Greetings,

CRA would like to submit a comment letter regarding item 15.1 Zero Waste Food Ware Ordinance on the City Council agenda for next week.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Katie

Katie Hansen Senior Legislative Director California Restaurant Association 621 Capitol Mall, Suite 2000 Sacramento, CA 95814 T: 800.765.4842/ 916.431.2773 F: 916.447.6182 E: khansen@calrest.org www.calrest.org We're here for you. Visit our website for all you need to know about COVID-19.



While all information released by the California Restaurant Association (CRA) is intended to provide accurate information on the subject covered, the CRA does not provide legal advice and any information provided by the CRA shall not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult your attorney, accountant, or other appropriate professional, as needed.

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If you have received this electronic transmission in error, please immediately notify us by telephone at 800.765.4842.



July 16, 2021

Mayor Rogers and City Councilmembers Santa Rosa City Council 100 Santa Rosa Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Item 15.1: Zero Waste Food Ware Ordinance

Dear Mayor Rogers and City Councilmembers,

I write today appreciating the spirit in which you are considering policies to reduce single-use waste.

The California Restaurant Association (CRA) has been working on AB 1276 with Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo to create a statewide model to ensure single use accessories are not automatically distributed to guests. This model creates an "opt in" requirement for guests to receive single-use food accessories from restaurants or third-party delivery platforms. Compliance options include self-service receptacles, direct guest request or upon offer by the restaurant in drive thru settings only. AB 1276 is very far through the legislative process and is nearing Governor Newsom's desk. We recommend aligning the proposed ordinance before you with AB 1276, to ensure ease in compliance for restaurants.

Unfortunately, the proposed ordinance also forces all restaurants to purchase and store reusable food ware and reusable food ware accessories. We believe this requirement will result in unintended, negative environmental impacts. Presumably, with increased use of reusable food service ware we would then see an increase in other utility usage and costs, such as water and energy usage. For those restaurants unable to afford additional dishwashing capacity or unable to physically accommodate them due to space limitations (out of their control), additional labor costs would result as more employees may be needed to accommodate this new mandate. These challenges are a logistical and financial puzzle in a non-COVID environment, but certainly now are even greater and something few neighborhood restaurants can take on.

Square footage of established buildings is extremely limited and unchangeable, as most

restaurants are located on properties they do not own and therefore are limited in expanding or altering their physical "footprint". Many restaurants will be forced to buy and install extra dishwashing appliances in their kitchen to accommodate the dine-in reusable requirements, which will be an extremely expensive task and a near impossible one for many due to physical space constraints. If dishwashing machines are not able to be afforded right now or physically accommodated, these same struggling restaurants may need to hire more labor and that is something that for the foreseeable future will be incredibly difficult. Restaurant models of all types will also have to grapple with the storage of these items as well, in physical commercial spaces that did not contemplate this new mandate.

The ongoing pandemic has created uncertainty for restaurants and made it impossible for restaurants to plan. The financial devastation caused by the state dictated opening and closing of restaurant operations will take years to recover from. Any new cost increase, no matter the size, will create unnecessary hurdles as restaurants simply try to get back on solid footing.

The proposed ordinance effective date of January 1, 2022 will require financially strapped restaurants to purchase all new food ware, create storage for that food ware, and likely need to hire additional labor to accommodate this new mandate in less than 6-months to be in compliance. This is a substantial cost increase for struggling restaurants. The effective date of the ordinance should be pushed out to June 1, 2022 to align with AB 1276.

There is little question that the restaurant community has been the hardest hit employment sectors as a result of the ordered pandemic closures. We respectfully encourage you to align the proposed ordinance before you with AB 1276 as it relates to single-use food accessories to create a uniform standard for restaurants and to abandon the new re-usable food ware mandate for restaurants. The reusable food ware mandate was removed from AB 1276 in clear recognition of the logistical challenges of the mandate itself for neighborhood restaurants.

