



April 4, 2022  
Delivered via Email  
To: Mayor and City Council

**Re: Support for Item 7, Phased-In Single-Use Plastic Foodware Ban**

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter would like to express its full support for the phased-in single-use plastic foodware ban ordinance that will be introduced on Tuesday, April 5. We greatly appreciate the inclusion of several single-use plastic reduction ordinances as part of Carlsbad's Sustainable Materials Management Implementation Plan, which you voted unanimously to approve on December 14, 2021. Please continue to support the plan by voting to introduce the plastic ordinance.

It is well known that plastic pollution from single-use plastics pose a significant threat to our ocean, beaches, and planet. They are toxic, do not biodegrade, and enter our ocean from all over Carlsbad and beyond. What was hardly noticeable to Carlsbad residents and visitors 20-30 years ago is now ubiquitous on our streets, in our parks, and worst of all, along our coast. Plastic pollution is everywhere we look.

Single-use plastic foodware, accessories, and EPS foam bits account for a disproportionate amount of the pollution found by beach cleanup volunteers on beaches across San Diego County. Pollution from single-use plastics negatively impacts the health of our community, the condition of our beaches, and the health of our ocean and the wildlife who call it home. Additionally, single-use plastics are made from petroleum and cause pollution at every stage of their production.



Our [2019 Annual Beach Cleanup Report](#) compiled data from almost 12,000 volunteers across 196 separate cleanups at San Diego County beaches, including beaches in Carlsbad. 78.3% of the debris that volunteers removed was made from plastic, the vast majority consisting of single-use plastics. These totals included 34,104 pieces of EPS foam, which accounted for a whopping 14.4% of all items found. Carlsbad's coast is sadly not immune from EPS foam and other single-use plastics; at a beach cleanup on 10/26/19 at South Ponto, volunteers removed 763 pieces of foam debris.

**Washed up foam foodware bits & plastic accessories at Terramar, 5.23.21**



Over 150 cities in California have already prohibited the use of EPS foam foodware, including your three immediate neighbors to the south - Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar. Foodservice businesses have successfully transitioned away from foam in cities all over the state; reusable and compostable alternatives to polystyrene foam and other plastics are readily available in today's marketplace. Prices for compostable foodware are becoming more competitive as their popularity rises, while simple operational adjustments - i.e., opting for reusables whenever possible, offering accessories upon request only, etc. - can significantly reduce restaurant overhead over time.

Re: the draft ordinance itself, we commend your staff for including strong language that includes not only EPS foam, but *all* single-use plastic foodware. To secure a livable planet for future generations, we must do everything in our power to reduce and divert waste. Thank you for including single-use plastic reduction as a key element of the City's sustainability roadmap. Please vote to adopt this ordinance so that Carlsbad continues to lead by example in waste reduction, sustainability, and the protection of our beautiful coastline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mitch Silverstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mitch Silverstein  
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The Surfrider Foundation  
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