



December 6, 2019

Mr. Richard Nakano, Foreperson
Contra Costa County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553

Subject: City of Orinda Update to Grand Jury Report No. 1907, "Stormwater Trash Reduction"

Dear Mr. Nakano,

As noted in our letter to you dated September 3, 2019, the City of Orinda needed to further analyze Recommendation R1 of the subject Report. We have completed that analysis and discussed this matter at the December 3, 2019 City Council meeting.

In terms of regulations for limiting use of Styrofoam, the Council believes it would be more effective to target the source by limiting manufacture and distribution of the products on a federal or state level. No manufacturing or distribution facilities for these products exist in Orinda. We will ask our State representatives to pursue such legislation. Furthermore, we will work with local businesses to request that they find alternative products to replace Styrofoam in those cases where it is used.

While we agree that Styrofoam is a product that can be very damaging to the environment, it has not been found to be a significant contributor to trash generation in the Orinda storm drain system. The City Council decided that pursuing an ordinance to limit use of Styrofoam was not warranted when considering the potential benefits compared to the costs. Orinda has met the most recent trash reduction goal of 80%, mandated by Water Board regulations, achieving an 86.9% reduction as of June 30, 2019. This reduction is calculated annually based on visual observations conducted three times per year by Staff. During these observations, Styrofoam has not been a significant component of the trash generated in this community. Therefore, we believe that limiting use through a local

ordinance would not measurably improve the trash reduction. The costs related to implementing an ordinance, including detailed studies, public outreach, administration and enforcement, would greatly impact the limited resources of our small city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene K. Gee".

Darlene Gee
Mayor

cc: ctadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov