

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**LENA A. GONZALEZ**  
THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



October 14, 2019

Dear Mayor Garcia and Councilmembers,

I am happy to write in strong support of Item #13, "Single-Use Plastics," on the Long Beach City Council agenda for October 15, 2019. It is critical that we continue to advocate for environmental sustainability, and this item is a great next step to clarify and strengthen the existing Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) ordinance.

When I was the First District Councilmember, I was proud to champion the original EPS ordinance in the City, and it has been a very successful program overall. Since implementation began in 2018, we have seen the City, Long Beach Unified School District, and dozens of local businesses participate in the effort to become foam-free.

Yet, it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure we reduce our impact on the environment. Agenda Item #13, up for discussion on October 15, will help prevent unneeded plastics from entering our waste stream and waterways. By ensuring that all straws are only available upon request and are not made of plastic or bio-plastic, we can decrease waste and help business owners find cheaper, more sustainable alternatives.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting our environment. I am proud that, collectively, we have come so far with the EPS ordinance and voted earlier this year to support statewide efforts to phase out the sale and distribution of single-use plastics, through SB 54 and AB 1080. I hope we can continue to count on your support for this issue.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lena", written in a cursive style.

**LENA A. GONZALEZ**  
Senator, 33<sup>rd</sup> District

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