



AGENDA

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
6:00 PM – **Remote Access Only**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Cathlin Atchison, Bryce Ebrahimian, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Meredith Keet, Margaux Keiser, Peter Wilk - Chair

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS *(No action may be taken)*

All correspondence received prior to 12 NOON on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commissioners to review. The Committee Members may not discuss Written Communications to any significant degree but may request issues raised be placed on a future agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 15, 2021

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Restaurant Guide/Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials
2. Western Monarch Count
3. Residential Composting -update
4. State passed Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban- update
5. 2022 Meeting Schedule
6. Cancel December 15, 2021 meeting

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

ADJOURNMENT to November 17, 2021

Notice: The Commission on the Environment meets monthly 6:00 PM. Meetings are Remote Access Only.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: www.cityofcapitola.org/ on Friday prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you need additional information please contact the Public Works Department at (831) 475-7300.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the City Clerk's office at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting at 831-475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

NOTICE OF REMOTE ACCESS ONLY

In accordance with the current Santa Cruz County Health Order outlining social distancing requirements and Executive Order N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the Commission on the Environment meeting is not physically open to the public and in person attendance cannot be accommodated.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81479379363?pwd=cnlXbWZtS2tzTTIPNHAYbThwS1hsdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 7937 9363

Passcode: 277100

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+(San Jose)

Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81479379363?pwd=cnlXbWZtS2tzTTIPNHAYbThwS1hsdz09>

Comment via email:

Comments and additional material may be sent to the Commission via CapitolaDPW@ci.capitola.ca.us by 12NOON on the day of the meeting for distribution to Commission members.

DRAFT MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: Cathlin Atchison, Meredith Keet, Peter Wilk - Chair
Commissioners Absent: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Bryce Ebrahimian, Margaux Keiser
City Staff Present: Steve Jesberg, Danielle Uharriet

Chairperson Wilk called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Staff reported the leaf blower ordinance memo was sent to the City Council. No written or oral communications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 21, 2021 minutes were approved (Keet/Atchison)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Restaurant Guide/Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials

Cathlin Atchison suggested reviewing Green Business for guidance of take-out materials.

Meredith Keet commented a representative at the Santa Cruz City Dimeo Lane Resource Center was creating a guide for restaurants. If other local agencies are working on parallel paths, then creating a task force may be beneficial to design a standard countywide guide that includes product sources, options, and funding to assist with product transition for businesses.

Peter Wilk requested information about the City of Santa Cruz program to compare and coordinate information. He suggested the COE review and edit the existing city flyer; staff will email a copy. Peter also requested information about the City of Santa Cruz program for comparison of ordinance requirements, product information, and enforcement.

Meredith highlighted the key to the success of the regulations is enforcement.

Steve Jesberg recommended the COE work on a locally focused tri-fold brochure, expanding on the current restaurant rules, and utilize the Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Foodware Guide as a resource of detailed information. Staff will research other local agencies for similar efforts, and work for uniformity and consistency countywide.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cathlin Atchison discussed the Western Monarch Count. The count typically takes place in late November through December(Thanksgiving – New Year) and results are released in January of the following year along with year-to-year comparison information indicating the monarch population is dwindling. Cathlin suggested the COE promote participation in the volunteer count.

Save Our Shores Annual Coastal Clean Up Day is Saturday, September 18th, 2021.
John Laird will be at Cowell's beach Saturday, September 18th with the Cigarette Surfboard.
Capitola Fall Clean Up Week is October 11th – October 15th

Meredith Keet requested an update on the status of the residential composting.

ADJOURNMENT to October 20, 2021

Approved at the meeting of October 20, 2021

Danielle Uharriet
Environmental Projects Manager

**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

Agenda Item: 1

Subject: Restaurant Guide/Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials

The Commission Work Item #1: Develop an informational guide for distribution to restaurants and food vendors about Capitola's environmentally acceptable packaging materials ordinance and enforcement guidance. Information to be incorporated into the educational guide are ordinance requirements, explanation of enforcement, information on proper disposal (trash, recycling, compostable), provide options and resources.

The Commission should provide staff comments and additional content for the draft guide. Staff will design a new brochure for review at a future meeting. The Commission suggested working with other local agencies to design a standard countywide guide however, each jurisdiction has different ordinance regulations, requirements, and enforcement.

As requested, the following information is attached:

1. Current Capitola Rules for Restaurants
2. City of Santa Cruz website excerpt and brochure
3. City of Capitola Ordinance Chapter 8.36
4. City of Santa Cruz Ordinance Chapter 6.48



A Guide for the City of Capitola
Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Materials
Chapter 8.36



Use environmentally acceptable food service ware, products, and packaging.
Good for business and good for the creek and Bay

- All disposable service ware: containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, utensils, straws are biodegradable* or compostable**

*Biodegradable: entire product or package will completely break down and return to nature, i.e., decompose into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of time after customary disposal

**Compostable: all materials in the product or package will break down into, or otherwise become part of, usable compost (e.g., soil-conditioning material, mulch) in a safe and timely manner in an appropriate composting program or facility, or in a home compost pile or device

Surfrider Foundation Ocean-Friendly Foodware Guide:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V14s9afy3M-9a8VT8EjCXyplCIYjLOsj/view>

Facts about
Acceptable Packaging

Insert a Q and A section

Enforcement: The ordinance will be enforced through citizen complaints received about violators. All food service providers must comply, including restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks, special events

Exemptions: There are no exemptions that allow for the use of polystyrene/plastic foam disposable food service ware. The Director of Public Works, or the Director's designee, may exempt a food vendor from the requirement set forth in section 8.36.040 of this ordinance upon the food vendor submitting an application, including documentation showing factual support for the claimed exemption.

