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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY APPROVES BAN OF  
EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOOD WARE**

Last night, by a vote of 10-0 with one abstention, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County adopted the recommendations of the County's Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (RWRC) to move toward a regional ban of expanded polysterene (EPS) food ware, including such items as Styrofoam cups and "clam-shell" take-out food containers.

The South Bay mayors and the mayoral designees from each of Santa Clara County's cities and towns opted to immediately encourage the councils of its 15 member jurisdictions to adopt policies prohibiting EPS food containers in all city facilities and events, and to launch public education efforts about the hazards of EPS to the creeks, bay, and marine life. Cities will subsequently consider adopting ordinance banning EPS food and beverage containers at all businesses selling food within their jurisdictions.

San Jose Councilmember Sam Liccardo, the President of the Cities Association, observed that "by moving forward together on this issue, our region's cities can reduce the amount of polluting EPS in our creeks and bay, and demonstrate to Sacramento and Washington that they should again follow Silicon Valley's lead in promoting environmental sustainability."

Cities Association Executive Director Raania Mohsen observed that "it is a positive milestone that representatives of our cities recognize the need to work and collaborate as a region on the ban of environmental products to promote a common vision for cities to adopt and to avoid economic disadvantages that can result when cities are compared to neighboring cities who have not adopted the ban."

The Cities Association adopted a proposal formulated by the RWRC, a regional body also comprised of elected officials from throughout the County, chaired by Santa Clara County Councilmember Jaime McLeod. McLeod, who presented their proposal



before the board, observed that, “by using a regional approach and focusing on EPS food ware, we can target the type of polystyrene that is resulting in hidden costs to our cities and direct costs to our environment.”

Save the Bay, a non-profit organization that has advocated for Bay Area jurisdictions to join the 50 other California cities and counties that have already banned polystyrene food containers, presented in front of the Cities Association board, as did a representative from polystyrene manufacturer Dart Corporation. Allison Chan at Save the Bay told the Cities Association board about consistent reports from recycling companies statewide that no financially feasible way of recycling food-contaminated polystyrene exists, because purchasers of recycled polystyrene insist that they can only reuse “clean” material. As a result, the toxic material ends up in the landfill at best, and at worst, as a poisonous enticement to marine life in Bay Area waterways. More information about their Clean Bay campaign can be found at [www.savesfbay.org/clean-bay-project](http://www.savesfbay.org/clean-bay-project).

### **About the Cities Association of Santa Clara County**

The Cities Association of Santa Clara County is a regional organization founded in 1990, representing the mutual interests of the County’s fifteen cities and towns with a unified voice to government, industry, and the public, and promoting collaboration among the diverse communities to promote the quality of life for all of Santa Clara County’s residents. The Board of Directors of the Cities Association consists of the mayors of each of the 15 cities and towns, or of their designee councilmembers. Their monthly meetings are open to the public, and the next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at Sunnyvale City Hall. More information about their meetings, initiatives, and schedules can be found at <http://www.citiesassociation.org/>.