

Pat Eklund, Mayor
Councilmember Eric Lucan
Councilmember Denise Athas
Councilmember Madeline Kellner
Councilmember Jeanne MacLeamy
City of Novato
75 Rowland Way, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94945



April 17, 2013

Re: Proposed Ordinance Banning Disposable Polystyrene Food Packaging

Dear Mayor Eklund and Councilmembers:

The Marin Conservation League has been actively engaged in protecting and preserving Marin's natural assets for over 75 years. MCL has whole-heartedly supported the "Zero Waste Marin" efforts to reduce the volume of "trash" disposed of in landfills, and the volume of litter that fouls our waterways, roads and public spaces. Each year MCL sponsors coastal cleanup activities throughout the county and, specifically, we clean Scottsdale Marsh for Clean & Green Day. We are well aware of the enormous volume of litter that ends up in our waters and the need to address this problem.

Therefore, we support Novato's proposed ordinance to ban disposable polystyrene food packaging. We believe this is an important step toward reducing landfill waste and litter. We understand that similar ordinances in Marin, and throughout California, have worked well, without disruption of the affected businesses.

While we support this proposed ordinance, we feel it is important that similar laws be put into effect countywide so that there is one countywide approach to this important issue. We urge Novato to work with the county and with its sister cities in Marin to realize this goal. We will play our part in supporting the adoption of such ordinances throughout Marin.

MCL would also like to take this opportunity to urge the City of Novato to adopt an ordinance on the related topic of regulating single-use bags. Specifically, we ask the city to ban the use of such bags, and to impose a fee on single-use paper bags. Dozens of California cities and counties have now adopted single-use bag laws, many of these in the past year. The failure of Marin cities to act on this important issue has only undercut the County's efforts and is unfair to consumers and merchants.

Now that a study of impacts of regulating single-use bags and an environmental report are being prepared for Marin cities, every Marin city and town will be able to adopt such ordinances

PHONE: 415.485.6257
FAX: 415.485.6259

EMAIL: mcl@marinconservationleague.org
WEB: marinconservationleague.org

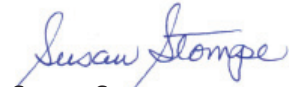
ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977



without fear of lawsuits. Many California cities and counties have adopted such ordinances over the past year, some of which are significantly larger than Novato, without being sued. Novato could help get legislation passed statewide by supporting an ordinance as soon as the Marin study is completed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Stompe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S'.

Susan Stompe

President

cc: Michael Frank, Novato City Manager
Bob Brown, Community Development Manager