The Single-Use Bag Reduction Ordinance Stipulates:

- ◆ Businesses in the City of Capitola are restricted from distributing plastic carry-out bags at the point of sale. Businesses must place a 25¢ charge on paper carry-out bags.
- ◆ The ordinance does not apply to restaurants at this time. A restaurant is defined as an establishment whose principal business is the sale of prepared food for consumption either on or off-premises

Enforcement: The ordinance will be enforced through citizen complaints received about violators. All retail establishments must comply, including all sales outlets, stores, shops

Exemptions: There are no exemptions that allow for the use of polystyrene plastic bags. The Director of Public Works, or the Director's designee, may exempt a retail establishment from the requirement set forth in section 8.36.040 of this ordinance for a one-year period upon the retail establishment showing, in writing, that this ordinance would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances.

These ordinances are mandatory.

Fines will be levied for non-compliance.

Copies of the full ordinances are available at www.cityofcapitola.org

Help Protect the Bay,
Become a Certified Green Business



Certified Green Businesses conserve energy and water,
reduce waste and help prevent air and water pollution.

montereybaygreenbusiness.org



Rules for Restaurants in Capitola

To protect the environment, reduce plastics and to encourage the recycling and composting of food service waste, all disposable service ware provided to customers in the City of Capitola must be compostable or biodegradable.

This includes:



- No plastic straws (paper is acceptable)
- No plastic stir sticks (wood is fine)
- All cups (hot or cold) must be compostable.
- All disposable cutlery must be compostable.
- No Styrofoam
- No #6 polystyrene products (including hot cup lids).
- All disposable containers must be compostable



These rules apply to restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks, special events, and any other business or event where food is sold.

Talk to your food service supplier about available products. Many suitable products are available from major distributors. To be sure a product meets the requirements, check the web site of the Biodegradable Products Institute, www.bpiworld.org.

For more information, contact the City of Capitola at (831) 475-7300 or go to the City web site at www.cityofcapitola.org.



Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products Ordinance

Enforcement for current provisions remain in effect.

(Click [here](#) for 2017-2020 Provisions)

On January 14, 2020 Santa Cruz City Council approved amendments to the [City of Santa Cruz Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging ordinance](#) with a scheduled implementation date of September 8th, 2020. Full Compliance expected by March 8th, 2021. **(See Update below)**



SKIP THE STUFF- It is estimated that 561 billion disposable food ware items are used and disposed of annually, resulting in a whopping 4.9 million tons of waste. Unused food accessories including utensils, straws, napkins, condiment packages, clog landfills, complicate recycling, and pollute streets and waterways in our communities.

NOTE: The Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products Ordinance requires that businesses only give straws, utensils, condiments and other accessories upon request of the customer

Is your business "Good To Go"?- Click [here](#) for Quick Guide Brochure

Check out the recording of the Webinar held on May 6th, 2021 [Recording available in Spanish here.](#)

We talked about the status of the Enforcement date (see update below) of the Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products Ordinance, implementing protocols to allow customers to return to bringing in their own cups for fill, the cost savings of switching to durables for dine in and finally, vendors were on hand to answer questions about ordering and pricing of compliant items.

UPDATE :Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the Ordinance was updated on March 9, 2021 with a new timeline to extend the compliance deadline by one year to March 9th, 2022.

- All food providers may only give straws, lids, cutlery and to-go condiment packages upon request of the customer.(new language added)
Customers must be able to affirmatively request these items separate from food and beverage orders across all point of sale platforms, including but not limited to telephone, web, smart phone and other digital platforms.
- Businesses are required to charge .25 for each disposable hot or cold beverage cup sold containing a beverage. Sellers may not waive or absorb this fee. The fee must be clearly identified on menu platforms and as a separate item on any post-sale receipt. This fee is intended to offset any cost difference of acceptable food service ware, and will remain with the seller.
- Food containers, hot and cold cups, beverage lids, cutlery, and straws must be Fiber based and free of intentionally added Poly fluorinated Chemicals (PFAS-PFOS), BPI or other third party vendor verified biodegradable and compostable. Only natural fiber based items or fiber based items lined with a BPI or other independent third party certification are allowed. Wood or bamboo cutlery as well as aluminum sheets or trays are acceptable
- Items made from non recyclable petroleum based plastic or 100% PLA are **NOT** accepted

Waste Reduction Staff is available to answer your questions and is here to help you incorporate strategies for compliance. Please don't hesitate to call our office at 831-420-5593

VENDOR INFORMATION

Click [Here](#) for a list of Vendors selling compliant items.

- [World Centric Products Exclusive Sell Sheet just for Santa Cruz](#)
- [ECO PRODUCTS- Exclusive Sell Sheet for Santa Cruz](#)

Click [Here](#) for the full adopted ordinance

Click [Here](#) for Summary Flyer

Allowing customers to use personal cups and containers

- Can be done safely following an easy to set up suggested protocol (see *FAQ, Guidance and Template Below*)
- Reduces cost and need for inventory of disposables
- Is a good way to reduce litter

Recent legislation (AB619) Clarifies the conditions in which a business can accept and fill a customer owned cup and or container. Filling customer cups and/or container can be done safely by incorporating the suggested Guidance below.

[Reusable containers FAQ AB 619](#)

Suggested [Guidance on Accepting Customer Cups and Containers](#)

[Example SOP Standard Operating Procedure or Protocol](#)

Polystyrene Products: EPS #6 (Expanded Polystyrene) The Sale or distribution of cups, plates, bowls, food boxes, coolers and non encased recreational water toys (boogie boards) is prohibited in the City of Santa Cruz.

Packing Peanuts: Polystyrene packing peanuts are not accepted for recycling and should be contained in a bag and placed in the trash. Note: The UPS stores no longer accepts any type of packing peanuts from the public for reuse. The company made an environmental decision to discontinue the use on packing peanuts at all locations throughout the U.S. They do accept bubble wrap and other packing material.

Consumers can help reduce the waste and litter associated with single use disposables

- **SKIP THE STUFF-** Ordinance Compliant businesses will ask you first if you want all that stuff, but being proactive by saying **No Thank you** to items you don't need like; straws, utensils and condiment packets will help to change behavior and make a real impact on reducing waste.
- **Ask** your favorite coffee place if they participate in the [Contactless Coffee Campaign](#)
- **Let us know** ([complete this form](#)) of businesses that are not in compliance so we can educate them on why it is important to comply.
- **Carry** your own reusable straw and utensils. Bring your own container for leftovers when eating out.

