

A Resolution

In support of ending the sale of single use plastic water bottles on
The University of California Santa Cruz campus

WHEREAS, The sale and production of single use plastic water bottles ultimately contributes to environmental harm in the form of ocean water pollution, climate change, air pollution and the production of non biodegradable substances; and,

WHEREAS, single use plastic water bottles promote the production of oil for manufacturing, privatization of water, and overall relay a message that clean water is a privilege, not a right, that can only be bought at a high price; and,

WHEREAS, “Bottled water generally is no cleaner, safer, or healthier than tap water. In fact, the federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of municipal drinking water”[i]; and,

WHEREAS, The University of California Santa Cruz currently has sales contracts with vendors on campus that sell single use plastic water bottles; and,

WHEREAS, According to the Office of Sustainability, in 2011 four percent of UCSC’s waste source by volume is attributed to plastic containers[ii]; and,

WHEREAS, UCSC, being a university, has the opportunity to play a role on the issue of the sales and usage of plastic water bottles; and,

WHEREAS, According to the Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus for 2013-14 one of the appropriate actions is to “create a plastic bottle water free campus” pg. 38 [iii]; and,

WHEREAS, Chancellor Blumenthal’s goal of zero waste by 2020 involves the reduction of all plastic water bottle sales; and,

WHEREAS, UC Santa Cruz organizations, such as Take Back the Tap, have already made strides in removing single use plastic water bottles; and,

WHEREAS, These accomplishments consist of the current removal of all single use plastic water bottles from all eateries ran by Dining Services, The Wellness Center, and Joe’s Pizza and Subs; as well as, the instillation of bottle filters on existing fountains; a yearly handout of reusable bottles to freshman and transfer students at summer orientation; gathering signatures from students and staff who support Take Back the Tap’s goal; and, regularly hosting events which aim at educating and fostering action; and,

WHEREAS, UC Santa Cruz has made a commitment to take steps toward a sustainable cleaner and overall greener campus that has a positive impact on Santa Cruz, California, The United States and the World; and,

WHEREAS, “Taking back the tap” is one of those important steps to take toward a Carbon free and zero waste campus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assemble acknowledges the problems related with single use plastic water bottles; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly will stand in full support of all aspects of the Take Back the Tap Campaign aiming to end the sales and distribution of all single use plastic water bottles, and the removal of all single use plastic water bottles from campus.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly shall call on the chair of the SUA to draft a letter to UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal, EVC Galloway, the office of financial affairs, and all members who currently reside on the University of California Regent Committee on investment and finance and relay the support of the SUA towards the Tack Back the Tap campaign and towards the following actions:

1. Instruct all purchasing managers on the UCSC campus, both independent and UCSC campus related, to stop any renewal or initiating of contracts which include the purchasing of single use plastic water bottles from relevant vendors and companies.
2. Take appropriate steps to ensure that by the end of the 2014-15 academic year all vendors will formally be notified of UCSC goal of a plastic water bottle-free campus, and there will be no more purchases of single use plastic water bottles on campus.
3. Release quarterly updates to the Take Back the Tap organization and UCSC students, both detailing progress made and future initiatives working toward the goal of a plastic water bottle-free campus.
4. Make reusable water bottles more accessible to the student body.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly elected officers and representatives will continually educate their constituents on the progress of the Take Back the Tap Campaign and urge them to take action.

[i] “Take back the Tap”, 22 Nov. 2007.

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/reports/take-back-the-tap/>

[ii] “Waste at UCSC”, 2011

<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/get-involved/challenge/metrics.html#bottle>

[iii] Student Environmental Center. *UC Santa Cruz Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus*. Santa Cruz: 2013-14. Print.