



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 20, 2017

CONTACT:
Paul Brenck at 619-453-4508 or pbrenck@sandiego.gov

City Council Approves Adding Styrofoam Food Service Containers for Curbside Recycling

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego City Council today approved the addition of expanded polystyrene (EPS) food service containers to the City's curbside recycling program effective July 1, 2017. These additional materials, commonly referred to as Styrofoam, include drinking cups and food containers. The change applies only to residents who receive curbside recycling collection services from the City.

"By expanding what we're able to recycle, we're moving in the right direction as we try to reduce, reuse and recycle as much of the trash we collect every day as we can," said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. **"The City of San Diego continues to be an environmental leader with a 'Zero Waste' plan that is among the most aggressive in the country. We're creating a cleaner San Diego and serving as a model for other cities to follow."**

In 2015, the City Council approved a "Zero Waste" plan that calls for reusing, rather than disposing of, virtually all of the City's trash by 2040. The plan lays out strategies to achieve a 75 percent trash diversion rate by 2020, a 90 percent rate by 2035, and the ultimate goal of zero waste by 2040.

Considering the addition of new materials, such as EPS food service containers, to the City's curbside recycling program was identified as one of these strategies.

"The City's Waste Reduction staff has taken the Council's direction to drive this latest initiative," said Environmental Services Director Mario X. Sierra. **"Achieving the City's 'Zero Waste' goals will make San Diego a better place to live for future generations."**

In addition, the City's Environmental Services Waste Reduction Division reminds residents to remember to continue recycling their cardboard, paper, newspapers, metal containers, plastic and glass bottles and jars, rigid plastics (including clean food packaging containers), jugs, tubs, trays, pots, buckets and toys,

food and drink cartons, and EPS packaging. The City recently released [a new informational video about recycling](#) for outreach and educational purposes.

“After several years of hard work and analysis, City residents are finally able to conveniently recycle Styrofoam materials. This action will not only improve our local environment but also prolong the life of the Miramar Landfill. I applaud the Mayor and ESD staff for making this vision a reality,” said City Councilmember Scott Sherman, a member of the Council’s Environment Committee.

For more information about recycling programs in San Diego, including details about the City’s efforts to divert waste from the Miramar Landfill, please visit www.recyclingworks.com.



###