Unpackaging Alameda

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Clean Water Action
Two Part Project:

The making of a policy to reduce single use plastics

ReThink Disposable Community
Public Focus on “Straws-on-Request”

Styrofoam Food Service Ware (2008)

Disposable Food Service Ware (2017)
DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE

PLASTIC STRAWS
- No longer acceptable in Alameda
- $0.01 each

COMPOSTABLE STRAWS (PAPER)
- Offered only on request
- $0.04 each

REUSABLE STRAWS (METAL)
- Saves the most money, 14 uses to break even
- $0.54 each, dishwasher safe
- Reduced garbage collection services cost
“Compostable” vs. Compostable

Compostable
Fiber-based only with ZERO compostable plastics

- Paper: Bowls, boxes, cups, plates, napkins, paper towels, and paper straws
- Plant Fiber (sugarcane, bamboo, rice): Hinged containers, trays, lids, and cup holders
- Wood: Stirrers, plates, and cutlery

Exhibits used for ordinance language definitions
Jar of 326 plastic straws collected on Coastal Cleanup Day 2017
CITY OF ALAMEDA ORDINANCE NO. 3193
New Series

AMENDING THE ALAMEDA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4-4 (DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE) TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN SINGLE-USE PLASTICS SUCH AS STRAWS AND CLARIFYING COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, single-use plastics such as straws are commonly littered or blown out of trash receptacles and migrate to the storm drain system and eventually to the ocean and Alameda’s beaches; and

WHEREAS, reusable or compostable food service ware is better for the environment, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces the need for landfills; and

WHEREAS, reduction of single-use plastics in the environment will advance compliance with federal, state and city clean water mandates; and

WHEREAS, the use of single use plastics will be reduced by making straws only available upon request; and

WHEREAS, if requested, the provision of a compostable (paper) straw serves the needs of the customer and produces a material that can be readily composted and achieve the City’s zero waste goals.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Alameda:

SECTION 1. CEQA Finding: This Ordinance is exempt from the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Further, the proposed Ordinance is exempt from
ReThink Disposable

STOP WASTE BEFORE IT STARTS
Unpackaging a Bay Area Community Demo Project

• Selected the City of Alameda for the pilot

• 100 certified ReThink Disposable Business goal in two concentrated trash impaired commercial districts

• On-land litter assessment with brand audit pre and post project intervention

• Engage the local business community

• Build a team of ReThink Disposable Ambassadors comprised of student interns and community volunteers

• Local Government Engagement: update city’s EP3 for SUDs source reduction in government facilities and events

• Communications: Public Outreach and Business Recognition
ReThink Disposable Business Certification

- 124 food businesses touched
- 9 businesses certified
- 26 more signed up and in process
On Land Litter Monitoring with Brand Audit: Baseline Fall 2017

- Park Street (DABA)
- 22 volunteers
- 2 data collection events
- 700 pieces characterized
- Litterati app used for data analysis
Top Five Identifiable Brands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Starbucks</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monkey King</td>
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</tbody>
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Unpackaging Alameda’s City Departments
Questions?

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