September 30, 2026

Mayor Lesa Heebner
Solana Beach City Council
635 S Hwy 101
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Via Email to clerkoffice@cityofsolanabeach.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment on Agenda Item K.6 on Single Use Plastics Ordinance Update

Dear Mayor Heebner and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of San Diego Coastkeeper (Coastkeeper), we urge the Solana Beach City Council to expand the ban on single-use plastics by adopting Ordinance 541, which would require compostable or reusable food serviceware. Coastkeeper is the San Diego region's leading clean water advocacy organization, member supported since 1995. Our mission is to protect and restore coastal and inland waters in San Diego County, using advocacy, community science, and education. Coastkeeper also actively seeks agency implementation of federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and, where necessary, directly initiates enforcement actions on behalf of themselves and their members.

By further reducing unnecessary single-use plastics, Solana Beach can help keep plastic pollution out of our watershed and, ultimately, the ocean, while also protecting public health. Plastic debris and litter are ubiquitous in the ocean[1], occurring on remote shorelines, in coastal waters, the seabed of the deep ocean and floating on the sea surface. This poses significant threats to wildlife as they mistake plastic for food. Approximately a quarter of individual fish sampled from markets in California and Indonesia contained plastic in their guts[2], which then moves up the food chain to human consumption.

[1] Gallo F, Fossi C, Weber R, Santillo D, Sousa J, Ingram I, Nadal A, Romano D. Marine litter plastics and microplastics and their toxic chemicals components: the need for urgent preventive measures. Environ Sci Eur. 2018;30(1):13. doi: 10.1186/s12302-018-0139-z. Epub 2018 Apr 18. PMID: 29721401; PMCID: PMC5918521.

[2] Kerlin, K. (2017, August 2). *Plastic for dinner: A quarter of fish sold at markets contain human-made debris*. UC Davis. https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/plastic-dinner-quarter-fish-sold-markets-contain-human-made-debris

We also urge you to adopt the resolution supporting statewide action to address microplastics, including "intentionally added microplastics in cosmetics, personal care products, and household goods, and to require microfiber filtration in new washing machines and support retrofit incentives for existing appliances." Microbeads used in personal care and cosmetic products are a direct source of marine litter, especially in locations with no or limited wastewater treatment in place. Once in the environment, microplastics can both release and absorb toxins, which can then be moved throughout the food chain[3].

While research on the health impacts of microplastics in humans are just beginning, studies show that microplastics make fish and birds more vulnerable to infections. Animal and cellular studies have linked microplastics to biological changes[4] including inflammation, an impaired immune system, deteriorated tissues, altered metabolic function, abnormal organ development, cell damage and more. Tackling microplastics at the source is the most effective way to address the ever growing marine plastic pollution problem.

Through these actions, the City will demonstrate leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability and continue serving as a model for other municipalities.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ali Martin
Legal Program Manager
San Diego Coastkeeper

[3] Temperton, J. (2016, August 25). *Toxic time bomb: Here's the science that explains why microbeads are a disaster*. Wired. https://www.wired.com/story/microbeads-international-ban-damage-marine-life-plastic/

[4] Savchuk, K. (2025, January 29). *Microplastics and our health: What the science says*. Stanford Medicine News Center. https://med.stanford.edu/news/insights/2025/01/microplastics-in-body-polluted-tiny-plastic-fragments.html