

Dear Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission members:

As an addendum to our letter of opposition regarding a possible recommendation by RWRC to prohibit food service establishments from using polystyrene containers and cups (our letter is included in the agenda packet for the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting), attached, please find 4 different price comparisons for polystyrene food service products and alternative packaging.

1. Price comparison chart using data from World Centric, a manufacturer of alternate food service products.
2. Price comparison chart using data from *Restaurant Depot*, a restaurant wholesaler.
3. Price data correcting the San Mateo County staff price comparison list.
4. Price comparison chart from U.S. Foodservice, one of the largest restaurant distributors in the nation.

These price comparisons show that polystyrene food service products are on average 2-3 times more affordable than alternative packaging. Please note that passing on the cost difference to customers is the last thing food service establishments want to do as they are doing everything they can to keep their current customers and attract new patrons. The restaurant industry has been especially hit hard during the economic downturn as people continue to cut back on dining out. Our restaurant members do not believe in penalizing their customers in the form of charging a take-out fee. Furthermore, many restaurants have already had to raise menu prices due to the significant increases in food prices and commodities and therefore would not be willing to raise prices again but would have to absorb the higher cost of alternative packaging. This is very difficult for them to do as restaurants only make 2-3 cents profit on the dollar after taxes.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

**Amalia Chamorro**  
**Director, Local Government Affairs**  
California Restaurant Association  
Mailing Address: 621 Capitol Mall, Suite 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
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[www.calrest.org](http://www.calrest.org)

Retail Cost Comparison - Website  
World Centric vs. Polystyrene Foam

<b>Product Description</b>	<b>Polystyrene (Average of 2 websites)</b>	<b>World Centric alternatives (www.worldcentric.org)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
16 oz Hot Cup & Lid (w/ sleeve for paper cup)	\$72.02 per 1000	\$233.13 per 1000	224% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.072 per set	\$0.233 per set	
16 oz Cold Cup & Lid	\$72.02 per 1000	\$172.71 per 1000	140% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.072 per set	\$0.173 per set	
12 oz. Bowl & Lid	\$55.28 per 1000	\$64.25 per 500	132% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.055 per set	\$0.128 per set	
6" Plate	\$26.97 per 1000	\$43.61 per 1000	62% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.027 per plate	\$0.0436 per plate	
9" Plate	\$25.88 per 500	\$108.87 per 1000	111% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.052 per plate	\$0.109 per plate	
10" Plate	\$40.10 per 500	\$108.87 per 1000	36% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.082 per plate	\$0.109 per plate	
6" Clamshell	\$32.18 per 500	\$68.97 per 500	114% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.064 per unit	\$0.138 per unit	
9" Clamshell	\$25.78 per 200	\$86.64 per 300	124% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.129 per unit	\$0.289 per unit	
Utensils	\$19.91 per 1000	\$59.28 per 1000	196% Higher than PS Foam
	\$0.020 per unit	\$0.059 per unit	
	<b>Websites for PS Foam: webstaurantstore.com &amp; waresdirect.com)</b>	<b>World Centric pricing: worldcentric.org website</b>	
<b>All pricing samples taken on 5-27-11 and include shipping</b>			

**Clamshells = 8"**

Material/Size	Mfgs	RD Shelf	Case Pack	Price Each	With Lid	MULTIPLIER VS FOAM
<b>Polystyrene Foam</b>						
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 12.69	150	\$ 0.085		
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 12.80	150	\$ 0.085		
8" 3 Compartment	B	\$ 14.34	200	\$ 0.072		
<b>ALUMINUM</b>						
9" Single compartment	C	\$ 47.64	500	\$ 0.095		
Clear PS lid	C	\$ 25.89	500	\$ 0.052	\$ 0.147	173%
Foil paperboard lid	C	\$ 23.12	500	\$ 0.046	\$ 0.142	166%
<b>Molded Fiber/Bagasse</b>						
8" Single Compartment	D	\$ 28.39	200	\$ 0.142		167%
8" 3 Compartment	D	\$ 28.39	200	\$ 0.142		167%
<b>OPS</b>						
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 33.50	200	\$ 0.168		197%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 33.50	200	\$ 0.168		197%
<b>Polypropylene</b>						
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 34.00	200	\$ 0.170		200%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 34.00	200	\$ 0.170		200%
<b>BioPack (100% recycled Paper)</b>						
Medium size	E	\$ 38.05	200	\$ 0.190		224%
Large Size	E	\$ 48.34	200	\$ 0.242		284%
<b>PLA (compostable)</b>						
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 65.00	200	\$ 0.325		382%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 65.00	200	\$ 0.325		382%
<b>NEWSPRING - injection molded polypropylene</b>						
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 78.79	150	\$ 0.525		618%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 60.03	150	\$ 0.400		471%

**CUPS 12/16/20 OZ**

<b>Hot Cups</b>							
<b>Material/Size</b>	<b>Mfg</b>	<b>RD Shelf</b>	<b>Case Pack</b>	<b>Price Each</b>			<b>MULTIPLIER VS FOAM</b>
<b>Polystyrene Foam</b>							
12oz	F	\$ 20.10	1000	\$ 0.020			
16oz	F	\$ 14.11	500	\$ 0.028			
20oz	F	\$ 17.24	500	\$ 0.034			
Lids - PS White	F	\$ 15.45	1000	\$ 0.015			
Lids - PS Translucent	F	\$ 13.01	1000	\$ 0.013			
<b>Translucent Polystyrene</b>							
12oz	G	\$ 29.07	1000	\$ 0.029			145%
16oz	G	\$ 40.62	1000	\$ 0.041			144%
20oz	G	\$ 59.83	1000	\$ 0.060			174%
Lids - PS Translucent	G	\$ 26.12	1000	\$ 0.026			169%
Lids - PS Translucent	G	\$ 28.75	1000	\$ 0.029			186%
<b>Coated Paper Hot Cups</b>							
12oz	B	\$ 28.08	600	\$ 0.047			233%
16oz	B	\$ 34.21	600	\$ 0.057			202%
20oz	B	\$ 34.65	500	\$ 0.069			201%
<b>Coated Paper Hot Cups</b>							
12oz	H	\$ 28.84	600	\$ 0.048			239%
16oz	H	\$ 36.85	600	\$ 0.061			218%
20oz	H	\$ 39.47	500	\$ 0.079			229%
Lids - PS White	H	\$ 33.08	1200	\$ 0.028			178%

**Cold Cups****Polystyrene Foam****Material/Size**

Mfg

RD Shelf

Case Pack

Price Each

MULTIPLIER

VS FOAM

12oz	F	\$ 20.10	1000	\$ 0.020			
16oz	F	\$ 14.11	500	\$ 0.028			
20oz	F	\$ 17.24	500	\$ 0.034			
Lids - PS White	F	\$ 15.45	1000	\$ 0.015			
Lids - PS Translucent	F	\$ 13.01	1000	\$ 0.013			

**Coated Paper Cold Cups**

12oz	H	\$ 27.24	600	\$ 0.045			226%
16oz	H	\$ 34.94	600	\$ 0.058			206%
20oz	H						
Lids - PS Translucent	H						

