



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

PUBLIC WORKS

2501 Embarcadero Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303
650.329.2598

May 23, 2015

Dear Business Owner or Manager,

The City of Palo Alto is holding a public stakeholder meeting to discuss the proposed expansion of Palo Alto's existing ordinance 5.30 ("Expanded Polystyrene and Non-Recyclable Food Service Containers) Title 5 ("Health and Sanitation") of the Palo Alto Municipal Code. The current ordinance prohibits the use of expanded plastic foam (e.g., Styrofoam™) and other non-recyclable plastics for use as foodware at food service establishments. The proposed revisions would prohibit retail sales of expanded plastic foam such as cups, bowls, plates, trays, clamshell containers, ice chests, shipping boxes and packing materials. The revised ordinance would go into effect in late fall 2015. Retailers would include grocery stores, pharmacies, mailing services and hardware stores or as otherwise defined by the ordinance. The ordinance would also apply to businesses that are primarily service-oriented that might distribute plastic foam products such as foam cups used for complimentary tea or coffee. Other cities throughout California have adopted similar ordinances including the cities of Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, the City and County of Santa Cruz. More than 90 cities and counties throughout California have adopted ordinances restricting polystyrene in some capacity either at restaurants or to also include retail.

This public meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance changes will be held:

Thursday, June 11, 2015 from 10-11 am
Cubberley Community Center, Room H-1 (see attached map)
4000 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA

Public comments may also be submitted by email to cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org, or by calling the project manager at 650.329.2117.

The Ordinance expansion is one of many actions that have been implemented by City of Palo Alto Public Works Department–Watershed Protection to meet Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requirements. This permit requires the City of Palo Alto and other public agencies to reduce trash loads from separate storm sewer systems to no adverse impact by 2022. Plastic foam continues to be one of the largest components of trash found in creeks and storm drain inserts. Plastic foam has been well documented as a hazard to water quality and wildlife.

For additional information, please visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/plasticfoam or contact me directly.

Julie Weiss, Environmental Specialist

City of Palo Alto, Regional Water Quality Control Plant



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