



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager's Office

**MEETING DATE:** December 5, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** Oliver Chi, City Manager  
Lauren Vasquez, Deputy City Manager

**AGENDA LOCATION:** AR-1

---

**TITLE:** Prohibiting the Use of Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products Within City Facilities, Resolution No. 2017-44

**OBJECTIVE:** To adopt Resolution No. 2017-44, thereby prohibiting the use of expanded polystyrene food service products at City facilities

**BACKGROUND:** Expanded polystyrene, which is commonly referred to by its trademark name "Styrofoam," is a petroleum based plastic that has been found to have increasingly negative effects on the environment. Food service products made from expanded polystyrene are a major source of litter and marine pollution, which frequently clogs storm drains and waterways throughout our region. Furthermore, as a non-biodegradable and non-recyclable plastic, expanded polystyrene has the potential of continuing to persist in the environment for hundreds to thousands of years if not managed properly.

**ANALYSIS:** In an effort to address concerns related to the use of expanded polystyrene, the City Council requested that staff assess the feasibility of prohibiting the use of expanded polystyrene food products at City facilities. After conducting a review, staff has developed Resolution No. 2017-44 for consideration. If approved, the measure would prohibit the City from purchasing and / or acquiring any expanded polystyrene food service products, including, but not limited to, cups, plates, bowls, trays, and containers.

Furthermore, staff has also been in the process of developing mechanisms to encourage all individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations to support efforts minimizing the use of expanded polystyrene. To that end, the City will be providing public education materials related to the issues surrounding the use of expanded polystyrene. Those materials will also suggest more environmentally friendly alternatives that include paper products, recyclable plastics, and bio-products.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** Prohibiting the use of expanded polystyrene at City facilities would eliminate Styrofoam from the waste stream at City facilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There are no fiscal impacts associated with this action.

**OPTIONS:** The following options are presented for consideration:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2017-44, thereby prohibiting the use of expanded polystyrene food service products at City facilities.
2. Do not adopt Resolution No. 2017-44 and provide staff with additional direction.

# AR-1

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends Option 1, thereby prohibiting the use of expanded polystyrene food service products at City facilities.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:** If the City Council concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2017-44.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-44**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA, PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "STYROFOAM") FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS WITHIN CITY FACILITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Monrovia is committed to preserving the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, expanded polystyrene, which is commonly referred to by its trademark name "Styrofoam," is a petroleum based plastic that has been found to have increasingly negative effects on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, expanded polystyrene's inability to be recycled results in more quantities of waste sent to landfill; and

**WHEREAS**, food service products made from expanded polystyrene are a major source of litter and marine pollution, and frequently clogs storm drains and waterways throughout the region; and

**WHEREAS**, as a non-biodegradable and non-recyclable plastic, expanded polystyrene can persist in the environment for hundreds to thousands of years if not managed properly.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** A ban on expanded polystyrene food service products at City facilities is hereby enacted.

**SECTION 2.** This expanded polystyrene food service product ban shall prohibit the City from purchasing and / or acquiring any expanded polystyrene food service products including, but not limited to, cups, plates, bowls, trays, and containers.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 5th day of December, 2017.

---

Tom Adams, Mayor  
City of Monrovia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

---

Alice D. Atkins, CMC, City Clerk  
City of Monrovia

---

Craig A. Steele, City Attorney  
City of Monrovia