**APET Cups**

12oz	G	\$ 27.50	500	\$ 0.055			274%
16oz	G	\$ 30.99	500	\$ 0.062			220%
20oz	G	\$ 39.95	500	\$ 0.080			232%
Lids Flat 12/20	G	\$ 29.40	1000	\$ 0.029			190%
Lids Flat 16/24	G	\$ 30.51	1000	\$ 0.031			197%

**PLA Cold Cups (Compostable)**

12oz	G	\$ 69.18	1000	\$ 0.069			344%
16oz	G	\$ 74.10	1000	\$ 0.074			263%
20oz	G	\$ 92.08	1000	\$ 0.092			267%
Lids Flat 12/20	G	\$ 31.75	1000	\$ 0.032			206%

**HIPS Party Cups**

16oz	I	\$ 52.71	1200	\$ 0.044			156%
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**Cutlery****Material/Size****Medium wgt. Polypropylene**

Mfg

RD Shelf

Case Pack

Price Each

MULTIPLIER

VS FOAM

Soup Spoon	B	\$ 6.50	1000	\$ 0.007			
Spoon	B	\$ 6.50	1000	\$ 0.007			
Fork	B	\$ 6.50	1000	\$ 0.007			
Knife	B	\$ 6.50	1000	\$ 0.007			

**Heavy Wgt. Polystyrene**

Soup Spoon	B	\$17.37	1000	\$ 0.017			267%
Spoon	B	\$17.37	1000	\$ 0.017			267%
Fork	B	\$17.37	1000	\$ 0.017			267%
Knife	B	\$17.37	1000	\$ 0.017			267%

**Starch based - Compostable (Closeout price !)**

Soup Spoon	J	\$ 26.00	1000	\$ 0.026			400%
Spoon	J	\$ 26.00	1000	\$ 0.026			400%
Fork	J	\$ 26.00	1000	\$ 0.026			400%
Knife	J	\$ 26.00	1000	\$ 0.026			400%

# Alternative vs Polystyrene food ware

Thursday, September 30, 2010  
3:15 PM

PS Foam Average from 2 websites  
(webrestaurantstore.com & waresdirect.com)  
(9/30/10 pricing)

## Attachment 2: Product Cost Comparison

(Biodegradablestore.com

Tahoe GreenInc.com

Product	Polystyrene/Plastics Avg of 2 websites	Biodegradable Store (9/30/10 pricing)	Tahoe Green	Tahoe Green Inc.com (9/30/10 pricing)
10" 3-Compartment Plate \$26.81/500 \$0.054/unit	\$47 per 500 \$0.09 per unit	\$67 per 500 \$0.13 per unit	\$52 per 500 \$0.10 per unit	\$61.64/500 \$0.123/unit
9" Plate \$15.55/500 \$0.031/unit	\$32 per 500 \$0.06 per unit	\$47 per 500 \$0.09 per unit	\$52 per 500 \$0.10 per unit	\$55.55/500 52.10/500 \$0.111/unit \$0.104/unit
10x9x3 Clamshell \$15.54/200 \$0.078/unit	\$45 per 200 \$0.23 per unit	\$63 per 200 \$0.32 per unit	\$55 per 200 \$0.28 per unit	1 compartment = \$55.55/200 \$0.278/unit 3 compartment = \$69.58/200 \$0.348/unit
16 oz Hot/Cold Cup \$33.65/1000 No Java Jacket needed	\$59 per 1000 \$0.06 per unit	\$114 per 1000 \$0.11 per unit	\$10 per 1000 \$0.11 per unit	\$90.59/1000 (paper hot cup) \$0.091/unit Java Jacket \$69.57/1300 = \$0.054/unit
16 oz Cold Cup \$33.65/1000 \$0.034/unit	\$104 per 1000 \$0.10 per unit	\$116 per 1000 \$0.12 per unit	\$94 per 1000 \$0.09 per unit	\$94.53/1000 (PLA cold cup) \$0.095/unit (No Paper Cold Cup available on this site)
Utensils \$10.83/1000 \$0.011/unit	\$38 per 1000 \$0.04 per unit	\$65 per 1000 \$0.07 per unit	\$48 per 1000 \$0.05 per unit	\$48.30/1000 \$0.048/unit
12 oz. Hot Bowl \$17.50/500 Lids: \$15.67/1000	\$23 per 500 \$0.05 per unit	\$37 per 500 \$0.07 per unit	\$49 per 500 \$0.10 per unit	\$43.01/600 (Bagasse Barrel Bowl) & LID: \$36.97/600 \$66.41/500 (Paper/compostable Food Container) & Lid for paper/compostable: \$35.31/500

\*ALL Pricing Does NOT include shipping charges  
**CostCo**

\*ALL Pricing Does NOT include shipping charges

\*ALL Pricing Does NOT include shipping charges

Product	Poly/Plastics	Bio/Compostable
10" 3-Compartment Plate	\$12 per 175 \$0.07 per unit	\$14 per 175 \$0.08 per unit
9" Plate	\$12 per 175 \$0.07 per unit	\$14 per 175 \$0.08 per unit
10x9x3 Clamshell	Not available	\$19 per 100 \$0.19 per unit
16 oz Hot/Cold Cups	\$13 per 500 \$0.03 per unit	\$9 per 200 \$0.05 per unit
16 oz Cold Cups	\$12 per 500 \$0.02 per unit	\$12 per 500 \$0.03 per unit
Utensils	\$8 per 500 \$0.02 per unit	Not available
12 oz Hot Bowl	\$5 per 125 \$0.04 per unit	\$6 per 125 \$0.05 per unit

Foam would be same price for both of these!???

	\$0.02 per unit	
12 oz Hot Bowl	\$5 per 125 \$0.04 per unit	\$6 per 125 \$0.05 per unit

**Smart and Final**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Poly/Plastics</b>	<b>Bio/Compostable</b>
10" 3-Compartment Plate	\$10 per 125 \$0.08 per unit	\$11 per 125 \$0.09 per unit
9" Plate	\$10 per 125 \$0.08 per unit	\$11 per 125 \$0.09 per unit
10x9x3 Clamshell	\$9 per 100 \$0.09 per unit	Not available
16 oz Hot/Cold Cups	\$7 per 200 \$0.04 per unit	\$4 per 100 \$0.04 per unit
16 oz Cold Cups	\$7 per 200 \$0.04 per unit	\$4 per 100 \$0.04 per unit
Utensils	\$4 per 100 \$0.04 per unit	Not available
12 oz Hot Bowl	\$2 per 30 \$0.07 per unit	\$3 per 30 \$0.10 per unit

<b>Product</b>	<b>Pack size</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Unit price</b>	<b>Sustainable Product</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Unit price</b>
Container foam 9x9x3	200 ct	\$20.95	\$0.11	Bagasse 9x9x3 container	200 ct	\$44.69	\$0.22
Container foam 8x8x2.5	200 ct	\$18.50	\$0.09	Bagasse 8x8x2.5	200 ct	\$36.93	\$0.18
Container foam 6x6x3	500 ct	\$32.50	\$0.07	Bagasse 6x6 container	500 ct	\$42.65	\$0.09
Wrap 12x12 wax paper	5000 ct	\$53.81	\$0.01	wrap eco-liner 12x12	5000 ct	\$79.25	\$0.02
Cup 12oz foam hot	1000 ct	\$24.85	\$0.03	Cup 12 oz hot paper	1000 ct	\$67.09	\$0.07
plate foam 10.25"	500 ct	\$33.35	\$0.07	Plate 10.25" natural bagasse	500 ct	\$58.90	\$0.12
cutlery plastin medium weight fork	1000 ct	\$15.59	\$0.02	Cutlery potato fork	1000 ct	\$34.75	\$0.04
cup portion 2oz (soufle) plastic	2400 ct	\$40.33	\$0.02	cup portion 2 oz	2000 ct	\$65.35	\$0.03