Even without that piece, you would be moving environmental policy forward in a very meaningful way and we would be happy to partner with you on that.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns regarding the proposed ordinance.

Sincerely,

Hate Hansen

Katie Hansen Senior Legislative Director California Restaurant Association



Dear City Council Members,

Polystyrene products and non-recyclable, non-compostable disposable food service ware constitutes a significant and avoidable source of garbage.

Our environment, our county is overwhelmed with plastics of all kinds. Some are recycle-able, many are not. Banning polystyrene widely used in our local to-go food culture is a start on curbing this the flood of plastics. Here are some reasons to target polystyrene.

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Products made from expanded polystyrene foam are not biodegradable, returnable or recyclable.

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There is a prevalence of polystyrene foam debris littering our parks and public places, streets and roads, waterways, storm drains and beaches. When polystyrene debris enters waterways, riparian and marine animals confuse polystyrene foam pieces for food; ingesting polystyrene can lead to death for these animals.

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Eliminating the use of polystyrene foam and other non-compostable and non-recyclable items will maximize the operating life of our landfills and will lessen the economic and environmental costs of waste management for businesses and citizens of Sonoma County.

This is a global crisis and this is our chance to act locally. Thank you for this opportunity to comment, Respectfully Christine Hoex Santa Rosa 95407

From:	Sunny Galbraith
То:	City Council Public Comments; City Clerk
Cc:	Sarah Gurney, Diana Rich
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] public comment, July 20th mtg, item 15.1: Zero Waste Food Ware Ordinance (support)
Date:	Monday, July 19, 2021 10:40:43 AM
Attachments:	image.png
	image.png

Dear Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Rogers, and Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of the Zero Waste Food Ware Ordinance that is being introduced at the July 20th Santa Rosa City Council meeting (item 15.1). I am very excited that the ordinance is being considered by the council, and I urge the council to approve the ordinance when it is up for a vote.

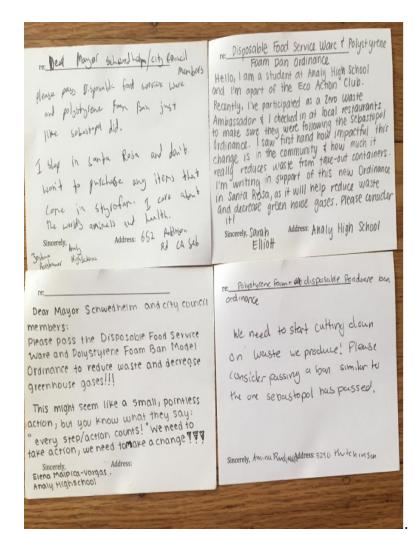
I am a Sebastopol resident and a member of the Sebastopol City Council Zero Waste Committee. We passed a nearly-identical ordinance (based on Zero Waste Sonoma's model Polystyrene and Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance) in March 2019. I was on a team that, pre-pandemic, did "Zero Waste Ambassador" visits to restaurants in Sebastopol to talk with them about the ordinance and let them know about food service ware available that complies with the ordinance. By and large, we had a very positive response from restaurant owners and managers, who were themselves interested in reducing waste and eager to hear about best practices/ best take-out service ware to use.

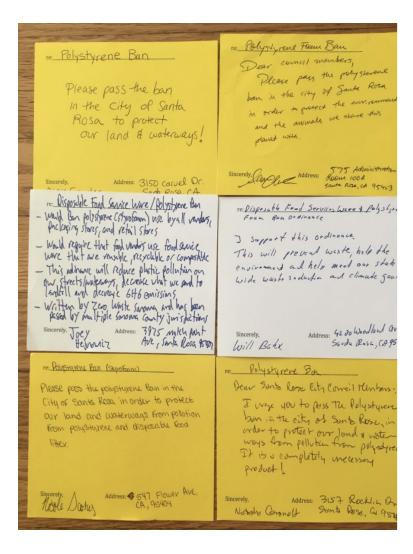
The Zero Waste Sonoma staff has also been incredibly supportive in our implementation of the ordinance: designing custom signage, fliers, and handouts, being available for questions, and providing an online service for residents to report establishments that are out of compliance.