For more information please contact: Waste Reduction Manager (831) 420-5593 [Email](#)

Santa Cruz is a polystyrene free zone!

Polystyrene plastic is not recyclable in the City's recycling program. Once discarded this material persists in the environment for hundreds of years. It is made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource.



The Single-Use Bag Reduction Ordinance Stipulates:

- Businesses in the City of Santa Cruz are restricted from distributing plastic carry-out bags at the point of sale. Businesses must place a 25¢ charge on paper carry-out bags.
- The ordinance does not apply to restaurants at this time. A restaurant is defined as a person or business whose principal business is the sale of prepared food.

City of Santa Cruz Ordinance 6.49

Enforcement: The ordinance will be enforced through citizen complaints received about violators. All food service providers must comply, including businesses, schools, city offices, churches and special events.

Exemptions: There are no exemptions that allow for the use of polystyrene/plastic foam disposable food service ware. The Director of Public Works, or the Director's designee, may exempt a food provider from the requirement set forth in section 6.48.25(a) of this ordinance for a one-year period upon the food provider showing, in writing, that this ordinance would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances.

These ordinances are mandatory.

Fines will be levied for non-compliance.

Copies of the full ordinances are available at: www.cityofsantacruz.com/to-go-ware

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montereybaygreenbusiness.org

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Good for business and good for the Bay



Public Works Department

809 Center Street, Room 201

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

www.cityofsantacruz.com/to-go-ware

831-420-5593



A Guide for the
City of Santa Cruz

Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products

Ordinance 6.48



Acceptable Packaging



Your Required Check List:

- ✓ All disposable service ware and cold cups are Fiber based
- ✓ All disposable service ware is BPI* or other 3rd party certified PFAS* Free
- ✓ All Hot disposable cups are fiber based and/or lined with BPI* certified PLA Lining
- ✓ Utensils are Fiber Based
- ✓ Straws are Fiber Based
- ✓ Utensils, straws, lids and condiments given only upon request across all ordering platforms
- ✓ Charging an extra 25¢ for all hot/cold cups sold containing beverage
- ✓ Receipt contains line item for charge
- ✓ Signage to customers of cup charge
- ✓ Safety Protocols set up to accept Customer Cups and Containers

Facts about Acceptable Packaging

- Q** Are beverage bottles and cans acceptable?
- A** Beverages served in cans are desirable because aluminum and bi-metal are highly recyclable. Bottled water and soda are acceptable because the containers can be recycled.
- Q** What does, “Upon request” mean?
- A** Employees must ask customers if they want; straws, utensils, condiments and lids* included with their order. Self-serve stations are permitted.
- Q** How do we manage “Upon request” with our website or 3rd party delivery company?
- A** Software updates should be made to allow the customer to “Opt in” to each accessory item.
- Q** Who keeps the 25¢ collected for disposable cups and bags?
- A** This fee remains with the business.

Are You Good to-Go?



Fiber Based BPI*
or other Certification

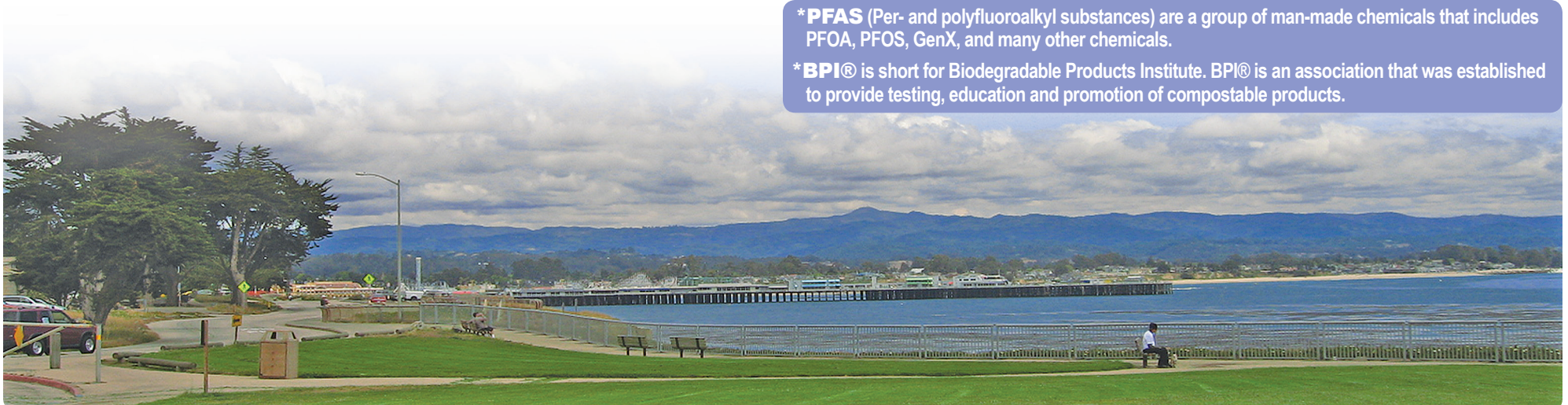
Wood or Bamboo Accessories
upon request only



NO Polystyrene – Rigid or Foam
NO Bio Plastic
NO PFAS*

***PFAS** (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals.

***BPI®** is short for Biodegradable Products Institute. BPI® is an association that was established to provide testing, education and promotion of compostable products.



