



CITY OF CORONADO

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Coronado, California, Amending Chapter 36.28 of the Coronado Municipal Code Related to Polystyrene and Single-Use Plastics Regulations

RECOMMENDATION

Determine that the proposed ordinance is exempt from CEQA review based upon the common sense exemption under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and under exemptions for actions to protect natural resources and the environment under CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 and 15308, and adopt Ordinance No. 2025-08, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Coronado, California, amending Chapter 36.28 of the Coronado Municipal Code related to Polystyrene and Single-Use Plastics Regulations."

BACKGROUND

At the September 16, 2025, meeting, the City Council introduced Ordinance No. 2025-08, revising Chapter 36.28 of the Coronado Municipal Code, Polystyrene and Single-Use Plastics Regulations. The revised ordinance builds upon Ordinance No. 2025-01R, originally adopted on February 18, 2025, and effective March 20, 2025, with a 180-day implementation and education period.

The ordinance prohibits and regulates the use and sale of polystyrene and single-use plastic foodware and foodware accessories, plastic bottled beverages, plastic bags, and balloons filled with gas that is lighter than air. Ordinance No. 2025-08 refines and clarifies this regulatory framework to ensure consistency with City Council direction and state law.

ANALYSIS

During the implementation period, staff identified minor text changes needed to more accurately reflect the ordinance's original intent. Specifically, the inclusion of the word "recyclable" in several sections could be interpreted to allow single-use recyclable plastics, which was not the City Council's intent. To address this, Ordinance No. 2025-08 removes that reference and updates the definition of "single-use" to align with the State of California's definition in Public Resources Code §42270. This ensures consistency with statewide regulations while maintaining the City's policy direction. The revisions are technical in nature and serve to clarify the City Council's original direction. The revised ordinance will take effect 30 days following adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be minimal fiscal impact associated with publicizing the prohibition of single use plastics. That and other outreach and enforcement efforts can be achieved with existing budget.

ALTERNATIVE

The City Council may alter prior policy direction or choose not to adopt the ordinance.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The proposed ordinance is exempt from CEQA review based upon the common sense exemption under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and the reasoning of the California Supreme Court in the case of Save the Plastic Bag Coalition v. City of Manhattan Beach (2011) 52 Cal.4th 155, and the Court of Appeal cases of Save the Plastic Bag Coalition v. City and County of San Francisco (2013) 222 Cal.App.4th 863 and Save the Plastic Bag Coalition v. County of Marin (2013) 218 Cal.App.4th 209. The City's adoption of ordinance will not have any substantial or contributive effects on the local or broader environment. The City's small size and retail sector, its minor contribution to regional landfills, and many residents' adoption of reusable alternatives all demonstrate that adoption of the ordinance will not have any substantial or

potentially substantial, adverse changes in the physical environment. Moreover, the ordinance will enhance, rather than degrade, the local environment by removing sources of plastic waste from the environment and that pose potential hazards to marine life. For these reasons, the ordinance is also exempt from CEQA review under CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 and 15308, which exempt actions by agencies for the protection of natural resources and the environment. The ordinance identifies prohibitions and procedures intended primarily for the protection of the environment, and the City is adopting the ordinance to promote the general welfare consistent with its municipal regulatory powers. (*Save the Plastic Bag Coalition v. City and County of San Francisco* (2013) 222 Cal.App.4th 863; *Save the Plastic Bag Coalition v. County of Marin* (2013) 218 Cal.App.4th 209.) The ordinance will not relax any environmental standards, and there are no applicable exceptions to the exemptions in this case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Clerk will publish the full text of the ordinance within 15 days of its adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance 2025-08

Submitted By: City Manager's Office / Tina Friend