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Foam-fighters making progress

By LANE WALLACE
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Santa Cruz County businesses are making enough progress in eliminating polystyrene foam packaging that a mandatory ordinance is no longer warranted, county supervisors were told this morning.

An ordinance would be "complex to administer" and would require a significant commitment of staff time, Planning Director Dan Shaw said in a letter to the board.

A number of restaurants and

businesses have dropped foam packaging in the last year, Shaw said, including McDonald's. A survey in March showed less than 25 percent of restaurants in the city of Santa Cruz still use foam.

Dan De Grassi, who oversees the planning department's recycling, said about 60 percent of businesses contacted for a survey have cut out foam packaging.

In a ceremony this morning, supervisors honored those busi-

nesses which have dropped foam packaging in favor of paper. The list is not intended to be complete, because some businesses may be using paper but didn't respond to county surveys.

The largest operations honored were the Golden Age Nutrition Program, which serves meals to the elderly, and Big Basin State Park in Boulder Creek. Also honored were:

In Soquel: The Summit Store, JJ's Saloon, 41st Yard Lane Bar and Grill, The Bagelry and Land

of Medicine Buddha, a conference center.

In Aptos: Kelly's French Pastries and the Broken Egg Restaurant.

In Santa Cruz: Yacht Harbor Cafe, Triway Care Center, Kim's Kitchen, Happy Valley Conference Grounds, Intertidal Aquafarms and Santa Cruz Pasta Factory.

In Felton: Hallcrest Vineyards and The White Raven.

In Ben Lomond: the Quaker Center.