Chapter 8.36

ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE PACKAGING MATERIALS

Sections:

[8.36.010 Findings and intent.](#)

[8.36.020 Definitions.](#)

[8.36.030 Prohibited food service ware.](#)

[8.36.035 Prohibited retail sales.](#)

[8.36.040 Required biodegradable and compostable disposable food service ware.](#)

[8.36.050 Exemptions.](#)

[8.36.060 Liability and enforcement.](#)

[8.36.070 Violations – Penalties.](#)

[8.36.080 Study.](#)

8.36.010 Findings and intent.

The city council finds and declares:

- A. The city has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens.
- B. Effective ways to reduce the negative environmental impacts of throw-away food service ware include reusing food service ware and using compostable and biodegradable take-out materials made from renewable resources such as paper, corn starch and sugarcane.
- C. Polystyrene foam is a common environmental pollutant as well as a nonbiodegradable substance that is commonly used as food service ware by food vendors operating in the city.
- D. There continues to be no meaningful recycling of polystyrene foam food service ware and biodegradable or compostable food service ware is an affordable, safe, more ecologically sound alternative.
- E. Affordable biodegradable or compostable food service ware products are increasingly available for several food service applications such as cold cups, plates and hinge containers and these products are more ecologically sound than polystyrene foam materials and can be turned into a compost product.
- F. New Leaf Markets, Grinds Coffee Shop, and other Capitola businesses have successfully eliminated the use of polystyrene and nonbiodegradable packaging materials in the operation of their businesses.
- G. The Oakland Coliseum has successfully replaced its cups with biodegradable cornstarch cups and has shown an overall cost savings due to organics recycling.
- H. Over one hundred fifty-five businesses in Oakland engage in organics recycling and it has been demonstrated that the use of biodegradable or compostable food service ware can reduce waste disposal costs when the products are taken to composting facilities as part of an organics recycling program rather than disposed in a landfill.

I. The natural compost product from these biodegradable or compostable materials is used as fertilizer for farms and gardens, thereby moving towards a healthier zero waste system.

J. Disposable food service ware constitutes a large portion of the litter in Capitola's lagoon, waterways and storm drains, and on the beaches, streets, parks and public places and the cost of managing this litter is high and rising.

K. Polystyrene foam is notorious as a pollutant that breaks down into smaller, nonbiodegradable pieces that are ingested by marine life and other wildlife thus harming or killing them.

L. Due to the physical properties of polystyrene, the EPA states "that such materials can also have serious impacts on human health, wildlife, the aquatic environment and the economy."

M. A 1986 EPA report on solid waste named the polystyrene manufacturing process as the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste in the United States.

N. In the product manufacturing process as well as the use and disposal of the products, the energy consumption, greenhouse gas effect, and total environmental effect, polystyrene's environmental impacts were second highest, behind aluminum, according to the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

O. Styrene, a component of polystyrene, is a known hazardous substance that medical evidence and the Food and Drug Administration suggests leaches from polystyrene containers into food and drink.

P. Styrene is a suspected carcinogen and neurotoxin which potentially threatens human health.

Q. Styrene has been detected in the fat tissue of every man, woman and child tested by the EPA in a 1986 study.

R. The general public is not typically warned of any potential hazard, particularly in the immigrant and non-English-speaking community.

S. Due to these concerns nearly one hundred cities have banned polystyrene foam food service ware including several California cities, and many local businesses and several national corporations have successfully replaced polystyrene foam and other nonbiodegradable food service ware with affordable, safe, biodegradable products.

T. Restricting polystyrene foam products that are not wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material and replacing non-biodegradable food service ware with biodegradable food service ware products in Capitola will further protect the public health and safety of the residents of Capitola, the city of Capitola's natural environment, waterways and wildlife, would advance the city's goal of developing a sustainable city, advance the city's goal of zero waste by 2020 and fulfill Article 10 of the Environmental Accords, whereby Capitola partnered with other cities across the globe in signing a commitment to eliminate or restrict the use of one chemical or environmental hazard every year. (Ord. [964](#) § 1, 2011; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.020 Definitions.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, whenever used in this chapter the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- A. "Affordable" means purchasable by the food vendor for same or less purchase cost than the non-biodegradable, non-polystyrene foam alternative.
- B. "ASTM standard" means meeting the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) international standards D6400 or D6868 for biodegradable and compostable plastics.
- C. "Biodegradable" means the entire product or package will completely break down and return to nature, i.e., decompose into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of time after customary disposal.
- D. "Compostable" means all materials in the product or package will break down into, or otherwise become part of, usable compost (e.g., soil-conditioning material, mulch) in a safe and timely manner in an appropriate composting program or facility, or in a home compost pile or device. Compostable disposable food service ware includes ASTM standard bio-plastics (plastic-like products) that are clearly labeled, preferably with a color symbol, such that any compost collector and processor can easily distinguish the ASTM standard compostable plastic from non-ASTM standard compostable plastic.
- E. "City facilities" mean any building, structure or vehicles owned or operated by the city of Capitola, its agent, agencies, departments and franchisees.
- F. "Customer" means any person obtaining prepared food, merchandise or product from a restaurant or retail food vendor, or retail vendor.
- G. "Disposable food service ware" means all containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, forks, spoons, knives and other items that are designed for one-time use and on, or in, which any restaurant, retail vendor or retail food vendor directly places or packages prepared foods or which are used to consume foods. This includes, but is not limited to, service ware for takeout foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared at restaurants, sold at restaurants, retail vendors or retail food vendors.
- H. "Food vendor" means any restaurant or retail food vendor located or operating within the city of Capitola.
- I. "Polystyrene foam" means and includes blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams (sometimes called Styrofoam, a Dow Chemical Co. trademarked form of polystyrene foam insulation) which are thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to, fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, foam molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene). Polystyrene foam is generally used to make cups, bowls, plates, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays and egg cartons.
- J. "Prepared food" means food or beverages, which are served, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed or otherwise prepared on the food vendor's premises or within the

city of Capitola. For the purposes of this ordinance, prepared food includes raw, butchered meats, fish and/or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar retail appliance. Prepared food may be eaten either on or off the premises, also known as “takeout food.”

K. “Product” means any product such as coolers, cups, bowls, plates, clamshells, containers, ice chests, packing peanuts or other packing materials, beach or pool toys, or any other product or merchandise containing polystyrene foam that is not encapsulated or encased by a more durable material.

