

ATTACHMENT 5: TOBACCO PRODUCT LITTER (TPL), AKA CIGARETTE BUTTS

Prepared by Jackie Wollner

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

- Ample research establishes **Tobacco Product Litter (TPL)** as **non-biodegradable and toxic**
- **TPL is a predictable outcome of a 3 day music festival.**

It is very difficult to remove all cigarette butts from grass or other ground cover. Despite any efforts at blowing, vacuuming, or raking, some will get blown away, some will get pressed into the ground. Cigarette butts leach chemicals into soil and water, research shows that many of these chemicals are toxic and carcinogenic. Cigarette filters are made from cellulose acetate, a plastic that can break into smaller pieces, but will never biodegrade or disappear. Birds are known to line their nests with the fibrous filters. Many birds and other organisms will inadvertently consume it, mistaking it for food or unable to separate it from food items.

Some municipalities attempt to solve the problem by mowing and mulching the butts along with the grass. Given how toxic the waste is, this is not a satisfactory solution. If it's windy or rainy many will end up in Haskell Creek or the Wildlife Lake and flow to the Pacific via the Los Angeles River.

TPL is a predictable outcome of a 3 day music festival. The EA does not address how the promoters will deal with cigarette butts and leave Woodley Park and any area downwind or downstream 100% remediated. The EA does mention that the festival will have smoking areas. But if enforced, this will merely concentrate the problem. No maps or figures show the location of smoking areas. Are they near Haskell Creek or the Wildlife Reserve? The security plan does not include enforcement of no smoking outside the smoking areas. The failure to acknowledge the predictable problem and serious environmental hazard created by TPL represents a serious deficiency in the EA.

References:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3088407/>
<http://phys.org/news/2013-09-documents-cigarette-environmental-hazards.html>
<http://tobaccofreeca.com/smoking-problem/impact/environment/>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25403778>
<http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/cigbuttbiodegradable.htm>
<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/6/5/1691>