Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance

August 23, 2021
Background

The problems with single-use plastics

- Create street litter
- Pollute creeks and San Francisco Bay
- Negative health impacts
- Challenging to recycle

City plans that call for limiting plastics distribution

- 2021 Strategic Plan
- Draft Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan
County of San Mateo
Model Ordinance

Adopted in February 2020 to:
• Eliminate the unnecessary distribution and use of disposable food service ware that is not reusable or compostable
• Improve the health and safety of community members
• Help keep waterways and beaches clean
Ordinance Provisions

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 food ware be non-plastic, fiber based compostable:

- Plates
- Bowls
- Cups
- Food trays
- Clamshells
- Other containers

Compostable plastics are not allowed
Ordinance Provisions

Food ware accessories:
- Only available upon request, upon acceptance from customer, or at self service area
- Straws, stirrers, utensils, cocktail picks/toothpicks must be non-plastic fiber based compostable
## Ordinance Exceptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Prepackaged food ware</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Customer with medical needs: May request plastic straws</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Healthcare facilities: May distribute plastic straws</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Drive-through areas: May distribute straws and cup sleeves without request</td>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Aluminum foil food ware</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Hardship exemption on case by case basis</td>
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</tbody>
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County Support

Education and Outreach
  • Mailers
  • Workshops
  • Resource Guide
  • List of allowable products

Technical and financial support

Enforcement
  • Complaint based with emphasis on education and support
## Other San Mateo County Jurisdictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Ordinance Effective Date</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>South San Francisco</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlingame</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atherton</td>
<td>March, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belmont</td>
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<td>Millbrae</td>
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<td>Brisbane</td>
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<td>Colma</td>
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<td>City of San Mateo</td>
<td>October, 2022</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

Pending Council’s direction, staff can return to Council to introduce the ordinance at a later date.

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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.