I am co-chair of the Santa Rosa Junior College Climate Action Night annual event. At our last in-person event, April 2019, we featured the Polystyrene and Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance. Attendees were given the opportunity to write postcards to their respective city councils. We have held onto the cards from each city until the ordinance came up for a vote in that city. Below are photographs of postcards from Santa Rosa residents expressing their support for a Zero Waste Food Service Ware ordinance.

Thank you for considering this ordinance that will greatly reduce landfill waste and plastic pollution in our waterways.

Sincerely, Sunny Galbraith Sebastopol City Council Zero Waste Committee Zero Waste North Bay



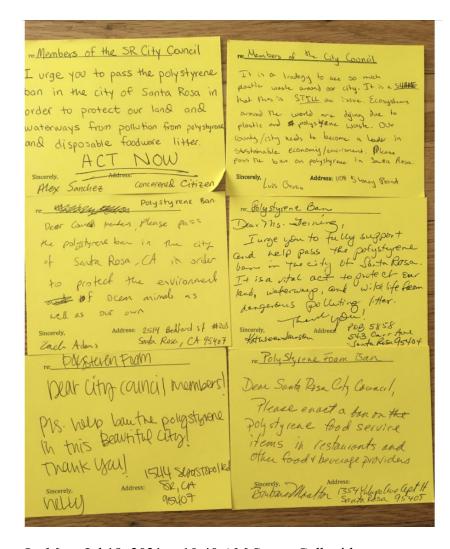




From:	Sunny Galbraith
To:	City Council Public Comments; City Clerk
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Re: public comment, July 20th mtg, item 15.1: Zero Waste Food Ware Ordinance (support)
Date:	Monday, July 19, 2021 10:52:58 AM
Attachments:	image.png
	image.png
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Looks like two of the photos of post cards did not go through. Here they are:

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	Please pass the polystyrene ban in the city of Santa Bosa in order toprotect our land and waterways from pollution from polystyrene and disposable And in littler	METERSE SUPPORT THE BAN ON USO OF STYROFORM! I WILL HAPPING PAY MURE FORTHE PRODUCTS THAT (PLUCHASE TO NOT HAUTS STYROFORM IN THEM. THANKS- SINCERELY, 500 PARLIER Address: 953 DELINAL DR.



wrote:

On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 10:40 AM Sunny Galbraith Dear Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Rogers, and Councilmembers,

