



Angeles Chapter
3250 Wilshire Blvd. #1106
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1513

January 4, 2019

Re: Plastic Utensils on Request (CF 18-0737)

Dear Councilmembers,

2018 quickly became the year of plastic and styrofoam bans. This past September, Governor Brown signed AB1884 which will require all full service dining restaurants to provide straws only at the request of customers. In addition, Malibu's city council approved a ban on plastic straws, stirrers, and utensils by any restaurant. Long Beach banned single-use Styrofoam food and drink containers, while Manhattan Beach focused on eliminating plastic straws and utensils. This is a small sample of plastic focused ordinances passed in California.

We at the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter are dedicated to protecting earth's fragile ecosystems and resources and we strongly support Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's 'Plastic Utensils on Request' ordinance. So we ask you, Councilmembers, to:

- Vote in favor of this ordinance that will require restaurants and other food service providers to withhold plastic utensils unless a customer requests them

Here are a few reasons as to why this ordinance is a good idea:

- Single use plastic straws and utensils contribute to the 8 million tons of plastic pollution that enter the ocean while also contributing to the litter we see in our communities and the waste stream which historically flows through low income communities
- The on demand ordinance will help restaurants and municipalities save money by using less resources and producing less waste
- Restaurants have reported significant reductions with on demand policies leading to 40-90% reductions
- Single use plastic straws and utensils are often made from polystyrene (plastic #6), which is toxic throughout its lifetime, contains chemicals which have been linked to cancer and is challenging to recycle

- Single use utensils rank #7 as one of the worst offenders in the 5 Gyres BAN (Better Alternatives Now) List 2.0.

Research shows that numerous cities have already successfully implemented similar bans. Adoption of this Ordinance will allow the City of Los Angeles to be more sustainable as it helps reduce landfilled waste, as well as lessening the amount of plastic materials entering the aquatic environment.

In closing, we would like to state the obvious: the goal of the City and every County should be **Zero Trash**. We want to join you in discussions on defining practical and innovative ways to keep trash out of our landfills and waterways. This ordinance will not only protect our waterways, the ocean and the marine life that calls it home, but it will ultimately help protect the communities within your district.

Thank you for considering this request,
Raj Patel , Sierra Club Central Group, Executive Committee