



CITY OF
CARPINTERIA

OFFICIAL NOTICE

City of Carpinteria's Single-Use Plastics Ordinance Effective February 22, 2024

January 5, 2026

Dear Local Business Owner,

The City of Carpinteria is reaching out to remind you of important **requirements under Carpinteria Municipal Code Chapters 8.50 (Regulating Polystyrene Products and Single-Use Plastics) and 8.51 (Single-Use Bag Regulations), effective February 22, 2024**. These regulations are designed to reduce harmful plastics, protect local waterways and wildlife, and support a cleaner, healthier community. Your compliance is essential to these efforts.

A detailed summary of the ordinance requirements that may apply to your business is attached. Please review the summary carefully to ensure your business remains in compliance.

While **enforcement authority became effective in July 2024**, the City focused on education, conducting multiple business visits and offering extended time for businesses to meet the requirements. However, the ordinance has remained fully in effect, and businesses are required to comply to avoid notices of violation and administrative citations, which **may carry fines for violations of up to \$500 per day** under Municipal Code Chapter 1.08.

This letter serves as an **official notice** pursuant to Municipal Code Chapters 8.50 and 8.51.

Beginning **February 2026, the City will conduct on-site inspections**. Businesses that remain out of compliance at re-inspection (approximately 90 days from this notice) may receive administrative citations and fines in accordance with the Municipal Code. To support businesses, the City will offer **one-on-one assistance appointments** through February. Owners and managers may schedule a phone or in-person appointment by calling (805) 880-3415 or booking online at cityofcarp.co/plasticappt.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to protecting our community.

Sincerely,
City of Carpinteria

5775 CARPINTERIA AVE. CARPINTERIA, CA 93013
SUSTAINABILITY@CARPINTERIACA.GOV
(805) 880-3415 | (805) 755-4431



Community Outreach Timeline

Date	Description
January 5, 2026	Official Notice mailed to all businesses
January 15, 2026	Press Release to general public informing of official compliance notice
February 2026	On-site inspections to determine business compliance and issue Notice of Violations
February 2026	(Optional) One-on-one assistance appointments with Environmental Program Specialist (30 mins) in person or over phone
Spring 2026	Re-inspect all non-compliant businesses and issue Administrative Citations (i.e. fines)
Summer 2026	Evaluate and recognize compliant businesses

Understanding Standard Enforcement Protocols

Carpinteria Municipal Code (CMC): The official compilation of all ordinances adopted by the City of Carpinteria. The CMC establishes the City's laws, regulations, and standards on a wide range of topics, including public health, safety, environmental protection, zoning, and business operations. All residents, businesses, and property owners within the City are required to comply with the provisions of the CMC.

Notice of Violation (NOV): A written notice issued to any business observed to be in violation of the Carpinteria Municipal Code, identifying the specific code sections violated and directing the recipient to correct the violation by a specified due date. An NOV is an advisory and **does not impose a fine**.

Administrative Citation: A civil citation issued by an enforcement officer to any business responsible for a violation of the Municipal Code (i.e. non-criminal infraction), pursuant to CMC §1.06.030. An administrative citation serves as the **City's mechanism for imposing fines** for ordinance violations. Each citation includes:

- Identification of the violation, date, and location;
- The fine amount associated with the violation;
- Prohibition against continued or repeated violations;
- Instructions for payment or contesting the citation.

Use of administrative citations is **at the sole discretion of the City** and may be issued when a violation remains uncorrected after notice or for repeated violations.



FINE SCHEDULE

Fine	Infraction Description
\$100	First violation
\$200	Second violation of the same section within one year
\$500	For <u>each additional</u> violation of the same section within one year*

* Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense (CMC §1.08.040).

Beginning **February 2026**, the City will conduct on-site inspections to verify compliance. Enforcement will follow the City’s standard sequence:

1. Inspection of violations and issuance of a **Notice of Violation (NOV)**, without fines for first offenses.
2. Re-inspection after 60 days to confirm correction.
3. **Administrative Citations** with fines according to the City schedule, for unresolved violations or subsequent non-compliance. Repeated or continued violations may result in compounding daily fines.
4. If necessary, the City may seek **legal, injunctive, or equitable relief** to ensure compliance.

All remedies are cumulative and may be applied in addition to other enforcement actions permitted by law.

For example, a business is found in violation and does not immediately correct compliance...

Fine Issued	Citation & Date
\$0	Inspection & NOV (February 15)
\$100	Citation #1 (April 15)
\$200	Citation #2 (May 15)
\$500	Citation #3 (May 18)
\$500	Citation #4 (May 20)
\$500	Citation #5 (May 21)
\$500	Citation #6 (May 22)
\$2,300	TOTAL