch - Cupertino

Pacific Catch - Dublin

Pacific Catch - La Jolla

Pacific Catch - Mountain View

Pacific Catch - Palo Alto

Pacific Catch - San Francisco

Pacific Catch - San Mateo

Pacific Catch - Santa Clara

Pacific Catch - Santa Monica

Pacific Catch - SF Chestnut St.

Pacific Catch - Sunnyvale

Pacific Catch - Tustin

Pacific Catch - Walnut Creek

Passionfish - Pacific Grove

Pasta Sisters - Culver City

Pasta Sisters - Los Angeles

Point Arena Pizza - Point Arena

Saline - Laguna Beach

Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. - Chico

Sonoma Pizza Co. - Forestville

Trevor's At The Tracks - San Juan Capistrano

Tuk Tuk Thai - Los Angeles

Underdogs Too - San Francisco

Vin Folk - Hermosa Beach

Yellow Belly Tap - Santa Barbara