

Sustainability Affairs Committee 2016-17 – 2R Resolution on Reducing Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles on Campus

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) is the recognized voice of about 15,800 students; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the ASI Board of Directors to advocate and provide responsible and effective leadership for a diverse student population in order to make sound decisions for the betterment of CSUEB students; and

WHEREAS, the California State University (CSU) is committed to sustainability. Therefore, CSU has the responsibility to be a wise steward of scarce resources by reducing the use of non-renewable resources and increasing energy efficiency. CSU is also committed to promoting the continued economic and ecological viability of the state¹; and

WHEREAS, “Sustainability is a core value at CSUEB. It is our responsibility to integrate the concepts of sustainability into all aspects of our campus—from academics to engagement, throughout the curriculum, operations and campus plans, and within administrative policies²”; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the ASI Sustainability Committee to involve the promotion of sustainable awareness in the campus community, partnering with University staff/faculty/administration, as well as the Facilities and Operations department; and

WHEREAS, CSUEB consumes approximately 200,596 single-use water bottles per year; and

WHEREAS, U.S. plastic water bottle production requires between 32 and 54 million gallons of oil, and three out of every four of those bottles end up in the landfills or in an incinerator; and

WHEREAS, public tap water is safe and significantly more affordable and accessible, and environmentally sustainable than bottled water; and,

WHEREAS, one water pitcher filter can effectively replace as much as 300 standard 16.9-ounce bottles³; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S., public water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires multiple daily tests for bacteria and makes results available to the public. The Food and Drug Administration, which regulates bottled water, only requires weekly testing and does not share its findings with the EPA or the public⁴; and

¹ <http://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/>

² <http://www.csueastbay.edu/oaa/sustaineb/index.html>

³ <https://www.banthebottle.net/bottled-water-facts/>

⁴ <https://www.banthebottle.net/bottled-water-facts/>

WHEREAS, the following California campuses have a partial plastic bottle ban: University of California (UC), Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, Stanford University, and San Francisco State University⁵; and

WHEREAS, the following CSU has a full plastic bottle ban; Humboldt State University⁶; and

WHEREAS, last year, the average American used 167 disposable water bottles, but only recycled 38. Americans used about 50 billion plastic water bottles last year. However, the U.S.'s recycling rate for plastic is only 23 percent, which means 38 billion water bottles – more than \$1 billion worth of plastic – are wasted each year; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that CSUEB will strongly discourage the use of CSUEB funds to purchase single-serving bottles of water; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that CSUEB will encourage the utilization of refillable containers at its facilities and functions; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that we encourage CSUEB in supporting efforts to educate the campus community regarding the value and benefits of using Hayward's water system for all its water needs; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that we encourage CSUEB to not purchase or distribute bottled water on campus, and will replace bottled water, whenever appropriate, with tap water; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that we encourage CSUEB to reinvest in drinking fountain infrastructure by increasing and retrofitting drinking fountains on campus; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that we encourage CSUEB to no longer provide bottled water in vending machines throughout the campus; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that CSUEB Associated Students, Incorporated and the CSUEB Office of Sustainability will support the phasing-out of the sale of single-use plastic water bottles on campus; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that copies of the resolution be distributed to the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Office of Finance and Administration, Office of University Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, CSUEB Academic Senate, Office of Sustainability, the DISC, and the Department of Environmental Affairs.

⁵ <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/campaign/take-back-tap>

⁶ <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/campaign/take-back-tap>



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
CSU STATE EAST BAY

25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. Old University Union 314, Hayward, CA | 94542 Phone: (510) 885-4843 Fax: (510) 885-7415

5/31/17

ASI President's Signature

Date