



March 22, 2023

**Re: Marin County Reusable Foodware Ordinance; good for our environment, our communities, and our children.**

To whom it may concern,

As waste haulers in Marin County, we are impacted daily by food packaging. This packaging often ends up in the recycling bin or the compost bin when it should not be. Here it contaminates truly recyclable material and hinders our ability to recover desired items. As businesses anchored in resource recovery, we support the County's efforts to reduce waste and are available as a resource for city staff and officials, members of the public and businesses with questions about the Reusable Foodware Ordinance.

A list of truly compostable and recyclable items has been developed as part of the roll-out of the ordinance and is available as a resource. It focuses on wood-based/paper compostable foodware, and aluminum which is infinitely recyclable. Much of the current plastic takeout containers are not recyclable. All plastics are not recyclable and this creates confusion among consumers. Only 9% of all plastics ever made have been recycled in the world. Hoping to recycle plastics will not solve our waste issue because most plastic packaging has no recycling market.

The ordinance addresses approved, recoverable packaging materials. In addition, it also addresses managing discarded materials. Containers and signage must be provided to ensure materials are placed in the proper receptacles. Having an approved list of containers will help reduce confusion on where these items can go. For the green bin for example, it is imperative that plastic lined paper and "compostable" plastics are not put into the green carts which are hauled to WM Earthcare in Novato. Having non-approved items in the material we send them can jeopardize our ability to continue hauling any compostable materials to this local facility. These standards ensure they can produce high quality compost certified for organic agriculture. This organic compost is used by local farmers who bring their food to our farmers markets, contributing to a circular economy.

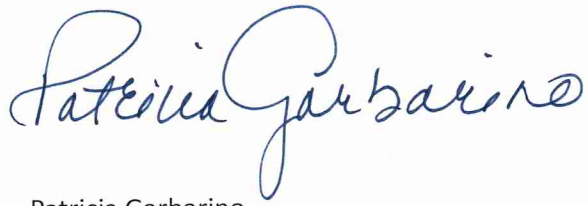
The ordinance has been approved by the County Board of Supervisors and is currently being discussed in the cities and towns in Marin County. Public workshops and council meetings provide an opportunity for residents and businesses to ask important questions about this new ordinance.

Although the requirements may look daunting, many food establishments are already close to complying! We have information and resources available to help you set up your compliant programs. We can also provide additional understanding as to the negative effects of poor foodware packaging. In

addition to local efforts to improve foodware packaging the state has also implemented regulation through SB 54. This new law will have a positive impact on reusable foodware ordinances as the law is designed to support the development of more sustainable products, increasing availability, and making these products more cost-effective.

We encourage all communities to review and adopt this important legislation which will help ensure these precious materials are recovered and continue to provide use and utility to Marin County.

Signed,



Patricia Garbarino  
President  
Marin Sanitary Service



Gene Della Zoppa  
Managing Partner and Vice President  
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Fred Stemmler  
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