



**5 GYRES**  
SCIENCE TO SOLUTIONS



September 4, 2021

Dear Glendale Councilmembers and City Manager Golanian,

**Thank you for your support for the Accessories Upon Request Ordinance.** Glendale now has an opportunity to rid the city of excessive waste and help restaurants save money by not purchasing unneeded accessories that will end up as trash or a pollutant. Many of these accessories are also single-use plastic items.

Waste has become a significant issue in our society, and our reliance on fast and to-go meals has exacerbated this. Before Covid, the average Californian generated 4.7 pounds of waste per day.

- The majority of plastics are non-recyclable. They never were recyclable although we have been misled to think that they are.
- Plastics cumulatively remain as pollutants hundreds of years after being created.
- These food accessories are not recyclable due to food-residue contamination, product size and product material concerns.

- The creation and management of these accessories use valuable resources such as gas and water, and contribute significantly to the climate crisis.

Glendale needs to do as much as possible to reduce waste. **We therefore ask that the stronger Los Angeles City language be included in the ordinance**, as recommended by Glendale’s Sustainability Commission and Surfrider Foundation, so that restaurants (1) will not ask customers if they want the accessories (with the exception of drive-throughs and delivery services who MAY ask) and (2) will not provide accessories in self-serve containers. For consistency, it is smart to parallel the more widely adopted Los Angeles City rule, as they have more restaurants than unincorporated Los Angeles County and a much larger population. In addition, the Los Angeles City rule does more to begin to change our society’s pervasive “throw away culture” mentality. Los Angeles City councilmember Mitch O’Farrell put it clearly, “It’s not about enforcement. Rather it is a focus on changing behaviors and reversing the normalization of widespread consumption of disposable plastic waste.”

**This Los Angeles City version of the ordinance provides economic benefit to restaurants and does not present an undue burden**, for several reasons:

1. The current proposal would give mom and pop restaurants 150 days to comply. This is a generous period of time for education by the city.
2. Before any citation is issued, the establishment would receive TWO warnings.
3. The citations are for a nominal amount.
4. Restaurants SAVE money by not having to give out these items.
5. A study by the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs not only found that restaurants **saved money** after implementing on-request programs, but also that **customer loyalty remained intact**.  
<https://luskin.ucla.edu/ucla-study-on-plastic-waste-in-l-a-county-will-inform-ordinance>

***“Changing consumer expectations and behavior through mandates will ease our burden and help increase adoption of reusable alternatives.”***

- Ryan Floyd, owner of 33 Taps Silver Lake, in a public comment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
 Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)  
 Feminists in Action Los Angeles  
 Glendale Environmental Coalition  
 Active San Gabriel  
 Urban Ecology Project  
 Community 2.0  
 Glendale Democratic Club  
 The NELA Climate Collective

Wesley Reutimann, Special Programs Director  
 Jessica Craven, elected member LACDP  
 Cheryl Auger, President Ban SUP  
 Chris Peck, Founder, Urban Ecology Project  
 Craig W. Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter  
 Monica Campagna, Steering Member, Glendale Environmental Coalition, Glendale Resident

Greg Apodaca, Vision Holder and CEO, Community 2.0

Donielle Lemone, Glendale Resident

Jackie Nuñez, Founder, The Last Plastic Straw

Karen Hare Neillson, Co-Founder Green Lunchroom Committee (Glendale), Glendale Resident

Joanna Hess, Green Lunchroom Committee, Glendale Resident

Michael Doshi, Director of Partnerships, Algalita

Alison Waliszewski, Policy & Outreach Manager, 5 Gyres Institute

Michelle Reyes, Glendale High School Science Teacher

Dianna Cohen, Plastic Pollution Coalition

Emily Spokes, The NELA Climate Collective

Emily Parker, Heal the Bay