

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**

WHEREAS, a primary problem with single-use polystyrene and plastic is that they do not biodegrade and are easily transported into the environment, including marine environments, where they can accumulate indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2025, the City Council adopted Chapter 36.28 of the Coronado Municipal Code to regulate the use and sale of polystyrene and single-use plastic items within the City and reduce the amount of such debris entering the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, during the 180-day implementation period, staff identified that references to “recyclable” foodware and foodware accessories in the ordinance could unintentionally be interpreted to allow single-use recyclable plastics, which was not the intent of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, staff also identified an opportunity to align the City’s definition of “Single-use” with the State of California’s definition to promote consistency with state law; and

WHEREAS, these changes are minor clarifications that do not alter the original policy direction but instead ensure the ordinance is applied as the City Council intended, reducing plastic waste and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, these Amendments related to polystyrene and single-use plastic items are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act based upon the common sense exemption under 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, because the Amendments will not have any substantial or contributive effects on the local or broader environment; and based on CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 and 15308, which exempt actions by agencies for the protection of natural resources and the environment, because the Amendments identify prohibitions and procedures intended for the protection of the environment and the City is adopting the ordinance to promote the general welfare consistent with its municipal regulatory powers.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Coronado, California, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN as follows:

SECTION 1.

All of the above statements are true and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2.

Title 36, Chapter 36.28, Section 36.28.020, of the Coronado Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (underlines are additions and ~~strikeouts~~ are deletions):

- Y. "Single-use" means ~~items designed for one-time or limited use before final disposal~~ designed to be used once and then discarded, and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.

Title 36, Chapter 36.28, Section 36.28.030, of the Coronado Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (underlines are additions and ~~strikeouts~~ are deletions):

- A. Regulated entities shall not provide prepared food in foodware made, in whole or in part, from polystyrene or single-use plastic. Regulated entities shall only use and distribute foodware and foodware accessories upon request, and such requested foodware and foodware accessories must be reusable, ~~recyclable~~, or compostable.

Title 36, Chapter 36.28, Section 36.28.40, of the Coronado Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (underlines are additions and ~~strikeouts~~ are deletions):

- A. Regulated entities shall only distribute single-use foodware accessories that are reusable, ~~recyclable~~, and/or compostable, and that are not made of polystyrene or single-use plastic.

Title 36, Chapter 36.28, Section 36.28.90, of the Coronado Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (underlines are additions and ~~strikeouts~~ are deletions):

- B. Foodware and foodware accessories made of polystyrene, single-use plastic, or any material that is not biodegradable, compostable, or reusable, ~~or recyclable~~ shall not be distributed at City facilities and City events.

Title 36, Chapter 36.28, Section 36.28.100, of the Coronado Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows (underlines are additions and ~~strikeouts~~ are deletions):

- A. The City, its departments, agents, employees, or designees acting in their official capacity as representatives of the City, shall not purchase or otherwise procure foodware or foodware accessories that are made of polystyrene,

single-use plastic, or that is not biodegradable, compostable, ~~recyclable~~ or reusable.

SECTION 3:

Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Chapter, or its application to any other person or circumstance. The City Council declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof be declared invalid or unenforceable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its adoption. Within fifteen (15) days after its adoption, the City Clerk of the City of Coronado shall cause this ordinance published pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 36933.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READ at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coronado, California, on the 16th day of September 2025; and

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Coronado at a regular meeting thereof this 7th day of October 2025, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

JOHN D. DUNCAN, Mayor of the
City of Coronado, California

ATTEST:

KELSEA HOLIAN, City Clerk of the
City of Coronado, California

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO :
ss. CITY OF CORONADO)

I, Kelsea Holian, City Clerk of the City of Coronado, hereby certify that the foregoing ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08 passed at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Coronado held on the 16th day of September 2025, after having been read at the regular meeting of said City Council held on the 7th day of October 2025.

KELSEA HOLIAN, City Clerk of the
City of Coronado, California

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