Source: US Foodservice  
Pricing as of 4/5/11



June 21, 2011

The Honorable Chair Jamie McLeod  
Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
County of Santa Clara  
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1  
San Jose, California 95112

**RECOMMEND: a ban on polystyrene take-out containers at ALL food establishments**

Dear Commissioner McLeod:

On behalf of Clean Water Action and our 85,000 members in California, I am writing to urge the County of Santa Clara to take action to end the use of polystyrene foam containers for takeout food and beverages at county and city venues. Additionally, we encourage you to ban polystyrene take-out food containers at all retail establishments within Santa Clara County and to encourage the cities within Santa Clara County to adopt this proposed ordinance.

Polystyrene is a bad actor when it comes to packaging. It breaks easily into small pieces and evades most litter collection efforts because it is lightweight and quickly dispersed by the wind. Foam pieces clog storm drains and cause flooding. Many wildlife species mistake polystyrene pieces for food – some, like the Laysan Albatross, are dying of starvation with stomachs full of plastics.

We talk to hundreds of Bay Area residents in our door-to-door canvassing each week, and it is our experience that the public in general truly detests this type of litter. It degrades neighborhoods, accumulates in landscaping, and is a common eye-sore on beaches and shorelines.

Cities in Santa Clara have to comply with a 2009 Municipal Regional Permit issued by the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Permit requires that cities reduce discharges of trash to zero by 2022. Getting rid of polystyrene litter will help Santa Clara County meet this requirement because although alternative forms of packaging may replace polystyrene as litter, they are easier to clean up because they do not break apart or blow away as readily. Indeed, polystyrene foam bans work. After the first year that San Francisco implemented its ban, the City's litter audit documented a 36% decrease in foam litter.

Styrene, the monomer used in the manufacture of polystyrene food containers, is a carcinogen in lab animals. It is a neurotoxin in humans – associated with impaired balance, mobility, and hearing. EPA studies show that 100% of the American population has styrene in our bodies. Styrene leaches from packaging into foods and beverages, particularly when in contact with heat, fats, or acids. Unfortunately, since state and federal regulators are failing to protect the public from toxic food packaging, local government has to take the initiative.

Fears that the cost of alternatives to polystyrene will unduly burden restaurants are unfounded. We've done research (see the attached fact sheet) that shows there are many comparably priced alternatives, some are even cheaper than foam. Eliminating foam products will encourage greener safer alternatives to emerge in the marketplace.



The polystyrene manufacturers claim that this material is recyclable. This assertion is only partly true. We've investigated these claims. All recyclers of foam products require that the material collected is clean and dry. They can't recycle cups or containers that are wet or contaminated with food. It's very expensive to wash and transport foam products, making recycling not cost effective. For these reasons, the only real recycling of foam products is in the transport packaging sector.

We urge you to recommend to the City Council a ban polystyrene foam NOW- not just at county and city events, but at all food establishments in the county. Strong actions must be taken to prevent unmanageable litter from filling our storm drains, stop further exposure to probable carcinogens, and to protect our waterways and marine wildlife.

We also recommend that the County look at other measures to reduce trash at the source. According to our recent Taking Out the Trash survey, 68% of litter on streets in Bay area communities primarily comes from take out food packaging used by fast food stores, convenience stores, cafes and restaurants. To reduce the local costs of managing all this waste and controlling litter, Clean Water Action recommends that the County consider source reduction for the primary components of litter- food and beverage packaging. Food establishments should serve "for here" meals on non-disposable food ware and reduce the amount of disposable take-out food packaging they use. Local ordinances can help to promote reusable hot beverage mugs as an additional measure to reduce waste. If food vendors truly encourage customers to bring their own coffee mugs (by charging for disposable ones, or providing a discount for re-usable mugs), the County will achieve true reductions in litter and waste.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Gordon".

Miriam Gordon  
California Director

cc: Ronit Bryant  
Kansen Chu  
Susan Garner  
Jim Griffith  
Linda LeZotte  
Evan Low  
Cat Tucker  
Kris Wang  
Mike Wasserman

# Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

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June 20, 2011

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Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County  
Integrated Waste Management Division  
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1  
San Jose, California 95112

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Dave Sandretto  
Phil Sims  
Jim Towery  
Ken Yeager

Dear Chair McLeod and Commissioners:

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) provides community leadership for the development and active use of San Jose's Central Park through education, advocacy, and stewardship. We are collaborating with the City to create a world-class attraction for residents and visitors. Therefore, we strongly support a countywide ordinance that would move to replace foam food and beverage containers with products more easily managed by municipal recycling facilities, as we believe the implementation will result in a significant decrease in the number of polystyrene products that end up in local waterways.

Polystyrene products get swept into storm drains that then empty into our creeks and rivers. The debris that isn't carried out to San Francisco Bay ends up lodged in branches and plants along the banks of waterways such as the Guadalupe, harming wildlife and creating visual blight. The Regional Water Control Board declared the Guadalupe River an impaired waterway due to the amount of trash it carries into San Francisco Bay.

Our staff and board members frequently give tours of the park to potential corporate and individual donors. Trash in the river – the majority of it plastic or Styrofoam – creates a very negative first impression and detracts from the urban oasis image we are cultivating.

In our role as stewards, we mobilize volunteers to pick up trash on a weekly basis so we are very aware of the impact of Styrofoam products on our landscape and waterways. We have adopted the section of the Guadalupe River from Coleman Ave. to Hwy. 880 and coordinate river clean ups in May and September in conjunction with national river and coastal clean-up promotions. These litter collection days yield an astonishing amount of trash that then gets hauled to the local landfill.

Thank you for your efforts to encourage environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,



Leslee Hamilton  
Executive Director



April 28, 2010

Ms. Lisa Rose  
County of Santa Clara  
Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
1553 Berger Drive, Building 1  
San Jose, CA 95112

**Subject: Polystyrene foodservice packaging safety – FDA, Harvard, and 50 years of proven food safety (RE: Proposed Polystyrene Ban Ordinance, Marin County)**

Dear Ms. Rose:

As the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission considers a policy recommendation on take-out foodservice, we would like to respectfully provide the results of independent analyses on the safety of polystyrene based on testing by experts like the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Harvard University.

Polystyrene has been used in foodservice products . foam coffee cups, salad bar takeout containers, hot noodle cups and more . for more than five decades. Polystyrene has been reviewed by regulatory agencies (including the FDA) that have deemed it safe for use in contact with food. Public health officials also have recognized the important sanitary benefits of these disposable foodservice products, particularly in settings such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, cafeterias and restaurants where it is critical that the foodservice ware in contact with food be clean and hygienic.

We offer the following referenced information on styrene and polystyrene . to address misconceptions and inaccuracies. The purpose of this information is to inform as well as reassure you that 50 years and plenty of testing on styrene/polystyrene translates to no health concerns from the use of low-cost, efficient polystyrene foam foodservice. We believe Santa Clara County should join countless others in using these products and knowing they are safe and sanitary.

