



**CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE**  
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

**AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Cynthia Garfield  
**MEETING DATE:** March 20, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Smoking and Vaping  
**CEQA:** Does not constitute a "Project" under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide direction to staff to bring to Council a report on existing smoking ordinances, recommendations for changes to those ordinances and a plan for a comprehensive approach to education and enforcement that will raise Pacific Grove's ratings by the American Lung Association from an F to an A.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2018 ratings of the American Lung Association were a shock. Pacific Grove received an "F". This grade stems from a lack of regulation of smoke-free areas (we do have an ordinance about outdoor smoking), and failure to take actions to reduce of the sales of tobacco/emerging products. Products that particularly endanger our children are flavored vaping and other non-cigarette products that are proven to rapidly addict young users, leading to life-long health risks.

Aside from the rating, we have been presented with compelling evidence that Pacific Grove is not proactively addressing these issues. A dedicated group of volunteers has removed this hazardous waste, keeping the waste from entering the bay. The efforts of these volunteers has mitigated the presence of cigarette litter being discarded and allowed the problem to continue unabated.

Cigarette butts are toxic to marine life and birds that cannot differentiate them from food. Butts are made of plastic, thus contributing to the growing problem of micro plastics in the environment. As part of our efforts to eliminate plastic used unnecessarily, we should address the impact of butts, which are the most frequently picked up litter in every cleanup campaign.

There are many gains to Pacific Grove for addressing this issue. Limiting smoking throughout Pacific Grove will reduce "upstream" litter and further protect wildlife, bay and parks. Enforcing smoke-free zones will protect our outdoor spaces, trails and bay from unsightly litter, fire risks and annoying/dangerous second hand smoke and "vapor". Pacific Grove Schools and Pacific Grove Police are aware of these issues and are launching a significant education program for students and parents. Creating a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address this problem will build on existing efforts and support the schools' efforts.

**OPTIONS**

- 1) Provide alternate direction
- 2) Take no action

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No Fiscal impact for evaluating ordinances and recommending a course of action.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

REVIEWED BY:

*Cynthia Garfield*



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Cynthia Garfield  
Councilmember

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Ben Harvey  
City Manager