



MEMORANDUM

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board

From: Supervisor Katrina Foley, 2nd District

Date: April 6, 2022

2022 APR -6 AM 11:59
CLERK OF THE BOARD
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECEIVED

RE: Supplemental Item to Prohibit the Purchase and Use of Expanded Polystyrene (commonly known as “Styrofoam”) Food Service Products Within County Government Facilities

S42D

Background:

The environmental impacts of Expanded Polystyrene (“EPS”) are significant. As a non-recyclable and non-biodegradable plastic, Expanded Polystyrene can persist in the environment for thousands of years. Expanded Polystyrene fractures into microplastics, which enter streets, wilderness, waterways, oceans, and other precious natural resources. This leads to devastating environmental impacts including:

- Illness/death for birds and marine animals who mistake the Styrofoam as food
- Litter and visual blight that negatively impact residents and tourists
- Obstruction of public drainage systems

At least 10 Orange County cities, including Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Newport Beach, and San Clemente have some type of restriction on the use of Expanded Polystyrene at government facilities.

At a recent community cleanup at the Back Bay, we observed thousands of tiny particles in the protected marsh that are nearly impossible to remove. This is devastating.

As the steward of our precious County harbors, beaches, parks, open spaces, and trails, we have a responsibility to protect our vital natural resources. Prohibiting the purchase and use of Expanded Polystyrene food service products at County facilities is a common-sense intervention to ensure that our environment can be protected and preserved for future generations.

Recommended Action:

Direct the CEO to develop a plan and ordinance for the County of Orange to prohibit the purchase and use of food service products produced with Expanded Polystyrene within County Government Facilities.