



ORANGE COUNTY  
**COASTKEEPER®**

February 6, 2012

Mayor Lara Anderson & City Council Members  
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Dear Mayor Anderson & City Council Members:

Orange County Coastkeeper (Coastkeeper) is an environmental non-profit organization with the mission to protect and preserve the region's marine habitats and watersheds through education, advocacy, restoration, research, and enforcement. As part of our work county wide work to reduce trash in our creeks an ocean we encourage the Dana Point City Council to adopt an ordinance to ban the use of single-use plastic bags, and polystyrene take-out food packaging.

The toll that plastic bags and polystyrene have on our environment along with the \$25 million dollars spent each year to clean up plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers makes this a priority issue that deserves immediate attention. With the state and other local agencies also developing regulations to ban these products the proposed city ordinance is a step in the right direction. There are many readily available, affordable alternatives to these products that generate less waste and have fewer environmental impacts. Of the 50 jurisdictions that have enacted bans on both plastic bags and polystyrene food containers, none have reported that any local businesses have closed or proved an economic hardship for them.

The California coast contributes billions of dollars in revenue for the state through tourism, recreation, and healthy marine life, and Dana Point depends on clean water and beaches to attract the tourists that are such an important part of the city's economy. Also, as a coastal city that also has a major local waterway Dana Point will see the maximum benefit of a ban through cleaner beaches and healthier wildlife populations. Banning the free distribution of plastic bags and polystyrene foam food containers is an appropriate and practical action that will protect our environment and improve the city's beaches. The proposed approach is similar to other jurisdictions around the region and state. Thus, Coastkeeper strongly urges you to support a ban of both banning plastic bags and polystyrene food containers.

Sincerely,

Ray Hiemstra  
Associate Director  
Orange County Coastkeeper  
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Agenda Item No. 11 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>12</sub>

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