



March 23, 2022

SENT VIA: EMAIL

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health  
1020 N Street, Room 390,  
Sacramento, California 95814

**MEMBER AGENCIES**

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

**ANDY RODGERS**  
Executive Director

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SUBJECT: AB 1690 Smoking Waste Pollution Prevention Act - Support

Dear Chair Jim Wood:

Serving as Executive Director for the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I am writing to express my support for Assembly Bill 1690 (Rivas), the Smoking Waste Pollution Prevention Act, which would transition California away from polluting, wasteful, and hazardous, non-health protective single-use smoking products by phasing out the sale of single-use cigarette filters, all-in-one non-rechargeable electronic vaping devices, and plastic cigar tips.

The RRWA is a coalition of ten public agencies in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs in the Russian River watershed for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement.

All-in-one vaping devices are electronics that are disposable by design and contain a lithium-ion battery that cannot be recharged. The battery and other toxic chemicals in them render them hazardous waste at end-of-life, and therefore they are not allowed in California's trash or recycling system. Because of inadequate public information about the toxicity of all-in-one vaping devices, users unknowingly discard them into household waste bins where they have the potential to cause fires and introduce hazardous chemicals in waste management systems and landfills. Moreover, improperly disposed cigarette filters and disposable vaping devices are known to leech toxic chemicals into the environment and can be harmful to wildlife.

Moving away from all-in-one disposable vaping devices and single-use filters on cigarettes may drive the smoking industry to transition their products to be more environmentally sustainable. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 1690 and urge your "Aye" vote when it is heard in the Assembly Health Committee.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at [cleanwater@rrwatershed.org](mailto:cleanwater@rrwatershed.org) or (707) 508-3670.

Sincerely,

Andy Rodgers, RRWA Executive Director

Leslie Lukacs,  
Executive Director  
Zero Waste Sonoma

