

**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Vote to ban styro

-----Original Message-----

From: [mischchief@gmail.com](mailto:mischchief@gmail.com) [<mailto:mischchief@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 9:07 PM

To: McAustin, Margaret; Tornek, Terry; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie; Silva, Gabriel; Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John

Subject: Vote to ban styro

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Please support making Pasadena a cleaner, more responsible city by banning styrofoam containers. Kudos to the Mayor and Councilmember Wilson for taking a positive position on this issue; please join them.

I'm a Pasadena resident and I have started to avoid some of my favorite eateries because they use styrofoam. There are alternatives that are compostable and non-petrochem-derived, but businesses won't switch until compelled to do so.

While banning styrofoam, the City should suggest alternatives to help ease the change for businesses.

Once they do, I can freely dine in Pasadena, with a clearer conscience.

Sincerely,

Michelle Anderson

Sent from a tiny keyboard; kindly excuse any typos I might have missed.

## Flores, Valerie

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**To:** Teresa Mei Chuc  
**Subject:** RE: We Can Really Make a Difference - Please Ban Styrofoam in Pasadena

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 05, 2016 9:43 PM

**To:** Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie; Silva, Gabriel; Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John

**Subject:** We Can Really Make a Difference - Please Ban Styrofoam in Pasadena

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

After our last meeting on April 26th, I felt that we can make a difference. We can really make this city and world a better, cleaner, healthier place for our children and future generations. I grew up in Pasadena since the age of two and a half. Three generations of my family live in Pasadena. Pasadena is our home.

After our last meeting, I understood that it is possible to protect both the earth and small businesses. Pasadena is home to an intelligent and forward thinking population. It is home to the California Institute of Technology, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena City College, The Art Center of College and Design, etc. We, as conscientious, thinking consumers, choose to be earth-friendly and would support the growth of small businesses in this direction. Cities that have already banned the use of styrofoam include Seattle, New York City, Washington, D.C., Amherst, Albany, Portland, and San Francisco. We have a lot to learn from these cities. Our own neighboring city, Santa Monica, banned styrofoam in January 2007. What types of sustainable eco-friendly alternatives to styrofoam is the city of Santa Monica using? According to the city's website, they are using aluminum, recyclable plastics, coated and uncoated paper, compostable plant fiber products, bio-plastic.

[https://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Container\\_Ban\\_Frequently\\_Asked\\_Questions.aspx](https://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Business/Container_Ban_Frequently_Asked_Questions.aspx)

It is now time for us to move forward, not let ourselves be held back by fear, but to step forward in spite of fear and to learn and grow together in our goals of becoming a Zero Waste/Green City, a city consciously taking steps to protect Mother Earth and to teach our children by example.

I was once that child in Pasadena attending Hamilton Elementary and then Marshall Fundamental Junior/Senior High School where I graduated. Pasadena played a major role in shaping me as a human being who cares about her community and environment and someone who thinks seven generations into the future.

The people of Pasadena are willing to pay extra for sustainable and healthier alternatives to styrofoam, it is a small price to pay now so that our children, future generations, the Earth, rivers, lakes, oceans and their creatures do not have to pay a much costlier price later.

We must protect the city of Pasadena, its surrounding mountains, rivers and wildlife, and we must protect its people from the dangers and health risks of styrofoam.

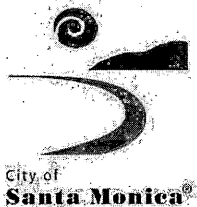
It is time that we take action from our hearts, not out of fear but with the love and caring for humanity, the Earth, its creatures, our children now and those yet to be born.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Teresa Mei Chuc, English teacher  
John F. Kennedy High School  
Architecture, Digital Design, Filmmaking Magnet  
11254 Gothic Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

Home: 3343 East Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 / Email: [teresameichuc@gmail.com](mailto:teresameichuc@gmail.com)



# The Food Service Container Ban

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Background:

On January 9, 2007 the Santa Monica City Council unanimously voted to ban the use of non-recyclable plastic disposable food service containers within Santa Monica: [SMMC: 2216](#)

### When did the ordinance take effect?

- **February 9, 2007** for all city facilities and operations, city managed concessions, and city sponsored and permitted events.
- **February 9, 2008** for all food service providers in Santa Monica.

### Why did the City of Santa Monica ban non-recyclable plastic and polystyrene?

Expanded polystyrene and non-recyclable plastic together make up the largest amount of waste that ends up on Santa Monica's beaches. At the annual Coastal Cleanup Day, 10,000 volunteers came out to clean the beaches and in three hours picked up over 75,000 lbs. of trash, most of which was identified as Styrofoam® and plastic. This plastic waste causes significant environmental damage to the beach and marine environment. It can also harm marine animals and birds who mistake it for food. Polystyrene is made from crude oil and when improperly disposed persists in the environment for hundreds of years. By banning these types of disposable plastic food containers, the ordinance will help to reduce the amount of these materials that pollute Santa Monica's beaches and the bay.

### What are the banned food service containers?

Non-recyclable plastic refers to any plastic which cannot be feasibly recycled by a municipal recycling program in the State of California. This specifically refers to expanded polystyrene (one example of which is known as Styrofoam®) and clear or rigid polystyrene, both of which are marked with the symbol #6 on the bottom.

This ban applies to single-use disposable containers intended for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-eat food or beverages. Examples include cups, plates, trays, bowls, and hinged or lidded containers. This ordinance does not apply to single-use disposable food service items which are not used as food containers, such as straws, cup lids and utensils.

**Who must comply with this ordinance?**

This ordinance prohibits all food providers in the City of Santa Monica from dispensing prepared food in non-recyclable plastic food service containers. "Food provider" means any establishment, located or providing food within the City of Santa Monica, which provides prepared food for public consumption on or off its premises and includes without limitation any store, shop, sales outlet, restaurant, delicatessen, grocery store, super market, catering truck or vehicle, or any other person who provides prepared food, and any organization, group, or individual that regularly provides food as a part of its service. The ordinance also covers food containers purchased by city staff; food programs sponsored by the city, city-sponsored events, city-managed concessions and city-permitted events.

**What are the penalties for non-compliance?**

- The 1st violation results in a written warning.
- The 2nd violation results in a fine up to \$100.
- The 3rd violation & any following violations result in a daily fine up to \$250.

**What types of containers are allowed under the ordinance?**

- **Aluminum**
- **Recyclable Plastics**
- **Coated and Uncoated Paper**

**Note:** It is recommended that coated and uncoated papers contain a minimum of 90% paper, ideally made with post-consumer recycled content. Typically, these products will be labeled "post-consumer recycled content".

- **Compostable Plant Fiber** products, such as Bagasse, are now made from corn, sugar cane, bamboo, palm, grass and other rapidly compostable resources.
- **Bio-plastic** Currently, bio-plastic products cannot be effectively composted in home composters or municipal composting operations used by the City of Santa Monica. Even though certain bio-plastic containers are labeled as compostable, the existing composting facility currently used by the City of Santa Monica is unable to process these bio-plastics. Any bio-plastic container which is placed in a compost or recycling bin will be removed and sent to a landfill. The City is exploring opportunities which will one day allow residents and businesses to dispose of their bio-plastics in the composting bin. Until then, bio-plastic products should be disposed of in the black trash bin.

**What is the heat tolerance of compostable products?**

When determining what type of compostable product line to use, it is important to know whether you will be serving hot or cold food. For example, a popular corn-based container has a heat tolerance of around 110 degrees F and is excellent for salads, sandwiches and cold drinks, but not hot foods or drinks. Specific brands of compostable food containers are designed for hot foods and drinks. Before you choose a container, be sure to ask for information on heat tolerance and other product specifications.

**Where do I find acceptable food service containers?**

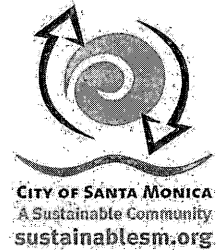
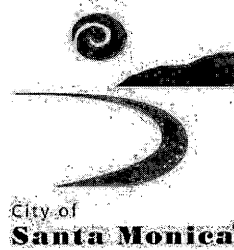
Contact or visit your sales representative to inquire about acceptable containers. If they do not carry them, request that they begin doing so. As a service to the community, the city has a list of suppliers of acceptable food service containers. Learn how to host a zero waste event in Santa Monica and access a list of over 90 food service container distributors as [www.sustainablem.org/container](http://www.sustainablem.org/container).

**Useful Websites:**

- CalRecycle Venue Resource Page: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/venues/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/venues/)
- CalRecycle: Venue & Events Law (CA AB 2176) Information: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/venues/Mandates/default.htm](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/venues/Mandates/default.htm)

**Who can I call for questions about where to find alternative products, ordinance enforcement, exemptions, recycling technical assistance or community presentations?** Contact Josephine Miller of the Office of Sustainability & the Environment at 310.458.4925 or [josephine.miller@smgov.net](mailto:josephine.miller@smgov.net).

City of Santa Monica  
Office of Sustainability & the Environment  
1717 4th Street, Suite 100  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Phone: 310.458.2213  
Email: [environment@smgov.net](mailto:environment@smgov.net)  
Website: [sustainablem.org/container](http://sustainablem.org/container)



**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: WWW COMMENT--proposed polystyrène ban

**From:** CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net [mailto:CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 05, 2016 6:50 PM  
**To:** Morales, Margo  
**Subject:** WWW COMMENT

Data from form "Contact Councilmember Margaret McAustin" was received on 5/5/2016 6:49:57 PM.

Send Comments

Field	Value
Your Name	Julie Hoy
Phone	5152312234
Email	<a href="mailto:juliehoy@gmail.com">juliehoy@gmail.com</a>
Comments	I support the proposed Ordinance To Ban Styrofoam Food And Beverage Containers.

Email "WWW COMMENT" originally sent to [mfuller@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mfuller@cityofpasadena.net) from [CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net) on 5/5/2016 6:49:57 PM.



May 6, 2016

The Honorable Terry Tornek  
Mayor, City of Pasadena  
Honorable City Council  
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Re: Polystyrene Food Ware Ban: OPPOSED

Dear Mayor Tornek and Council Members:

The California Restaurant Association is the definitive voice of the food service industry in California and is the oldest restaurant trade association in the nation. On behalf of our restaurant members in Pasadena, we submit this letter of opposition expressing our concern with a ban on foam food packaging at eating establishments.

We would like to work collaboratively with the City to address litter and trash by exploring fiscally and environmentally responsible solutions. A ban does not truly address litter and trash issues. By switching from one product to another, the composition of the trash and litter would change, but the overall volume is unlikely to decrease and the problem will not go away. For example, the City and County of San Francisco conducted a litter audit following the implementation of its polystyrene ban ordinance. The audit found that a 41% reduction in polystyrene was offset by an increase of the same percentage of coated paperboard on an item-by-item basis. Therefore, we believe exploring other options like foam recycling that would capture not just food packaging, but all foam is a sensible approach that actually results in waste reduction.

We urge the City Council to take into account the challenges eating establishments would face such as higher costs and product performance issues with alternative products. With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (e.g. historical minimum wage increases, new paid sick leave mandates, menu labeling, compliance with the Affordable care Act, increases in local and state government fees, rising workers' compensation costs, and increasing unemployment insurance taxes) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. We do not believe it is appropriate to impose greater cost burdens on the restaurant community. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other

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businesses – roughly 3 to 5 percent before taxes, according to the National Restaurant Association's Restaurant Industry Operations Report. Restaurants, caterers, delis, and other food providers will see their operating costs rise, as polystyrene containers are two to three times more affordable than replacement products.

Furthermore, a ban on polystyrene food products would force restaurants to purchase alternative products that may not perform as well and cost significantly more. Restaurants should have the freedom of choice to use food service packaging that best meets their operational needs. Polystyrene packaging is an economical option that performs extremely well in keeping cold foods cold and warm foods warm. Polystyrene products are also durable and well insulated and thus hold up well to various types of food to help prevent accidental leaks and spills.


Although the staff report discusses a hardship exemption for qualifying restaurants, we do not believe that this is a viable alternative. What the report references is not an exemption at all; rather, at most it would be a one-year delay of the ban for those restaurants that apply and receive hardship treatment. Hence, any relief for small businesses that qualify would only be temporary.

In addition, we have found that small businesses rarely apply for hardship treatment due to a number of factors. Many independent operators are not equipped to navigate a bureaucratic process to apply. We are also concerned about the subjective nature of the determination that there be "no reasonable alternatives for reasons that are unique to the applicant."

For all these reasons, we urge the City Council to reject a ban and work with stakeholders on a comprehensive recycling program for all food service packaging, not just polystyrene.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [msutton@calrest.org](mailto:msutton@calrest.org).

Sincerely,



Matt Sutton  
Vice President  
Government Affairs + Public Policy

Cc: City Manager  
City Clerk  
Gabriel Silva, Public Works



**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Styrofoam-Free Pasadena

**From:** Linda Lynch [mailto:[llynch@go.pasadena.edu](mailto:llynch@go.pasadena.edu)]

**Sent:** Sunday, May 08, 2016 9:21 PM

**To:** Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie; Silva, Gabriel; Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John

**Subject:** Styrofoam-Free Pasadena

Dear Council Members and Mayor Tornek,

My name is Megan Lynch. I don't live in Pasadena (instead having been raised in South Pasadena) but I go to school in Pasadena and patronize businesses in Pasadena. Moving away from the use of styrofoam is a long time coming. It doesn't biodegrade and it doesn't truly recycle. We have developed better materials for take-out food and for shipping packaging.

I can attest there are businesses in Pasadena whose goods I have not ordered to-go because I know they'll give me a styrofoam container. Moving to more environmental packaging will encourage me to spend more of my money at Pasadena restaurants and cafés.

This isn't the only benefit. As we all know, not all take-out containers even end up in the trash/landfill. Some blow across our streets, ending up in an alley or stuck in a hedge. The styrofoam will stay there forever. A compostable burger container, for instance, will eventually turn into harmless paper pulp, which just becomes a soil component.. Which is less unsightly and more beneficial? Unsightly streets do not help commerce, which does not help the sales tax base of a city.

There's always a lot of industry resistance to environmental improvements that are in our best interest globally and locally. I beg of you to look past the lobbyists and look towards the future of the planet we all share. With a number of environmental crises facing us, this is the kind of leadership we need.

Thank you for your consideration,

Megan Lynch

## **Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Greg Gunther <ggunther@frogkick.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 07, 2016 1:52 PM  
**To:** Tornek, Terry; Hampton, Tyron; McAustin, Margaret; John Kennedy; Sullivan, Noreen; Gordo, Victor; Andy Wilson; Madison, Steve  
**Cc:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** May 9 Council Mtg > Agenda Item #5 > SUPPORT Polystyrene Ordinance

Mayor Tornek and City Councilmembers –

After contributing in two rounds of testimony before the Municipal Services Committee (MSC) – as well as multiple personal conversations on this matter, I regret that I will be out-of-town and unable to participate in Monday's City Council discussion regarding Agenda Item #5 ("Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance").

**I strongly urge the Council to SUPPORT the recommendation of the MSC (as well as the Environmental Advisory Commission) to reduce and prevent polystyrene food packaging in our environment.**

**While you are likely to hear multiple perspectives on both sides of the issue, there seem to be two often repeated assertions against this ban that are worth disproving.** On Monday night you will hear claims that:

- Singling out this product is "unfair", as it will not actually impact the waste stream
- And, the burden of these additional costs will "devastate" small businesses

**First of all, it is a false argument that claims there will NOT be a positive impact on the waste stream:**

- Yes, we are talking about substituting a cup-for-a-cup, and a clamshell-for-a-clamshell, etc. but you cannot ignore the difference in materials!
- Styrofoam breaks into small pieces – then it blows around the city, across our parks, our streets, our public places – and it ends up circling in one of the ocean's great patches of floating garbage. And this is trash that lasts for centuries. Centuries! By contrast, there are available substitutions that are compostable, and biodegradable.

**Secondly, as far as the financial impacts, we must wisely consider ALL costs - across the ENTIRE product lifecycle:**

- This is a petroleum-based product that raises carcinogenic health care concerns in use, and cannot be properly disposed of (for centuries).
- We simply can't wring our hands over an extra few cents of expense at one step in this lifecycle flow – without considering the extraordinarily high costs and ecological burden created by this obsolete product across centuries of time.
- Whatever one of the reasonable alternative products will cost - restaurant owners should protect their profit margins with a very small price increase, or the addition of a 25 cent "Take Out Fee" – but it would be irresponsible to continue to ignore the extraordinary environmental costs this product creates!

**Thank you for your consideration – and again, please support the proposed ban on polystyrene.**

// Greg Gunther  
700 E. Union St., #301  
Pasadena, CA 91101-5668

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**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

**From:** Elizabeth Shapiro [mailto:elizabeth.shapiro@bizfed.org]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 9:41 AM

**To:** Tornek, Terry; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheynne; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Thyret, Pam; Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra

**Subject:** Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council Members,

Please OPPOSE the proposed ban on polystyrene foodservice packaging. This proposal will force the use of alternative products that are difficult if not impossible to recycle. This means that there will be little to no impact towards achieving the city's zero waste goals, and it could actually generate even more waste.

Agencies across California have agreed that banning polystyrene foodservice packaging is more likely to involve a substitution of the banned item and not result in reduced trash generation as such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item. Instead, a ban harms the very smallest of this community's businesses with the narrowest profit margins.

With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (menu labeling, 25% increase in the minimum wage, new paid sick leave mandates, compliance with the Affordable Care Act, and rising worker's compensation costs) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other businesses – roughly 4 to 6 percent before taxes. And the City's own staff report suggests the ban would cost these businesses between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year.

To this end, we urge a progressive approach that embraces the recyclability of this product and leverages local firms in Los Angeles, Pomona and elsewhere that can help the city increase diversion rates and ensure its opportunities to keep waste out of landfills are maximized.

Finally, it's worth noting that the proposed ban is modeled on the City of Santa Monica, which recently was deemed the least business friendly city in LA County by employers surveyed by the LA County Business Federation. . .

For all of these reasons, I urge you to not enact a ban that harms local businesses and fails to significantly advance the stated objective.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Shapiro

**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: OPPOSE Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance

-----Original Message-----

From: [bsinghallen@cia.org](mailto:bsinghallen@cia.org) [mailto:[bsinghallen@cia.org](mailto:bsinghallen@cia.org)]

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 10:44 AM

To: Tornek, Terry

Cc: Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra

Subject: OPPOSE Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance

The Honorable Terry Tornek  
Mayor, City of Pasadena  
100 N. Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: May 9 City Council Agenda Item #5: Polystyrene Food Packaging Ordinance – OPPOSE

Dear Mayor Tornek,

On behalf of the California Lodging Industry Association (CLIA) and members in Pasadena, I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed polystyrene food packaging ordinance.

As an association of lodging owners and operators, CLIA aims to protect the livelihoods of small and family-owned businesses in the lodging industry. Thus, we are gravely concerned any time our members are burdened with a new cost, as would be created by the proposed polystyrene ordinance.

As you know, the cost of alternative products can be as much as double the price of foam cups and plates. Especially for our members who offer breakfast and beverage service and purchase these products in bulk, these increases can represent a significant burden at a time when they are already facing other increases in the minimum wage, utility prices and other costs.

The proposed ordinance is also concerning because it fails to achieve the city's purported zero-waste goals. We acknowledge Pasadena's commitment to being a green city, and our members support thoughtful, environmentally sustainable practices. But prohibiting them from using foam products will have minimal environmental benefit, since this merely substitutes one kind of single-use product for another without impacting the amount of litter the city generates or the amount of waste that ends up in local landfills.

A more progressive approach would increase diversion and recycling of polystyrene, a recyclable material that 65 cities and communities around the state accept in curbside recycling bins.

The policies passed by the City Council can have a tremendous impact on our members' ability to continue operating in Pasadena. Not only will the proposed polystyrene ordinance increase their costs, but it will not help the city achieve its waste and litter reduction goals. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote against this misguided policy and instead pursue a thoughtful recycling program that serves our members and the greater Pasadena community while also protecting the environment.

Sincerely,  
Bobbie Singh-Allen, J.D.  
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

--  
Respectfully,  
Bobbie Singh-Allen, J.D.

California Lodging Industry Association  
Executive Vice President/COO  
Independent Lodging Industry Association Executive Director  
1017 L Street #527  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3805  
(916) 925-2915 / (916) 686-1321 fax  
(916) 826-2075 Cell  
[www.clia.org](http://www.clia.org)  
[www.independentlodging.org](http://www.independentlodging.org)

**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

**From:** Liz Hosmer [mailto:[liz@grassrootslab.com](mailto:liz@grassrootslab.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 10:26 AM

**To:** Tornek, Terry; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheynne; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Thyret, Pam; Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra

**Subject:** Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council Members,

Please OPPOSE the proposed ban on polystyrene foodservice packaging. This proposal will force the use of alternative products that are difficult if not impossible to recycle. This means that there will be little to no impact towards achieving the city's zero waste goals, and it could actually generate even more waste.

Agencies across California have agreed that banning polystyrene foodservice packaging is more likely to involve a substitution of the banned item and not result in reduced trash generation as such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item. Instead, a ban harms the very smallest of this community's businesses with the narrowest profit margins.

With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (menu labeling, 25% increase in the minimum wage, new paid sick leave mandates, compliance with the Affordable Care Act, and rising worker's compensation costs) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other businesses – roughly 4 to 6 percent before taxes. And the City's own staff report suggests the ban would cost these businesses between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year.

To this end, we urge a progressive approach that embraces the recyclability of this product and leverages local firms in Los Angeles, Pomona and elsewhere that can help the city increase diversion rates and ensure its opportunities to keep waste out of landfills are maximized.

Finally, it's worth noting that the proposed ban is modeled on the City of Santa Monica, which recently was deemed the least business friendly city in LA County by employers surveyed by the LA County Business Federation. ...

For all of these reasons, I urge you to not enact a ban that harms local businesses and fails to significantly advance the stated objective.

Sincerely,

Liz Hosmer

**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Please SUPPORT the Styrofoam Packaging Ban tonight

**From:** Kym Buzdygon [mailto:kimberly.buzdygon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Please SUPPORT the Styrofoam Packaging Ban tonight

May 9, 2016

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council members

I encourage you to take action tonight and support the ban of single-use polystyrene in this city.

Polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) found in food packaging such as single-use cups, plates, and take-out containers is almost impossible to recycle and does not biodegrade. The City of Pasadena's waste hauler- the Allan Company- does not recycle polystyrene due to the lack of value. These single use items either end up in overcrowded landfills or simply blown into the streets and arroyos where it is both a visual blight and a danger to humans and animals.

The US EPA states that styrene can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife and the aquatic environment because the product breaks down, contaminating food and entering the food chain when ingested by marine life. Polystyrene is a major source of plastic marine pollution and can kill birds and other wildlife who ingest it.

Affordable, safe alternatives exist. The financial impact of the ban has been drastically overstated by those who oppose it. In addition to the many cities and counties across the country who have banned polystyrene, over 90 California cities and counties have already adopted local policies banning polystyrene and requiring the use of recyclable or compostable alternatives. Examples include the cities of Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica, Dana Point, Newport Beach, Ojai, San Luis Obispo and Oakland. There is little to no evidence of significant hardship to businesses as a result.

I urge the city of Pasadena to join the growing number of cities in phasing out single-use Styrofoam (polystyrene) and requiring the use of healthier recyclable/compostable alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kym Buzdygon  
Program Manager, Pasadena Audubon Society  
301.305.2467  
[www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Styrofoam Ban: SUPPORT! Join the near-ninety cities that have seen no negative impact!

**From:** Rabbi Jonathan Klein, Faith Action for Animals [<mailto:faithactionforanimals@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:24 AM

**To:** City\_Council

**Subject:** Styrofoam Ban: SUPPORT! Join the near-ninety cities that have seen no negative impact!

Dear Councilmembers,

As the director of a faith-based animal welfare organization (though you know me as an advocate for worker rights and economic justice with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), I urge you to vote YES to the proposed styrofoam ban, for the following reasons and more:

- **Styrofoam is a horrible pollutant that destroys sea life and birds:** Images of sea birds and the contents of their stomachs: <http://ecowatch.com/2012/07/09/marine-litter-birds/> . These pictures are from Midway Island, in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean. Here's the entire picture series: <http://chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>. While styrofoam is only one product in the stomachs of these marine birds, a ban would go a long way to stop its proliferation.
- **Styrofoam takes 500 years, minimum, to decompose.**
- Nearly **ninety cities just in California** have already wisely passed this ban since the eighties.
- **Major cities, such as Chicago and New York**, have also passed the styrofoam ban.
- **Many Pasadena companies already do not use styrofoam**, knowing how horrible it is for the planet.
- Styrofoam is **almost NEVER recycled due to the costs:** At the Municipal Services Committee, the city staff wisely pointed out that a ton of styrofoam yields less than a hundred dollars! A ton of styrofoam, which is over ninety percent air, is a lot of styrofoam!
- Even if styrofoam were being recycled, the **gallons of water necessary** to clean it off is environmentally unsustainable in our low rainfall community.
- **Dart, a corporation known for its vertical integration, does not have recycling in their operations.** If they believed it was economically beneficial to recycle styrofoam, they would do it. However, they have devoted virtually NO funds to recycling.
- When the staff report showed the added expense of styrofoam at the Municipal Services Committee meeting, **Councilmembers were surprised to see how relatively inexpensive a ban would ultimately be for businesses.**

For these reasons and so many more, please support a ban of this trash in Beautiful Pasadena!

Blessings,  
Jonathan

Rabbi Jonathan Klein  
Director, Faith Action For Animals  
<https://www.facebook.com/FaithActionForAnimals>

*Faith Action for Animals* is a coalition of faith leaders and activists who advocate and take action on behalf of animals who are exploited, abused, tortured and slaughtered for food, research, fashion and entertainment.



**Flores, Valerie**

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**Subject:** FW: Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

**From:** Owen Guenthard [<mailto:oguener@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:38 AM

**To:** Tornek, Terry; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheyenne; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Thyret, Pam; Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra

**Subject:** Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council Members, Please OPPOSE the proposed ban on polystyrene foodservice packaging. This proposal will force the use of alternative products that are difficult if not impossible to recycle. This means that there will be little to no impact towards achieving the city's zero waste goals, and it could actually generate even more waste. Agencies across California have agreed that banning polystyrene foodservice packaging is more likely to involve a substitution of the banned item and not result in reduced trash generation as such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item. Instead, a ban harms the very smallest of this community's businesses with the narrowest profit margins. With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (menu labeling, 25% increase in the minimum wage, new paid sick leave mandates, compliance with the Affordable Care Act, and rising worker's compensation costs) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other businesses – roughly 4 to 6 percent before taxes. And the City's own staff report suggests the ban would cost these businesses between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year. To this end, we urge a progressive approach that embraces the recyclability of this product and leverages local firms in Los Angeles, Pomona and elsewhere that can help the city increase diversion rates and ensure its opportunities to keep waste out of landfills are maximized. Finally, it's worth noting that the proposed ban is modeled on the City of Santa Monica, which recently was deemed the least business friendly city in LA County by employers surveyed by the LA County Business Federation. . . For all of these reasons, I urge you to not enact a ban that harms local businesses and fails to significantly advance the stated objective. Sincerely,

Iraheta, Alba

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**Subject:** FW: Styrofoam ban please!

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**From:** Marlena Bond [mailto:marlena\_is@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:42 AM

**To:** City\_Council

**Subject:** Styrofoam ban please!

Many people and business claim that it's more cost effective to use styrofoam and plastic vs. biodegradable or even paper products packaging. Meanwhile, styrofoam and plastic end up in our waterways and in the stomachs of sea animals, see pics attached. And in case you're not already aware of the well-documented reasons below, here you go. It's a health concern for everyone. If a business can't afford safe packaging for it's customers then they have no business being in business. If they are using styrofoam to save money so they can see more profit, even when they can afford safer packaging, they need to be fined, receive a lower rating and put on notice of being shut down due to health concerns.

Styrofoam is a serious health and environmental issue. That is a fact.

Marlena Bond Resident







*-Report from Green Restaurant Association Creating an Environmentally Sustainable Restaurant Industry...*

The biggest environmental health concern associated with polystyrene is the danger associated with Styrene, the basic building block of polystyrene. Styrene is used extensively in the manufacture of plastics, rubber, and resins. About 90,000 workers, including those who make boats, tubs and showers, are potentially exposed to styrene. Acute health effects are generally irritation of the skin, eyes, and upper respiratory tract, and gastrointestinal effects. Chronic exposure affects the central nervous system showing symptoms such as depression, headache, fatigue, and weakness, and can cause minor effects on kidney function and blood. Styrene is classified as a possible human carcinogen by the EPA and by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). A voluntary compliance program has been adopted by industries using styrene. The US

Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration unsuccessfully (a federal court overturned the ruling in 1992) tried to limit the amount of worker exposure to styrene to 50 parts per million (ppm). According to the Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC), they still encourage their member companies to comply with the 50 ppm exposure limit. This program would reduce styrene exposures to a 50 ppm TWA with a 100 ppm (15 minute) ceiling.

-OSHA (US Dept of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration)

A 1986 EPA report on solid waste named the polystyrene manufacturing process as the 5th largest creator of hazardous waste. The National Bureau of Standards Center for Fire Research identified 57 chemical byproducts released during the combustion of polystyrene foam. The process of making polystyrene pollutes the air and creates large amounts of liquid and solid waste.

Toxic chemicals leach out of these products into the food that they contain (especially when heated in a microwave). These chemicals threaten human health and reproductive systems.

These products are made with petroleum, a non-sustainable and heavily polluting resource.

The use of hydrocarbons in polystyrene foam manufacture releases the hydrocarbons into the air at ground level; there, combined with nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight, they form tropospheric ozone -- a serious air pollutant at ground level. According to the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) more than 100 million Americans currently live in areas that fail to meet air quality standards for ozone. California, the Texas Gulf Coast, the Chicago-Milwaukee area, and the Northeastern U.S. all have "serious ozone air quality problems," according to EPA. Ozone is definitely a dangerous pollutant. The EPA says: "Healthy individuals who are exercising while ozone levels are at or only slightly above the standard can experience reduced functioning of the lungs, leading to chest pain, coughing, wheezing, and pulmonary congestion. In animal studies, long-term exposure to high levels of ozone has produced permanent structural damage to animal lungs while both short and long term exposure has been found to decrease the animal's capability to fight infection." In other words, prolonged exposure to atmospheric ozone above legal limits might be expected to damage the immune system.

By volume, the amount of space used up in landfills by all plastics is between 25 and 30 percent. -"Polystyrene Fact Sheet," Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education, Los Angeles, California.

Polystyrene foam is often dumped into the environment as litter. This material is notorious for breaking up into pieces that choke animals and clog their digestive systems.

Many cities and counties have outlawed polystyrene foam (i.e. Taiwan, Portland, OR, and Orange County, CA). Can polystyrene be recycled?

While the technology for recycling polystyrene is available, the market for recycling is very small and shrinking. Many Americans are hearing from their curbside recycling agencies that they will not accept PS goods. The good news is that the current Biopolymer revolution (biodegradable polymers) is charting a path for producing environmentally friendly packaging material to replace those peanuts. Corn based and other seeds known collectively as soapstock waste lead the way. Some are already available as replacements. Perhaps the problematic recycling situation will be solved by replacing the product.

Polystyrene recycling is not "closed loop" - collected polystyrene cups are not remanufactured into cups, but into other products, such as packing filler and cafeteria trays. This means that more resources will have to be used, and more pollution created, to produce more polystyrene cups.

-"Plastics Industry Grasps for Straws," Everyone's Backyard, January/February 1990, Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, p. 6.

Does polystyrene deplete the ozone layer?

Initially a portion of polystyrene production was aided by the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the chemicals that break down ozone in the troposphere. When this issue came to light, polystyrene manufacturers negotiated a gradual phase-out of CFCs in the production process and no CFCs have been used since the late 1980's.

Though polystyrene manufacturers claim that their products are "ozone-friendly" or free of CFCs, this is only partially true. Some polystyrene is now manufactured with HCFC-22, which, though less destructive than its chemical cousins, CFC-11 and CFC-12, is still a greenhouse gas and harmful to the ozone layer. In fact, according to a 1992 study by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, HCFCs are three to five times more destructive to the ozone layer than previously believed.

- "Study Finds CFC Alternatives More Damaging Than Believed," The Washington Post, December 10, 1989.

Iraheta, Alba

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**Subject:** FW: Please ban polystyrene food containers

**From:** Mark Hunter [mailto:[funkshn@gmail.com](mailto:funkshn@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 12:27 PM

**To:** City\_Council

**Subject:** Please ban polystyrene food containers

Styrofoam trash is one of the longest-lasting, frustrating, and harmful forms of litter. Its tendency to break into tiny pieces means that it harms large numbers of animals in the food chain and it can't be readily cleaned up. I should know - I recently spent hours cleaning up a lake shoreline in a Monrovia park, and styrofoam drove me crazy.

The container industry keeps claiming that it can be recycled. But it can't - no entity will recycle it; they just send it to landfills.

Dozens of cities in California have banned these nasty litter bombs, and their small businesses did not perish. If the industrial opponents of this ban would use a little imagination instead of desperately pushing their death plastic, those industries could have a new sales stream of more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Please don't let this bad thing continue to afflict Pasadena.

Thanks,  
Mark Hunter  
La Canada



**Subject:** FW: Support the ban

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzannah Ferron [mailto:[suzannah@pobox.com](mailto:suzannah@pobox.com)]

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 1:03 PM

To: City\_Council

Subject: Support the ban

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council,

Tonight you will vote to either:

1. Support the long-term health and wellbeing of the people of Pasadena and the surrounding areas; our waterways on which we depend; and our precious, iconic and beautiful wildlife

OR

2. Support the short-term profits of a handful of individuals at DART who have deliberately lied to our restauranteurs and to the people who live, work, shop and dine in Pasadena; poisoned our restauranteurs against available styrofoam replacements, and turned our restauranteurs against those in favor of the ban--all so that the people of DART can continue to line their own pockets.

I urge you to make the first choice which is the right choice for the entire community of Pasadena and beyond.

As I said when I spoke at the previous meeting regarding the styrofoam ban, this is a community issue. As a community, we support restauranteurs and the very slight increase they would have to pay for styrofoam alternatives. As a community, we respect and appreciate how hard these people work to bring food to our tables, and we will support our restaurants by paying the extra pennies for a non-styrofoam takeout container. Too, what affects Pasadena's environment affects us all, in Pasadena and beyond, and for generations to come. We are in this together.

Yet if restaurant owners aren't seeing that, we have DART to thank. DART's representatives have clearly been grooming restaurant owners to fear that the ban will end their business, that it will cause them to lose their entire life's work that they've struggled so hard to earn, and that they will never be able to recuperate their costs of these frivolous styrofoam alternatives. None of this is true.

From what I witnessed at the last meeting in terms of who the DART reps spoke with, walked out with and chatted with after the meeting, this seems to have been spun this as rich, white, retired (or otherwise not having to work), privileged environmentalists versus working-class people of color who are struggling to make ends meet. DART reps have positioned themselves the champions of working-class people rather than the exploiters of those very people for their own financial profit, which is what they are.

But apart from DART's Machiavellian bullying and manipulation for their own financial gain, there is a much bigger picture here. After global warming and the associated climate change, plastic pollution--including styrofoam--is the number one global environmental health problem that must be addressed immediately. We have creatures as small as plankton and as large as whales dying from ingesting plastic, including styrofoam. Right now there are entire portions of the Pacific ocean--the 5 Gyres--that are plastic through and through. On the Midway Islands, hundreds of thousands of albatrosses are dying from strangulation and starvation from eating plastic because there is more plastic--including styrofoam--than food. Even California has seen whales wash up with 400 pounds of plastic in their guts. It is now beginning to show up in our food.

Our waterways, streets, storm drains and hiking paths are clogged with styrofoam and other types of plastic. As someone who walks along the Arroyo Seco (and along our many hiking trails, beaches, etc.), I am deeply concerned by the amount of styrofoam and other plastic litter that has left behind or blown out of bins. I am also concerned about the fact that, rather than biodegrade, styrofoam only breaks down into smaller pieces of itself and is a sponge for toxins that are then passed on to fish and other animals who eat them, including us.

Apart from its many terrible qualities--fragility, unlikeliness of being reused or recycled, expense of recycling, toxicity in its extraction, creation, use and "disposal"--styrofoam is simply unnecessary! We can live without it, and we really should.

Pasadena wants to be a green city, and I have seen Pasadena make some wonderful strides in that direction. Banning styrofoam is the next step in that direction, not just for the short-term beautification of Pasadena, but for the long-term health, welfare and preservation of the people, landscapes and wildlife of Pasadena and beyond.

I urge you to make the right choice for Pasadena and support the ban on styrofoam.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Suzannah Ferron  
Marriage and Family Therapist, MFC 84622 Ecotherapist

P.S. If any of you is interested in learning more about the issue of plastic pollution, I urge you to go to look up the organizations 5 Gyres and Plastic Pollution Coalition. I have also given a workshop on this issue and would be happy to share what I know with you.

Iraheta, Alba

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**Subject:** FW: regarding proposed ban on styrofoam

**Importance:** High

-----Original Message-----

From: Cynthia Frederick [mailto:[cf@cynthiafrederick.com](mailto:cf@cynthiafrederick.com)]

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 12:11 PM

To: City\_Council

Subject: regarding proposed ban on styrofoam

Importance: High

I'm proud to live in Pasadena, because Pasadena takes great pride in being a "Green City".

Don't listen to people who insist "it can't be done". WE DID WITHOUT STYROFOAM OR PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR DECADES.

Please support the proposed ban on styrofoam in to-go food containers.

There are many better alternatives. I used to get Chinese food delivered in Chinese food boxes. Those are paper, and recyclable. How many movies and TV shows today use Chinese boxes to identify Chinese take-out? These are an ICON.

I used to get Italian food delivered in aluminum pans with paper lids. Those are recyclable.

I DO pay attention to what a restaurant uses when I ask to take leftovers home. I DO pay attention to which fast-food restaurants use paper cups instead of styrofoam.

I pay attention, and I shop accordingly. Many people do not. Many people are unaware of how much styrofoam pollutes our environment. It does not biodegrade, and is polluting our oceans.

Paper biodegrades. Aluminum is a desirable commodity and gets recycled. STYROFOAM IS PURE WASTE.

Our parents did fine without styrofoam. Paper cups, paper plates, aluminum tins . . . all work fine, are recyclable, and are available. The cost to the bottom line per customer is negligible, compared with the cost styrofoam puts on our environment and our children's lives.

SUPPORT A BAN ON STYROFOAM TO-GO CONTAINERS IN PASADENA. Your children and grandchildren will thank you.

Thank you

Cynthia Frederick

**Subject:** FW: Polystyrene Ban

**From:** Kathryn Degner [mailto:[ottergal65@yahoo.com](mailto:ottergal65@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:55 AM

**To:** City\_Council

**Subject:** Polystyrene Ban

May 9, 2016

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council members,

I encourage you to take action tonight and support the ban of single-use polystyrene in this city.

Polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) found in food packaging such as single-use cups, plates, and take-out containers is almost impossible to recycle and does not biodegrade. The City of Pasadena's waste hauler- the Allan Company- does not recycle polystyrene due to the lack of value. These single use items either end up in overcrowded landfills or simply blown into the streets and arroyos where it is both a visual blight and a danger to humans and animals.

The US EPA states that styrene can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife and the aquatic environment because the product breaks down, contaminating food and entering the food chain when ingested by marine life. Polystyrene is a major source of plastic marine pollution and can kill birds and other wildlife who ingest it.

Affordable, safe alternatives exist. The financial impact of the ban has been drastically overstated by those who oppose it. In addition to the many cities and counties across the country who have banned polystyrene, over 90 California cities and counties have already adopted local policies banning polystyrene and requiring the use of recyclable or compostable alternatives. Examples include the cities of Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica, Dana Point, Newport Beach, Ojai, San Luis Obispo and Oakland. There is little to no evidence of significant hardship to businesses as a result.

I urge the city of Pasadena to join the growing number of cities in phasing out single-use Styrofoam (polystyrene) and requiring the use of healthier recyclable/compostable alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Degner  
Pasadena CA  
Pasadena Audubon Society

**Subject:** FW: Please BAN Styrofoam in Pasadena

**From:** Iesha Wadala [<mailto:iesha.wadala@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 1:46 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Please BAN Styrofoam in Pasadena

Dear Councilmembers,

As a community member and resident, I urge you to vote YES to the proposed styrofoam ban, for the following reasons and more:

- **Styrofoam is a horrible pollutant that destroys sea life and birds:** Images of sea birds and the contents of their stomachs: <http://ecowatch.com/2012/07/09/marine-litter-birds/>. These pictures are from Midway Island, in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean. Here's the entire picture series: <http://chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>. While styrofoam is only one product in the stomachs of these marine birds, a ban would go a long way to stop its proliferation.
- **Styrofoam takes 500 years, minimum, to decompose.**
- Nearly **ninety cities just in California** have already wisely passed this ban since the eighties.
- **Major cities, such as Chicago and New York**, have also passed the styrofoam ban.
- **Many Pasadena companies already do not use styrofoam**, knowing how horrible it is for the planet.
- Styrofoam is **almost NEVER recycled due to the costs:** At the Municipal Services Committee, the city staff wisely pointed out that a ton of styrofoam yields less than a hundred dollars! A ton of styrofoam, which is over ninety percent air, is a lot of styrofoam!
- Even if styrofoam were being recycled, the **gallons of water necessary** to clean it off is environmentally unsustainable in our low rainfall community.
- **Dart, a corporation known for its vertical integration, does not have recycling in their operations.** If they believed it was economically beneficial to recycle styrofoam, they would do it. However, they have devoted virtually NO funds to recycling.
- When the staff report showed the added expense of styrofoam at the Municipal Services Committee meeting, **Councilmembers were surprised to see how relatively inexpensive a ban would ultimately be for businesses.**

For these reasons and so many more, please support a ban of this trash in Beautiful Pasadena!

Best,

Iesha Siler  
602 N. Michigan Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91106-

Iesha Wadala, MPH

Care of the soil and care of the soul are not separate things. -Satish Kumar

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Christy Zamani <christy@godayone.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 2:09 PM  
**To:** Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Wilson, Andy; Go, Michael; Jomsky, Mark; Flores, Valerie; Silva, Gabriel; Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John  
**Cc:** tim@arroyoseco.org; Theresebrum@yahoo.com; Jedwards@gmail.com; pilatespasadena@gmail.com; hans@arroyofoodcoop.com; januaryxn@gmail.com; melanie@lavenderandhoneyesspresso.com; joycewxyz@outlook.com; Brian Biery; Jaylene Moseley; 'Juliana Serrano'; Christina Honchell; ericj@lakeave.org; Johnson, Michael; Wes @ BikeSGV; christy@godayone.org; Julianne Hines; trina@trinamariesmith.com; minh.luu@bgcpasadena.org; mo@collegeaccessplan.org  
**Subject:** Pasadena Polystyrene Policy  
**Attachments:** 2016.05.09 - Community Support for Local Polystyrene Policy\_ Letter.pdf; Cities\_Local Polystyrene Policy.pdf

Dear Mayor Tornek, Council Members and Staff,

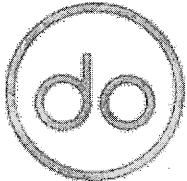
The undersigned organizations support the Styrofoam Free Pasadena coalition in asking the City to adopt a strong local polystyrene policy.

Pasadena has the opportunity to be a leader in the San Gabriel Valley on this issue by adopting a strong local policy. Your leadership could prompt neighboring communities, Los Angeles County, and eventually the state of California, to follow suit.

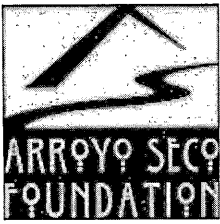
Attached please find a letter on behalf of the CCed local leaders.  
Thank you in advance for your consideration and leadership,

Christy Zamani  
Executive Director, Day One  
175 N. Euclid Avenue  
Pasadena, California 91101  
626-229-9750  
[Christy@goDAYONE.org](mailto:Christy@goDAYONE.org)

Day One builds vibrant, healthy cities  
by advancing public health,  
empowering youth, and  
igniting change



05/09/2016  
Item 5



May 9, 2016

Pasadena City Council  
100 N. Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

**RE: Support for a Local Polystyrene Policy**

Dear Mayor Tornek, Council Members and Staff,

The undersigned organizations support the Polystyrene Free Pasadena coalition in asking the City to adopt a strong local polystyrene policy.

**The Facts**

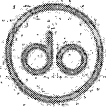
Polystyrene packaging such as single-use cups, plates and bowls is a wasteful, unhealthy source of non-biodegradable trash that cities across the state of California and nation have moved to regulate over the past two decades. The reasons why are many, and include:

- Polystyrene food packaging is lightweight, easily blown into public spaces, and difficult to “downcycle” (unlike glass or aluminum, plastics cannot be truly recycled).
- Although less than 1% of the total waste stream, polystyrene accounts for a disproportionate 17% of the litter in Los Angeles County (LACDPW) and 71% of the plastic flowing through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers, according to a 2011 study by C.J. Moore et al in the Journal of Integrated Coastal Zone Management ([click here to view](#)).
- Polystyrene kills wildlife and is a major source of plastic marine pollution.
- Neither the City of Pasadena’s waste hauler - the Allan Company - nor other major waste haulers in the region (e.g., Waste Management, Athens) downcycle polystyrene, in large part due to the lack of any commercial value (e.g., Allan Company staff states that it costs over \$1000 to process 1 ton of polystyrene, for only a \$65 post-market value).
- One of polystyrene’s components, styrene, is a known hazardous substance that releases toxins into food when polystyrene products are reheated.
- Recyclable and/or compostable alternatives are readily available at little additional cost.

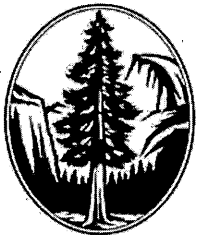
**Deception, Misinformation, and Polystyrene**

Representatives from DART industries, a major manufacturer of polystyrene with no direct business interests in the City, and other industry groups have launched a concerted effort to mislead Pasadena residents, visitors and business owners about this issue since Spring 2015. Industry reps have encouraged local businesses to place “Rinse and Recycle your Foam at Home” posters in their windows (image attached), despite the fact that Pasadena’s waste hauler does NOT recycle these items. Adding insult to injury, such tactics are being employed when Pasadena and the state of California are in the midst of a severe drought.

Encouraging Pasadena residents and visitors that they are doing the right thing by rinsing foam that is headed for the landfill regardless of its cleanliness not only undermines City efforts to SAVE water, it burdens well-intentioned residents with additional expenses at a time when budgets are tight for many. When confronted with these facts, industry lobbyists have refused to take down the signs.

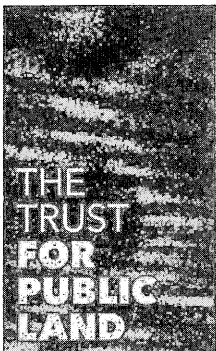
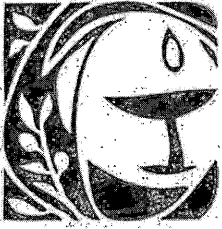


day one



SIERRA CLUB  
CALIFORNIA





Paid to delay and defeat local legislation to forestall County and statewide action, plastics industry lobbyists have manipulated Pasadena's commitment to recycling and sustainability by willfully misinforming the public about this issue.

**Support for a Strong Local Policy**

93 California cities and counties have already adopted local policies banning styrofoam and requiring the use of recyclable or compostable takeout containers, including the Cities of Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica, Dana Point, Newport Beach, Ojai and Oakland. These policies are legally defensible and straightforward to implement thanks in part to over two decades of experience by other CA municipalities. Local policies have also all withstood legal challenges and may be adopted with a categorical California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption.

However, not all the policies are alike. *We the undersigned specifically ask that the City adopt a meaningful policy that will produce significant environmental, social and health benefits.* The City of Manhattan Beach's policy is an example of a set of measures that would uphold Pasadena's environmental principles by phasing out expanded foam and clear polystyrene products, including straws, lids and single-use coolers, in commercial and retail locations. It also is practical and flexible, allowing for a phase in period for retailers and an exemption for packaging originating from outside the community (e.g., pre-packaged meats in grocery stores).

Pasadena has the opportunity to be a leader on this issue in the San Gabriel Valley by adopting a strong policy. Indeed, your leadership could prompt neighboring communities, Los Angeles County, and eventually the state of California, to follow suit. As a community that prides itself on its commitment to "green" practices, the City should not delay any longer in moving forward with a well-established policy to reduce non-biodegradable waste.

On behalf of the below listed and CCed local leaders,

**Christy Zamani**  
Executive Director, Day One

CC:

- Rev. Tera Little and the Board of Trustees, Throop Church**
- Melanie Porter, Owner, Lavender and Honey Espresso Bar**
- Therese Brummel, Transition Pasadena**
- Jonathan Edwards, President, Downtown Pasadena Neighborhood Association**
- Kathy Braidhill, Owner, Pilates Pasadena**
- Hans Rosenberger, Board President, Arroyo Food Coop**
- Tim Brick, Executive Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation**
- William Joyce, Vice-Chair, Pasadena Group of the Sierra Club**
- Tori Kjer, Los Angeles Program Director, The Trust for Public Land**
- Chris Solek, Acting Executive Director, Council for Watershed Health**



## **CA Cities with Local Polystyrene Polices (1988-2015)**

**Alameda (2008)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be compostable.

**Albany (2008)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be compostable or recyclable.

**Aliso Viejo (2005)**

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban. Ordinance #2004-060

**Arcata (2015)**

Ban of distribution and sale of polystyrene food packaging products. Effective 10/1/15

**Belmont (2012)**

Expanded polystyrene ban (San Mateo County ordinance), adopted by reference and effective October 2012.

**Berkeley (adopted 1988)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that 50% of takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable. Title 11.58 and 11.60 of Municipal Code.

**Burlingame (passed May 2011)**

The City of Burlingame passed an ordinance referencing San Mateo County's ordinance on May 16, 2011. It will go into effect in 2012.

**Calabasas (2008)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Campbell (2014)**

Expanded polystyrene foodware ban, adopted in December of 2014, effective June 1, 2015.

**Capitola (2012)**

Prohibit the sale of expanded polystyrene products (expansion of 2009 requirement that all disposable takeout food packaging be compostable)

**Carmel (1989)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that 50% of takeout food packaging be recyclable, compostable or reusable.

**Carpenteria (effective September 1, 2009)**

Ban on non-recyclable plastic food takeout containers, including expanded polystyrene. Chapter 8.5 of Municipal Code.

**Cupertino (2014)**

Food vendors prohibited from using eps food takeout containers. Effective July 1, 2014.

**Dana Point (adopted February 21, 2012)**

Ban on expanded polystyrene food containers. Effective six months after adoption date.

**Del Ray Oaks (effective July 1, 2010)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable. Municipal Code 8.30.

**El Cerrito (operative January 1, 2014)**

Expanded polystyrene foodware ban, requirement that food packaging be recyclable, compostable, or reusable.

**Emeryville (2008)**

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Fairfax (1993)**

Expanded polystyrene ban for all restaurants and food retail vendors. Title 8.16 of Municipal Code.

**Fort Bragg**

Eps foodware ban adopted in September 2014. Effective March 2015.

**Foster City (effective April 1, 2012)**

Polystyrene ban for restaurants and food vendors, adopted October 17, 2011.

**Fremont (effective January 1, 2011)**

Expanded polystyrene ban for food vendors, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable. Section 8.40.860 of Municipal Code.

**Gonzales (effective January 1, 2015)**

Expanded polystyrene ban for food vendors, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Greenfield (effective February 12, 2015)**

Expanded polystyrene ban for food vendors, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Half Moon Bay** (effective August 1, 2011)

Half Moon Bay passed an ordinance, referencing San Mateo County's polystyrene food container ban, on May 17, 2011.

**Hayward** (effective July 2011)

Expanded polystyrene ban for restaurant vendors, requirement that takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Hercules** (2008)

Expanded polystyrene ban. Sec.5-3109, Title 5, Chapter 3 of Municipal Code.

**Herrmosa Beach** (2012)

Polystyrene container ban. Effective March 2013.

**Huntington Beach** (2005)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban.

**Lafayette** (adopted 2014, effective 7/1/2015)

CFC processed polystyrene ban, 50% of food containers must be recyclable or returnable (75% by 2020).

**Laguna Beach** (2008)

Polystyrene ban, requirement that all plastic takeout food packaging be recyclable. Bans the retail sale of foam or other nonrecyclable plastic disposable foodware. Title 7.05 of Municipal Code.

**Laguna Hills** (2008)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban.

**Laguna Woods** (2004)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban.

**Livermore** (2010)

Food vendors are required to use recyclable or compostable takeout food packaging.

**Los Altos** (2014)

Starting July 4, 2014, the distribution and sale of eps foam food containers and ice chests is prohibited.

**Los Altos Hills** (February 1, 2012)

Ban on eps and non-recyclable plastic food containers.

**Los Angeles City** (2008)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban. Chapter IV, Article 13 of Municipal Code.

**Los Angeles County** (2008)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban.

**Los Gatos** (adopted 12/16/14)

Ban on eps food containers and coolers. Effective June 1, 2015.

**Malibu** (2005)

Expanded polystyrene ban. Title 9.24 of Municipal Code.

**Manhattan Beach** (2013)

In 2013 Manhattan beach adopted a polystyrene food packaging ban, updating its 1988 ban on CFC processed polystyrene. In 2014 it was amended to include ALL other non-recyclable disposables and polystyrene coolers. This makes for one of the strongest bans in the nation.

**Marin County** (effective January 1, 2010)

Expanded polystyrene food container ban.

**Marina** (2011)

Expanded polystyrene food container ban. Requires the use of recyclable or compostable takeout food packaging unless alternatives are unavailable.

**Mendocino County** (effective March 1, 2015)

Expanded polystyrene food container ban adopted July 22, 2014.

**Menlo Park** (2012)

Adopted San Mateo County ordinance by reference in August of 2012. Effective 11/1/12.

**Millbrae** (2008)

Polystyrene ban, requirement that all plastic takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Mill Valley** (2009)

Food vendors and city facilities are prohibited from using expanded polystyrene foam food containers.

**Monterey City** (2009)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Monterey County** (effective November 2010)

Expanded polystyrene ban. Title 10, Chapter 10.42 of Municipal Code.

**Morgan Hill** (effective April 22, 2014)

An expanded polystyrene ban in restaurants and other food facilities was adopted on October 2, 2013.

**Mountain View** (effective July 1, 2014)

A ban on expanded polystyrene food packaging products for retail sale or distribution in food facilities was adopted on March 25, 2014.

**Newport Beach** (2008)

Expanded polystyrene ban. Title 6, Section 5 of Municipal Code.

**Novato** (2013)

Expanded polystyrene ban.

**Oakland** (2007)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be compostable. Businesses that generate a large portion of litter must pay a litter fee. Title 8.07 of Municipal Code.

**Ojai** (2014)

Expanded polystyrene ban for all stores and vendors was passed on January 28, 2014

**Orange County** (2005/6)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban, including cities of Aliso Viejo, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano and the Santa Margarita Water District.

**Pacific Grove** (2008)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable. Title 11, Chapter 11.99 of Municipal Code.

**Pacifica** (effective January 1, 2010)

Expanded polystyrene ban.

**Palo Alto** (effective April 22, 2010)

Expanded polystyrene ban. Chapter 5.30 of Municipal Code. In November 2015 the ordinance was expanded so that retailers can no longer sell or distribute polystyrene foam of any sort. Effective March 1, 2016.

**Pittsburg** (1993)

CFC processed polystyrene ban. Title 8.06.210 of Municipal Code.

**Portola Valley** (effective October 25, 2012)

Polystyrene ban (San Mateo County ordinance).

**Redwood City** (effective January 1, 2013)

Polystyrene ban (San Mateo County ordinance).

**Richmond** (effective January 1, 2014)

Polystyrene ban (2010) for takeout food packaging in restaurants was expanded to prohibit retail sale of polystyrene products on July 16, 2013.

**Salinas** (passed August 16, 2011)

Expanded polystyrene ban on takeout containers.

**San Bruno** (effective April 1, 2010)

Polystyrene ban, requirement that all plastic takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**San Carlos** (effective July 1, 2012)

Adopted the San Mateo County ordinance by reference. Chapter 8.27 of Municipal Code.

**San Clemente** (effective July 1, 2011)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban in 2004. Council passed a city wide ban in 2011.

**San Francisco** (2007)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**San Jose** (effective 2014 for chains, 2015 for all other food establishments)

An EPS ban in all food establishments was adopted in 2013. Prior to that, the city had a government facility expanded polystyrene ban for special events.

**San Juan Capistrano** (2004)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban.

**San Leandro** (effective November 1, 2012)

Expanded polystyrene food container ban, adopted October 2011.

**San Luis Obispo City** (effective December 16, 2015)

Expanded polystyrene food container ban, adopted June 2015. Includes ban on retail sale of foam products.

**San Mateo City** (adopted May 6, 2013)

Polystyrene food packaging ban based on the San Mateo County model was adopted in May 2013.

**San Mateo County** (2008 and 2011)

Government facility polystyrene ban passed in 2008. An expanded ban for the rest of unincorporated San Mateo County was passed in 2011, effective July 1, 2011.

**San Rafael** (effective October 31, 2013)

City Council adopted foamed polystyrene container bag in October 2012.

**Santa Clara County** (Effective February 1, 2013)

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors adopted an eps takeout container ban for unincorporated county on June 5, 2012.

**Santa Cruz City** (2012)

Ban on sale of all foam polystyrene products. Prior to 2012, the City banned the distribution of expanded polystyrene food containers, with a requirement that the food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Santa Cruz County** (2008 and 2012)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable. Title 5, Section 46 of Municipal Code. The ban was expanded to prohibit the sale of all expanded polystyrene products in stores on April 17, 2012.

**Santa Monica** (2007)

Ban on all polystyrene AND most other non-recyclable plastic disposable food service containers. This makes for one of the strongest bans in the nation.

**Sausalito** (effective September 1, 2008)

Food vendors and city facilities and events are prohibited from using expanded polystyrene foam food containers.

**Scotts Valley** (2009)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Seaside** (effective August 4, 2010)

Polystyrene ban with requirement that all plastic takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable.

**Solana Beach** (2015)

Ban on polystyrene and non-recyclable plastic disposable food service containers as well as ban on EPS packing materials.

**Sonoma City** (1989)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban. Chapter 7.30 of the Municipal Code.

**Sonoma County** (adopted 1989)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban. Title 19, Section 19-6.1 of Municipal Code.

**South San Francisco** (2008)

Polystyrene ban. Chapter 8.60 of Municipal Code.

**Sunnyvale** (adopted November 19, 2013)

Expanded polystyrene container ban in restaurants (effective Earth Day 2014) and ban on eps food packaging products for retail sale (effective Earth Day 2015).

**Ukiah**

Eps foodware ban adopted in November of 2014. Effective March 1, 2015.

**Ventura County** (2004)

Government facility expanded polystyrene ban.

**Walnut Creek** (2014)

Polystyrene food packaging ban. Effective December 18, 2014.

**Watsonville** (2009/2014)

Expanded polystyrene ban, requirement that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable. Title 6, Chapter 6 of Municipal Code. First adopted in 2009. Amended in 2014 to include a ban on retail sales of eps products.

**West Hollywood** (adopted 1990)

Polystyrene ban for restaurants and food vendors.

**Yountville** (1989)

Expanded polystyrene food container ban.

**DART INDUSTRIES Posters - False Information Displayed in Pasadena Businesses**

Despite requests by community members, Dart Industry lobbyists have refused to take down factually incorrect signage that began appearing in Pasadena eateries in 2015 when they began fighting community efforts to phase out the use of this product. The City of Pasadena's waste hauler Allan Company does NOT downcycle polystyrene as it is basically worthless on the secondary market. All polystyrene - washed or not - is sent straight to the landfill so any residents who rinse their foam and place it into the blue bin are wasting water and money, as well as mixing non-recyclables with recyclables.

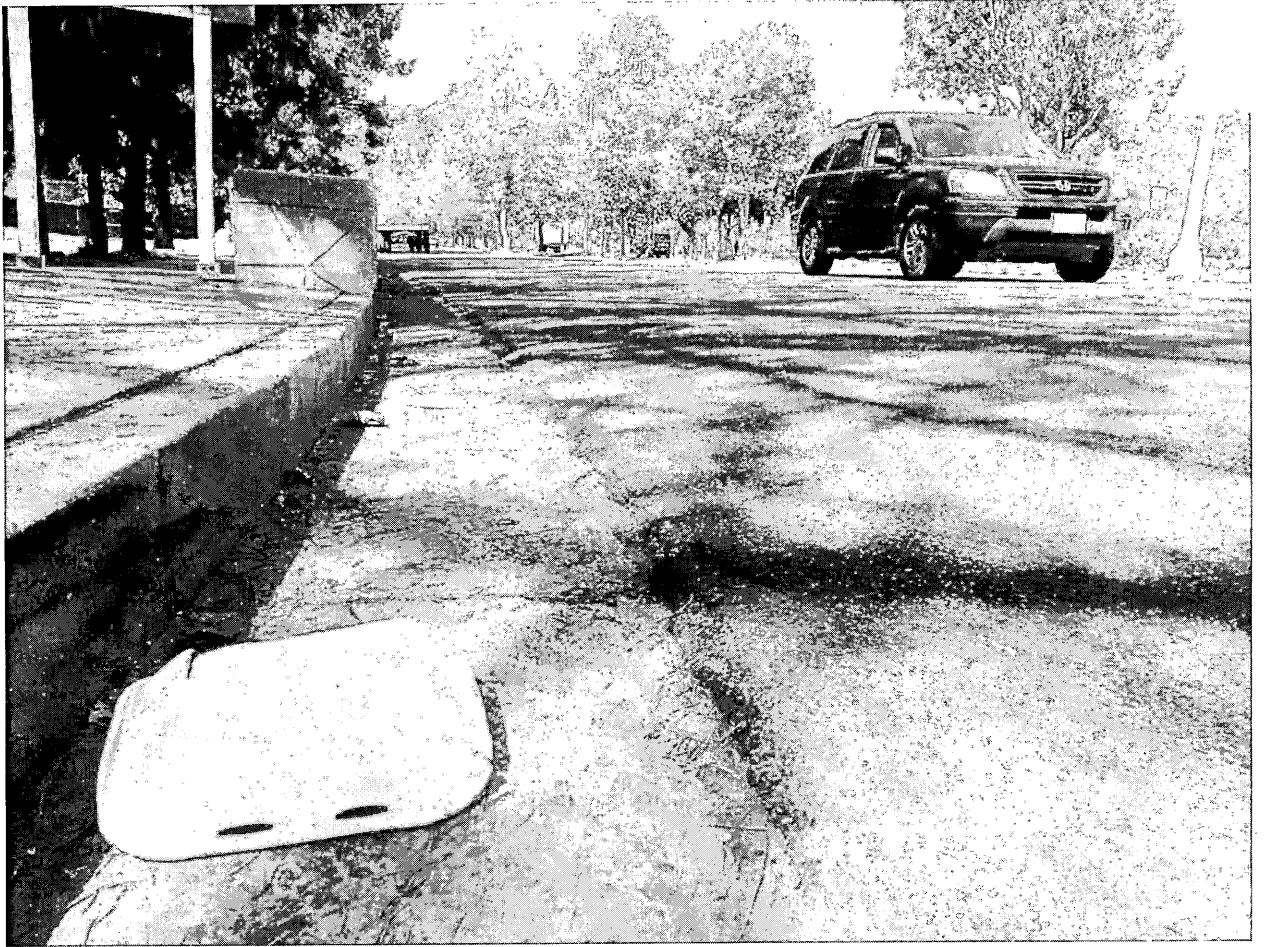
You can now recycle 

**FOAM**  
Containers

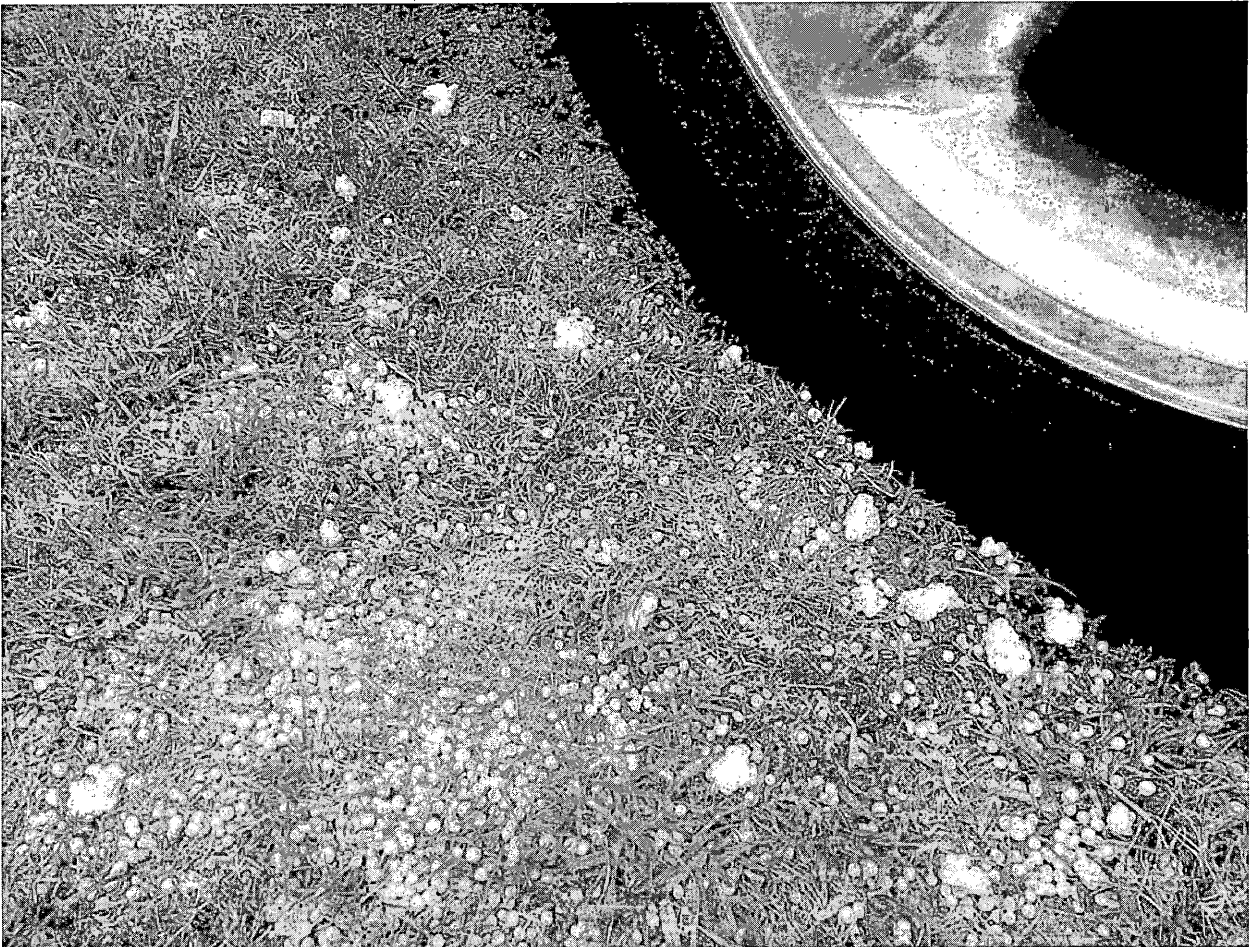
 RINSE  
and  
 RECYCLE  
your  
 FOAM  
at  
HOME

Foodservice foam can now be put in  
your home recycling bin in Pasadena

 [recyclefoamathome.com](http://recyclefoamathome.com)











## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Morales, Margo  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 12:10 PM  
**To:** 'Elizabeth Shapiro'  
**Cc:** McAustin, Margaret; cityclerk  
**Subject:** RE: Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Thank you for your e-mail. I will make sure Council Member McAustin receives it and that it is included in the public record.



Margo L. Morales  
District Representative to Councilmember McAustin  
(626) 744-4742  
(626) 744-3814 fax  
To Join Our Mailing list go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/district2](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2)

**From:** Elizabeth Shapiro [<mailto:elizabeth.shapiro@bizfed.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** Tornek, Terry; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheynne; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Thyret, Pam; Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council Members,

Please OPPOSE the proposed ban on polystyrene foodservice packaging. This proposal will force the use of alternative products that are difficult if not impossible to recycle. This means that there will be little to no impact towards achieving the city's zero waste goals, and it could actually generate even more waste.

Agencies across California have agreed that banning polystyrene foodservice packaging is more likely to involve a substitution of the banned item and not result in reduced trash generation as such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item. Instead, a ban harms the very smallest of this community's businesses with the narrowest profit margins.

With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (menu labeling, 25% increase in the minimum wage, new paid sick leave mandates, compliance with the Affordable Care Act, and rising worker's compensation costs) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other businesses – roughly 4 to 6 percent before taxes. And the City's own staff report suggests the ban would cost these businesses between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year.

To this end, we urge a progressive approach that embraces the recyclability of this product and leverages local firms in Los Angeles, Pomona and elsewhere that can help the city increase diversion rates and ensure its opportunities to keep waste out of landfills are maximized.

Finally, it's worth noting that the proposed ban is modeled on the City of Santa Monica, which recently was deemed the least business friendly city in LA County by employers surveyed by the LA County Business Federation. . .

For all of these reasons, I urge you to not enact a ban that harms local businesses and fails to significantly advance the stated objective.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Shapiro

05/09/2016  
Item 5

## Jomsky, Mark

---

**From:** Morales, Margo  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 12:10 PM  
**To:** 'Liz Hosmer'  
**Cc:** McAustin, Margaret; cityclerk  
**Subject:** RE: Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Thank you for your e-mail. I will make sure Council Member McAustin receives it and that it is included in the public record.



Margo L. Morales  
District Representative to Councilmember McAustin  
(626) 744-4742  
(626) 744-3814 fax  
To Join Our Mailing list go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/district2](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2)

**From:** Liz Hosmer [<mailto:liz@grassrootslab.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Tornek, Terry; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheynne; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Thyret, Pam; Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council Members,

Please OPPOSE the proposed ban on polystyrene foodservice packaging. This proposal will force the use of alternative products that are difficult if not impossible to recycle. This means that there will be little to no impact towards achieving the city's zero waste goals, and it could actually generate even more waste.

Agencies across California have agreed that banning polystyrene foodservice packaging is more likely to involve a substitution of the banned item and not result in reduced trash generation as such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item. Instead, a ban harms the very smallest of this community's businesses with the narrowest profit margins.

With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (menu labeling, 25% increase in the minimum wage, new paid sick leave mandates, compliance with the Affordable Care Act, and rising worker's compensation costs) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other businesses – roughly 4 to 6 percent before taxes. And the City's own staff report suggests the ban would cost these businesses between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year.

To this end, we urge a progressive approach that embraces the recyclability of this product and leverages local firms in Los Angeles, Pomona and elsewhere that can help the city increase diversion rates and ensure its opportunities to keep waste out of landfills are maximized.

Finally, it's worth noting that the proposed ban is modeled on the City of Santa Monica, which recently was deemed the least business friendly city in LA County by employers surveyed by the LA County Business Federation. . .

For all of these reasons, I urge you to not enact a ban that harms local businesses and fails to significantly advance the stated objective.

Sincerely,

Liz Hosmer

05/09/2016  
Item 5

## Jomsky, Mark

---

**From:** Morales, Margo  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 12:14 PM  
**To:** 'Owen Guenthard'  
**Cc:** McAustin, Margaret; cityclerk  
**Subject:** RE: Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Thank you for your e-mail. I will make sure Council Member McAustin receives it and that it is included in the public record.



Margo L. Morales  
District Representative to Councilmember McAustin  
(626) 744-4742  
(626) 744-3814 fax  
To Join Our Mailing list go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/district2](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2)

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**From:** Owen Guenthard [<mailto:oguenner@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:38 AM  
**To:** Tornek, Terry; Bell, Cushon; Chong, Cheynne; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Thyret, Pam; Stone, Rhonda; Stewart, Jana; Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE packaging ban that will create more waste and harm small businesses

Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council Members, Please OPPOSE the proposed ban on polystyrene foodservice packaging. This proposal will force the use of alternative products that are difficult if not impossible to recycle. This means that there will be little to no impact towards achieving the city's zero waste goals, and it could actually generate even more waste. Agencies across California have agreed that banning polystyrene foodservice packaging is more likely to involve a substitution of the banned item and not result in reduced trash generation as such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item. Instead, a ban harms the very smallest of this community's businesses with the narrowest profit margins. With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (menu labeling, 25% increase in the minimum wage, new paid sick leave mandates, compliance with the Affordable Care Act, and rising worker's compensation costs) the cost of doing business is higher than ever. Restaurants operate under tighter profit margins than many other businesses – roughly 4 to 6 percent before taxes. And the City's own staff report suggests the ban would cost these businesses between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per year. To this end, we urge a progressive approach that embraces the recyclability of this product and leverages local firms in Los Angeles, Pomona and elsewhere that can help the city increase diversion rates and ensure its opportunities to keep waste out of landfills are maximized. Finally, it's worth noting that the proposed ban is modeled on the City of Santa Monica, which recently was deemed the least business friendly city in LA County by employers surveyed by the LA County Business Federation. . . For all of these reasons, I urge you to not enact a ban that harms local businesses and fails to significantly advance the stated objective. Sincerely,

05/09/2016  
Item 5

**Jomsky, Mark**

---

**From:** Morales, Margo  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** 'Cynthia Frederick'  
**Cc:** McAustin, Margaret; cityclerk  
**Subject:** RE: Styrofoam Ban

Thank you for your e-mail. I will make sure Council Member McAustin receives it and that it is included in the public record.

Margo L. Morales  
District Representative to Councilmember McAustin  
(626) 744-4742  
(626) 744-3814 fax  
To Join Our Mailing list go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/district2](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cynthia Frederick [<mailto:fargosmom1@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 11:50 AM  
**To:** Morales, Margo  
**Subject:** Styrofoam Ban

Ms. McAustin:

Pasadena wants to be a "Green City".

Please support the proposed ban on styrofoam in to-go food containers.

There are many better alternatives. I used to get Chinese food delivered in Chinese food boxes. Those are paper, and recyclable.

I used to get Italian food delivered in aluminum pans with paper lids. Those are recyclable.

Don't listen to people who insist "it can't be done". WE DID WITHOUT STYROFOAM OR PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR DECADES.

Our parents did fine without styrofoam. Paper cups, paper plates, aluminum tins . . . all work fine, are recyclable, and are available. The cost to the bottom line per customer is negligible, compared with the cost styrofoam puts on our environment and our children's lives.

**SUPPORT A BAN ON STYROFOAM TO-GO CONTAINERS IN PASADENA.**

Thank you

Cynthia Frederick

05/09/2016  
Item 5

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Morales, Margo  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 1:03 PM  
**To:** 'John G. Ripley'  
**Cc:** McAustin, Margaret; cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: WWW COMMENT--proposed polystyrene ban

Hi Mrs. Ripley,

Thank you, I will make sure Council Member McAustin receives your e-mail and that it is made part of the public record.



Margo L. Morales  
District Representative to Councilmember McAustin  
(626) 744-4742  
(626) 744-3814 fax  
To Join Our Mailing list go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/district2](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/district2)

**From:** CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net [mailto:CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 1:01 PM  
**To:** Morales, Margo  
**Subject:** WWW COMMENT

Data from form "Contact Councilmember Margaret McAustin" was received on 5/9/2016 1:01:06 PM.

Send Comments.

Field	Value
Your Name	D. Ripley
Phone	818 791-4924
Email	<a href="mailto:jgripley@yahoo.com">jgripley@yahoo.com</a>
Comments	Today a meeting on styrofoam containers before the council. Please vote to ban in Pasadena. We take all to Pasadena College recycling center. But, most people just put in their regular trash cans going to the landfill. Pasadena considers it to be a "green city" so please ban this product. Governor Brown has been unwilling to have recycling services to apartments and condos in CA as we do for Pasadena residences so hopefully you can work on this issue too. Thank you and look forward to hearing from you.

Email "WWW COMMENT" originally sent to [mfuller@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mfuller@cityofpasadena.net) from [CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net) on 5/9/2016 1:01:06 PM.

05/09/2016  
Item 5

May 8, 2016

Hans W Rosenberger  
Arroyo Food Coop  
494 N Wilson Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91106

Pasadena City Council  
100 N Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed polystyrene ban in Pasadena.

It takes a lot of effort to dissect the hyperbole of the pro plastics lobby. Their hyperbole clouds efforts towards a meaningful debate, and decreasing the burden on the earth. Reducing the amount of polystyrene in Pasadena's waste stream through elimination of single use polystyrene containers will be neither expensive, nor hard.

- 1) Although plastics, and polystyrene in particular, may be recyclable, in practice they are not. The items are hard to clean, expensive to collect, virgin resin must always be added, and there is not market demand for the resultant products to be viable in the marketplace. If polystyrene is theoretically recyclable, in practice, it is not. Therefore, substituted single use products are not adding to the waste stream.
- 2) As with single use plastic bags, as long as there was no formal push to cut down or eliminate their use, they were given out at every store, and were a large item in the trash. Once people needed to pay for them, their use decreased dramatically. If we do not strive to eliminate this item that pollutes our landscape, we will not innovate through this issue. If there is need to innovation, there will be no innovation.
- 3) In the worst case scenario, we will simply have another material in the waste stream that is not recycled, but will decay faster than polystyrene and will not affect our oceans, landfills, and animals to the same degree. In the best case scenario, we will have people use less single use material in general, and if they do use a single use container, it will be truly recyclable in fact, and not just in theory.

We work very hard at the Arroyo Food Coop to reduce our packaging waste, and see the issue as being one of both reducing a stream of trash, as well as reducing energy use. It relates to both energy and trash, and a ban on polystyrene represents a step forward for our city.

Please do what is right for the community and eliminate single use polystyrene from Pasadena.

Sincerely,

Hans Rosenberger  
Arroyo Food Coop, board president

05/09/2016  
Item 5

**Subject:** FW: Please pass the Styrofoam Ban Ordinance

**From:** Susan Campisi [<mailto:susancampisi@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 3:30 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Cc:** Tornek, Terry  
**Subject:** Please pass the Styrofoam Ban Ordinance

Dear Pasadena City Councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to support the Styrofoam Ban Ordinance. I'm an Altadena homeowner. I shop and eat out in Pasadena on a regular basis, and I'm part of the community working to protect this area for future generations.

I spoke at last week's meeting in support of the ordinance. I would like to thank Mayor Tornek, Councilmember Margaret McAustin and Councilmember Andy Wilson for listening with an open mind to all speakers, hearing the community's urgent comments about Styrofoam's environmental threats and coming out in support of the ordinance.

Showing no regard for the environment and the taxpayers who bear the costs of cleanup, DART, business association lobbyists, and restaurants that use Styrofoam are working hard to stop the ordinance. Please do not succumb to this pressure. I've included myths and counter points about the ban at the end of this note. In addition, I'd like to address restaurant owners' concerns about costs.

At the age of 15, I landed my first job in a small family-owned restaurant. I worked on and off in the restaurant business for 20 years after that. I know it's a tough business. I understand restaurant owners' concerns about increased costs. However, I think there are ample opportunities to defray the small cost increase from using different containers and to even turn this into an opportunity that in the long run could lead to cost savings and increased business. Here are some ideas for saving money and reducing waste:

- 1) Embrace the initiative to ban Styrofoam. Hang a sign in your window or in your restaurant saying that you're proud to be a community business owner working for a Styrofoam-free Pasadena. Encourage customers to bring their own to-go containers for leftovers. Make it fun and collaborative.
- 2) For customers ordering take-out, ask them if they need plastic utensils. Many people ordering take-out bring their food home. They have utensils. They don't need plastic ones. Save money and reduce waste.
- 3) Give straws only by request. Not everyone wants to drink with a straw. Save money and reduce waste.
- 4) Start a fundraiser in the restaurant and online asking people to help you switch to more earth-friendly to-go containers.
- 5) Join the movement and those of us in the community working to ban Styrofoam will support and promote your restaurant! Use it as a badge of honor.

Businesses can be innovative and creative to defray costs. Public awareness about Styrofoam's environmental threats is growing and will continue to grow. The majority in the community want to see governments and businesses acting responsibly and taking steps to alleviate the harm we are causing to the planet. Businesses have an opportunity to join this effort.

Pasadena prides itself on being a green city, yet they have been dragging their feet on this issue for a couple of years, despite the ban having been passed in cities around the country. Please do not be held hostage by those restaurant owners who are seeing this as a simple black-and-white issue of their balance sheets.



Please ponder these two quotes from Einstein, a brilliant and wise man who conducted research at Cal Tech many years ago:

"Problems cannot be solved at the same level of awareness that created them."

"We shall need a substantially new way of thinking if humanity is to survive."

I urge you to pass the Styrofoam Ban Ordinance so that Pasadena can live up to its vision of itself as a green city that embraces innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Campisi

#### **Myths and facts about the ban:**

MYTH 1: "Polystyrene is a very small part of the local waste stream and whatever material was substituted would take its place in the landfill and in our local litter pile"

FACT: While polystyrene is perhaps 1% of the waste stream that goes to the landfill by weight (which says little of volume), it composes 17% of the litter stream - hardly a negligible impact on the Arroyo and Pasadena's built and natural environment.

MYTH 2. "Most polystyrene does not end up at the beach. Most ends up in the landfill or recycled as picture frames, lamps, etc."

FACT: Of that 17% of the litter stream that is composed of polystyrene, much of it does end up at the beach and in the oceans. For instance, a study of beach debris at 43 sites along the Orange County coast found EPS was the second most abundant form of beach debris.

[http://www.cleanwateraction.org/files/publications/ca/Polystyrene\\_Litter\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/files/publications/ca/Polystyrene_Litter_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

Additionally, polystyrene, like all plastics, is not recyclable. It can only be down-cycled. Those picture frames and other products cannot be laterally recycled into similar products the way a glass bottle can continuously be made into new glass bottles. Those picture frames, lamps, etc. therefore are destined for the landfill - meaning that all polystyrene ends up in the landfill, or worse - as plastic pollution of land and sea. Pasadena's zero waste goals are therefore impossible to achieve without phasing out polystyrene.

<http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/pft/2015/8/23/the-myth-of-the-recycling-solution>

MYTH 3: "...very few food service businesses in Pasadena still use polystyrene, hence the minimal representation in our trash."

FACT: The LA County Department of Public Works spends over \$23 million on litter cleanup a year. We need to consider the hidden costs of cleaning pollution, costs that taxpayers end up paying!

To: Flores, Debra  
Subject: RE: Yes to Styrofoam Ban!!!!!!

From: Ginko Lee [mailto:ginko.garfield@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 2:48 PM  
To: City\_Council  
Subject: Yes to Styrofoam Ban!!!!!!

Dear Councilmembers,

People in Pasadena is sick and tired of endless styrofoam pollution. Have you ever go to pick up trash day at the Arroyo?

I have.

Just one time, you will never see this container the same... Today, I urge you to vote YES to the proposed styrofoam ban, for the following reasons and more:

**Styrofoam is a horrible pollutant that destroys sea life and birds:** Images of sea birds and the contents of their stomachs: <http://ecowatch.com/2012/07/09/marine-litter-birds/> . These pictures are from Midway Island, in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean. Here's the entire picture series: <http://chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>. While styrofoam is only one product in the stomachs of these marine birds, a ban would go a long way to stop its proliferation.

- **Styrofoam takes 500 years, minimum, to decompose.**
- Nearly **ninety cities just in California** have already wisely passed this ban since the eighties.
- **Major cities, such as Chicago and New York**, have also passed the styrofoam ban.
- **Many Pasadena companies already do not use styrofoam**, knowing how horrible it is for the planet.
- Styrofoam is **almost NEVER recycled due to the costs:** At the Municipal Services Committee, the city staff wisely pointed out that a ton of styrofoam yields less than a hundred dollars! A ton of styrofoam, which is over ninety percent air, is a lot of styrofoam!
- Even if styrofoam were being recycled, the **gallons of water necessary** to clean it off is environmentally unsustainable in our low rainfall community.
- **Dart, a corporation known for its vertical integration, does not have recycling in their operations.** If they believed it was economically beneficial to recycle styrofoam, they would do it. However, they have devoted virtually NO funds to recycling.
- When the staff report showed the added expense of styrofoam at the Municipal Services Committee meeting, **Councilmembers were surprised to see how relatively inexpensive a ban would ultimately be for businesses.**

For these reasons and so many more, please support a ban of this trash in Beautiful Pasadena!

**Ginko Ching LEE 李青**  
[Ceramics Designer, Community Organizer]  
陶作者 組織人

**SHOP:**

[www.etsy.com/shop/GinkoClayworks](http://www.etsy.com/shop/GinkoClayworks)

**SHOWS:**

***May 6-7, 2016***

**Xiem Ceramic Open Studio Sale~~Pasadena's Premier Contemporary Ceramics Event! EXPLORE**

**+ CONNECT + COLLECT**

<http://xiemclaycenter.com/Events/Current.aspx>

***June 4-5, 2016***

**Open Studios, Alta-Pasa-Dena~~ Free Tour of the home studios of local artists**

<http://openstudios.gallery/>

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: Urging you to SUPPORT the proposed polystyrene food packaging ordinance

**From:** jennifer caballero [<mailto:jenjcab@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 3:01 PM  
**To:** Morales, Margo  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urging you to SUPPORT the proposed polystyrene food packaging ordinance

Dear Ms. Morales,

I would like you to urge Councilmember McAustin to SUPPORT the polystyrene food packaging ordinance. The city's staff report was very clear on why the time has come to institute a ban on styrofoam containers in Pasadena. It's never easy to change, but the report really vetted the potential economic impact to local small businesses, and it seems very reasonable to convert to alternate packaging. I have faith in the ability of our community of business owners to make these changes without profound negative impact to the bottom line, especially given all the exemptions listed in the ordinance.

I urge you to do right by the Arroyo running through Pasadena, play your part in making the right choice to minimize future toxic and non-biodegradable litter, and enact this ordinance and so that Pasadena will advance the stated objective of achieving our Zero Waste Strategic Plan goals by 2040.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Caballero  
Resident, First District, Pasadena  
Pasadena Neighborhood Leadership Institute, 2015 Cohort

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Styrofoam Ban

**From:** Therese Brummel [<mailto:theresegbrum@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 3:49 PM

**To:** City\_Council; Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Hampton, Tyron; Madison, Steve; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Kennedy, John

**Subject:** Styrofoam Ban

Dear Mayor Tornek and Council members,

Please vote in favor of the Styrofoam ban tonight.

The many, many restaurants who have long been using alternate containers deserve a level playing field.

The cost of Styrofoam in our environment has not been sufficiently weighed against the cost to restaurant owners. There are many ways to lighten the cost for restaurants, bring your own container being the best. No cost to anyone. The unseen cost of Styrofoam is the blight to oceans and waterways, the cost of cleanup of our Arroyo, the toxins released into our food.

Banning Styrofoam is not the end goal here, it is the beginning of greening Pasadena. if we cannot take this step now, when can we begin?

Thank you

Sincerely,

Therese Brummel RN, Transition Pasadena, Repair Cafe Pasadena

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject:** FW: Support Ban on Styrofoam

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:00 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Support Ban on Styrofoam

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Concerning the ban on styrofoam issue, the wisest option would obviously be to prohibit the issue and use of styrofoam. There are much more eco-friendly alternatives to consider such as reusable plastics and disposable cardboards. Furthermore, styrofoam is extremely toxic and when consumed can cause cancer. Speaking of the future, it is horrid for the environment; animals will and do consume its remnants weather floating through the water or flying in the wind. Fish we eat will cause us cancer. Do you want cancer??? No you don't, be smart don't be cancerous.

Jacob Solarzano, age 14, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: The use of styrofoam should be illegal in our city...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:05 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** The use of styrofoam should be illegal in our city...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

The use of styrofoam should be illegal in our city because it hurts the environment and our health. Since styrofoam is not biodegradable, it creates trash and pollution. Heating styrofoam could create harmful toxins that could cause cancer and other diseases. Although the change may not be seen right now. In a couple of years, we will be able to see pollution and diseases caused by styrofoam. Our children will be worst affected than us. They will have to deal with the fact that we did nothing to stop and change the styrofoam crisis. There are many other items that could replace styrofoam. Other items that are bio-degradable are available to be used.

Sincerely,

Cesar, age 15, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Styrofoam is not safe...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:00 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Styrofoam is not safe....

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam is not safe for the environment for many reasons. One is that it destroys the environment. Pollution is in the oceans from styrofoam and some animals may mistake it for food or other small animals. Also, styrofoam is not biodegradable, so it stays in the ocean for a long time. The styrofoam also increases a risk of diseases when consumed by animals or children. Therefore, I am asking that you put a ban on the making of styrofoam and instead suggest a better, bio-degradable alternative that does not put people, animals or the environment at risk.

Jonathan, age 15, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School



Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Styrofoam is a big problem!

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:01 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Styrofoam is a big problem!

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam is a big problem! There is a conflict between the environment and styrofoam because it affects the world and everything inside it. It helps create pollution in the air which we today face it and the only solution is to stop things like using styrofoam. It kills animals because animals think it can be food so they eat it which is bad for them. So then they die and it affects the food chain system.

Martin Perez, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Are human lives worth the extra couple cents?...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:02 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Are human lives worth the extra couple cents?...

Pasadena Council Members:

In about four billion years, it's said that the Earth will die, but with the state of the world as it is now, the end of the human race will come much sooner than expected. As a 9th grader at John F. Kennedy High School, I find pollution to be a serious issue. Styrofoam takes hundreds of years to decompose and in that time, it spreads. It gets into your food, your body, and into future generations. I have yet to turn 15 years old and I don't know all that much about the world yet, but at least I have the decency to think about the future, even if it's decades away. Are human lives really worth the extra couple cents restaurants spend? They say that it's hard to find other alternatives, but there are plenty of alternatives out there that are eco-friendly. Take NYC for instance. It's a huge city with a massive population, and yet it remains styrofoam free. So, go ahead, make your choice. I pray you make the right one.

Sincerely,

Kayla D. from JFK High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Please move forward with the polystyrene ban

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**From:** [lauradt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lauradt@sbcglobal.net) [mailto:[lauradt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lauradt@sbcglobal.net)]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:02 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Please move forward with the polystyrene ban

Esteemed City Council Members,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Pasadena. At the last City Council meeting, I felt a great divide between some of the business owners and those who support the "styrofoam free Pasadena" movement. What I would like to make clear is that we are not the enemy. We will work with business owners in their transition to polystyrene alternatives. As long as businesses continue to provide good food and service there is no reason for them to resort to layoffs of their employees or to closing their business as a result of this ban.

We have seen from the data collected by city staff that the increase in costs to the business is minimal when compared to the benefits the ban will bring to the city of Pasadena. This small increase in cost can easily be recovered by increasing the price charged to the consumer. This strategy will not scare away consumers. Residents of Pasadena are already supporting businesses who have made the transition to polystyrene alternatives, meaning they are already willing to pay extra to support an environmentally and health conscious business. As of now, I haven't heard of any businesses closing due to their transition to more eco-conscious containers. This should tell us that having a polystyrene free Pasadena is an economically sound and safe option.

If you pass the ban on polystyrene today, you will send a clear message to your community: We, as City Council, care about our community and environment. We have allowed DART Industries to profit from our community for too long. It's time to change that. We need to focus on initiatives that will make Pasadena a greener city. This ban is one of those initiatives. I am asking you to enhance Pasadena's image as a cleaner, waste free city. This ban on polystyrene is a step in the right direction. Take it.

Thank you for reading,  
Laura Trujillo

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Imagine the world twenty years from now...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:35 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Imagine the world twenty years from now...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I am a freshman at John F. Kennedy and what I want to say is that I still have a future. Styrofoam is destroying the environment. If we still use styrofoam everything around us will get worse. Imagine the world twenty years from now. What do you see? I see an unhealthy world for the next generation.

Reuben Araujo, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Polystyrene ban

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Laura Garrett [<mailto:purplecow@jps.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:36 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Polystyrene ban

Dear councilmembers,

Thank you for considering a ban on polystyrene takeout containers and cups at tonight's council meeting. As the chair of the EAC and a long-time student of our impact on the environment, I urge you to pass this ordinance. It's a good ordinance, well-researched and well-drafted. Please vote yes.

I know that Dart Industries and their allies are arguing that you should not adopt this ban. I understand Dart's concerns; they've spent a lot of money building polystyrene factories. But they don't live here in Pasadena. They're not concerned about our Zero Waste ordinance or the trash that lines the Arroyo after an event at the Rose Bowl. Some of the very worst of this trash is polystyrene. It exacts a huge cost on our society. The price that the restaurant owner pays is only one step in that cost, and those owners will pass that very small cost on to their customers.

We can work as a community to help these small business owners mitigate the added cost of not using polystyrene. There is no way to mitigate its cost to the environment and our health. Please pass this ban. Thank you.

Best regards,  
Laura Garrett  
Chair, Environmental Advisory Commission

Sent from my iPhone

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Styrofoam has been affecting our planet earth for quite a while now...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:32 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Styrofoam has been affecting our planet earth for quite a while now...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam has been affecting our planet earth for quite a while now and it's time we put an end to it before it is too late. There are many ways styrofoam affects us and also many ways to put an end to it. Styrofoam has many affects due to styrene which is the main ingredient of styrofoam but causes many harmful affects. Some affects are irritation of the skin, eyes, and upper respiratory tract.

Sincerely,

Brandon, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: BAN POLYSTYRENE TODAY!

**From:** Ashley Mercado <[ashleyvmercado@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyvmercado@gmail.com)>

**Date:** May 9, 2016 at 4:29:48 PM PDT

**To:** <[vgordo@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vgordo@cityofpasadena.net)>, <[ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net)>, <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)>, <[gsilva@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:gsilva@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Subject:** BAN POLYSTYRENE TODAY!

Dear Mayor and Council Member,

My name is Ashley Mercado and I live on Wilson Ave and Washington St.

## **I urge you to support the ban on Styrofoam (polystyrene)!**

I am a local resident and being sustainable in the city of Pasadena is of importance to me!

ITS 2016, Let's get it together Pasadena!!!!

Thank you,

Ashley Mercado

**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Styrofoam is detrimental to our health and future generations...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:23 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Styrofoam is detrimental to our health and future generations...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam, though cheap and convenient, is detrimental to our environment, health, and future generations. Styrofoam is taken to landfills, only to never biodegrade. There are so many environmentally friendly alternatives, such as hemp plastic, which biodegrades in nearly 60 days. Paper-based options are also more eco-friendly, along with bioplastics. A Swedish company created containers which naturally break down to decrease waste. The containers are inspired by the shape of fruits and vegetables and is an oil-based container made of wax and sugar. When an oil-based container is broken, the sugar begins to dissolve in a few minutes if in water and in a few days in open air. Though this option may be on the higher end of the spectrum, there are several other, more easily accessible bioplastics. Another example of biodegradable material which could take the place of styrofoam are corn, potato, rice, tapioca, palm fiber, wood cellulose, wheat fiber.... Simply other types of plastics could be replacements for styrofoam. We need to really think about the cost of styrofoam, how much it will affect our future. We may be spending a few more cents now, but it will cost us our health and planet if we keep our ways and don't choose against styrofoam.

Kaitlyn Germann, 9th grade  
John F. Kennedy High School



Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Your decision can cause the death of us, or save us...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** Your decision can cause the death of us, or save us...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Your decision can cause the death of us, or save us. Styrofoam doesn't seem like a big deal, but if you were smart enough, you'd realize it is. Styrofoam isn't biodegradable and when it does dissolve, it leaves toxic waste for our dying planet. Right now, you're breathing polluted air. When you look outside in the night, you see no stars. That's because of the pollution, including styrofoam. Banning styrofoam would help immensely to save our Earth, it brings awareness and awareness and action makes a difference. Don't be that person that votes for money instead of the environment. Think of the future, think of the children, seriously. There's plenty of alternatives. Styrofoam can't be recycled, other materials can be. Be smart, think of the environment.

- A kid who actually cares about the only planet with "intellectual" beings (Jasmin Correa)  
Kennedy High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: Support Styrofoam Ban

**From:** Franci Levine-Grater [<mailto:francilg@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:30 PM  
**To:** City\_Council; Tornek, Terry  
**Subject:** Support Styrofoam Ban

May 9, 2016

Dear Councilmembers,

As a concerned citizen and an Altadena resident who does a lot of business in Pasadena, I urge you to vote YES to the proposed styrofoam ban.

Styrofoam is a horrible pollutant that destroys sea life and birds: Images of sea birds and the contents of their stomachs: <http://ecowatch.com/2012/07/09/marine-litter-birds/> . These pictures are from Midway Island, in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean. Here's the entire picture series: <http://chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>. While styrofoam is only one product in the stomachs of these marine birds, a ban would go a long way to stop its proliferation.

Styrofoam takes 500 years, minimum, to decompose, and styrofoam is almost NEVER recycled due to the costs: At the Municipal Services Committee, the city staff wisely pointed out that a ton of styrofoam yields less than a hundred dollars! A ton of styrofoam, which is over ninety percent air, is a lot of styrofoam! Even if styrofoam were being recycled, the gallons of water necessary to clean it off is environmentally unsustainable in our low rainfall community. Dart, a corporation known for its vertical integration, does not have recycling in their operations. If they believed it was economically beneficial to recycle styrofoam, they would do it. However, they have devoted virtually NO funds to recycling.

Many Pasadena companies already do not use styrofoam, knowing how horrible it is for the planet. I usually express my displeasure to businesses when I am presented with styrofoam, and the proprietors or employees usually agree with me that an alternative would be a better choice. When a staff report showed the added expense of styrofoam at the Municipal Services Committee meeting, Councilmembers were surprised to see how relatively inexpensive a ban would ultimately be for businesses. Nearly ninety cities just in California have already wisely passed this ban since the eighties. Major cities, such as Chicago and New York, have also passed the styrofoam ban.

There are so many cost-effective, more environmentally-friendly alternatives that we have to choose from; please support a ban of styrofoam in Pasadena.

Kind regards,

Franci Levine-Grater  
**Franci Levine-Grater Consulting**  
Writing \* Editing \* Fundraising  
(626) 644-7523  
[www.levinegraterconsulting.com](http://www.levinegraterconsulting.com)

**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: I believe in the elimination of styrofoam...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:41 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** I believe in the elimination of styrofoam...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I am currently 15 years old, a freshman in high school. I truly believe that styrofoam is destroying our planet every time someone uses it. Eliminate the usage of styrofoam and switch to environmentally friendly alternatives. To continue the use of styrofoam is continuing the fact that fish and other animals are dying. What person is as low to be so selfish and only think of money or power. Animals are living creatures, defenseless, vulnerable. We take for granted the fact we breathe fresh air, we drink uncontaminated water. Don't fail me now in the abandonment of styrofoam. There are lives in danger, the future. If we can't stop it now, how can it possibly be stopped in the future? My name is Jacqueline Ramires and I believe in the elimination of styrofoam.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Support of the ban on polystyrene food packaging

**From:** JAZMIN JIMENEZ <jazzmenj@ucla.edu>  
**Date:** May 9, 2016 at 4:40:05 PM PDT  
**To:** <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>, <gsilva@cityofpasadena.net>, <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Support of the ban on polystyrene food packaging

Good Afternoon Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Jazmin Jimenez and I am a Pasadena resident. I currently live on Los Robles, I attended K-12 in PUSD Schools, and I am currently a UCLA student. I am writing in support of the ban on polystyrene food packaging. Pasadena has committed itself to be Zero Waste City and what better way to make this happen than by banning styrofoam. I hope that the city I live in moves into a more sustainable environment.

Thank you for your time, I hope this council makes the ethical decision and doesn't let outside interest cloud their judgement.

Best,  
Jazmin Jimenez

Iraheta, Alba

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To: Flores, Debra  
Subject: RE: STYROFOAM BAN

From: Joan Sander [mailto:jysander777@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 4:43 PM  
To: City\_Council  
Subject: STYROFOAM BAN

I HAVE THREE REASONS FOR URGING THE CITY COUNCIL TO STOP THE USE OF SINGLE-USE STYROFOAM-

FIRST: #1) THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF THE STYROFOAM COMPONENT ITSELF, NAMELY STYRENE

-The biggest health concern associated with polystyrene is the danger associated with STYRENE, the basic building block of polystyrene. Styrene is classified as a POSSIBLE HUMAN CARCINOGEN by the EPA and by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).-The Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry calls it "REASONABLY ANTICIPATED TO BE A HUMAN CARCINOGEN"-

SECOND: see LA TIMES article from last year, (OCT. 16, 2015 by Louis Sahagun) #2) PLASTICS ARE NOW SO COMMONPLACE IN THE OCEAN THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE MARINE FOOD CHAIN-

-This material is not Biodegradable, does not break down into CO2 and H2O by action of micro-organism [Def: the conversion of >90% material material into CO2 and water by the action of micro-organisms within 6 months].

-But it does Disintegrate, it breaks into little tiny pieces smaller than 2mm [Def: the fragmentation of 90% of the original mass to particles that then pass through a 2 mm sieve].

NOW THE LA TIMES IS JUST REPEATING SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS. \*MARINE ANIMALS (LIKE FISH) EAT PLASTIC AND IT IS PART OF OUR FOOD CHAIN: so when we eat sushi and when we give our little ones tuna fish sandwiches or fish tacos, we ought to remember this—that this particular plastic DOES BREAK DOWN & DISINTEGRATE: that plastics are eaten by fish; that we eat fish and that the main component of polystyrene is STYRENE, a substance that CAN CAUSE CANCER.

THIRD: #3) GOVERNMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The passage of the Clean Water Act (1972) and the Clean Air Act (1973), tell us that it is the proper role of government to establish standards and requirements and enforce them to control pollution

-"The environmental costs of economic activities, including the cost of preventing potential harm should NOT be imposed upon society at large." Recall that polluters or pollution sources can be factories, certain industries, or even municipalities.

-\*\* Just as the federal government acts to limit pollution, STATES and CITIES MUST ALSO ACT to LIMIT POLLUTION!!

In conclusion, THE CITY OF PASADENA HAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION BY REDUCING PLASTIC USE IN PASADENA. ALREADY OVER 65 ORDINANCES HAVE BEEN PASSED IN CALIFORNIA TO PROHIBIT POLYSTYRENE IN RESTAURANTS— PLEASE LET US USE THS OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE RIGHT THING!!

Respectfully submitted, DR. JOAN SANDER [jysander777@gmail.com](mailto:jysander777@gmail.com)

NOTE: I went to UCLA for graduate school-received my doctorate and MPH, Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Science-specializing in environmental and occupational health as a NIOSH fellow. I have spent most of my professional life in health. Up until my retirement, I worked for the State of Calif in occupational health. I speak as a concerned citizen and someone who loves Pasadena! Between my husband and me, we have worked for Cal Tech in excess of 50 years.

**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Support for Local Polystyrene Policy

**From:** Claudia Morales <cjmorales764@gmail.com>  
**Date:** May 9, 2016 at 4:45:04 PM PDT  
**To:** <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>, <MGo@cityofpasadena.net>, <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>, <vflores@cityofpasadena.net>, <gsilva@cityofpasadena.net>, <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, <thampton@cityofpasadena.net>, <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>, <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, <jkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Support for Local Polystyrene Policy

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Claudia Morales I am a resident of Bungalow Heaven (Michigan Ave. and Mountain). I also have the pleasure of working in Pasadena. I am a product of PUSD schools and this community. I care about Pasadena which is why I support the banning of polystyrene food packaging. As a leading city in the San Gabriel Valley I think it's incredibly important for Pasadena to move forward with banning polystyrene. I think it's incredibly irresponsible of us to continue using polystyrene food containers when there are plenty of environmentally friendly options available. How can we call ours a green and sustainable city yet allow companies like Dart to bully and misinform our community into making wasteful decisions. I urge the City Council to take actions towards a more sustainable Pasadena.

Thank you for your time, I hope this council makes the ethical decision and doesn't let outside interests cloud their judgment.

Best,

Claudia Morales

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: I strong believe that styrofoam should be banned...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:47 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** I strong believe that styrofoam should be banned...

Dear Pasadena City Council,

I strongly believe that styrofoam should be banned, not only for the benefit of ourselves but also the environment. Eliminating styrofoam will greatly help the environment. We have to think about others because we aren't the only ones on this planet. Let's not be selfish! There are other environmentally friendly alternatives to replace styrofoam. Cutting styrofoam is a big deal even if it's not banned, a compromise would be to have people pay for more because styrofoam is not the best source for us or the environment. Therefore, we have to stop being greedy and think about the environment. we aren't the only living things in this planet. This earth deserves respect and we should give it.

Tania Villa, 9th grade student  
Kennedy High School

Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: make the world a better place for me and future generations...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 4:58 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** make the world a better place for me and future generations...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I have been aware by my teacher, Ms. Chuc, that store owners use styrofoam. I believe they should stop using styrofoam and GO ECO-FRIENDLY to make the world a better place for me and future generations. Why should people pay the price when we can stop it sooner than later? I really hope that this letter makes a better and easier way for you to decide.

Lesley Ramirez, age 15  
Kennedy High School



Iraheta, Alba

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**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: we believe that styrofoam should be banned...

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 5:03 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** we believe that styrofoam should be banned...

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Like many other of my classmates, we believe that styrofoam should be banned. Not only for our own sake but the sake of many future generations. If we don't, eventually, the whole world will become a wasteland and killing much of our food. As you may know, styrofoam isn't bio-degradable, making our situation even worse. More the reason, why would you even consider not to ban styrofoam? After all, you know that it hurts the environment. We could use other cheaper and bio-degradable alternatives.

Sincerely,

Anthony Bautista, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Support for Local Polystyrene Policy

**From:** estela morales <estela.morales@att.net>

**Date:** May 9, 2016 at 5:03:49 PM PDT

**To:** "ttornek@cityofpasadena.net" <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, "mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, "awilson@cityofpasadena.net" <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>, "MGo@cityofpasadena.net" <MGo@cityofpasadena.net>, "mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net" <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>, "vflores@cityofpasadena.net" <vflores@cityofpasadena.net>, "gsilva@cityofpasadena.net" <gsilva@cityofpasadena.net>, "smadison@cityofpasadena.net" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, "thampton@cityofpasadena.net" <thampton@cityofpasadena.net>, "gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net" <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>, "vgordo@cityofpasadena.net" <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, "jkennedy@cityofpasadena.net" <jkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>

**Subject:** Support for Local Polystyrene Policy

**Reply-To:** estela morales <estela.morales@att.net>

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Estela Morales I am a resident of Bungalow Heaven (Michigan Ave. and Orange Grove). My family has lived in Pasadena for over twenty years. As a family we've made many efforts to become more sustainable, and we are proud to live in a community that deeply values sustainability. I urge this City Council to support a local polystyrene ban. Polystyrene food packaging is extremely wasteful, unhealthy, and has long lasting environmental impacts. One of Styrofoam's main components, styrene, is a known hazardous substance that releases toxins into food when Styrofoam products are used in reheating. It is also very difficult to recycle and reuse. As you know the City of Pasadena's waste hauler (the Allan Company) does **NOT** recycle polystyrene due to its lack of value. We urge this Council to take action and approve a polystyrene ban.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Estela Morales and Family (Luis, Karla, Jennifer, Anthony)

**To:** Flores, Debra  
**Subject:** RE: 15 Letters from Our Youth - Support the Ban on Styrofoam

**From:** Teresa Mei Chuc [<mailto:teresa.meichuc@goddard.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 5:07 PM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Subject:** 15 Letters from Our Youth - Support the Ban on Styrofoam

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Below are letters from students in my 9th grade English class. I explained the ordinance to ban use of styrofoam in Pasadena and let them volunteer to write a letter to the council. I let them know that their voices matter, they are the voices of our youth and future. I typed up their letters. I will bring the hand-written originals to the meeting today at Pasadena City Hall. I emailed each letter separately because I felt that each one of their voices deserved to be counted. Please read each student's letter and hear their voices.

Thank you for your attention.

With deepest gratitude...

Best regards,

Teresa Mei Chuc, English teacher  
John F. Kennedy High School  
Architecture, Digital Design, Filmmaking Magnet  
11254 Gothic Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344

Home: 3343 East Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 / Email: [teresameichuc@gmail.com](mailto:teresameichuc@gmail.com)

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Concerning the ban on styrofoam issue, the wisest option would obviously be to prohibit the issue and use of styrofoam. There are much more eco-friendly alternatives to consider such as reusable plastics and disposable cardboards. Furthermore, styrofoam is extremely toxic and when consumed can cause cancer. Speaking of the future, it is horrid for the environment; animals will and do consume its remnants weather floating through the water or flying in the wind. Fish we eat will cause us cancer. Do you want cancer??? No you don't, be smart don't be cancerous.

Jacob Solarzano, age 14, 9th grade

\*

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam is not safe for the environment for many reasons. One is that it destroys the environment. Pollution is in the oceans from styrofoam and some animals may mistake it for food or other small animals. Also, styrofoam is not biodegradable, so it stays in the ocean for a long time. The styrofoam also increases a risk of diseases when consumed by animals or children. Therefore, I am asking that you put a ban on the making of styrofoam

and instead suggest a better, bio-degradable alternative that does not put people, animals or the environment at risk.

Jonathan, age 15, 9th grade

\*

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam is a big problem! There is a conflict between the environment and styrofoam because it affects the world and everything inside it. It helps create pollution in the air which we today face it and the only solution is to stop things like using styrofoam. It kills animals because animals think it can be food so they eat it which is bad for them. So then they die and it affects the food chain system.

Martin Perez, 9th grade

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Pasadena Council Members:

In about four billion years, it's said that the Earth will die, but with the state of the world as it is now, the end of the human race will come much sooner than expected. As a 9th grader at John F. Kennedy High School, I find pollution to be a serious issue. Styrofoam takes hundreds of years to decompose and in that time, it spreads. It gets into your food, your body, and into future generations. I have yet to turn 15 years old and I don't know all that much about the world yet, but at least I have the decency to think about the future, even if it's decades away. Are human lives really worth the extra couple cents restaurants spend? They say that it's hard to find other alternatives, but there are plenty of alternatives out there that are eco-friendly. Take NYC for instance. It's a huge city with a massive population, and yet it remains styrofoam free. So, go ahead, make your choice. I pray you make the right one.

Sincerely,

Kayla D. from JFK High School

\*

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

The use of styrofoam should be illegal in our city because it hurts the environment and our health. Since styrofoam is not biodegradable, it creates trash and pollution. Heating styrofoam could create harmful toxins that could cause cancer and other diseases. Although the change may not be seen right now. In a couple of years, we will be able to see pollution and diseases caused by styrofoam. Our children will be worst affected than us. They will have to deal with the fact that we did nothing to stop and change the styrofoam crisis. There are many other items that could replace styrofoam. Other items that are bio-degradable are available to be used.

Sincerely,

Cesar, age 15, 9th grade

\*

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Hello, I am a fourteen-year-old student from John F. Kennedy High School. I think styrofoam should be banned, because it is bad for the environment. It's good to ban it because that would be good for the environment and there are alternatives to it as well. You could use paper or plastic instead of styrofoam, and there won't be a rise in money, or at least a big one. Styrofoam is harmful for the environment because it doesn't biodegrade. It also goes into the ocean - it's just terrible and harmful. People may argue that it's hard for restaurants that can't afford it, but it would only be about 4 to 10 cents more. It is very affordable. We should start saving the environment, or at least trying, so people in future generations get to have a good life without a destroyed world. Big cities have made this change, why can't you?

Gabriela Molina, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

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Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam, though cheap and convenient, is detrimental to our environment, health, and future generations. Styrofoam is taken to landfills, only to never biodegrade. There are so many environmentally friendly alternatives, such as hemp plastic, which biodegrades in nearly 60 days. Paper-based options are also more eco-friendly, along with bioplastics. A Swedish company created containers which naturally break down to decrease waste. The containers are inspired by the shape of fruits and vegetables and is an oil-based container made of wax and sugar. When an oil-based container is broken, the sugar begins to dissolve in a few minutes if in water and in a few days in open air. Though this option may be on the higher end of the spectrum, there are several other, more easily accessible bioplastics. Another example of biodegradable material which could take the place of styrofoam are corn, potato, rice, tapioca, palm fiber, wood cellulose, wheat fiber..... Simply other types of plastics could be replacements for styrofoam. We need to really think about the cost of styrofoam, how much it will affect our future. We may be spending a few more cents now, but it will cost us our health and planet if we keep our ways and don't choose against styrofoam.

Kaitlyn Germann  
John F. Kennedy High School

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Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Your decision can cause the death of us, or save us. Styrofoam doesn't seem like a big deal, but if you were smart enough, you'd realize it is. Styrofoam isn't biodegradable and when it does dissolve, it leaves toxic waste for our dying planet. Right now, you're breathing polluted air. When you look outside in the night, you see no stars. That's because of the pollution, including styrofoam. Banning styrofoam would help immensely to save our Earth, it brings awareness and awareness and action makes a difference. Don't be that person that votes for money instead of the environment. Think of the future, think of the children, seriously. There's plenty of alternatives. Styrofoam can't be recycled, other materials can be. Be smart, think of the environment.

- A kid who actually cares about the only planet with "intellectual" beings (Jasmin Correa)

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Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Styrofoam has been affecting our planet earth for quite a while now and it's time we put an end to it before it is too late. There are many ways styrofoam affects us and also many ways to put an end to it. Styrofoam has many affects due to styrene which is the main ingredient of styrofoam but causes many harmful affects. Some affects are irritation of the skin, eyes, and upper respiratory tract.

Sincerely,

Brandon, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

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Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I am a freshman at John F. Kennedy and what I want to say is that I still have a future. Styrofoam is destroying the environment. If we still use styrofoam everything around us will get worse. Imagine the world twenty years from now. What do you see? I see an unhealthy world for the next generation.

Reuben Araujo, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

\*

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I am currently 15 years old, a freshman in high school. I truly believe that styrofoam is destroying our planet every time someone uses it. Eliminate the usage of styrofoam and switch to environmentally friendly alternatives. To continue the use of styrofoam is continuing the fact that fish and other animals are dying. What person is as low to be so selfish and only think of money or power. Animals are living creatures, defenseless, vulnerable. We take for granted the fact we breathe fresh air, we drink uncontaminated water. Don't fail me now in the abandonment of styrofoam. There are lives in danger, the future. If we can't stop it now, how can it possibly be stopped in the future? My name is Jacqueline Ramires and I believe in the elimination of styrofoam.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

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Dear Pasadena City Council,

I strongly believe that styrofoam should be banned, not only for the benefit of ourselves but also the environment. Eliminating styrofoam will greatly help the environment. We have to think about others because we aren't the only ones on this planet. Let's not be selfish! There are other environmentally friendly alternatives to replace styrofoam. Cutting styrofoam is a big deal even if it's not banned, a compromise would be to have

people pay for more because styrofoam is not the best source for us or the environment. Therefore, we have to stop being greedy and think about the environment. we aren't the only living things in this planet. This earth deserves respect and we should give it.

Tania Villa, 9th grade student  
Kennedy High School

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Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I'm writing this because it has come to my attention that the fate of the styrofoam ban lies in your hands today. Now, styrofoam should absolutely be banned. It isn't eco-friendly and could cause major problems for the future generations. Unlike the past couple of generations, I do hope you won't be as neglectful. This could determine how our children and their children live their lives. If you think about it, styrofoam, something that isn't biodegradable, eco-friendly, and is terrible for the environment, shouldn't be around. Surely, there are some other environmentally friendly alternatives, even if there isn't any, would that be worth it at the expense of our world? I hope you choose the right choice. Thank you.

Paulina, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School

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Dear Pasadena Council Members,

I have been aware by my teacher, Ms. Chuc, that store owners use styrofoam. I believe they should stop using styrofoam and GO ECO-FRIENDLY to make the world a better place for me and future generations. Why should people pay the price when we can stop it sooner than later? I really hope that this letter makes a better and easier way for you to decide.

Lesley Ramirez, age 15  
Kennedy High School

\*

Dear Pasadena Council Members,

Like many other of my classmates, we believe that styrofoam should be banned. Not only for our own sake but the sake of many future generations. If we don't, eventually, the whole world will become a wasteland and killing much of our food. As you may know, styrofoam isn't bio-degradable, making our situation even worse. More the reason, why would you even consider not to ban styrofoam? After all, you know that it hurts the environment. We could use other cheaper and bio-degradable alternatives.

Sincerely,

Anthony Bautista, 9th grade  
Kennedy High School