

From: [Katie Hansen](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: CRA Letter Re: Agenda Item 3
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 10:26:13 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Palo Alto CRA Comment Letter.pdf](#)

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Greetings,

On behalf of the California Restaurant Association I would like to submit a comment letter regarding Item 3 on this evening's City Council meeting agenda.

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

Thank you,
Katie Hansen

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April 18, 2022

Mayor Burt and City Councilmembers
Palo Alto City Council
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Item 3: Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Existing Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 5.30

Dear Mayor Burt and City Councilmembers,

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

The California Restaurant Association (CRA) worked with Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo to create AB 1276, 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 has been signed by the Governor and is now part of California law. We recommend aligning the proposal before you with AB 1276, to ensure ease in compliance and provide a uniform framework for restaurants as well as customers.

In the spirit of what you are trying to do, reduce needless waste, we would like to suggest a few modifications to help food facilities comply with the “upon request” portion of the ordinance. Key elements of a workable “upon request” model include the ability of food facility employees to verbally offer straws, lids, cutlery, and to-go condiment packages to customer or for customers to self-select these items from a receptacle, so as not to disrupt restaurant operations, while creating consumer awareness of unnecessary use of certain single-use products. We suggest including these elements in the definition of “upon request” for drive thru settings to align with AB 1276.

We appreciate the proposal before you including a written notice of warning to the food facilities for violations. However, we would recommend reducing the fine from \$100 to \$25 per violation and to not exceed \$300 in total to be consistent with AB 1276. It does seem a little

excessive to fine a food facility for accidentally handing out a package of ketchup to a customer who does not request one.

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

Sincerely,



Katie Hansen
Senior Legislative Director
California Restaurant Association