L. “Restaurant” means any establishment located within the city of Capitola that sells prepared food for consumption on, near, or off its premises by customers. Restaurant for purposes of this chapter includes itinerant restaurants, pushcarts and vehicular food vendors.

M. “Retail food vendor” means any store, shop, sales outlet, or other establishment, including a grocery store or a delicatessen, other than a restaurant, located within the city of Capitola that sells prepared food.

N. “Retail vendor” means any store that sells goods or merchandise located or operating within the city of Capitola.

O. “Special events promoter” means an applicant for any special events permit issued by the city or any city employee(s) responsible for any city organized special event. (Ord. [964](#) § 2, 2011; Ord. [939](#) § 1, 2009; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.030 Prohibited food service ware.

A. Except as provided in Section [8.36.050](#), food vendors are prohibited from providing prepared food to customers in disposable food service ware that uses polystyrene foam.

B. All city facilities are prohibited from using polystyrene foam disposable food service ware and all city departments and agencies will not purchase or acquire polystyrene foam disposable food service ware for use at city facilities.

C. City franchisees, special event promoters, contractors and vendors doing business with the city shall be prohibited from using polystyrene foam disposable food service ware in the city of Capitola. (Ord. [964](#) § 3, 2011; Ord. [939](#) § 1, 2009; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.035 Prohibited retail sales.

No retail vendor or special event promoter in the city of Capitola may sell, rent or otherwise provide any polystyrene foam product which is not wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable product, except as exempted in Section [8.36.050](#). This specifically includes, but is not limited to, cups, plates, bowls, clamshells and other products intended primarily for food service use, as well as coolers, containers, ice chests, pool or beach toys, packing peanuts or other packaging materials. (Ord. [964](#) § 4, 2011)

8.36.040 Required biodegradable and compostable disposable food service ware.

A. All food vendors using any disposable food service ware will use biodegradable or compostable disposable food service ware unless they can show a biodegradable or compostable product is not available for a specific application or does not exist. A food vendor may charge a “take out fee” to customers to cover the cost difference.

B. All city facilities will use biodegradable or compostable disposable food service ware.

C. City franchises, special events promoter, contractors and vendors doing business with the city will use biodegradable or compostable disposable food service ware unless they can show a biodegradable or compostable product is not available for a specific application or does not exist. (Ord. [964](#) § 5, 2011; Ord. [939](#) § 1, 2009; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.050 Exemptions.

A. Prepared foods prepared or packaged outside the city of Capitola are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Purveyors of food prepared or packaged outside the city of Capitola are encouraged to follow the provisions of this chapter.

B. Food vendors will be exempted from the provisions of this chapter for specific items or types of disposable food service ware if the city manager or designee finds that a biodegradable or compostable alternative does not exist.

C. To apply for an exemption from the requirement set forth in Section [8.36.040](#), a food vendor must submit an application to the city manager. The application shall include all information necessary for the city manager or the manager’s designee to make a decision, including, but not limited to, documentation showing factual support for the claimed exemption.

D. Disposable food service ware composed entirely of aluminum is exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

E. Meat trays are exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

F. Products wholly encapsulated or encased by another non-polystyrene product, are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Examples include surfboards, boats, life preservers, construction materials, craft supplies and durable coolers not principally composed of polystyrene.

G. Emergency Supply and Services Procurement: In a situation deemed by the city manager to be an emergency for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, city facilities, food vendors, retail vendors, city franchises, contractors and vendors doing business with the city shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. [964](#) § 6, 2011; Ord. [939](#) § 1, 2009; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.060 Liability and enforcement.

A. The city manager or designee will have primary responsibility for enforcement of this chapter. The city manager or designee is authorized to promulgate regulations and to take any and all other actions reasonable and necessary to enforce this chapter, including, but not limited to, entering the premises of any food or retail vendor to verify compliance.

B. City facilities, food vendors, retail food vendors, retail vendors and restaurants will be given three months from the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter to comply with the provisions herein.

C. If, after the first three months of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter, the city manager or designee determines that a violation of this chapter occurred, he or she will issue a written warning notice to the retail food establishment that a violation has occurred, specifying a three month time period for the food or retail vendor to conform to the provisions of this chapter.

D. Violation or failure to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter shall constitute an infraction pursuant to Title [4](#) of the Capitola Municipal Code.

E. The city attorney may seek legal, injunctive, or other equitable relief to enforce this chapter. (Ord. [964](#) § 7, 2011; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.070 Violations – Penalties.

A. If the city manager or designee determines that a violation of this chapter has occurred, he or she will issue a written warning notice to the food or retail vendor or special event promoter that a violation has occurred, and give the offending party three months to conform to the provisions of this chapter.

B. If the food or retail vendor or special events promoter has subsequent violations of this chapter, the following penalties will apply:

1. A fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for the first violation after the warning notice is given.

2. A fine not exceeding two hundred dollars for the second violation after the warning notice is given.

3. A fine not exceeding five hundred dollars for the third and any future violations after the warning notice is given. (Ord. [964](#) § 8, 2011; Ord. [939](#) § 1, 2009; Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

8.36.080 Study.

One year after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter, the city manager will conduct a study on the effectiveness of this chapter. (Ord. [913](#) § 2, 2006)

Chapter 6.48

ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE FOOD PACKAGING

Sections:

[6.48.010 Findings and intent.](#)

[6.48.015 Definitions.](#)

[6.48.020 Polystyrene/plastic foam disposable food service ware prohibited.](#)

[6.48.025 Required biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable disposable food service ware.](#)

[6.48.027 Prohibited sales.](#)

[6.48.030 Exemptions for biodegradable, compostable or recyclable food service ware and other polystyrene/plastic foam products.](#)

[6.48.035 Enforcement and notice of violation.](#)

[6.48.040 Penalties and fines for violations.](#)

[6.48.045 Effective date.](#)

6.48.010 FINDINGS AND INTENT.

The Santa Cruz city council finds and declares that:

