

TOBACCO THREATENS CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENT

Cigarette butts are the number one item found on beaches and roadsides.¹

Tobacco products cause harm to our environment in many ways. From cigarette butts littered on beaches and the toxic waste in tobacco and vaping products to secondhand smoke pollution, tobacco poses a significant threat to California's air, water, and wildlife.

KEY POINTS:

- California's taxpayers **spend more than \$41 million** annually on litter cleanup, of which cigarette butts account for one-third.³
- Nearly **200,000 cigarette butts** were removed from California beaches and inland waterways on one day in 2017.⁴
- Smoldering **cigarette butts** have been linked to costly, destructive structural fires and wildfires that threaten both wildlife and our communities.⁵
- E-cigarette waste, including the batteries and pods or cartridges that contain nicotine, **pose significant harm to the environment.**⁶



The increased use of electronic smoking devices, also known as electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, has resulted in new environmental issues with tobacco product waste. E-cigarettes contain batteries and cartridges, or pods, which contain nicotine, categorized as hazardous waste.²

It's time to step up and protect California's environment from tobacco and the industry that fosters environmental damage.

¹ TobaccoFreeCA. (2021). *Cigarette Butts Are Toxic Waste*. Retrieve from: <https://tobaccofreeca.com/environment/cigarette-butts-are-toxic-waste/>

² Hexum, T., Kingston, H. (2019). *Commercial Tobacco, Health, & the Environment: The Problems*. Public Health Law Center. Retrieved from: <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/Commercial-Tobacco-Health-and-the-Environment.pdf>

³ TobaccoFreeCA. (2021). *How The Tobacco Industry Negatively Impacts Our Economy*. Retrieved from:

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⁴ Ocean Conservancy. (2018). *Building a Clean Swell 2018 Report*. Retrieved from: oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Building-A-Clean-Swell.pdf

⁵ Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. (2018). *Wildfires, Air Quality, and Cigarette Butts: Smokefree Laws Save Money and Lives*. Retrieved from:

no-smoke.org/wildfire-air-quality-and-cigarette-butts-smokefree-laws-save-money-lives/

⁶ Hendlin Y. H. (2018). Alert: Public Health Implications of Electronic Cigarette Waste. *American journal of public health*, 108(11), 1489–1490.

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