### **(1) What is styrene? What is polystyrene?**

A naturally occurring substance, styrene is present in many foods and beverages. Its chemical structure is similar to cinnamic aldehyde, the chemical component that creates cinnamon's flavor. Styrene also is manufactured as a building block for materials used to make automobiles, electronics, boats, recreational vehicles and countless other consumer products.

When heated, styrene is linked together into a completely different material called a polymer (plastic), a long chain of styrene molecules . thus the poly+in polystyrene. Polystyrene is inert and non-toxic.

### **(2) How is polystyrene used?**

Polystyrene is manufactured into countless essential (and sometimes life-saving) consumer products including building insulation, automobile parts, flotation devices, medical equipment, protective packaging, compact disc cases and foodservice products.



### **(3) What's the state of the science on the safety of polystyrene foodservice?**

Polystyrene has been reviewed by regulatory agencies (including the FDA) that have deemed it safe for use in contact with food. Public health officials also have recognized the important sanitary benefits of these single-use foodservice products, particularly in settings such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, cafeterias and restaurants where it is critical that the foodservice ware in contact with food be clean and hygienic.

### **(4) Can substances from packaging "migrate" into food?**

All packaging . glass, aluminum, paper and plastic (including polystyrene) . contains substances that can migrate in very tiny amounts to foods or beverages. One of the reasons the FDA regulates food packaging in the first place is to be confident that the amount of migrated substances does not present a health concern. Test data submitted to the FDA indicated that the migration of styrene from polystyrene foodservice products is tiny and is expected to be significantly below the safety limits set by the FDA itself . 10,000 times less than the FDA's acceptable daily intake level.

### **(5) Where can people come into contact with styrene?**

As a substance that occurs naturally in our environment, styrene comes into contact with people primarily from the tiny amounts that are present in the air. Styrene is naturally present in many foods, such as cinnamon, beef, coffee beans, peanuts, wheat, oats, strawberries and peaches. In addition, styrene is approved by the FDA as a food additive, and it can be added in small amounts to baked goods, frozen dairy products, candy, gelatins, puddings and other food.

### **(6) What's the state of the science on the safety of styrene?**

A twelve-member panel of international experts selected by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis reported in 2002 that the very low levels of styrene present in foods . whether naturally occurring or from polystyrene foodservice products . does not represent a concern to human health. No regulatory body of which we are aware anywhere in the world has classified styrene as a known carcinogen.

We encourage you or your staff to contact either Mike Levy, director, Plastics Foodservice Packaging Group ([www.americanchemistry.com/pfpg](http://www.americanchemistry.com/pfpg) - food safety information); or Jack Snyder, director, Styrene Information and Research Center ([www.styrene.org](http://www.styrene.org)) for more information on either styrene or polystyrene.

As you consider a policy recommendation, we urge you to rely on proven science and safety track record of these polystyrene foodservice products for more than 50 years . rather than allegations of safety that have not been documented or proven by the U.S. FDA or reputable academic sources like Harvard University.

Thanks, and best regards,



Mike Levy, Director  
Plastics Foodservice Packaging Group  
[Mike\\_levy@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Mike_levy@americanchemistry.com)

cc: Members, Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
Members, Technical Advisory Committee



Joyce Berkowitz  
210 S. 12th St.  
San Jose, CA 95112-2111

June 24, 2011  
Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

I recently learned that on June 27th, you will be considering recommendations for polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) food ware in Santa Clara County. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and urge you to recommend banning this material throughout the county.

There is overwhelming evidence that banning Styrofoam is the best solution. Less than one percent of polystyrene food ware is recycled in California, making recycling a futile and costly effort. I am shocked to learn that county residents are instructed to put Styrofoam food ware in the recycling bin, when most of that material is actually sent to the landfill.

Businesses all around the Bay have adapted to and, in many cases, become highly supportive of alternative food ware. Over 20 cities in the Bay Area have already banned polystyrene; all Santa Clara County cities should join this regional movement to protect the Bay from plastic pollution.

Polystyrene is a common litter item in our creeks and waterways. In fact, it is the second most abundant form of beach debris in California. This material harms animals who mistake it for food, and creates an eyesore in our beautiful and valuable natural recreation areas. Recycling Styrofoam does not prevent it from becoming litter. That is why I am counting on your leadership to encourage my city and other Santa Clara County cities to ban this material immediately.

Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Joyce Berkowitz

Robert Lopez  
440 N Rengstorff Ave  
Mountain View, CA 94043-2879

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

I recently learned that on June 27th, you will be considering recommendations for polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) food ware in Santa Clara County. I want to thank you for addressing this important Bay pollution issue and urge you to recommend banning this material throughout the county.

There is overwhelming evidence that banning Styrofoam is the best solution. Less than one percent of polystyrene food ware is recycled in California, making recycling a futile and costly effort. I am shocked to learn that county residents are instructed to put Styrofoam food ware in the recycling bin, when most of that material is actually sent to the landfill.

Businesses all around the Bay have adapted to and, in many cases, become highly supportive of alternative food ware. Over 20 cities in the Bay Area have already banned polystyrene; all Santa Clara County cities should join this regional movement to protect the Bay from plastic pollution.

Polystyrene is a common litter item in our creeks and waterways. In fact, it is the second most abundant form of beach debris in California. This material harms animals who mistake it for food, and creates an eyesore in our beautiful and valuable natural recreation areas. Recycling Styrofoam does not prevent it from becoming litter. That is why I am counting on your leadership to encourage my city and other Santa Clara County cities to ban this material immediately.

Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Robert Lopez

Rashelle Rasmussen  
469 California Street  
Santa Clara, CA 95050-5722

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Rashelle Rasmussen

Renee Coleman  
2219 Duvall Court  
Santa Clara, CA 95054-1373

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Renee Coleman  
408-221-6958

George Clifford  
26789 Tanglewood Lane  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022-4309

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

To: Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission

Last month I participated in the National River Cleanup Day by picking up trash along Adobe Creek where it enters San Francisco Bay. Among other things, I fished out an enormous number of styrofoam containers. These containers were in the process of breaking up into smaller pieces, which would eventually pollute our Bay and the Pacific Ocean with small particles of polystyrene.

I urge you to ban the use of styrofoam for the use of food containers in your June 27th meeting.

George Clifford  
Los Altos Hills

Sincerely,

George Clifford

Sean Russell  
600 Pettis Ave.  
Mountain View, CA 94041-1834

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Sean Russell

Renee Kops-Jones  
1204 Caspian Sea Drive  
San Jose, CA 95126-4243

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Renee Kops-Jones

Lloyd Eater  
165 Arroyo Way  
San Jose, CA 95112-2102

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Lloyd Eater

Victoria Armigo  
776 Henderson Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-8255

June 24, 2011

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This is an easy fix. Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Victoria Armigo  
408 2966605

Nancy Larsson  
1253 Richardson Ave  
Los Altos, CA 94024-6034

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Nancy Larsson  
650-967-4384

Lee Jebian  
13130 Lorene Ct  
Mountain View, CA 94040-3966

June 24, 2011

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I further believe that all packaging materials in all forms including polystyrene meat trays, should be banned in all counties where they are not recycled. If the county does not have a recycling program for the material, ban it in that county (or institute a convenient, usable recycling program).

