



City Councilmember Scott Sherman

District 7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tons of Styrofoam Goes to Landfill Instead of Being Recycled Due to City's Styrofoam Ban

*Public-Private Partnership Could Have Recycled Material
at Little to no Cost to City*

San Diego – Today, the Environment Committee considered a new curbside recycling materials processing contract to pickup and process recycling throughout the City of San Diego. One troubling aspect of this contract is that single-use polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as styrofoam, will no longer be recycled. **Instead, potentially 15 tons of styrofoam will be dumped into the landfill, filling up precious space at the near-capacity Miramar facility.**

This is disturbing since before the ban, representatives from the Plastics Food Service Packaging Group approached the city to enter into a public-private partnership to recycle all styrofoam at potentially little or no cost to the city.

Instead of looking into this more environmentally friendly approach, the City Council hastily moved forward with a limited ban on styrofoam products resulting in 15 tons going to the landfill annually. This unintended consequence of the ban does exactly the opposite of what the City Council intended.

While the city banned certain styrofoam products, it is pervasive in mail packaging and neighboring cities with no ban. The material will still find its way into San Diego's trash stream.

“The styrofoam ban did get some members of the City Council great headlines, but their politically motivated ban resulted in 15 tons of easily recyclable material being thrown into the landfill instead,” said Councilmember Sherman. “This bad policy not only hurts the city's zero waste goals and climate action plan, it is also bad for the environment.”

Councilmember Sherman calls on the City Council to do the right thing and revisit the failed styrofoam ban and look into more environmentally friendly options such as public-private recycling partnerships.

Item-8, the Curbside Recycling Materials Processing & Marketing Contracts with Allen Company and EDCO Disposal Corporation can be reviewed [here](#).

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