



MARK PESTRELLA, CHAIR
MARGARET CLARK, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460
www.lacountyiswmtf.org

May 23, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Lara:

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 705 (ALLEN): EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Senate Bill 705 (SB 705), as amended on, April 26, 2017. If enacted, SB 705 would prohibit a food provider, by January 1, 2020, from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene (EPS) food service container. This bill would additionally authorize local governments to impose a civil liability on a person that violates that prohibition.

Plastic food service containers, which are usually made of polystyrene, EPS or polystyrene foam (most commonly known as Styrofoam), are a major component of urban litter and often wind up in waterways, bays and eventually the ocean, where they leach toxins into the water. EPS is especially dangerous because it breaks apart into light, nondegradable and buoyant pieces that are transported by wind and rain into the marine environment. Nonrecycled single-use food packaging costs California families hundreds of dollars annually in hidden litter clean-up costs. Local governments are also hard hit by these costs.

Given the negative environmental impacts of EPS food containers and the disproportionate cost to local governments for litter prevention, cleanup and disposal, several jurisdictions within the Los Angeles County have already restricted the use of EPS food containers at municipal operations and/or retail food establishments, including Los Angeles County as well as cities of Los Angeles, Malibu, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood. This is in addition to ninety-nine jurisdictions in California that have enacted a patchwork of local restrictions.

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SB 705 would prohibit food vendors from dispensing EPS food containers, thereby reducing the environmental impact of these containers, and stimulating the market for more sustainable and healthy materials. This legislation would have multiple benefits, including establishing a minimum/uniform policy Statewide rather than patchwork restrictions in different jurisdictions, and significantly reducing the amount of waste that pollutes our beaches and oceans, chokes our landfills, and litters our communities.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force **supports** SB 705. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senators Ben Allen, Jerry Hill, and Henry Stern
Each Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations
Senate Appropriations Consultant, Narisha Bonakdar
California State Association of Counties
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division
Each member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Westside Cities Council of Governments

Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles

Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County

Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force