



# ***Disposable Food Service Ware Policy***

CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

# BACKGROUND

- Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Ban Ordinance and Reusable Bag Ordinance
- Disposables impact waterways, wildlife and human health
- Council priorities: County Disposable Food Service Ware and 100% trash reduction to meet MRP requirements

# POLICY ANALYSIS

## Regulates All Disposables

- Alameda
- Berkeley
- Carmel
- Davis
- Oakland
- Richmond
- San Anselmo
- San Francisco
- *San Mateo County*
- Santa Cruz
- Santa Cruz County
- Santa Monica
- Union City

## Regulates Small Accessories

- Los Angeles (City)
- Los Angeles County
- Malibu
- Manhattan Beach
- Pacifica
- Palo Alto
- SFO
- Santa Barbara
- Watsonville

# POLICY ANALYSIS

Plastic



Compostable  
Plastic



Non-plastic  
Compostable



# POLICY OPTIONS

County of San  
Mateo: Model  
Ordinance

Small  
Accessories  
Regulations

"Upon  
Request"  
Regulations

# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO: DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE

- Requires disposable food service ware be non-plastic and compostable
- Requires small accessories to be distributed only “upon request”
- South San Francisco, Burlingame, Atherton, and Half Moon Bay adopted the County’s Ordinance







# SMALL ACCESSORIES REGULATIONS

- Requires small accessories (e.g., straws, stirrers, utensils) be compostable
- Example cities: Pacifica, Palo Alto, Malibu and Santa Barbara

# "UPON REQUEST" REGULATIONS

- As of January 1, 2019, AB 1884 requires that all restaurants in California only provide plastic single-use straws only upon request
- Requires small accessories to be distributed only upon request
- Example cities: Palo Alto, Malibu and Santa Barbara

## Straws, Utensils and Stirrers Available Upon Request

*Popotes, Utensilios y Agitadores Disponibles Bajo Pedido*  
吸管、餐具、和攪拌棒僅應要求提供



To protect our local watersheds and oceans, Palo Alto's new **Disposable Foodware Ordinance** requires these items to be compostable and available only upon request.

*Para proteger nuestras cuencas hidrográficas locales y el océano, la nueva Ordenanza de Alimentos Desechables de Palo Alto requiere que estos artículos sean compostables y estén disponibles solo a pedido.*

帕羅奧圖為了保護分水嶺和海洋立下了一次性丟棄餐具條例，餐具必須是可堆肥的，並且要在顧客要求之下才能提供。

For more information:  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware)  
[zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org)  
(650) 496-5910

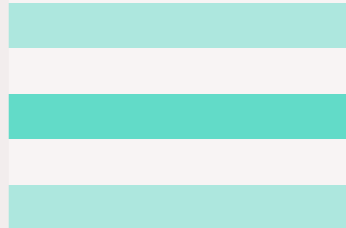


zero  
WASTE  
PALO ALTO  
Achieving zero waste together

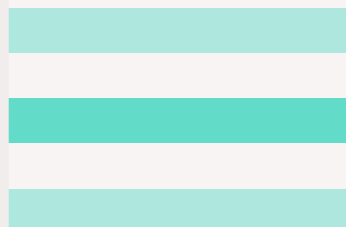




# FOOD FACILITIES FEEDBACK

- Regulations could impact 428 businesses
  - Businesses use a variety of disposables
  - Most restaurants report using some compostable product
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## Top Challenges with Regulations

1. Cost
  2. Quality/Durability
  3. Availability from vendors
- 



# POLICY DISCUSSION

COVID-19 and financial impact to businesses

Environmental impact

Food facilities feedback

# SIC RECOMMENDATION

## County of San Mateo: Model Ordinance

The SIC recommended adoption of the County's Ordinance because

- 1) Addresses all types of disposables
- 2) Leverages the County's support services
- 3) Promotes consistency across the region





# San Mateo Businesses

## #QuittheCutlery

Pledge to reduce waste and keep  
San Mateo clean

Plastic disposables often result in litter in our streets and pollute our waterways impacting marine wildlife and human health.

Pledge to **#QuittheCutlery** to help keep San Mateo clean and reduce the use of single-use cutlery, straws, and condiments.

### As a business I pledge to:

Provide cutlery, straws, napkins, and condiments only upon request by the customer.

### Restaurant Name\*

### Restaurant Website

Please provide your website if you want to be linked on the City's webpage.

**As a business, we agree by checking this box to only provide cutlery, straws, napkins and condiments upon request by the customer.\***

☐ **We pledge to #QuittheCutlery.**

# RECOMMENDATION

Review policy options to address disposable food service ware and provide feedback and direction.



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