- (a) The city of Santa Cruz has a duty to protect its natural environment, its economy, and the health of its citizens.
- (b) The city of Santa Cruz borders the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This federal preserve supports one of the most diverse and delicate ecosystems in the world. This sanctuary provides habitat for at least thirty-three species of mammals, ninety-four species of seabirds, three hundred forty-five species of fish, and contains the largest kelp forest in the nation.
- (c) Eliminating the use of polystyrene/plastic foam products and other noncompostable, nonbiodegradable, and nonrecyclable food packaging will maximize the operating life of landfills and will lessen the economic and environmental costs of managing waste.
- (d) In 1989 the city of Santa Cruz adopted an ordinance calling for retail food establishments to voluntarily eliminate polystyrene foam food packaging material by 1992. Since that time the city has provided extensive education and outreach to both businesses and the public explaining the reasons to change to recyclable, biodegradable, and/or compostable packaging. Because the voluntary ordinance had not eliminated the use of polystyrene/plastic foam packaging in the ensuing eighteen years, the city found it necessary to adopt mandatory restrictions. In 2007 the environmentally acceptable food packaging ordinance was passed, which eliminated the use of polystyrene foam “to-go” containers in the city of Santa Cruz.
- (e) Discarded food and beverage packaging and products made from polystyrene/plastic foam constitute a significant and growing portion of the city’s waste stream. Laws, policies and regulations pertaining to disposable food service ware and polystyrene/plastic foam products are a vital component in the city’s efforts to reduce the amount of disposed waste.
- (f) Eliminating all nonbiodegradable, nonreturnable, and nonrecyclable food packaging material and other polystyrene/plastic foam products from all establishments within the city of Santa Cruz will help protect the city’s environment from contamination and degradation.

- (g) Take-out food packaging that is biodegradable, compostable, and recyclable is the most responsible and sustainable choice for the city's tourist economy, its citizenry and its environment. When products are recycled, natural resources are spared, less energy is used for the production of new products, and premium landfill space is preserved. When biodegradable products are turned into compost they can reduce water use and lessen the need for fertilizer.
- (h) Biodegradable take-out packaging such as cups, plates, clamshell containers, and cutlery are now made from paper, sugarcane stalk, corn byproducts, and potato starch. As these products degrade, they pose less of a danger to the environment and are not a permanent blight on the landscape. These products are available locally.
- (i) Items made from polystyrene/plastic foam (commonly called Styrofoam™) are not biodegradable, compostable, returnable, or recyclable, locally. Polystyrene/plastic foam breaks into smaller pieces and because it is lightweight, may be picked up by the wind even when it has been disposed of properly.
- (j) As litter, polystyrene/plastic foam is highly durable, persisting longer than any other type of litter. There is a prevalence of polystyrene/plastic foam littering city parks and public places, streets and roads, waterways, storm drains and beaches. This litter ultimately floats, or is blown, into the Monterey Bay. This litter creates a financial cost to city residents and an environmental cost to natural resources.
- (k) Marine animals and birds often confuse polystyrene/plastic foam with pieces of food, and when ingested, it can impact their digestive tracts, often leading to death.
- (l) Polystyrene/plastic foam is manufactured from petroleum, a nonrenewable resource.
- (m) There is scientific evidence that styrene leaches from polystyrene foam containers into food and drink. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that there are short- and long-term adverse health effects associated with exposure to styrene.
- (n) It is not economically feasible at this time to recycle polystyrene/plastic foam in the city of Santa Cruz.
- (o) Prohibiting the use of polystyrene/plastic foam take-out food packaging and replacing it with food service ware that is biodegradable, compostable or recyclable, and restricting the use of polystyrene/plastic foam products that are not wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material, will further protect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, city residents and visitors, and will support the city's goal of reducing waste and litter for a cleaner environment for generations to come.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 1, 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 1, 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 1, 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.015 DEFINITIONS. SHARE

Unless otherwise expressly stated, whenever used in this chapter the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- a) "Affordable" means that a biodegradable, compostable or recyclable product may cost up to fifteen percent more than the purchase cost of the nonbiodegradable, noncompostable or nonrecyclable alternative(s).
- b) "Biodegradable" means the entire product or package will completely break down and return to nature (i.e., decompose into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of time after customary disposal) and is consistent with the materials accepted at the composting facility used by the city collection program, if certified by Biodegradable Product Institute, BPI, or by another independent third party testing laboratory that certifies products free of intentionally added PFAS and PFOS (polyfluorinated alkyl substance). Regulations issued by the public works director will determine the specific products or product types that are considered compostable for purposes of this chapter.
- c) "City of Santa Cruz facility" means any building, structure, recreational area, or vehicle owned and operated by the city of Santa Cruz, its agents, agencies, and departments.
- d) "City of Santa Cruz contractor" means any person or entity that has a contract with the city of Santa Cruz for work or improvement to be performed, for a franchise, concession, for grant monies, goods and services, or supplies to be purchased at the expense of the city of Santa Cruz, or to be paid out of monies deposited in the treasury or out of trust monies under the control or collected by the city of Santa Cruz.
- e) "Compostable" means (1) all the materials in the product or package will break down, or otherwise become part of usable compost (e.g., soil-conditioning material, mulch) in a safe and timely manner and (2) is natural fiber-based. Compostable items may include those that are made entirely of natural fiber or natural fiber-based items that are coated or lined with biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources (e.g., compostable plastics), if certified by Biodegradable Product Institute, BPI, or by another independent third party testing laboratory that certifies products free of intentionally added PFAS and PFOS (polyfluorinated alkyl substance). Regulations issued by the public works director will determine the specific products or product types that are considered compostable for purposes of this chapter.
- f) "Disposable food service ware" is interchangeable with "to go" packaging and "food packaging material" and includes: all containers, clamshells, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, straws, stirrers, forks, spoons, knives, napkins and other items designed for one-time use for prepared foods, including, without limitation, service ware for takeout foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by food providers.
- g) "Food provider" means any vendor, business, organization, entity, group or individual, including food establishments, as defined herein, located in the city of Santa Cruz that offers food or beverage to the public.
- h) "Person" means an individual, business, event promoter, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation, nonprofit, including a government corporation, partnership, or association.
- i) "Polystyrene/plastic foam" means blown expanded and extruded polystyrene (sometimes called Styrofoam™) or other plastic foams which are processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to, fusion of monomer spheres (expanded bead plastic), injection molding, foam molding, and extrusion-blown molding (extruded foam plastic). Polystyrene and other plastic foam is generally

used to make cups, bowls, plates, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays, egg cartons, coolers, ice chests, shipping boxes, packing peanuts, and beach or pool toys. The term “polystyrene” also includes clear or solid polystyrene which is known as “oriented polystyrene.”

