

MEMO

Date: November 7, 2016

To: John Nachbar, City Manager

From: Jim B. Clarke, Mayor

Subj: PROPOSED ENHANCED CITY PROGRAM RE: STYROFOAM & POLYSTYRENE

I would appreciate if you would bring the following proposal to my City Council colleagues for consideration at a Council meeting.

Background

At an upcoming Council meeting, an agenda item will be scheduled, at which we will have an ongoing discussion about the request from the Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR) to ban Styrofoam and polystyrene, most notably take-out food containers. The Council Sustainability Committee has met on this issue on several occasions and the item will now be brought back to the full Council.

Discussion

While there is much merit in BCR's request to keep Styrofoam and polystyrene out of the Creek and Santa Monica Bay, it is my feeling that we could go much further than a simple ban and become a leader on this issue, rather than just follow what other cities have done.

The enhanced program that I am proposing includes a phase out and eventual ban of Styrofoam food containers, but that is only a part of a much larger and more comprehensive program. I have presented this enhanced program to BCR leadership and they were receptive to my proposal. Thus, it is my hope that when the item returns to us on the Council agenda, we can also consider the following measures:

- Add additional blue and black receptacles along the Ballona Creek Bike path. Clearly mark what is accepted. Pursue public-private and grant funding opportunities. (DPW)
- Add additional blue and black receptacles at bus stops, parks and other public facilities. Clearly mark what is accepted. Pursue public-private and grant funding opportunities. (DPW, Transportation, PRCS)
- Conduct enhanced collection along Ballona Creek, parks, bus stops, etc. (DPW)
- Conduct greater enforcement of anti-littering ordinances. (CCPD, Others?)
- Obtain approval from court for traffic offenders assigned to Ballona Creek cleanups. (City Attorney, DPW))
- Phase out Styrofoam take-out food containers from restaurants/take-out establishments and mandate “compostable” alternatives. (DPW, City Attorney, Council)
- Utilize trash pick-up pricing fees to encourage restaurants/take-out establishments to switch to “compostable” alternatives. (City Attorney, DPW, City Council)
- Allow restaurants/take-out establishments to provide and charge for compostable take-out food containers. (City Attorney, Council)
- Establish a blue bin recycling program for Styrofoam and polystyrene and education program for residents and businesses. Look for grant programs to fund. (DPW, Council)
- Amend contract with CR&R to provide for utilization of Titus as a Secondary Materials Recycling Facility. (MRF) (DPW, City Attorney)
- Establish a food waste collection program for the City’s restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, and residents, etc. utilizing Anaerobic Digestion to produce Renewable Natural Gas. Pursue grant programs to fund. (DPW, City Attorney, Council)