

**From:** Peter Cooperstein <>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 9:48:52 AM

**To:** Andrea Chow <[achow@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:achow@cityofsanmateo.org)>

**Subject:** Re: San Mateo City Council Discussion of Disposables - Nov 16

Hi Andrea,

This is why this requirement would be challenging for us and for other restaurants:

1. We have never found any compostable containers that hold the liquids well, which don't leak, and that seal well.
2. Cost: compostable containers are more expensive than plastics.
3. Typically compostable containers are more difficult for our staff to close and to seal properly.
4. Because compostable containers allow the transfer heat much faster than plastic:
  - our employees tend to BURN their hands handling them while the food is still very hot; and
  - customers receive COLDER food because the heat has escaped by the time they receive the food.

I hope that this feedback helps!

Peter Cooperstein

President

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

69 E. Third Ave.

San Mateo, CA 94401

**From:** Cynthia Eagleton < >  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Compostable To Go Containers

Dear San Mateo City Council Members

Before I mention anything else I want to thank you for the stellar job you have done during this difficult time. I deeply appreciate it. I am the social media and communications person for the San Mateo Adult School. I rely on the Friday City of San Mateo weekly newsletter as well as social media updates from all of you in order to keep my community informed, prepared, and resilient.

I am writing now about the issue of compostables. In addition to my other duties at school, I'm the Adviser for our school Green Team.

As we know, while we're pulling together to crush the curve and beat COVID, we're losing very important ground on climate change. Today - King Tides Day! - is a good opportunity for us to think what that means.

[As Kevin Mullin posted on FB recently](#) - in coping with COVID, we're putting important climate change work on hold.

Requiring compostables is a small but important step that we can do that will make a real impact - and in two distinct and important ways.

One - the obvious one - less plastic. We know over-use of single use plastic is a big contributor to climate change.

Two - while not the same as ending heavy use of fossil fuels for something as big as transportation - changes like these influence the thinking of consumers - and that in turn supports and leads to the really big changes that are much harder to enact.

Please keep us posted on what happens on this issue for San Mateo.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Eagleton

From: Kristie Eglsaer < >

Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:44 AM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Public Comment on Item #17 Disposable Food Service Ware for Monday, 11/16 7pm City Council Meeting

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to provide public comments for the upcoming City Council meeting on November 16 at 7pm. I may not be able to participate live due to childcare issues.

Regarding Item #17 Disposable Food Service Ware – Policy Options, I like the idea of making everything compostable or reusable, but I understand that during COVID, disposable may have to be the way to go. I'm not sure that businesses are ready yet for a mandate. I think either an incentive program or grant program to help them make the conversion would be a good first step.

One organization that might be able to help reach out to restaurants to help them make this switch to compostable disposable containers is Environmental Innovations Inc. They are looking to have a bilingual sustainability staff person who will specialize in virtual outreach for a food ware waste reduction program in San Mateo County among other programs. The City of San Mateo could be one of those programs.

<https://2020.environmentalin.com>

Thank you!

Sincerely, Kristie Eglsaer

**From:** Ricki McGlashan < >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 5:56 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Disposable Food Service Ware--public comment

We are so pleased to see this issue being addressed by our city council. With take-out food being the major outlet for restaurants, with the public's strong desire to support local restaurants, and the huge negative impact of plastic on our environment, this issue is very important.

We would without doubt get take out more often if we could identify restaurants who only use compostable fiber-based containers. Last week, I wrote a letter to Thai Charm in San Mateo noting that we would love to patronize their restaurant more but that the plastic was simply too much to accept. The packaging for our dinner for two included NINE separate plastic items, including lids and bags. By comparison, we got lunch for two at another place, Judahlishious, and there was NO plastic. We were offered a plastic bag for a 25 cent surcharge which of course we declined.

While it might be challenging for restaurants to switch to fiber-based compostables, it is a needed requirement. Some restaurants have been successful in making the switch. If it costs a bit more per order, the public would likely be happy to pay if it meant that plastic would be kept out of our waste stream.

Actual recycling of plastic in our county (and really anywhere) is increasingly a myth. Consumers think that recycling their containers solves the problem. But it is clear that virtually none is actually being recycled.

"Compostable plastic" might be the worst culprit because consumers feel it must be better. But of course it's not really compostable. It merely breaks down into tiny individual pieces of plastic that are actually harder to manage and so often end up in waterways.

***San Mateo County's Proposed ordinance of Summer 2019 looks good except for the continued allowance of "compostable" plastic.***

We have to put a value on a clean environment. People have to be willing to pay for a sustainable future, and this is a small price to pay. I think wording might be offered to restaurants who need to pass along any higher costs they incur so they can add it to their bills so the public understands.

Ricki and Doug McGlashan  
SM

**From:** Emily Sliman < >  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 7:14 AM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** New Business #21

Hello,

In San Mateo, I would like to see all restaurants first asking if napkins and cutlery are required with an order since most people are taking their food home. Then if items are required, I would like them to be compostable (along with all of the take out containers being used).

Thank you,

Emily Sliman  
San Mateo, CA 94401

**From:** M Svid <>

**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 8:29 AM

**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>

**Subject:** disposable food containers

As a resident of the city, I want to voice my full support for an ordinance banning single-use plastics and disposables, which I am told will be discussed at tonight's meeting, I encourage you to please support this and move to compostable containers.

Thank you  
Mariano Svidler