



August 11, 2026

Mayor John Franklin

Vista City Council

PublicComments@vista.gov

Re: D3 – Support Expanding Vista's Foam Ban

Dear Mayor Franklin and City Councilmembers,

Please support expanding Vista's existing polystyrene foam ordinance to include retail sales of foam foodware and additional foam products, including foam coolers and other unnecessary single-use foam items.

Polystyrene foam is one of the most persistent forms of plastic pollution. Because it is lightweight and brittle, it easily breaks into small pieces that are carried by wind and stormwater into streets, creeks, lagoons, and the ocean. Once in the environment, foam is extremely difficult and costly to clean up, and it can remain there for decades. [Marine animals and seabirds ingest these plastics after mistaking them for food.](#) Because animals are unable to digest these particles, the plastics build up in their digestive systems, eventually starving and poisoning them.

Styrene, the chemical used to make polystyrene along with other plastic products, is considered a [potential human carcinogen](#). Styrene has also been linked to [vision and hearing loss, poor memory and concentration, and an impaired nervous system](#). When polystyrene is used for food packaging, [chemicals can leach into food and beverages](#).

There are safer alternatives and many companies and municipalities have made the switch away from polystyrene packaging. As of June 2024, [11 states and more than 250 U.S. cities and counties have banned or placed restrictions on polystyrene foam.](#)

Expanding the ordinance will not only provide consistency across businesses, it will help reduce litter, protect our environment, and encourage more sustainable alternatives throughout our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ali Martin

Legal Program Manager

San Diego Coastkeeper