Sincerely,

Lee Jebian

Gregory Fowler  
PO Box 390689  
Mountain View, CA 94039-0689

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Gregory Fowler

Sammarye Lewis  
PO Bx 26331  
San Jose, CA 95159-6331

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Sammarye Lewis

Jennifer Kelly  
1750 University Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3143

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Kelly

Doris Williams  
745 Sutter Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-3939

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Doris Williams  
650 327-2486

Edwin Aiken  
663 Torrington Dr  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2445

June 24, 2011

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Edwin Aiken

Judy Reynolds  
1 Washington Sq.  
San Jose, CA 95112-3613

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Sincerely,

Judy Reynolds

Ken Novak  
1644 Channing Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-2804

June 24, 2011

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Ken Novak

Catherine McGowan  
245 View St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041-1343

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Sincerely,

Catherine McGowan

nancie sailor  
1021 e rose cir.  
los altos, CA 94024-5033

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Sincerely,

nancie sailor

Anne Rerolle  
924 Elsinore Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-3413

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Anne Rerolle

Sue Emory  
735 B Homer Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2908

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Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Sue Emory

Trudi Reinhardt  
3440 Kenneth  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4218

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Trudi Reinhardt

Suzanne Levin  
1011 Pomeroy Ave  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-4719

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Suzanne Levin

Richard McGowan  
4436 Latimer Ave  
San Jose, CA 95130-1034

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Richard McGowan

Donna Thomas  
10470 Beardon Dr  
Cupertino, CA 95014-1929

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Donna Thomas

Margaret Tompkins  
P.O. Box 187  
Palo Alto, CA 94302-0187

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Margaret Tompkins

Hilary Hannon  
1342 Webster St  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3646

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Hilary Hannon

Alena Campagna  
226 Bret Harte Ct.  
Santa Clara, CA 95050-6607

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Alena Campagna

C.Y. Price  
350 Edlee Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-4107

June 24, 2011

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Polystyrene is hard to recycle, and there are alternatives available, such as cardboard, that are compostable, and other plastics that are somewhat recyclable. Since much of the litter in the creeks consists of polystyrene, which is sometimes mistaken by animals as food, moving to a biodegradable alternative would improve the health of our waterways.

Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

C.Y. Price

Angela Kwok  
531 Lasuen Mall, PO Box 15517  
Stanford, CA 94309-5517

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Angela Kwok

A Bonvouloir  
POB 70185  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-0185

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

A Bonvouloir

Marsha Tindall  
1539 Lyle Dr  
San Jose, CA 95129-4809

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Marsha Tindall  
408-893-4493

Belinda Chiang  
PO Box 18035  
Stanford, CA 94309-8035

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Belinda Chiang

priscilla gilbert  
267 Curtner Ave  
palo alto, CA 94306-3471

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

priscilla gilbert

Clayton Barbeau, M.A., MFT  
1217 Roycott Way  
San Jose, CA 95125-3464

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Clayton Barbeau, M.A., MFT  
408 266-6489

Rachel Cota  
749 Stanford Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1413

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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For the love of our planet,

Rachel Cota

Julie Groves  
147 Vista Del Monte  
Los Gatos, CA 95030-6335

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Julie Groves  
408-358-0201

Marisol Verdugo  
2496 Pioneer Ave  
San Jose, CA 95128-2152

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Marisol Verdugo  
4082059778

Nicole Tindall  
1234 Martin Ave #3  
San Jose, CA 95126-5020

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Nicole Tindall

Madeline McKenna  
1255 Sandalwood Lane  
Los Altos, CA 94024-6739

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Madeline McKenna

Vlad Skvortsov  
255 S Rengstorff Ave Apt. 104  
Mountain View, CA 94040-1747

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Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Vlad Skvortsov

Elizabeth Guimarin  
2088 Orestes Way  
Campbell, CA 95008-2612

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Guimarin

Karen Erickson  
455 Jerome st  
San Jose, CA 95125-1557

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Karen Erickson

Mary Rose Theis  
420 Cypress Drive  
Los Altos, CA 94022-2605

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Rose Theis

Edward J Lee  
3520 Wehner Drive  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-4902

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Edward J Lee  
4082473297

lauren Ornelas  
190 Ryland St  
San Jose, CA 95110-3909

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

lauren Ornelas

Ruth Selan  
670 S. Monroe St.  
San Jose, CA 95128-3167

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Ruth Selan  
650 857 2623

Marian Fricano  
4271 N 1st St, Sp 12  
San Jose, CA 95134-1202

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,  
I have participated in several river clean-up events, and styrofoam is the number 1 item found, that and balls of all kinds.

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Sincerely,

Marian Fricano  
408 554-5439

Tamara Wilson  
106 E Middlefield Road  
Mountain View, CA 94043-3816

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Tamara Wilson

Linda Devendorf  
333 Florence St.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6034

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Linda Devendorf  
510-676-0776

Abigail Usita  
2672 Glen Ferguson Cir.  
San Jose, CA 95148-2537

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Abigail Usita

Elizabeth Moore  
947 Primrose Ave  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-8960

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Moore

Peter LaTourrette  
1019 Loma Prieta Ct.  
Los Altos, CA 94024-5045

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Peter LaTourrette

Mary-Lynne Bainbridge  
16200 Shannon Rd  
Los Gatos, CA 95032-4729

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Mary-Lynne Bainbridge

jj hester  
fisher  
morgan hill, CA 95037-9520

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

j hester

charles black  
110 granada drive  
mountain view, CA 94043-4557

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

charles black

Laurie King  
5462 Tradewinds WW  
San Jose, CA 95123-1838

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Laurie King

Barbara Emerich  
209 Portola Court  
Los Altos, CA 94022-1431

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Barbara Emerich

Madhulika Singh  
2237 Lacey Dr  
MILPITAS, CA 95035-6118

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Madhulika Singh

Erica Stanojevic  
540 S. 15th St  
San Jose, CA 95112-2365

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Erica Stanojevic

Audrie Lin  
123 Blackwelder Ct, Apt 104  
Stanford, CA 94305-7519

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Businesses all around the Bay have adapted to and, in many cases, become highly supportive of alternative food ware. Over 20 cities in the Bay Area have already banned polystyrene; all Santa Clara County cities should join this regional movement to protect the Bay from plastic pollution.

Polystyrene is a common litter item in our creeks and waterways. In fact, it is the second most abundant form of beach debris in California. This material harms animals who mistake it for food, and creates an eyesore in our beautiful and valuable natural recreation areas. Recycling Styrofoam does not prevent it from becoming litter. That is why I am counting on your leadership to encourage my city and other Santa Clara County cities to ban this material immediately.

Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Audrie Lin

Michael Rose  
557 Morse Ave.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-3653

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

I support any measure that will ban harmful items from entering our environment. Styrofoam in any form is a nasty and long lasting environmental hazard. Our city cannot recycle it, and I have that there is no recycling for it. It decomposes very slowly, and when it does toxins are released.

There are some business that have went to cardboard/pressed paper for carry-out purchases. I can see no reason for all businesses to do the same. I would gladly pay an extra 25 cents to offset the cost to such businesses.

I urge you to vote to ban any and all forms of styrofoam within our County.

