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Half Moon Bay Approves City-Wide Ban on Polystyrene Take-Out Containers

(May 18, 2011) Santa Cruz, CA – [Save Our Shores](#) (SOS), the leader in ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action on the Central Coast, commends the unanimous decision by the Half Moon Bay City Council to approve a ban on polystyrene take-out containers from food vendors. Polystyrene, also known as Styrofoam, is a harmful, petroleum-based plastic material that is not biodegradable, is ingested by marine species, and is constantly found polluting the waterways surrounding the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Save Our Shores applauds this decision as another local victory in the fight against plastic pollution. Save Our Shores continues to advocate for bans on polystyrene take-out containers and single-use plastic bags in each jurisdiction and county around the Sanctuary.

"Save Our Shores is thrilled with the leadership the Half Moon Bay City Council has taken with passing this ordinance," says Laura Kasa, Executive Director of Save Our Shores. "By eliminating use of harmful products such as polystyrene food containers, we will surely improve the health of our marine environment."

The Half Moon Bay ordinance will take effect on August 1, 2011, and requires all take-out food containers be made of compostable and/or biodegradable, recyclable, or reusable materials. It is the same ordinance adopted by the County of San Mateo to take effect on July 1, 2011, after the County agreed to enforce the ban during restaurant inspections if cities within San Mateo County were to adopt the very same ordinance.

The City of Half Moon Bay now joins the ranks of other cities and counties around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary who have passed polystyrene bans including South San Francisco, San Bruno, Pacifica, Millbrae, Burlingame, Santa Cruz, Capitola, Watsonville, Monterey, Carmel, Pacific Grove, and others.

Alternatives to polystyrene take-out containers are readily available to restaurant owners, and no requests for exemptions have been reported in Santa Cruz thus far. Restaurant owners have found the transition easy, well received by their customers, and often times more cost effective.

Just like single-use plastic bags, banning polystyrene take-out containers helps create an economic support system for a flourishing coastal economy while providing protections for our fisheries, marine animals, and environment from the ever growing problem of plastic pollution in our ocean. Contact savourshores.org for more information.

About Save Our Shores:

Save Our Shores is the Central Coast leader in caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action. Our core initiatives are Plastic Pollution, Clean Boating, and Ocean Awareness. Over the last 30 years, Save Our Shores helped to establish the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, prevent offshore oil drilling and cruise ship pollution, and today focuses on educating youth about our local watersheds, tackling pollution on our beaches and rivers, implementing our renowned DockWalker program, and providing our community with educated and inspired Sanctuary Stewards. For more information visit: www.saveourshores.org.

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Caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action.