



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR

March 28, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Carol Johnson, Director, Planning and Development Department

Subject: Companion Report: Cigarette Butt Pollution Prevention

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager further consideration of the proposal from the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) to enact a pilot program in downtown Berkeley with the goal of greatly reducing cigarette butt litter that accumulates on sidewalks and curbsides, in a central location.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

More information and analysis is required before the fiscal impacts of establishing the proposed Cigarette Butt litter reduction pilot program can be estimated.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The CEAC proposal to establish the cigarette butt litter reduction pilot program is a potentially positive step towards addressing the long-running problems from discarded cigarette butts adding to street litter and entering creeks and the bay. However, prior to embarking upon such a pilot effort, which could later become a permanent City program, the City Manager requests that the proposal be considered through the same framework in which all other Council referrals are considered.

Should the Council refer this to the City Manager, the consideration process would be:

1. Determine whether this is a short-term or long-term referral, based on the level of staff analysis required at the onset and the level of staff time needed on an ongoing basis.
2. A more thorough analysis of the resources which would be required to create the pilot program, including butt disposal hardware and staff time for installation and maintenance.
3. Full consideration of stakeholder involvement, including drafting and agreeing to terms with the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) on its ongoing role in the establishment and regular upkeep of the cigarette butt receptacles, as well as the ongoing roles of the respective parties (City, DBA, and third party vendors).

4. Consideration of the most sustainable alternatives for cigarette butt disposal, including analysis of existing programs such as the one operated by Caltrans, through which collected butts are converted to energy sources (see for example <http://caltransd7info.blogspot.com/2015/04/no-butts-about-it-help-keep-our.html> and <http://www.cigarettebuttservices.com/butts-to-watts-.html>).
5. Assessment of the long-term fiscal impacts from the pilot program as well as from a potentially permanent program.

#### BACKGROUND

On May 22, 2008, the City created smoke-free commercial zones, but despite the many anti-smoking ordinances one can still find significant number of butts on the ground in downtown Berkeley and elsewhere in the City.

On February 24, 2015, the City Council requested the CEAC explore ways to invest in public outreach to stem the tide of cigarette butts flowing to the Bay via storm drains.

On October 13, 2016, CEAC adopted a motion to recommend to the City Council a one-year pilot program of placing cigarette butt receptacles in four identified downtown locations.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Cigarette butt litter is unsightly, a public health and an environmental problem. An effective program to reduce such litter would have a positive immediate and longer-term impact on this environmental issue.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

While well-motivated, the CEAC recommendation for an immediate pilot program, potentially leading to a permanent City-coordinated effort, requires more thoughtful independent analysis of the costs and benefits, within the larger context of the City budget and referral prioritization processes.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Carol Johnson, Director, Planning and Development Department, 510-981-7401