Sincerely,  
Michael Rose

Sincerely,

Michael Rose

Bill Leikam  
530 Kendall Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2753

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Bill Leikam

Lukasz Lempart  
1269 Lakeside Dr. #3106  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-1042

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Lukasz Lempart  
4158460012

Frank Arnold  
3293 Aramis Drive  
San Jose, CA 95127-4201

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Frank Arnold

Lisa Dawley  
2266 Cherrystone Dr  
San Jose, CA 95128-1218

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Lisa Dawley

Jesse Craven  
2050 California St #10  
Mountain View, CA 94040-1782

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Jesse Craven

Shabbir Latif  
1776 cheney dr.  
San Jose, CA 95128-3603

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Shabbir Latif

Marc Gordon  
1474 Samedra Street  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-4054

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Marc Gordon

Meg Pelose  
678 Chapman St  
San Jose, CA 95126-2105

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Meg Pelose

An Scharlaken  
1246 Satake Court  
Mountain View, CA 94040-3045

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

An Scharlaken

Gillian Schultz  
498 Vine Ave  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6353

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Gillian Schultz

Eric Ledgerwood  
780 Arastradero Rd.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-3827

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Eric J. Ledgerwood  
650 283 5932

Paris Harvey  
1136 Robway Ave  
Campbell, CA 95008-0718

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Paris Harvey

Betty Adler  
1144 Channing  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-3020

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Betty Denenberg Adler

Vic and Barby Ulmer  
13004 Paseo Presada  
Saratoga, CA 95070-4125

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Sincerely,

Vic and Barby Ulmer

Robert Means  
1421 Yellowstone Ave.  
Milpitas, CA 95035-6913

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

While you are making adjustments, consider banning so-called polystyrene "packing peanuts".

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Sincerely,

Robert Means

Margaret Mcdonald  
918 Harliss Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95110-3012

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Businesses all around the Bay have adapted to and, in many cases, become highly supportive of alternative food ware. Over 20 cities in the Bay Area have already banned polystyrene; all Santa Clara County cities should join this regional movement to protect the Bay from plastic pollution.

Polystyrene is a common litter item in our creeks and waterways. In fact, it is the second most abundant form of beach debris in California. This material harms animals who mistake it for food, and creates an eyesore in our beautiful and valuable natural recreation areas. I personally collect litter in my San Jose neighborhood, and styrofoam is a very frequent component, one of the hardest to pick up because of its fragility. Recycling Styrofoam does not prevent it from becoming litter. That is why I am counting on your leadership to encourage my city and other Santa Clara County cities to ban this material immediately.

Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Margaret L Mcdonald

Russell Blalack  
1081 Milky Way  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5008

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Russell Blalack

Matisse Milovich  
PO Box 13370  
Stanford, CA 94309-3370

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Matisse Milovich

Kris Karnos  
1724 Fabian Dr.  
San Jose, CA 95124-1911

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

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Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County's residents, creeks, and shorelines, and recommend immediate and effective bans on polystyrene food ware on June 27!

Sincerely,

Kris Karnos

Carole Gonsalves  
1497 Los Rios Drive  
San Jose, CA 95120-4825

June 24, 2011

Jamie McLeod

Dear Jamie McLeod:

Dear Chair McLeod and RWRC Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Carole Gonsalves

Kendall Dinwiddie  
543 Jackson Drive  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-2832

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Kendall Dinwiddie  
650-325-3033

Julia Howlett  
1055 N 2nd Street  
San Jose, CA 95112-4931

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Kendall Dinwiddie  
650-325-3033

Doron Drusinsky  
11425 Charsan Lane  
United States, CA 95014-4981

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Sincerely,

Doron Drusinsky  
4082522808

Laurie Winslow  
18 Peter Coutts Cir  
Stanford, CA 94305-1098

June 24, 2011

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Sincerely,

Laurie Winslow

Rebecca OBryan  
127 Timbercove Dr  
Campbell, CA 95008-4122

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Sincerely,

Rebecca OBryan

Councilmember McLeod,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed prohibition of the use of polystyrene foodservice containers. These are challenging times for restaurants and our customers. A ban would have a negative effect on my business as other packaging costs significantly more, and passing on the cost to my customers, charging a take-out fee or raising menu prices are not sound business options for me. My customers should not be penalized for taking their food home to enjoy. I'm doing everything I can to keep customers and attract people to my business, instead of giving them reasons to not dine out.

What types of products work best for my restaurant and customers should be a business decision. Polystyrene products are cost-efficient, durable and do a very good job in keeping hot or cold temperatures.

If the goal of the ban is to address litter, this does nothing to get at the root of the issue, which is people who litter regardless of the composition of the product. Please support restaurants and the local economy. Restaurants are closing their doors each and every day in this area, we cannot sustain additional financial pressure. I urge you not to prohibit foodservice establishments from using polystyrene foam.

Sincerely,

George Sammut, 3 Bears Inc.  
7877 Wren Ave # Ave-c  
Gilroy, CA 95020

Julia Howlett  
1055 N 2nd Street  
San Jose, CA 95112-4931

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Sincerely,

Julia Howlett

Mason Wu  
102 Greenmeadow Way  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-4517

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Sincerely,

Mason Wu

Christine Husk  
1411 Scollon ct  
San Jose, CA 95132-2326

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Sincerely,

Christine Husk



DART CONTAINER CORPORATION CALIFORNIA

www.dart.biz

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1630 HENRIETTA ST. • REDLANDS, CA 92373 • 909.793.2729 • Fax 909.793.2739

June 24, 2011

Dear Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission members,

I am writing regarding Dart Container Corp's (Lodi/Corona) interest in the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County's position on polystyrene foam foodservice containers.

We too are committed to building a cleaner future and to diverting foam from the waste stream and landfills. We are also focused on helping rebuild our economy. We believe that forcing a transition to more-costly alternatives that are not recyclable and would require more energy to produce is not a beneficial solution. Bans are ineffective because they do not deal with the core problem – littering. It is key for businesses to collaborate with government leaders to identify and develop viable solutions to address litter and marine debris, like increased recycling options.

With this in mind, we offer our support in enacting tiers one and/or four from the Technical Advisory Committee's staff report.

As the Tier One description outlines, education and outreach is essential in helping address the problem of littering. We also support Tier Four (use only containers that are accepted in their contracted hauler's collection system) but feel that it should be amended to not build on the previous tiers. We believe a more reasonable approach would be to establish a policy that outlines criteria for food service products to be either compostable or recyclable locally. Such an approach provides manufacturers and restaurateurs the flexibility and incentive to meet environmental objectives, without added operating costs or sacrificing customer service.

We are experienced in helping increase recycling infrastructure and educate communities about the recyclability of foam. This diligence is yielding great results. In 2007 there were no cities recycling foam curbside and now more than 40 cities in Southern California are accepting foam in their curbside recycling programs. We also work with several school districts throughout the state to recycle foam lunch trays, helping convey the benefits of recycling to students. This program is currently recycling more than one million trays monthly.

With our history of success in driving foam recycling infrastructure, we are confident that we can work with the Commission on a program that results in success for the overall community.

