

## **Polystyrene Ban Quietly Delayed by County**

*By Janine Kennel Rands, Executive Committee*

On Earth Day 2020, we should have been celebrating the end of Styrofoam and Polystyrene – the most ubiquitous form of disposable plastics -- in San Luis Obispo County. Instead, we learned that our County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) voted on March 23 to postpone until April 2021 the effective date of the County's vote to halt the use of Polystyrene.

On October 9, 2019, the [SLO](#) County IWMA Board (13 members) voted to approve the County's Polystyrene Ordinance, to take effect on April 9, 2020. Unbeknownst to stakeholders and SLO Foam Free supporters who worked for six years on this county-wide, the IWMA Board voted 11-2 to postpone implementation for a year.

The reason I was given "that the Board is more concerned about the financial hurt to business to change to better products" -- means that the cities of Paso Robles, Atascadero and the 17 unincorporated towns will be dumping hundreds of cubic feet of Polystyrene and foam plastic into landfills. Plastic is the death to the next generations of our planet.

We concerned residents of SLO County need to tell our elected officials that their vote is not acceptable. Their vote does not consider the cost to the environment over the right thing to do - stop poisoning our health, wildlife and earth with this obnoxious foam.

WHAT CAN WE DO? Stop giving your buying dollars to businesses who continue to use Polystyrene disposables and foam containers for takeout. Purchase meat in stores that wrap in paper. Tell the owners and managers why they lost your business. [#COSTCO](#) and [#Kroger](#) are among the richest corporations in America, and they should have changed to recycable meat trays.

Everyone who supported "SLO Foam Free" efforts and joined together to present the cases to stop Polystyrene: Let's organize. We do not have to allow our County Board to vote without our vote. We do not have to wait another year. Speak up when the IWMA Board has public meetings. We will demand that this vote will be changed to begin September 2020 (six months from the date of their decision).

I am deeply disappointed in the IWMA Board.