



City of San Diego

Reducing the use of Expanded Polystyrene and Bottled Water Products

**Natural Resources & Culture
Committee**

May 18, 2011





Background

- **December 1, 2010**
 - City Attorney responded to council request regarding the legal issues of regulating Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) a.k.a. Styrofoam™ and bottled water products at City facilities and permitted special events
- **February 2, 2011**
 - Update from Mayor's Office regarding City usage of EPS and bottled water at City facilities and permitted City events
 - Chair Alvarez requested report from Mayor's Office regarding reduction of EPS and bottled water at various City facilities and permitted City events



Bottled Water

- **Clean and safe drinking water is available at most facilities**
- **Currently the City is paying to have water delivered**
 - To facilities without potable water
 - To facilities with potable water



In the nearly 100-year history of the City of San Diego delivering water to its citizens, we have never sold a drop of water deemed unsafe by any local, state or federal agency. That's a record we're proud of, and one we're determined to continue – Public Utilities Department: Water website



City Bottled Water Purchases

- **Current Contract with Arrowhead**
 - Two year agreement through September 19, 2012
 - Contract value \$85,000 over two years
 - Includes five gallon dispensers and single use water bottles
 - FY11 \$57,084 budgeted City-wide
 - Minimal purchases of single use water bottles under agreement
 - Many facilities using five gallon bottle dispensers
 - No penalty for reduction in service
- **P-card & petty cash purchases not tracked by product type**



Expanded Polystyrene

- **Not recyclable when soiled with food/dirt**
- **Difficult to recycle when clean**
 - Dedicated bins, transportation costly, low value
- **Difficult to handle when disposed at landfill**
- **Environmental contaminant**
 - Easily migrates to waterways & storm drains
 - San Diego County beaches (SD Coastkeeper data) :
 - 2007 - 10,000 pieces
 - 2010 - 25,000 pieces
 - Inland areas in City of San Diego (ILACSD data) :
 - 3,000+ pieces in one collection on three creeks/rivers
 - 470 pieces at 11 canyons & open space sites in 2010



City of San Diego

EPS & Plastic Litter – Storm Water Department 2010 Monitoring

**City Heights (49th St & University Ave) – urban
residential, commercial / retail**





EPS – City Operations

- **Food Ware**
 - No single contract for food service ware
 - One cup order in FY11 on office supply contract
 - Working with vendors for Citywide supply contracts to block EPS food ware
 - P-card & petty cash purchases not itemized by product type
- **Packaging Material**
 - Working with vendors to reduce EPS packing material and/or take back
 - Working to implement EPS recycling at select City facilities where practicable



Recommendations

- **City Purchases – Effective Jan. 1, 2012**
 - Revise **AR 35.80** (Environmentally Preferable Purchasing) and **Procurement Card Policies and Procedures** handbook to prohibit EPS food ware and non-approved bottled water purchases
 - Allow exemptions for facilities with no potable water
 - Allow employees to use personal funds for water bottle purchases
 - Develop standard bid language for vendors to reduce EPS in packing materials





Recommendations (cont.)

- **City Permitted Events – Effective Jan. 1, 2012**
 - Revise City permitted event applications to prohibit the use of EPS food service ware
 - Large Special Events ~ 500 permits/year
 - Parks and Recreation ~ 25,000 permits/year
 - Water reservoirs and lakes ~ 200 permits/year
 - Outreach & Education
 - Create recycling / EPS video
 - Special Events
 - City TV
 - ESD website



Fiscal Considerations

- **City Departments**
 - Bottled Water - Anticipate 30-35% savings based on discussions with largest departmental users
 - Many facilities that use dispensers do have access to potable water
 - EPS – Negligible since minimal EPS is purchased
- **City-permitted events**
 - Costs for alternative items vary
 - Depends on type of item, material, and quantity
 - Many options for similarly priced items