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MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Home of the Last Chance Mercantile

April 9, 2008

WILLIAM MERRY, P.E., DEE
GENERAL MANAGER/
DISTRICT ENGINEERTIMOTHY S. FLANAGAN
ASST. GENERAL MANAGERRICHARD SHEDDEN, P.E.
SENIOR ENGINEERRICHARD NORTON
ADMIN. SERVICES MGR.ROBERT WELLINGTON
COUNSEL

Name: See Attached

RE: Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Model Ordinance

Dear :

On March 21st, the MRWMD Board of Directors unanimously approved the attached model ordinance aimed at eliminating the use of polystyrene "Styrofoam" fast food take-out packaging. The intent of this policy is to reduce the volume of polystyrene litter presently found on area roadways, fields, waterways, and beaches. This policy was developed at the request of the District's Litter Abatement Task Force (LATF).

To provide a little history on the process, a subcommittee of our LATF conducted several meetings to review policies from other jurisdictions around the state, and to craft a policy unique to our area. The subcommittee included participation from the California Restaurant Association representing the restaurant industry and Sustainable Pacific Grove representing the local environmental community. The subcommittee also met with representatives from the California Grocers Association, the American Chemistry Council and their local representatives.

While packaging bans are narrowly focused and local in scope, according to the California Integrated Waste Management Board they have limited ability to address the "global applications and ramifications of plastics." The Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Ordinance is a policy intended to help create a local solution to polystyrene plastic pollution while taking a leadership role in the stewardship of the Monterey Bay region.

An electronic copy of this model ordinance will be transmitted to you separately. The District LATF believes that in order to have an impact on polystyrene litter we need cities throughout Monterey County to adopt this policy. District staff is ready to assist you in the event you would like to bring the model ordinance before your Council or if you would like additional information on this issue. Thank you for your consideration of this policy.

Sincerely,

William Merry

Cc: MRWMD Board Members

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