



Media Release

City of Berkeley receives 2020 pollution prevention award

Oct. 14, 2020

Contact: Michael Montgomery
michael.montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov

Oakland – The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Wednesday presented the 2020 [Pollution Prevention Award](#) to the city of Berkeley for enforcing its Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, passed unanimously by the City Council.

The city's ordinance is keeping trash out of urban creeks and San Francisco Bay, along with pollutants associated with trash, like microplastics and harmful chemicals. Using reusable foodware is also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

“Sometimes we need significant behavior changes to manage pollution at its source, and such changes can be difficult,” said San Francisco Bay Water Board Executive Officer Michael Montgomery. “Fortunately, the City is showing us a path away from being a ‘disposable society.’”

The city implemented the ordinance in phases from 2019 to 2020, reducing the use and disposal of single use foodware, like cups, lids, utensils, and straws. The city now requires food vendors to offer disposable foodware items, such as napkins, utensils, stirrers, only when requested or at self-serve stations. Vendors must provide receptacles for trash, recycling and compost. The city requires disposable foodware to be certified compostable and free of intentionally added fluorinated chemicals, and requires food vendors to charge for disposable beverage cups and to use mostly reusable foodware for those dining in.

The San Francisco Bay Water Board presents the Pollution Prevention Award annually in memory of Dr. Teng-Chung Wu, a former Water Board employee and early advocate for pollution prevention. Dr. Wu believed many pollutants can be more effectively eliminated by controlling their sources, rather than relying on end-of-pipe treatment.

The mission of the [San Francisco Bay Water Board](#) is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

#



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 • www.waterboards.ca.gov

