



## PLASTIC FREE JULY

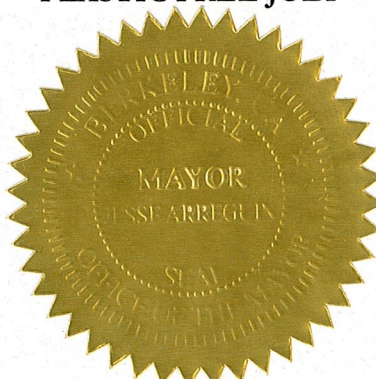
- WHEREAS,** Americans represent 5% of the world's population, but generate 30% of the world's refuse, discarding about 33.6 million tons of plastic each year, but only recycling 6.5 percent of it; and
- WHEREAS,** 236,000 tons of microplastics, plastic particles less than 5mm across, end up in waterways and oceans where they are introduced to the food chain and can attract and retain toxic chemicals such as bisphenol A (BPAs) and pesticides that bio-accumulate in our food; and
- WHEREAS,** 80% of marine debris comes from land-based sources, primarily trash or litter in urban runoff, and with the increasing rate of plastics entering the oceans by 2050 there will be by weight more plastic than fish in the oceans of the world; and
- WHEREAS,** Bay Area analysis of street litter have found approximately 2/3rds of the total litter is single-use disposable items that can be reduced; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Berkeley adopted the first in the nation Single Use Disposable Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance in 2019 to reduce unnecessary plastic food ware; and
- WHEREAS,** Plastic Free July, an international effort of thousands of organizations internally encourages participants to "Reopen with Reuse" plastic packaging and reduce single-use disposable plastics, reuse plastics where possible, and recycle what cannot be reused; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ecology Center, along with nonprofit and local business allies working on reducing plastic waste, is encouraging Berkeley to have a "Plastic Free Comeback" and will be hosting Plastic Free July by offering a series of events for the community to join together in order to take local action against the local and global plastic pollution problem.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, **Jesse Arreguin**, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby declare July 2021 as

## PLASTIC FREE JULY

in the City of Berkeley.

Jesse Arreguin  
Mayor



July 13, 2021