- j) “Prepared food” means food or beverages, which are served, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed or otherwise prepared within the city of Santa Cruz. Prepared food does not include raw, butchered meats, fish and/or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar food establishment.
- k) “Polystyrene/plastic foam products” means any item such as coolers, ice chests, cups, bowls, plates, clamshells, shipping boxes, containers, cutlery, or any other merchandise containing polystyrene/plastic foam that is not wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material.
- l) “Recyclable” means any material that is accepted by the city of Santa Cruz recycling program, including, but not limited to, paper, glass, aluminum, cardboard and plastic bottles, jars and tubs.
- m) “Food establishment” means all sales outlets, stores, shops, vehicles or other places of business located within the city which operate primarily to sell or convey foods or beverages, which foods or beverages are predominantly contained, wrapped or held in or on packaging. “Food establishment” shall include, but not be limited to, any place where food is prepared, mixed, cooked, baked, smoked, preserved, bottled, packaged, handled, stored, manufactured and sold or offered for sale, including, but not limited to, any fixed or mobile restaurant, drive-in, coffee shop, cafeteria, short-order cafe, delicatessen, luncheonette, grill, sandwich shop, soda fountain, hotel, motel, movie house, theatre, bed and breakfast inn, tavern, bar, cocktail lounge, nightclub, roadside stand, take-out prepared food place, industrial feeding establishment, catering kitchen, mobile food preparation unit, commissary, event, grocery store, public food market, produce stand, food stand, takeout food delivery service, or similar place in which food or drink is prepared for sale, or for service, on the premises or elsewhere, and any other establishment or operation where food is processed, prepared, stored, served or provided for the public and any organization, group or individual which provides food as part of its service.
- n) “Events promoter” means an applicant for any event permit issued by the city or any city employee(s) responsible for any city-organized event.
- o) “Vendor” means any store or business which sells or offers goods or merchandise, located or operating within the city of Santa Cruz, including those referenced in “food establishment” and “food provider.”

(Ord. 2020-02 § 2, 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 2, 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 2, 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.020 POLYSTYRENE/PLASTIC FOAM DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE PROHIBITED.



SHARE

- a) Food providers within the city of Santa Cruz may not provide food in any disposable food service ware that contains polystyrene/plastic foam.
- b) Disposable food service ware that contains polystyrene/plastic foam is prohibited from use in all city of Santa Cruz facilities.

c) City of Santa Cruz contractors in the performance of city contracts and events promoters may not provide food in disposable food service ware that contains polystyrene/plastic foam.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 3 (part), 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 3 (part), 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 3 (part), 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.025 REQUIRED BIODEGRADABLE, COMPOSTABLE, OR RECYCLABLE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE.

a) All food providers within the city of Santa Cruz utilizing disposable food service ware shall use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable products, unless there is no affordable alternative available as determined by the director of public works (see Section [6.48.015](#), definition of “affordable,” and Section [6.48.030](#), Exemptions for biodegradable, compostable or recyclable food service ware and other polystyrene/plastic foam products).

b) All food providers may only give straws, lids, cutlery, and to-go condiment packages upon request of the customer. Customers must affirmatively request these items separate from food and beverage orders across all point of sale platforms, including but not limited to telephone, web, smart phone and other digital platforms.

c) All food providers are encouraged to provide a twenty-five-cent credit for customers bringing their own reusable containers for to-go items.

d) All food service providers are required to charge a “take-out fee” of twenty-five cents for disposable cups. Sellers may not waive or absorb this fee. The fee must be clearly identified separately on any post-sale receipt. This fee is intended to offset any cost difference of biodegradable, compostable or recyclable food service ware, and remain with the seller.

e) All food service providers are encouraged to charge a “take-out fee” of twenty-five cents for containers, lids, straws, stirrers and/or utensils. This fee is intended to offset any cost difference of biodegradable, compostable or recyclable food service ware.

f) All city of Santa Cruz facilities utilizing disposable food service ware shall use products that are biodegradable, compostable or recyclable.

g) City of Santa Cruz contractors, and events promoters utilizing disposable food service ware, shall use biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable products while performing under a city of Santa Cruz contract or permit.

h) Food service providers that have inside dining are encouraged to use reusable food service ware rather than providing disposable ware.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 3 (part), 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 3 (part), 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 3 (part), 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.027 PROHIBITED SALES.

No vendor or event promoter in the city of Santa Cruz may sell, rent or otherwise provide any polystyrene/plastic foam product which is not wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable

material, except as exempted in Section [6.48.030](#). This specifically includes, but is not limited to, cups, plates, bowls, clamshells and other products intended primarily for food service use, as well as coolers, containers, ice chests, shipping boxes, pool or beach toys, packing peanuts, or other packaging materials.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 3 (part), 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 4, 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 4, 2012).

6.48.030 EXEMPTIONS FOR BIODEGRADABLE, COMPOSTABLE OR RECYCLABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE AND OTHER POLYSTYRENE/PLASTIC FOAM PRODUCTS.

