SURFRIDER FOUNDATION
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

As a concerned (Oceanside, North County, or San Diego County) resident, I urge the Oceanside City Council to move forward with a single-use plastic reduction ordinance that will reduce litter and will help keep our parks, neighborhoods, and beaches clean.

Unfortunately, disposable plastics are consistently among the top items found during beach cleanups. Data in the 2022 Marine Debris Report compiled through a partnership between Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter and San Diego Coastkeeper highlights that polystyrene foam (Styrofoam™) is a pervasive pollutant. Over 25,000 foam fragments have been collected so far during beach cleanups this year alone.

In addition, San Diego County beach cleanup volunteers collected almost 3,000 plastic bags in 2022. The California bag law has helped reduce plastic carryout bag pollution, but data shows that single-use plastic bags continue to be a problem on our beaches and streets, and they also contaminate recycling systems, regularly causing unnecessary sorting equipment shutdowns.

Please take meaningful action against harmful single-use plastic waste by enacting an ordinance that will, at minimum, phase out restaurant foodware made from non-recyclable polystyrene foam (Styrofoam™) and will also phase out retail sales of polystyrene products such as foam cups and plates. An expansion of the California bag law to retail and restaurants will further reduce the unnecessary pollution caused by single-use plastic bags, which are not effectively recycled.

I urge you to vote in favor of the Marine Debris Reduction Ordinance.