



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



County of San Mateo's Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance

September 12, 2019

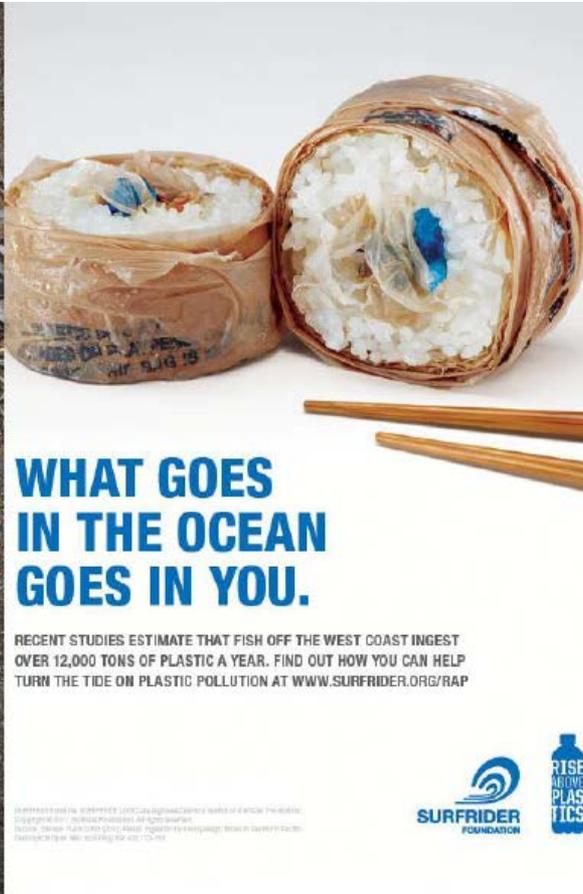
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County of San Mateo's Office of Sustainability



Impact of our Throw-away Culture

- 1.3 million pounds of trash enters SF Bay every year
- **Single-use food & beverage packaging** makes up 80% of ocean plastic pollution that comes from land

Plastic is Ending Up Everywhere



**WHAT GOES
IN THE OCEAN
GOES IN YOU.**

RECENT STUDIES ESTIMATE THAT FISH OFF THE WEST COAST INGEST
OVER 12,000 TONS OF PLASTIC A YEAR. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP
TURN THE TIDE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AT WWW.SURFRIDER.ORG/RAP



Plastics are in:

- Our streets, storm drains, waterways and oceans
- Marine and wildlife
- Our food
- Our air
- Us



China's Plastic Recyclables Restrictions



- Current fate of many plastics?
- India, Vietnam, and Indonesia following suit
- CA's goal: 75% of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, or composted by 2020 – *Still achievable?*

Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Objectives

- WHAT is this about?
 1. Eliminate **disposable food service ware** that is not reusable or compostable
 2. Help County meet its Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) requirement
 - July 2022 – no adverse impact from stormwater on local water bodies
 3. Improve the health & safety of San Mateo County community members



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

- WHO will this impact?
 - Food facilities:
 - Any entity that provides **prepared** food for public consumption (health permit required)
 - Examples: Restaurants, mobile food trucks, temporary food facilities (e.g., street fairs), farmers markets, catering operations, some healthcare facilities, private schools, etc.



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

- WHERE will this impact?
 - Unincorporated areas of San Mateo County (*green*)
 - Food facilities in cities located in the county (*yellow*) will **not** be impacted
- Countywide effort with interested cities



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

- HOW will this impact food facilities?
 1. Polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) food service ware still prohibited (existing ordinance)



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

2. Accessories (e.g., straws, stirrers, cup spill plugs, condiment packets, utensils, napkins, etc.) provided to consumers only upon request or at self-serve stations/dispensers.



STRAW UPON REQUEST ONLY



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

3. Straws, stirrers, utensils, and cocktail/toothpicks

- Plastics **not** allowed
 - Traditional plastics
 - Compostable plastics (aka bioplastics, PLA)



**Not
Allowed**



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

3. Straws, stirrers, utensils, and cocktail/toothpicks

- Plastics **not** allowed
 - Traditional plastics
 - Compostable plastics (aka bioplastics, PLA)
- Acceptable materials
 - Natural fiber-based (e.g., paper, wood, bamboo, sugarcane, wheat stalk, hay, etc.)



Acceptable
Items



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

4. Plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells, and other take-out containers
 - Plastics **not** allowed



Not Allowed



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

4. Plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells, and other take-out containers
 - Plastics **not** allowed
 - Natural fiber-based materials acceptable



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

4. Plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells, and other take-out containers
 - Plastics **not** allowed
 - Natural fiber-based materials acceptable
 - Fluorinated-chemical free



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

4. Plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells, and other take-out containers
 - Plastics **not** allowed
 - Natural fiber-based materials acceptable
 - Fluorinated-chemical free
 - Look for the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) logo on fiber-based products/packaging

Acceptable
Items



BIODEGRADABLE
PRODUCTS
INSTITUTE

Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

5. Exemptions

- Aluminum
- Plastic straws for medical accommodations – upon request
- If no reasonably feasible alternative exists



6. A list of approved disposable food service ware sources and references

7. County's role in education & outreach and enforcement



Proposed Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance Provisions

- WHEN will this impact food facilities?
 1. Completed stakeholder outreach for unincorporated SMC
 2. Talking with cities in county. Feedback requested by mid-Oct as part of ordinance update
 3. Bring to County's Board of Supervisors in beginning of 2020
 - Interested cities to follow soon after
 4. Go into effect 30 days after adoption, if adopted
 - Enforcement – one year after adoption



For more info:

<https://www.smcsustainability.org/waste-reduction/reduce-reuse-recycle/#Disposables>

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**Thank you!
Questions?**



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