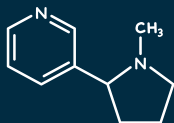


Tobacco Product Waste Threatening the Wetlands of Northern Mission Bay



Tobacco product waste, especially cigarette butts, can leach chemicals like nicotine, lead, cadmium, and microplastics into soil and water. Waste can also make its way into storm drain systems, which then flow out into our waterways.



Downstream approaches, like cleanups and waste receptacles, are expensive, ineffective, and put the burden of responsibility onto local taxpayers.



TPW Cleanups Can't Keep Up



Cleanups near the 29 storm drains would have to take place **every other day** to reduce the levels of tobacco product waste to 140 butts, or 10% of the “steady state”.

1,400 butts



make up the “steady state” of pollution near the 29 storm drains of the study area.

That is, under current street sweeping schedules, clean-up efforts, and weather conditions, this is the number of cigarette butts found near these storm drains day in and day out.

Cigarette Butts are the major contributor to TPW in Pacific Beach

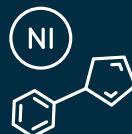
Of the tobacco product waste collected during cleanups, **87% was cigarette butts**.

Over one year, an estimated

29,200 butts



are discarded along just 29 storm drains. **That's a daily rate 80 cigarette butts.**



This rate could flush

140-200 g of nicotine

into the 29 storm drains of the study area every year.

Rain events

Rain events had **little impact** on the amount of TPW collected. This is probably because during the study period, we only had two rain events, each with less than ¼ inch of rain.