

LIMITATIONS ON NON-REUSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE ACCESSORIES/ITEMS FOR LITTER AND WASTE REDUCTION

Overview

- Goals:
 - Environmental Motivation
 - Council Priorities
- County Model Ordinance
 - Development
- Current Proposed Los Altos Ordinance (Options 1 & 2)
 - Development
 - Los Altos Ordinance Details
- Outreach & Feedback
- Recent Developments

Goals

Environmental Motivation

- Plastic polymers may last for hundreds and even thousands of years, and have broad, long-lasting negative impacts
- Plastic breaks apart easily into small pieces, is difficult to collect and control as litter, and is often mistaken as food by birds, fish, and wildlife
- Plastics in waterways and oceans break down into smaller pieces that are not biodegradable, and are present in most of the world's oceans

Council Priorities

- Council Strategic Goals and Objectives – Ordinance addressing single-use plastics
- Present an ordinance to City Council by the end of 2020

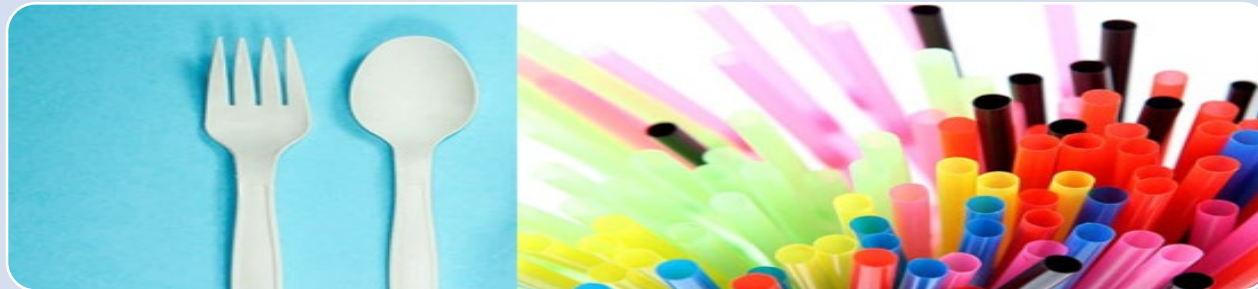
Model Ordinance Development

- Santa Clara County collaborated to develop a model ordinance
 - Development initiated under the County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
 - Meetings held throughout 2019 and early 2020
 - Primarily developed prior to COVID-19 and SIP Order
- Included review of adopted legislation in other cities/counties in CA
 - Palo Alto
 - San Francisco
 - Berkeley
 - Santa Cruz



Model Ordinance – Section 3

Los Altos Ordinance (Option 1)



Food Service Ware Accessories

- Straws -Utensils -Drink Stirrers
- Drink Plugs -Toothpicks

Requirements - Los Altos Ordinance (Option 1)

a. Non-Reusable Food Service Ware Accessories shall be provided only upon request by the customer or at self-serve stations.

b. Prepared Food Providers located in Los Altos and Takeout Food Delivery Services for those Prepared Food Providers located in Los Altos must provide options for customers to affirmatively request Food Service Ware Accessories ...

c. Prepared Food Providers shall not use, provide, distribute, or sell the following Food Ware Accessories made of either Plastic not qualifying as Reusable or any other material not defined as Compostable or Reusable: beverage straws, utensils, drink stirrers or drink plugs, or food picks and toothpicks.

Model Ordinance – Section 3 & Section 4

Los Altos Ordinance (Option 2)



Food Service Ware Accessories

- Straws - Utensils
- Drink Stirrers
- Drink Plugs - Toothpicks



Food Service Ware

- Cups - Plates
- Containers (clamshells)
- Bowls

Requirements - Los Altos Ordinance (Option 2)

In addition to Ordinance - Option 1

Prepared Food Providers within the City shall only provide Prepared Food in Non-Reusable Food Service Ware that is Compostable including cups, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, boxes, wrappers or liners, hinged or lidded containers (clamshells), except that non-Compostable foil wrappers may be used for burritos, wraps, and other items that require foil to contain and form the food item.

Los Altos Ordinance (Option 1)

Development

- Based on a portion of the County's Model Ordinance
- Online survey for Los Altos Businesses
- In-person survey (conducted by R3-Solid Waste Consultant)
- Input from:
 - Community Development Department
 - Economic Development Coordinator
 - Engineering Services Department
 - R3 Consulting Group, Inc.
 - Mission Trail Waste Systems
 - City's Attorney
- Additional input:
 - Environmental Commission
 - Local Businesses
 - Non-profit Organizations

Outreach & Feedback

(August – November 2020)

- Online Survey (8/3-10/20)
- LAVA hosted Sustainability Webinar (9/9)
- In-Person Survey conducted by R3 (10/20)
- Environmental Commission Meeting (8/10, 9/14, 10/12 & 11/9)
- Environmental Commission Subcommittee

Online Survey Results

- Open 8/3/2020 to 10/20/2020
- Total of 9 responses
- 7 – Restaurants, 1- Dental Office, 1- Child Care Center
- Most used accessory item: Plastic Straw and Utensil items
- Plastic Straws: ~150-800 used per month
- Plastic Utensil items: ~200-5,000 used per month
- The least used: Plastic Stirrers, Toothpicks
- None: Plastic Plugs
- Compostable Alternative Currently in Use: 2 indicated using compostable utensils

In-Person Survey Results

- 22 businesses visited
- Most used plastic accessory items: straws and utensils
- Reusables(dine-in)= ~10 locations
- Straws=19 (4 of those are paper or bamboo)
- Utensil= 18 (3 compostable PLA product)
- Stirrers=9 (all wood but 1)
- Toothpicks=8 (all wood)
- Plugs=2

Environmental Commission Feedback

- Additional time for research of options, products and cost of compostable products
- Additional time conduct outreach and education to businesses
- Investigate a ‘Charge for Disposables’ fee
- Postponing the ordinance to allow for additional research and allow businesses the opportunity to partner with the City (reduce stress to struggling businesses faced with challenges due to the COVID-19)
- Support pursuing full County Model Ordinance with delayed sections
- Environmental Commission Subcommittee not prepared to support a recommendation to present the ordinance to City Council

Recent Developments

Recent recommendations to the County Model ordinance (per RWRC TAC):

- Consider implementation language be revised to “Effective 12 months after the Santa Clara County Health COVID-19 Order is rescinded in writing by the Health Officer”
- Recommend strengthening the “opt-in language” for customers to request accessories when ordering from an online/mobile platform.
- A ‘Charge for Disposables’ associated with delivery orders and take-out, is being considered and the group is currently developing the model language for this.

Conclusion

- COVID-19
- Balanced approach with the business community
- Monitor developments of the County Model Ordinance
- Environmental Commission Input and Feedback
- Additional research of acceptable compostable products

Thank you
