



COUNCILWOMAN LENA GONZALEZ

NB-32

DATE: May 23, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, District 1 *LG*
Councilmember Jeannine Pearce, District 2 *J.P.*
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, District 7 *R.U.*

SUBJECT: Support for SB 705 – The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to send a letter of support for SB 705 (Allen), The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act.

DISCUSSION

Expanded Polystyrene is a form of plastic commonly used in food packaging and restaurant takeout items. It has been observed that plastic food service containers are a major factor of urban litter and more than often end up in our waterways and oceans, where they break down and release harmful toxins. In addition, marine life is known to consume small polystyrene particles, which may cause adverse effects to our own health and well-being. Workers involved with Styrene are also exposed to increase health risks such as leukemia, lymphoma, and damage to the nervous system.

This growing problem effects California's \$43 billion ocean-dependent sector of the economy. According to the California Coastal Commission, polystyrene is the 2nd largest source of litter on California beaches and the Ocean Protection Council estimates that the current cost of cleaning up marine debris annually reaches \$1 billion.

On December 20, 2016 the City of Long Beach took a progressive approach to tackle this issue and has begun the process to adopt its own ordinance to prohibit the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene. Additionally, in 2011 the City of Long Beach supported SB 568 authored by then Senator Alan Lowenthal, to ban polystyrene in the food industry statewide.

SB 705 provides an effective statewide solution to reduce the amount of expanded polystyrene in our streets, waterways, beaches, and oceans.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact at this time.



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: May 23, 2017
To: Poonam Davis, City Clerk
From: Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, District 1
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda for **May 23, 2017**

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Support for SB 705 – The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act

| Council District | Authorizing Councilmember | Signed by |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Lena Gonzalez | Lena Gonzalez |
| 7 | Roberto Urango | Roberto Urango |
| 2 | Jeanine Pearce | Jeanine Pearce |