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PRESS RELEASE

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Culver City Bans Polystyrene – Effective November 8, 2017

On May 8, 2017, the City of Culver City became the 108th city in California to adopt a citywide ordinance that bans the use of Polystyrene foodware. Polystyrene, which is a synthetic polymer plastic that comes in two forms – foam (often mistakenly referred to as “Styrofoam”) and solid (straws, cutlery, coffee cup lids) – are commonly used by restaurants for take-out food orders.

The Polystyrene ban, which becomes effective on November 8, 2017, prohibits the sale of foam foodware, including coolers that are not encased in another material. All food establishments providing takeout food are prohibited from using solid and foam Polystyrene foodware products and are required to ask their customers whether they want cutlery included with their takeout order. Egg cartons, meat trays used for the sale of unprepared food, food prepared outside of the City, and foam packing materials used in shipping containers are exempt from the ban.

“One of the primary examples of the amount of Styrofoam waste can be found in Ballona Creek,” said City of Culver City Mayor Jeffrey Cooper. Ballona Creek, a focal point of the community, flows through Culver City as an open channel which drains stormwater and urban runoff within the 130-square-mile Ballona Creek Watershed to the Pacific Ocean. “Trash and other hazards, such as Styrofoam containers and cups, have entered Ballona Creek, breaking down into dangerously

small particles, which pollutes the water that flows directly to the Pacific Ocean," added Mayor Cooper.

After careful consideration of a proposal from Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR), the City Council adopted the resolution to ban Polystyrene in the City. BCR is a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization based in Culver City that has a mission to improve Ballona Creek and the community's use of it in several ways, including: water quality, ecosystems, recreation, education, attractiveness, and amenities. BCR's proposal to ban Polystyrene emphasized the amount of Polystyrene pollution collected during Ballona Creek cleanup events. BCR also cited a weak market for recycling Polystyrene foodware products and the health impacts associated with its use.

The City is conducting a comprehensive outreach program over the next six months, including a series of workshops with food providers, geared toward explaining the ban and identifying alternative foodware products and their suppliers. The first workshop will be held at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall. For more information about the ban and to view a list of upcoming workshops, please visit www.culvercity.org/polystyreneban.

About Culver City

Culver City is a five-square-mile, urban community of 39,000 residents surrounded by the City of Los Angeles and centrally located on the Westside near Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, and Los Angeles International Airport. Culver City is particularly known for its well-run public school system, "small town" charm, growing high-tech and creative economies, and a dynamic downtown that is regionally known as a destination for restaurants, live theatre, and art galleries. For more information, please visit the City's [website](#).

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