



TOWN OF COLMA

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Dear Colma Business Manager/Owner,

We're reaching out to you to get your feedback on a new program the Town of Colma is seriously considering. The proposed program would reduce the amount of "disposable single use (plastic) food ware" (i.e. plastic straws, plastic cups, etc.) in Colma. We're joining several other cities that are also considering this program which is led by San Mateo County's Environmental Health Division and the Office of Sustainability. An alarming 1.3 million pounds of trash enters the San Francisco Bay every year, 80% of this waste is made up of disposable single-use food ware, plastic and beverage packaging, thus the Town is taking a proactive approach in addressing the ongoing pollution of the bay and ocean.

The program will include providing resources to our businesses about good alternatives to disposable single use food ware. These resources will be available on the Town of Colma's Website, www.colma.ca.gov/departments/sustainability. Our outreach effort also includes asking our businesses for feedback on a draft ordinance that requires compliance after a voluntary phase. To make this ordinance successful, the business community's input is critical. The draft ordinance can be found on the County's website at www.smcsustainability.org/waste-reduction/reduce-reuse-recycle/. Please note that the Town will modify the draft based on our business community's response.

Program and Ordinance Details that Reduce Disposable Single Use (Plastic) Food Ware

The program would affect Colma businesses that provide prepared food for public consumption like restaurants and require the following:

- Straws, stirrers, cup spill plugs, etc. would only be provided to consumers upon request or at self-serve stations/dispensers
- Straws, cups, plates, take out containers, etc. would be required to be made of compostable materials, not plastic. Acceptable materials include fiber-based products such as paper, wood, bamboo, etc.
- Exemptions would be available for medical accommodations
- The Town would provide resources to businesses about good alternatives to plastic food ware

We look forward to hearing your feedback. Please email recycle@colma.ca.gov and let us know what you think about the program and proposed ordinance. If you want to discuss the program, please call our Sustainability Manager, Kathleen Gallagher at 650-483-9097.

Thank you for your feedback,

Brian Dossey, City Manager

Joanne F. del Rosario, Mayor

John Irish Goodwin, Vice Mayor

Diana Colvin, Council Member • Helen Fisicaro, Council Member • Raquel P. Gonzalez, Council Member

Brian Dossey, City Manager