

Pat Eklund, Mayor  
Councilmember Eric Lucan  
Councilmember Denise Athas  
Councilmember Madeline Kellner  
Councilmember Jeanne McLeamy  
City of Novato  
75 Rowland Way, Suite 200  
Novato, CA 94945



Via email with hard copy to follow

March 15, 2013

***Re: Proposed Ordinance Banning Disposable Polystyrene Food Packaging***

Dear Mayor Eklund and Councilmembers:

The Marin Conservation League has been actively engaged in protecting and preserving Marin's natural assets for over 75 years. MCL has whole-heartedly supported the "Zero Waste Marin" efforts to reduce the volume of "trash" disposed of in landfills, and the volume of litter that fouls our waterways, roads and public spaces. Each year MCL sponsors coastal cleanup activities throughout the county and, specifically, we sponsor a cleanup in Novato, as well as participating in Novato's Clean & Green day. We are well aware of the enormous volume of litter that ends up in our waters and the need to address this problem.

Accordingly, we write in support of Novato's preparing an ordinance to ban disposable polystyrene food packaging. We believe this is an important step forward in reducing landfill waste and litter. We understand that similar ordinances in Marin, and throughout California, have worked well, without disruption of the affected businesses.

While we support developing an ordinance, we feel it is important that similar laws be put into effect countywide so that there is one countywide approach to this important issue. We urge Novato to work with the county and with its sister cities in Marin to realize this goal. We will play our part in supporting the adoption of such ordinances throughout Marin.

MCL would also like to take this opportunity to urge the City of Novato to adopt an ordinance on the related topic of regulating retail single-use bags. Specifically, we ask the city to ban the use of such bags, and to impose a fee on single-use paper bags. Many California cities and counties, including Marin, have now adopted single-use bag laws, many of these in the past two years. The failure of Marin cities to act on this important issue has only undercut the County's efforts and is unfair to consumers and merchants.

Now that the county JPA for Solid and Hazardous Waste is developing a model ordinance, Novato and other Marin municipalities will not have to "reinvent the wheel", nor will individual

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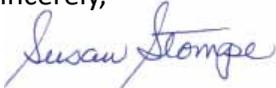


communities need to prepare the environmental documents. This work should be completed by this fall and we encourage Novato to take advantage of it. The threat of lawsuit has been greatly reduced since the Manhattan Beach decision and the work that is being done by the JPA includes both a model ordinance and California environmental review.

We encourage Novato to pursue a polystyrene ban now and a single use bag ordinance as soon as the model is ready.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Stompe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Stompe  
President

cc: Michael Frank, Novato City Manager  
Bob Brown, Community Development Manager