Sincerely,

Michael Westerfield  
Dart Container Corporation  
Corporate Director of Recycling Programs

Manufacturing Locations:

Michigan • Pennsylvania • Illinois • Georgia • California • Florida  
Washington • Texas • Kentucky • Mississippi • North Carolina  
Canada • Mexico • United Kingdom • Australia • Argentina



350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900  
Oakland, CA 94612-2016

t. 510.452.9261

f. 510.452.9266

[saveSFbay.org](http://saveSFbay.org)

June 20, 2011

Jamie McLeod, Chair  
Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
Integrated Waste Management Division  
County of Santa Clara

**RE: Support for Expanded Polystyrene ban**

Dear Chair McLeod:

On behalf of Save The Bay's 25,000 members and supporters throughout the Bay Area, I urge the Commission to recommend that Santa Clara County jurisdictions take immediate steps to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS). Silicon Valley is at risk of falling behind many Bay Area jurisdictions in banning this highly polluting and wasteful product unless jurisdictions adopt a ban effective January 1, 2012; cities should not delay action any further. Simply recommending public outreach is insufficient to address the numerous problems associated with polystyrene food ware.

Polystyrene foam is a common litter item that suffocates our creeks, wetlands, and shorelines. Because of its light weight, even properly disposed polystyrene foam often makes its way into our waterways. Fifty jurisdictions in California have already banned polystyrene food ware, half of which are in the Bay Area; Santa Clara County and its cities should do the same.

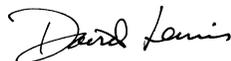
The Source Reduction and Recycling subcommittee's memo provides a detailed overview of the issue and current actions being taken at the local and state levels. It clearly states that recycling of polystyrene foam is economically inefficient and is simply not happening in Santa Clara County. In fact, all but one Materials Recovery Facility is landfilling it, despite the fact that residents are told they can place polystyrene foam in their recycling bins. Consumers are being led to believe that their EPS is being recycled when it is actually being trashed. Recycling this material is also a complicated and low-yield process that requires investment in expensive machinery. Collected foam must first be cleaned in a wash and dry facility, which cities would need to invest in. The washed material must then be processed by a densifier, which cities would need to lease from the manufacturer. Then a willing buyer must be found, which is largely dependent on how clean the material is. This lengthy process is not an efficient or responsible use of municipal resources.

Just as importantly, the very recycling facilities being touted by industry are exposing workers to cancer-causing chemicals. The federal government has listed styrene – a substance used to make polystyrene – as a likely carcinogen that is particularly dangerous to workers involved in manufacturing this material. Supporting polystyrene recycling will put these workers at an unnecessary risk.

The bottom line is that recycling polystyrene does not prevent it from becoming litter. Santa Clara County jurisdictions are facing aggressive goals for reducing stormwater trash loads that will require proactive steps to prevent litter at the source. Recycling does not help jurisdictions move any closer to achieving these requirements.

Save The Bay applauds the Commission for taking action on this unsustainable, polluting and dangerous product. Included for your convenience is a polystyrene food ware fact sheet. Please do the right thing for Santa Clara County residents and the Bay – recommend a ban on polystyrene foam food ware beginning January 1, 2012.

Sincerely,



David Lewis  
Executive Director





## Polystyrene Food Ware Fact Sheet

Almost 50 jurisdictions in California have banned polystyrene food ware, and over half of these are in the Bay Area. A regional movement to prevent this wasteful material from polluting our waterways is well underway, but the plastics industry continues to promote misconceptions about the viability of recycling polystyrene food ware and the impacts of bans on local businesses.

### Recycling is not a viable solution

The California Integrated Waste Management Board stated that no meaningful level of food service polystyrene recycling occurs in California; in 2001, less than one half of one percent of food service polystyrene was actually recycled.<sup>1</sup>

Almost no Bay Area municipalities recycle polystyrene foam food ware:

- Allied Waste's recent partnership with the Dart Corporation to initiate a polystyrene foam recycling program in the City of Milpitas does not include accepting polystyrene food ware; it is currently focused on clean polystyrene foam packaging.
- Any such eventual program would likely require residents to clean, stockpile and drop-off their polystyrene food ware.<sup>2</sup>
- All but one Materials Recovery Facility in Santa Clara County landfills polystyrene foam, despite the fact that it is accepted in curbside recycling bins. Residents are being misinformed and even misled about their recycling activities.

Polystyrene foam can only be recycled if it is clean:

- Industry representatives confirm that they may accept polystyrene food ware for recycling as long as there is no food contamination.<sup>3</sup>
- Polystyrene foam is "downcycled" into materials that are no longer suitable for exposure to food and are not recyclable. Low-value products made from recycled foam include decorative molding and picture frames.

The Dart Corporation, a major polystyrene manufacturer, claims that curbside collection and recycling of Styrofoam is widespread among southern California cities. The truth is that **many companies and facilities that haul and recycle solid waste in southern California are actually trashing this material:**

- A major Materials Recovery Facility in Los Angeles County, which is where they sort out recyclable materials, *trashes Styrofoam*.<sup>4</sup>
- Consolidated Disposal Service, a company with 24 exclusive municipal contracts in so. CA, also trashes Styrofoam.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). *Use and Disposal of Polystyrene in California* (2004).

<sup>2</sup> Gil Cheso, Allied Waste. Personal Communication. November 15, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> David Firestone, Timbron International. Public comment at the City of San Jose Transportation & Environment Committee meeting. February 7, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Puente Hills MRF employee. Personal communication. April 8, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Consolidated Disposal Service customer service representative. Personal communication. April 8, 2011.



*Styrofoam is not being recycled, and southern California residents are being misled.*

Styrene – a chemical used to manufacture polystyrene – is recognized as a likely carcinogen by the federal government. Those at the highest risk are workers at manufacturing facilities. Recycling polystyrene puts recycling workers at an unnecessary risk.

Whether polystyrene foam is disposed of through recycling or landfilling, **the continued use of this product does not prevent it from becoming litter.** The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board recommends that cities ban polystyrene, plastic bags and other commonly littered items that clog the natural environment and cost cities millions in cleanup costs.

### **Businesses are complying with polystyrene bans**

Hundreds of restaurants and other businesses throughout the Bay Area are currently in compliance with polystyrene food ware bans.

Alternative food ware is becoming more affordable and practical:

- San Mateo County staff determined that for businesses who primarily use polystyrene foam food ware, complying with a ban could cost as little as \$150 per year.
- Organizations such as Green Town Los Altos' compostable food ware co-op lowers the costs of alternative products even further (<http://greentownlosaltos.org/programs/waste/business-co-op/>).
- The quality of alternative products has improved.
- Almost all existing ordinances have a hardship provision built in, and cities such as Millbrae have reported that very few businesses have asked for hardship consideration.

The public does not want polystyrene foam:

- Business leaders recently testified in Sacramento that the **increase in alternative food ware is being driven by consumer demand**
- Restaurant owners report that customers thank them for not serving their food in polystyrene foam.



## *THE LEADING EDGE OF COASTAL ACTIVISM*

### **Regarding Polystyrene food take-out container ban ordinance: SUPPORT**

June 21, 2011

Jamie McLeod, Chair  
Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
Integrated Waste Management Division  
County of Santa Clara

Dear Honorable RWR Commission Members.

Regarding the Commission's work on considering an ordinance prohibiting the use of polystyrene take-out food containers in the county and in jurisdictions throughout the county, Surfer's Environmental Alliance is pleased to comment. We ask that our comments be considered as you form your decision.

