



**CITY OF PACIFICA
COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

9/10/2018

SUBJECT:

Evaluate Strategies, Including Potential New Ordinances, Related to Reducing Litter - Continuation of Discussion

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Continuation of discussion to consider and provide input about current laws and practices in Pacifica related to reducing litter and provide direction to the City Manager regarding next steps.

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BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

This item is a continued discussion from the City Council's August 13, 2018, study session regarding banning certain plastics and solutions to litter issues in Pacifica. The staff report from August 13, 2018, is provided as Attachment A, and provides the background, summary of current City Codes, summary of City departmental perspectives and activities, summary of other efforts, and actions in other communities regarding plastics and litter.

Draft minutes from the August 13, 2018, study session are provided as Attachment B. At that session City Council began discussions regarding banning certain single-use plastics. The discussion yielded possible direction to clarify and strengthen the City's current ban on disposable food service ware, such as straws.

The purpose of tonight's study session discussion has two objectives:

- The first objective of tonight's study session is for the Council to discuss other strategies to reduce litter in Pacifica the Council did not have the opportunity to discuss on August 13 due to time limitations, and to provide direction to the City Manager regarding next steps.
- The second objective of the session is that staff is seeking clarification from the City Council to specify what types of single-use plastic products should be considered for the ban, and products that may be used as substitutes, prior to expending resources to draft potential ordinance revisions before returning to the Council for further consideration. The Council was clear concerning plastic straws. However, for example, it was not clear whether plastic cups or cup-lids should be considered for the ban. While the Malibu ordinance was cited as an example, it only regulates plastic straws, stirrers, and cutlery. In addition, whether to ban plastic cups and lids, or utensils, may depend on substitutes that may be allowed and the "recyclability" or "compostability" of those substitutes. While plastic cups may be able to be recycled according to Recology of the Coast, there are varying types of "biodegradable" or "compostable" cups and utensils, some of which

can be composted by Recology of the Coast and others which cannot. Staff recently met with Recology of the Coast, and they have confirmed with their compost processing plant that products marked “compostable” can be included in the composting cart, but products marked “biodegradable” cannot. Furthermore, products marked “bioplastic” can be included in the recycling cart, but not the composting cart. If the Council is interested in considering a ban on plastic utensils and/or cups, a discussion about allowable substitutes and more staff research is warranted. For the Council’s reference, Attachment C is Recology of the Coast’s 2018 Pacifica Service Brochure.

RELATION TO CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND WORK PLAN:

Preserve and Enhance Natural Resources

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of banning certain single-use plastics and other litter reduction strategies is unknown at this time and will be reported to the Council once direction regarding next steps is provided and staff can conduct further research.

ORIGINATED BY:

City Manager's Office

ATTACHMENT LIST:

- Attachment A - August 13, 2018 Staff Report (PDF)
- Attachment B - August 13, 2018 Draft Minutes excerpt (PDF)
- Attachment C - Recology of the Coast 2018 Pacifica Service Brochure (PDF)