 SHARE

- a) There are no exemptions that allow for the use of polystyrene/plastic foam disposable food service ware.
- b) The director of public works, or the director's designee, may exempt a food provider from the requirement set forth in Section [6.48.025\(a\)](#) for a one-year period upon the food provider showing, in writing, that this chapter would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances. The director of public works or the director's designee shall put the decision to grant or deny a one-year exemption in writing, and the director's or director's designee's decision shall be final.
- c) Exemptions to allow for the sale or provision of polystyrene/plastic foam products may be granted by the director of public works, or director's designee, if the vendor can demonstrate in writing a public health and safety requirement or medical necessity to use the product. The director of public works, or director's designee, shall put the decision to grant or deny the exemption in writing and the decision of the director or director's designee shall be final.
- d) An exemption application shall include all information necessary for the director of public works or the director's designee to make a decision, including but not limited to documentation showing factual support for the claimed exemption. The director or the director's designee may require the applicant to provide additional information.
- e) The director of public works or director's designee may approve the exemption application in whole or in part, with or without conditions.
- f) Foods prepared or packaged outside the city of Santa Cruz and sold inside the city of Santa Cruz are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Purveyors of food prepared or packaged outside the city of Santa Cruz are encouraged to follow the provisions of this chapter.
- g) Meat trays are exempt from the provisions of this chapter, only if used for raw, butchered meats, fish and/or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar food establishment.
- h) Disposable food service ware composed entirely of aluminum is exempt for the provisions of this section.
- i) Products made from polystyrene/plastic foam which is wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Examples include surfboards, boats,

life preservers, and craft supplies which are wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material, and durable coolers not principally composed of polystyrene/plastic foam.

j) Construction products made from polystyrene/plastic foam are exempted from this chapter if the products are used in compliance with Title [18](#), Buildings and Construction, and Chapter [16.19](#), Storm Water and Urban Runoff Pollution Control, and used in a manner preventing the polystyrene/plastic foam from being released into the environment.

k) Emergency Supply and Services Procurement. In a situation deemed by the city manager to be an emergency for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, city facilities, food vendors, city franchises, contractors and vendors doing business with the city shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 5 (part), 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 5 (part), 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 5 (part), 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.035 ENFORCEMENT AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION.

a) Violations of this chapter may be enforced in accordance with Chapter [4.14](#).

b) The director of public works, or the director's designee, shall be responsible for enforcing this chapter and shall have authority to issue citations for violations. The director, or the director's designee, is authorized to establish regulations or administrative procedures to obtain compliance with this chapter.

c) Anyone violating or failing to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction.

d) The Santa Cruz city attorney may seek legal, injunctive, or any other relief to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

e) The remedies and penalties provided in this chapter are cumulative and not exclusive of one another.

f) The city of Santa Cruz, in accordance with applicable law, may inspect any vendor or food provider's premises to verify compliance.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 5 (part), 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 5 (part), 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 5 (part), 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.040 PENALTIES AND FINES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Violations of this chapter shall be enforced as follows:

1. For the first violation, the director of public works or the director's designee shall issue a written warning to the food provider or vendor specifying that a violation of this chapter has occurred and which further notifies the food provider or vendor of the appropriate penalties to be assessed in the event of future violations. The food provider or vendor will have thirty days to comply.

2. The following penalties will apply for subsequent violations of this chapter:

- a) A fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for the first violation thirty days after the first warning. The director of public works or the director's designee may allow the violating provider, in lieu of payment of the fine, to submit receipts demonstrating the purchase after the citation date of at least one hundred dollars worth of biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable products appropriate as an alternative disposable food service ware for the items which led to the violation.
- b) A fine not exceeding two hundred dollars for the second violation sixty days after the first warning.
- c) A fine not exceeding five hundred dollars for the third violation ninety days after the first warning and for each additional thirty-day period during which the food provider or vendor is not in compliance.

3. Food providers or vendors who violate this chapter in connection with events authorized by Chapter [10.64](#) or [10.65](#) shall be assessed fines as follows:

- a) A fine not to exceed two hundred dollars for an event of one to two hundred persons;
- b) A fine not to exceed four hundred dollars for an event of two hundred one to four hundred persons;
- c) A fine not to exceed six hundred dollars for an event of four hundred one to six hundred persons;
- d) A fine not to exceed one thousand dollars for an event of six hundred or more persons.

(Ord. 2020-02 § 6, 2020: Ord. 2017-16 § 6, 2017: Ord. 2012-09 § 6, 2012: Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

6.48.045 EFFECTIVE DATE.

This chapter shall take effect and be in force six months from the date of adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter.

(Ord. 2008-01 § 2 (part), 2008).

**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

Agenda Item: 2

Subject: Western Monarch Count

The Commission suggested promoting the upcoming Western Monarch Count. The 2021 Western Monarch Counts are scheduled for November 13, 2021 – December 5, 2021 and December 25, 2021 – January 9, 2022.

Help Count Monarchs go to www.westernmonarchcount.org and follow the steps to find a site, Capitola site# 2984 – Rispin Mansion and #2985 – Escalona Gulch, connect with a Regional Coordinator, Martha Nitzberg: martha.nitzberg@parks.ca.gov, get training, monitor your selected site and count, then submit your data.

Staff will post information on the city's website and promote the counts through social media.



Participating in the Count

1. [Find an Overwintering Site Near You](#)
2. [Get Training and Connect with a Regional Coordinator](#)
3. [Familiarize Yourself with the Count](#)
4. [Get Ready to Count, Set a Date](#)
5. [Monitor Your Site and Count](#)
6. [Submit Your Data](#)
7. [Share Your Experience](#)

Photo by Carly Voight, The Xeroxes Society.

The 25th Thanksgiving Count is coming up! The Thanksgiving Count will run from November 13th-December 5th and the New Year's Count will run from December 25th-January 9th.



**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Agenda Report

Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

Agenda Item: 6

2022 Meeting Schedule

Proposed monthly schedule on the third Wednesday at 6:00PM

January 19, 2022
February 16, 2022
March 16, 2022
April 20, 2022
May 18, 2022
June 15, 2022
July 20, 2022
August 17, 2022
September 21, 2022
October 19, 2022
November 16, 2022
December 21, 2022