



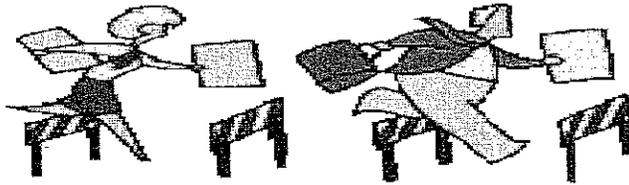
CITY OF MILPITAS

455 EAST CALAVERAS BOULEVARD, MILPITAS, CALIFORNIA 95035-5479

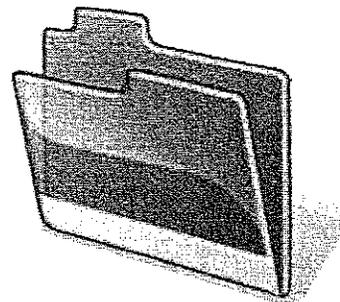
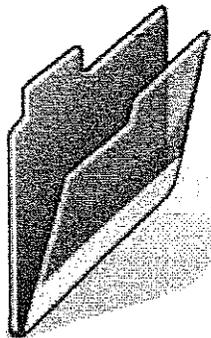
GENERAL INFORMATION: 408-586-3000, www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov

5/16/2017

Agenda Item No. 1



ATTACHMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEM AFTER AGENDA PACKET DISTRIBUTION





5/12/17

Mayor Rich Tran and Councilmembers
City of Milpitas
455 E Calaveras Blvd
Milpitas, CA 95035

City Clerk's Office

MAY 15 2017

RECEIVED

RE: Proposed Ordinance #293 - Support of EPS Restriction

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I write to support the restriction of expanded polystyrene plastics (EPS) in food ware per proposed ordinance #293 on the May 16, 2017 council agenda. EPS is a form of litter that exacerbates healthy ecosystems, from blowing in the air to becoming litter, and finally ending up in our waterways (creeks, bay, ocean) as a pollutant and mistaken for "food" by marine creatures.

As the Founder and Program Director of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, one part of our mission is to clean and revive Coyote Creek, located in the southern San Francisco Bay. This creek flows through Milpitas as it meanders towards the Bay past the Newby Island landfill. Our volunteers continue to collect a lot of EPS, as Cup o' Noodles, take out containers, but most of it in small bits, which is exceedingly difficult to remove.

After the Coyote Creek flood in February 2017, we found a wall of EPS in Kelley Park (see photo 1), mostly comprised of bits less than one inch. This example is just one of many where EPS packaging, especially food packaging, has been highly problematic. Plastics tend to float on the surface of water. Churning of the water makes the plastics, especially EPS, break into smaller pieces. National Geographic discusses the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (or Gyre) where plastics make up the majority of the debris. Because plastic does not degrade but instead break down into smaller pieces, these microplastics disrupt the food web.¹

The City of San Jose enacted a similar ban in 2014. The rationale is similar: "Twenty-six creeks in the Bay Area, including Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek, have been declared as impaired by trash."² Cities, such as San Jose and Milpitas, are required to reduce their trash levels released into San Francisco Bay, and this ban contributes to that reduction.

¹ National Geographic's Great Pacific Garbage Patch web page, <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

² Foam Food Container Ordinance web page, <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=2320>



Photo 1: Wall of Styrofoam and plastics in Kelley Park, San Jose, CA, 2/28/17

Not only does the proposed EPS ban meet the City's mandated trash reduction loads, but it also reduces directly the EPS that will go to San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. "In just a few years, we might end up with a pound of plastic for every three pounds of fish in the sea."³

Please ban EPS food ware in the City of Milpitas and include your residents to expand the "62% of residents (who) are living in places that banned EPS food ware."⁴

Deb Kramer
Founder and Program Director
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

³ Ocean Conservancy, Fighting for Trash Free Seas web page, <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/>

⁴ Save the Bay's Bay Area Bag and Styrofoam Bans web page, <https://www.savesfbay.org/banmap>