**As a preliminary matter, Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA) is committed to the preservation and protection of the environmental and cultural elements that are inherent to the sport of surfing. Our goals are achieved through grassroots activism, community involvement, education and humanitarian efforts. We engage in projects that strive to conserve the quality of our marine environment, preserve or enhance surf breaks, protect beach access rights, and safeguard the coastal surf zone from unnecessary development. [www.seasurfer.org](http://www.seasurfer.org)**

We urge the entire Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission to vote in favor of recommending the proposed ordinance and to take positive pro-environmental public action on an issue that is already high in community awareness throughout the region. In observation of the other recent local actions on similar ordinances, SEA saw the amazing public outcry in favor of polystyrene bans. Direct contacts, letters, and emails clearly expressed the coastal community's strong desire for such bans. Subsequently, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Del Ray Oaks, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, Capitola, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville have all enacted similar laws, among many other California jurisdictions which have taken similar action. At SEA, we hope to eventually see such bans extended throughout all jurisdictions throughout the Bay Area because this is obviously a regional, if not a national, issue. Trash knows no boundaries.

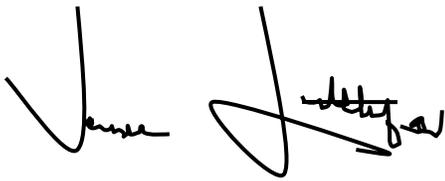
SEA respectfully asks that all jurisdictions within Santa Clara County adopt a ban effective January 1, 2012;. Cities should not delay action any further. Simply recommending public outreach is insufficient to address the numerous problems associated with polystyrene food ware. Such "problems" are thoroughly documented and such material is readily available.

Petroleum-based plastic throw-aways, especially polystyrene products, create huge problems in the marine environment. The astonishing amount of plastic debris in our oceans directly harms marine and avian species and threatens the health of eco-systems. As the people in and on the water, we see this expanded-foam junk

much too frequently and also have directly observed its terrible effect on marine creatures who ingest chunks of polystyrene or become entangled in other plastic discards.

The time for public action is now. We urge all members of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission to listen to the community will, to become familiar with the facts on polystyrene in the environment, and to recommend that this important ordinance be voted into county law.

For the sea and the surf,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Littlefield". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Littlefield, West Coast/North Director  
Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA)

[www.seasurfer.org](http://www.seasurfer.org)



Conservation

Activism

Research

Education

June 21, 2011

Jamie McLeod, Chair  
Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
Integrated Waste Management Division  
County of Santa Clara

Dear Honorable Commission Members.

We believe you are all aware of the new public ordinances in Santa Cruz County and Monterey County banning the use of polystyrene (or Styrofoam) food take-out containers in various jurisdictions. Local government has taken such pro-environmental action in the cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel, and in unincorporated Santa Cruz County, among others. The Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation has been very active in these public processes and has done a huge amount of public education regarding the negative effects of polystyrene in the environment, so we ask you to accept the following comments in the spirit of cooperation and education.

Our Santa Cruz Chapter, therefore, urges the Commission to recommend that Santa Clara County jurisdictions take immediate steps to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS). Silicon Valley is at risk of falling behind many Bay Area jurisdictions in banning this highly polluting and wasteful product unless jurisdictions adopt a ban effective January 1, 2012; cities should not delay action any further. Simply recommending public outreach is insufficient to address the numerous problems associated with polystyrene food ware.

**The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 80 chapters worldwide. For more information on the Surfrider Foundation, go to [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org)**

We have been pleased to see so many local jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County evaluating ordinances on this pressing environmental issue, and we believe these actions are taken in accordance with

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the community's will. Plastics represent sixty to eighty percent of all marine debris and have been well-documented as a huge and ever-growing problem in the environment. Polystyrene, especially, is notorious as a threat to hundreds of marine and avian species through ingestion, entrapment, and entanglement, and can be a public human health threat, as well.

Furthermore, polystyrene has long been identified as one of the most long-lasting and prevalent materials in the local waste stream. No meaningful recycling of polystyrene currently occurs in Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County or Monterey County, and we know of no facility anywhere which accepts food-stained polystyrene for reuse or recycling.

**Therefore, we wish to take this opportunity to urge the Recycling and Waste Reduction Committee to consider recommending taking public action on this issue. We also encourage the research and effort necessary to draft and implement a practical ordinance that will promote sustainability and help stop the threat to our bays, our watersheds, our oceans and marine animals and the alarming litter of our wetlands, beaches and neighborhoods due to tossed polystyrene containers that were wastefully manufactured and used specifically as one-time-throw-away items, primarily in the food-service industry.**

Moreover, we urge a regional approach since such restrictive ordinances can only be practical and effective if enacted and enforced throughout all jurisdictions in the nearby area. As litter has no natural boundaries it is desirable and prudent for all jurisdictions in a given region to follow the same plan regarding such product-specific waste management practices.

**In an effort to reduce marine and watershed debris, it is necessary to curb the creation of waste. In this regard, we wish to promote the use of reusable bags and encourage all consumers to buy and bring their own shopping bags or take-out food containers. We realize some local groceries, convenience stores, and non-profits already sell these products.**

We believe you are all aware of the huge and ever-growing public interest in mandatory restrictions to control and regulate the widespread use of polystyrene and other types of throw-away plastic products so highly-visible and so obviously-wasteful in our society. Reports of such local efforts throughout California abound in the news media, and we are certain you have followed the local actions along our coast. Please, understand that a very large segment of the coastal and regional population is strongly in favor of such bans and expects local jurisdictions to take positive action in accordance with the expressed public will.

At Surfrider, we have been heavily involved in community advocacy regarding this issue in all of the jurisdictions that have enacted such pro-environmental product bans, and so continue to hear from untold numbers of public contacts as well as from our direct membership regarding their desire for and support of such bans of polystyrene containers

and also plastic throw-away bags. Our Santa Cruz Chapter and our Monterey Chapter have both provided educational materials regarding the effects of polystyrene in the environment to many hundreds of area residents of all ages, races, and nationalities at community events, including public meetings, community workshops, tabling at various sites, and at our frequent beach cleanups.

Our educational efforts have also included communication on this issue with numerous local elected and appointed bodies, city and county staff, and elected officials, both in writing and in person. Thus, we perceive a clear trend evident around Monterey Bay and the wider San Francisco Bay region which coincides with the obvious trend throughout many California jurisdictions. We believe the public wants to take action on this matter, and we therefore confidently assert that such a city-wide effort will be both appreciated by many Santa Clara County residents and actively supported.

In the spirit of cooperation and education, we invite you visit our local website at [www.surfridersantacruz.org](http://www.surfridersantacruz.org) for excellent information on marine debris and plastics in the environment

The Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation sincerely hopes you will pursue this project. Such action on your part would constitute a public decision to explore proactive measures to protect our fragile marine environment, conserve limited resources, and reduce unnecessary amounts of highly-durable polystyrene plastic foam in our local waste streams. We see this opportunity as a chance for the Commission to promote the County as environmentally-aware and engaged.

Should this process move forward in Santa Clara County, we will be happy to assist you with comments, educational materials or letters of support, as appropriate. Please feel free to contact us at [activist@surfridersantacruz.org](mailto:activist@surfridersantacruz.org) if we may be of assistance.

For the oceans, waves and beaches,



Dustin Macdonald, Chair  
Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation