

Memorandum

**TO: TRANSPORTATION &
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**FROM: Councilmember Donald
Rocha**

**SUBJECT: Trash Load Reduction Plan and
Stakeholder Process for Prohibition
of Expanded Polystyrene Food Ware**

DATE: December 5, 2011

Approved

Don Rocha

Date

12/5/11

RECOMMENDATION

1. Defer action on specific recommendations to the full City Council and direct staff to provide the following information, as well as a professional recommendation in a supplemental memo in advance of Council action in January:
 - a. Recommendation of an alternative
 - b. Additional analysis of the three most effective alternatives, considering cost, implementation, impact to businesses and consumers, and capacity to reduce litter
 - c. Additional information on the projected feasibility and effectiveness on recycling expanded polystyrene food ware in San Jose, providing case study information when appropriate
 - d. Total budget allocation available for Trash Load Reduction efforts and the source(s) of funding
 - e. Information on potential shifting of costs, savings, or additional expenditures from current actions or programs if the recommended alternatives are selected
 - f. Past conversations with both the container industry and the California Restaurant Association regarding partnership and joint-effort opportunities, as well as additional opportunities for partnership with both groups moving forward

ANALYSIS

There is no question in my mind that we need to focus efforts on making San Jose a cleaner and more environmentally focused city, or that we need to do our part to ensure that the San Francisco Bay and our surrounding communities have shorelines clear of debris and litter. At this time, when a number of other large issues are coming before the Council for consideration, I believe that an issue of such importance should be allowed more time for deliberation and discussion.

I appreciate staff's desire to receive input and direction from this Committee prior to advancing the issue to the full City Council. However, even with the information provided, I don't feel that I am in a position to provide input on a sound and solid direction to staff or the Council. Instead, I would rather have our talented professional staff bring a full recommendation along with an additional analysis to the City Council, without formal direction from this Committee.