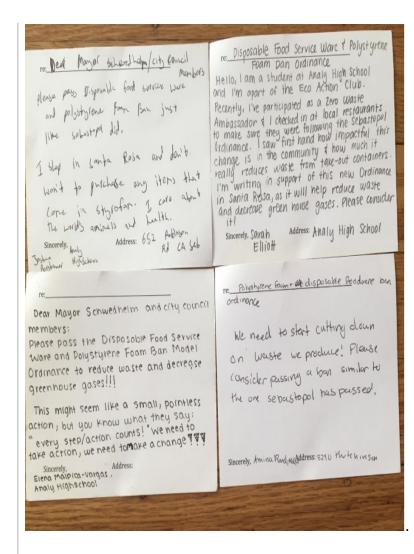
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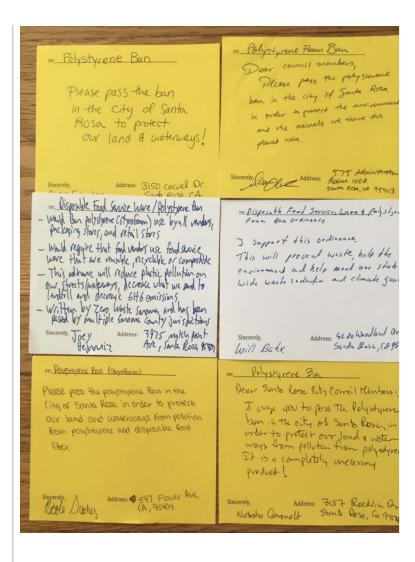
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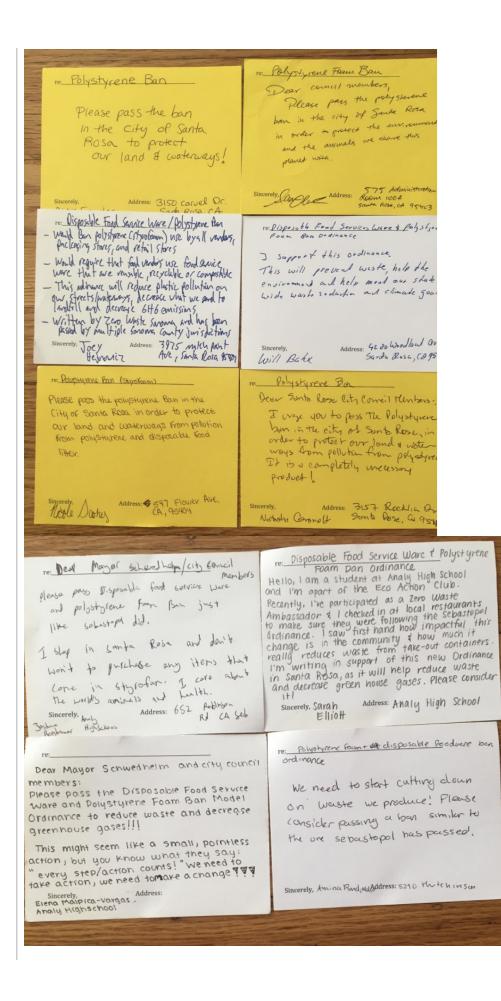
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Thank you for considering this ordinance that will greatly reduce landfill waste and plastic pollution in our waterways.

Sincerely, Sunny Galbraith Sebastopol City Council Zero Waste Committee Zero Waste North Bay







From:	<u>Tillotson, Guy</u>
To:	CityCouncilListPublic
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Public Comment for CIty Council Meeting, July 20, 2021. Item 15.1 Zero Waste
Date:	Monday, July 19, 2021 12:35:06 PM

City of Santa Rosa Council Members,

<u>I am writing in support of the council's consideration to begin the limitation of single-use plastic food</u> <u>and beverage containers</u> (Item 15.1). I speak from the perspective of the waste diversion technician for Santa Rosa Junior College who has tracking the amount and types of waste products at our Santa Rosa campus for six years. With five campuses and thousands of fast-food loving students, we see a flood of noninvertible items every day. Our district fills about 6,500 garbage dumpsters a year and up to 40% of tonnage is single-use containers. At the JC, we know that they businesses take in the money, and we pay for their garbage.

While I agree that PLAs and PFAs are not yet ready for our processing plants, we can still require businesses to use these more environmentally-friendly products – even if they won't be diverted quite yet. The inevitable goal is a for ALL businesses and citizens to know and use a THREE stream system. And food and beverage providers can begin by creating a stream of compostables. Therefore, I am in favor of taking a strong leap forward at this time (with the six-month implementation date) rather than simply tacking styrofoam this year.

Luckily we have two businesses, Amy's Kitchen and Chiptotle, who use all divertible items. When I find I full bag of items from those two restaurants, I can compost or recycle ALL of the materials. That, I think, should be the goal with our local vendors and restaurants. And stores are very important to the goal, if items are no longer in stores, then they won't be driven to the picnics and parties.

Thank you to you, our councilmembers, the staff at Zero Waste Sonoma, and all of our county leaders for considering this step!

Guy Tillotson Waste Diversion Technician Santa Rosa Junior College (707) 291-7226 gtillotson@santarosa.edu