



City of Camarillo

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NEWS RELEASE

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Camarillo Considering Ban on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Food and Beverage Containers

Camarillo, California – The Camarillo City Council unanimously supports the creation of an ordinance banning Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) food and beverage containers, beginning January 1, 2022, furthering the City's goal of providing cost-effective, efficient services while minimizing impacts on the environment.

Expanded polystyrene, known by the trademarked name of Styrofoam™, is a commonly used material to produce disposable dishes and packaging. Its low cost and insulation properties make it a popular choice for restaurants and food retailers.

Environmentally conscious municipalities have banned non-biodegradable food packaging, like EPS, since the late 1980's. There are more than 100 local ordinances in California restricting EPS, including the cities of Ojai, Ventura, and Thousand Oaks.

At their meeting of May 12, 2021, the City Council directed staff to create an ordinance that would prohibit food providers from distributing EPS, and also would ban both the sale and distribution of any EPS food packaging, containers and food service ware. The City intends to take an incremental approach to this effort, and may consider banning retail sale of packing materials, coolers, pool and beach toys, and other items made from EPS, at a later time but not under the current ordinance that is being prepared.

In anticipation of financial hardship for small restaurants to switch from EPS to more environmentally friendly products, some cities have included a financial hardship exemption for businesses that could not afford the switch. The City Council directed staff to include a financial hardship waiver, that could extend their implementation timeline, as part of the proposed ordinance.

City staff anticipate bringing a proposed Ordinance before the City Council for review and consideration in Summer of 2021, for implementation beginning January 1, 2022.

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