



Date: January 23, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Carmen Lopez, Sustainability Program Analyst I; Erin Brewster, Sustainability Program Manager

Title: **Adoption of Single-Use Plastic Bottle and Paper Carton Ordinance**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action:

- (1) Adopt Ordinance 2024-01 adopting Chapter 6.05 of the Truckee Municipal Code regarding Single-Use Plastic Bottles and Paper Cartons.
- (2) Find the adoption of the ordinance exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines sections 15061(b)(3), 15307, and 15308.

Discussion:

In 2019, Town Council directed staff to explore solutions for litter and waste in our community, after local students and environmental advocates showed strong support for waste reduction policies. A stakeholder working group was convened to develop specific policy recommendations for Council, ultimately resulting in the Single-Use Foodware Ordinance. At the first reading of the Town's Single-Use Ordinance on October 25, 2022, Council members indicated there was interest in exploring a plastic water bottle ban. After a community engagement process conducted by Town staff, the following single-use policy recommendations were presented to and approved by Town Council on May 23, 2023:

1. Develop a comprehensive outreach and incentive program to support a reduction in use of single-use bottles, promote a shift to reusable water bottles, and incentivize installation of additional refill stations in the community.
2. Develop an ordinance for Council consideration prohibiting the sale and commercial distribution of water packaged in single-use plastic bottles or paper cartons less than one gallon in volume.
3. Include exemptions for emergencies, social services, healthcare, and other situations that may impact health and safety.
4. Report back to Council at least one year after the effective date on implementation of the ordinance and outreach campaign, including impacts on residents and businesses.
5. Investigate options to expand the ordinance to include other beverages in single-use plastic packaging and provide recommendations to Council for future consideration.

Ordinance 2024-01 (Attachment 1) was developed based on the direction received from Council in May 2023 and input received through the community engagement process and was introduced at the Town Council meeting on January 9, 2024 (Attachment 2). The proposed ordinance would prohibit the sale and commercial distribution of non-carbonated, non-flavored water packaged in single-use plastic bottles or single-use paper cartons less than one gallon in volume. The proposed effective date would be April 22, 2025 (Earth Day 2025).

Environmental Clearance

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the adoption of this ordinance does not have potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and is therefore not subject to the CEQA guidelines. The proposed ordinance seeks to protect the environment and natural resources by reducing the use of single-use plastic bottles and single-use paper cartons. As such, the ordinance is further exempt under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15307 and 15308, which exempt actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of natural resource or the environment.

Priority:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Core Service

Fiscal Impact: It is anticipated that adoption of this ordinance will require at least 0.6 FTE in staff time for implementation, including development of supporting programs and outreach, through FY 24-25. Pending other Council priorities, this can be supported through existing staffing levels. Funding will be needed for development of educational materials about the adopted ordinance for residents, visitors, businesses, and special events managers. The FY 23-24 budget included \$16,500 in CIP 2309 to support single-use bottle reduction programs, including outreach materials encouraging voluntary reduction of single-use items, a filling station grant program, purchase of refill stations for special events, and development of a regional refill station map. As discussed in the November 14, 2023, approval of the filling station grant program, staff also plan to leverage any unused funds from the foodware ordinance grant program to supplement the filling station program in FY 23-24.

The current FY 23-24 funding does not include development of outreach collateral or other materials to support ordinance implementation, which will be included in the proposed FY 24-25 budget. Based on the results of the community engagement process, staff are also developing additional proposed supportive programs to help residents and visitors reduce their reliance on single-use water bottles and will include additional anticipated costs in the FY 24-25 budget proposal. This may include giveaways of reusable water bottles and/or programs to increase access to filtered water in public spaces and at home.

While the majority of costs and staff time needed to support implementation of the ordinance and supporting programs will likely occur in FY 23-24 and 24-25, adoption of this ordinance will require some ongoing staff time to support education and enforcement efforts as long as the ordinance remains in effect.

Public Communication: Agenda posting. Two notices about the ordinance introduction were published in the *Sierra Sun*, and staff publicized the ordinance introduction via the Keep Truckee Green newsletter, social media posts, and emails to local businesses, the Truckee Chamber of Commerce, Visit Truckee-Tahoe, and the Truckee Downtown Merchants Association.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance 2024-01
2. January 9, 2024 Staff Report, available at:
<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=59687262&repo=r-6a91ddbc>