Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance

October 11, 2021
Background

- The problems with single-use plastics
- Limiting plastic food ware distribution is included in CMAP and 2021 Strategic Plan
- San Mateo County Model Ordinance
- August 23 City Council Meeting Study Session
Applies to Food Service Providers and any entity that provides prepared food for public consumption, including:

- Restaurants
- Grocery stores
- Cafes
- Farmers’ markets
- Private schools
- Healthcare facilities
Ordinance Provisions

Requires certain food ware be non-plastic, fiber based compostable:
• Plates, bowls, cups, clamshells, trays, containers
• Straws, stirrers, utensils, and toothpicks
• Compostable plastics not allowed

Food ware accessories only available:
• Upon request
• Upon acceptance from customer
• Self service area

Governor recently signed AB 1276
Ordinance Exceptions

01 Prepackaged food ware
02 Customer with medical needs
   May request plastic straws
03 Healthcare facilities
   May distribute plastic straws
04 Drive-through areas
   May distribute straws and cup sleeves without request
05 Aluminum foil food ware
06 Hardship exemption on case by case basis
Outreach to Food Providers

Sent survey to all 154 food providers and received 27 responses

Common concerns:

• Cost of compostable food ware
• Availability of compostable food ware
• Durability of compostable food ware
• Questions related to specific food ware items
• Public health concerns related to reusable food ware
• Preference for incentives to encourage a willing transition
• Majority of existing inventory would last between 6 months to 1 year
County Support

Education and Outreach
- Mailers
- Workshops
- Resource Guide
- List of allowable products
- Print, digital, and radio ads

Technical and financial support

Enforcement
- Complaint based with emphasis on education and support
Staff recommends March 25, 2022 effective date

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<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Ordinance Effective Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Half Moon Bay</td>
<td>July, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>County of San Mateo</td>
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<td>South San Francisco</td>
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<td>Burlingame</td>
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<td>Atherton</td>
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<td>Belmont</td>
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<td>Millbrae</td>
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<td><strong>San Carlos (proposed)</strong></td>
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<td>City of San Mateo</td>
<td>October, 2022</td>
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Next Steps

Pending Ordinance introduction, staff can return at the next Council Meeting for Ordinance adoption and approval of the MOU with the County.

Coordinate with County on education and outreach to food providers.

To make a public comment on this agenda item, use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom.
Thank You

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- Clicking on “Raise Hand” at the bottom of your screen; or

- If joining by phone, pressing *9; and then *6 to unmute when called upon.