

## CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

**POSITION:** The Chamber's Energy & Water Committee voted to SUPPORT this item on May 4, 2017.

**STATUS:** The City of San Diego Committee on the Environment will hear this item again on May 25, 2017.

### AT-A-GLANCE

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department has proposed a contract amendment with recycling vendors to accept expanded polystyrene (EPS) starting July 1, 2017.

### SUMMARY

In October 2016, the City of San Diego's (City) Environment Committee directed Environmental Services Department staff to study the recycling of expanded polystyrene (EPS). Staff then recommended that EPS food containers be added to the City's curbside recycling program, which will help achieve the City's Zero Waste Plan goals. If approved by the City Council, an educational outreach campaign will be conducted by City staff to raise awareness around this issue and let residents and businesses know that EPS food containers can be included in curbside recycling.

### ANALYSIS

The Chamber is supportive of efforts to minimize costs to businesses, and remains supportive of the City's Zero Waste Plan within the Climate Action Plan. In 2016, the Chamber opposed the EPS ban in the City of Encinitas. As such, the proposed contract amendment is a sensible alternative to an outright EPS ban. The total cost of including EPS in curbside recycling is around \$100,000 per year.

### SUPPORT

- California Restaurant Association – San Diego Chapter
- Dart Container Corporation

### OPPOSITION

None known