



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Jaqui Irwin
1021 O St. Room 6220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 762 (Irwin)—Disposable, Battery-embedded Vapor Inhalation Device: Prohibition

Dear Assemblymember Irwin,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City is in strong support of Assembly Bill 762 (Irwin), which would prohibit the sale of non-rechargeable, non-refillable vaporizer products in California. Single-use vaporizer devices are often marketed for convenience, but these products pose serious risks to local governments, waste management systems, and the environment.

Disposable vapes contain embedded lithium-ion batteries that are highly flammable and have been linked to a growing number of fires at waste and recycling facilities, placing workers, first responders, and infrastructure at risk. These incidents create significant costs for cities like Long Beach that are already working to modernize waste systems and protect employee safety. In addition to fire hazards, disposable vapes contribute to toxic pollution and environmental degradation. These products contain heavy metals, plastics, and residual nicotine that can leach into soil and waterways when improperly discarded. Unfortunately, many consumers are unaware that used vapes are considered hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of in regular trash or recycling bins. With no standardized or legally viable recycling pathway in the United States, the overwhelming majority of these products end up in landfills, incinerators, or the natural environment.

AB 762 provides a practical and forward-thinking solution by prohibiting the sale and distribution of disposable vapes beginning January 1, 2027, while requiring vaporizer devices sold in California to be rechargeable, refillable, and designed with removable batteries. The bill also strengthens enforcement by authorizing the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and the Department of Cannabis Control to revoke licenses from violators, ensuring meaningful compliance. The City cannot recycle our way out of this challenge, less than ten percent of e-waste is recycled, and the hazardous and complex nature of disposable vapes makes safe recycling impractical at scale. For these reasons, the City strongly supports AB 762.

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach