

## MOTION

Use of polystyrene foam, commonly known as Styrofoam, is pervasive in the form of takeout and other food service containers. In California, there is no meaningful recycling of food service containers. Lightweight polystyrene containers are easily carried into storm drains and discharged into the ocean. According to data collected by Heal the Bay, polystyrene foam is the third most common source of beach debris on local beaches. Statewide, it is the second most common form of beach debris.


In 2011, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences identified styrene as a likely carcinogen. Styrene has also been placed on Proposition 65's list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive harm. Several studies have shown that styrene can leach into food and drink. Benzene, also in Polystyrene, has been classified by the same National Toxicology Program as a "known human carcinogen based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in humans." Benzene has been linked to cancer in leukemia. Further, because polystyrene does not biodegrade, it absorbs toxins found in the ocean, thus posing a danger to marine species which mistake polystyrene for food.


The City has supported previous legislative efforts to enact a statewide ban of polystyrene containers. In February 2017, Senator Ben Allen introduced SB 705, which would prohibit food providers from dispensing food in disposable containers that are not recyclable or compostable in the local municipality where that provider is located.

Ninety-nine cities and counties across California have enacted ordinances banning the use of polystyrene foam containers. San Francisco currently has the strictest polystyrene ban in the nation. San Francisco's ordinance requires that all takeout food packaging be recyclable or compostable and prohibits the sale of, among other things, non-recyclable polystyrene food service ware, packaging materials, and pool or beach toys. In 2008, the City Council approved a ban on polystyrene food service products from City of Los Angeles facilities. Eleven other cities have similar ordinances, limiting their polystyrene bans to city facilities. Data from beach cleanups indicates that ban on polystyrene food service containers have proved effective in eliminating beach debris. An expansion of the City's polystyrene ban will prove beneficial to the City, its communities, the health of its residents, and the surrounding environment.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation be instructed to report on the feasibility of banning polystyrene foam containers in the City.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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SECONDED BY:





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