

8193 Daisy Lane  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
February 14, 2009

Jamie McLeod  
Recycling & Waste Reduction Commission  
Santa Clara County  
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg #1  
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Jamie McLeod:

As a concerned citizen and constituent of Santa Clara County, I am writing to ask you to vote for the 25 cent tax on disposable, single-use plastic bags on Feb. 25 2009. Introduced 25 years ago, these bags are now consumed at an astounding rate of approximately 500 billion per year globally, or 1 million per minute. It is estimated that 1% or 5 billion of these bags end up as wind blow litter each year. These bags that take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade, often wind up in waterways or the landscape, becoming eyesores and eventually degrading water and soil as they break down into tiny toxic bits.

Their manufacture and disposal also uses large quantities of non-renewable resources, especially petroleum, a key ingredient in plastic. Large amounts of global warming gases are released during their production, transportation, and disposal. Environmentally, disposable plastic bags are a serious problem.

The negative impacts of disposable bags could be easily and significantly reduced by charging for their usage at the point of purchase. Without the tax, consumers are just too lazy to convert to the use of reusable bags.

Thank you for your careful thought on this matter, and I hope, your support for a cleaner world.

Sincerely,



Alicia Borowski,  
Gilroy, CA



7-Eleven, Inc.

Via E-Mail

**Keith Jones**

Sr. Director, Government Affairs  
Direct Dial: 972-828-7804  
Mobile: 214-415-2993  
Fax: 972-828-8982  
Email: [keith.jones@7-11.com](mailto:keith.jones@7-11.com)

The Honorable Jamie McLeod  
Chair, Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County  
1553 Berger Drive, Building #1  
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Council member McLeod:

Nearly, 100 7-Eleven Franchisees own and operate 103 stores in Santa Clara County. Recently, they asked customers to sign petitions opposing your proposed 25 cent tax on carry out bags. I would like to submit for the record our receipt of 2,755 letters of opposition to the proposed single-use bag tax proposal. These are all from citizens – and consumers – of Santa Clara County and were collected in only 1 week. We believe these reflect widespread opposition from the public to this proposal, and we are confident that this number would be significantly much higher in a longer collection effort.

We are members of a broad coalition that oppose the single-use bag tax proposal but support effective pro-environment policy alternatives that focus on recycling, public education, and litter abatement and enforcement efforts. I would like to reiterate the strong interest of our coalition in working with you and your colleagues on a countywide policy that is effective and supported by the entire community.

Sincerely,

Keith Jones  
Sr. Director, Government Affairs  
7-Eleven, Inc.

cc: Honorable Members of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission

February 18, 2009

The Honorable Jamie McLeod  
Chair, Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County  
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1  
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Chairwoman McLeod:

Since December, many cities within Santa Clara County have considered and commented on the proposed single-use bag fee model ordinance. As you know, two cities have officially rejected the bag fee proposal, and substantial opposition from the community and elected officials remain in many other cities.

Nevertheless, we would like to again express our coalition's strong desire to work as community partners with other stakeholders, county staff, and the Commission to formulate a single-use bag policy that would reduce bag litter and disposal, increase recycling of these products and garner the support of a broad range of stakeholders. We believe that we can move forward in the spirit of cooperation and work together on waste reduction, recycling improvements, public education, litter abatement, and litter enforcement. We urge the Commission to table further discussion on a model bag fee ordinance and look forward to possibly working collaboratively on policies that make sense environmentally and economically.

Sincerely,

Mark Arabo  
President  
Neighborhood Market Association

Amalia Chamorro  
Director, Local Government Affairs  
California Restaurant Association

Ted Costa  
Chief Executive Officer  
People's Advocate, Inc.

John Handley  
Government Relations Director  
California Independent Grocers Association

Keith Jones  
Senior Director, Government Affairs  
7-Eleven Convenience Stores

Ryan Kenny  
Manager, State Affairs and Grassroots  
Progressive Bag Affiliates of the American Chemistry  
Council

cc: The Honorable Members of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County

December 9, 2008

County of Santa Clara  
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1  
San Jose, CA 95112

Attention: John Howe, Chairman of Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County and Ken Yeager, County of Santa Clara; Jamie McLeod, City of Santa Clara; Lisa Rose, Santa Clara County; Ronit Bryant, City of Mountain View; Kansen Chu, City of San Jose; Jose Esteves, City of Milpitas; Steve Glickman, Town of Los Gatos; Cat Tucker, City of Gilroy; and Kris Wang, City of Cupertino

Dear Commissioners:

The Gilroy Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is sending this letter to oppose the proposed ordinance which is written to impose fees on all single-use carry-out bags for the unincorporated county.

The approach being taken by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County is counter-productive to the efforts our communities are already working on to reduce waste. Several recurring concerns have emerged involving the propriety of government mandates and creating another layer of bureaucracy which would more likely result in an administrative nightmare for the County *and* the business community before providing desired benefits to the environment.

The Gilroy Chamber of Commerce representing over 650 businesses strongly suggests that the segment of the population most impacted -- the business community -- needs to be at the table for two-way discussion and consensus building.

The public is making more responsible and informed decisions regarding purchasing and daily routines. As we continue to make conscious choices in how we change our behaviors, government has an opportunity to be a partner in the solution -- that will only happen by government understanding the broad perspective of issues.

Sincerely,

Susan Valenta  
President/C.E.O.

Cc: Supervisor Don Gage  
CC: Mayor Al Pinheiro

**Rose, Lisa**

**From:** Rose, Lisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 4:53 PM  
**To:** Rose, Lisa  
**Subject:** FW: Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County

**From:** Jan Taylor [mailto:jantaylorcfma@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 4:49 PM  
**To:** Rose, Lisa  
**Cc:** Gail Hayden; Kenny, Ryan  
**Subject:** Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County

February 18, 2009  
The Honorable Jamie McLeod  
Chair, Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County  
1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1  
San Jose, CA 95112

Re: Proposed single-use bag ordinance

Dear Commission Members:

The Mountain View Certified Farmers' Market does not support the proposed single-use bag ordinance. It would be nearly impossible to change to a mandated multi-use bag plan because the market is based upon multiple sales points; sells raw product on an individual basis and transactions occur at each stall, not at a central checkpoint such as a grocery store. The single bag use at the market keeps each grower's produce separate, free from contamination and provides safe storage, ready for the fridge. Although reusable, mesh cloth bags may work for some, and for most commodities, but many customers will later use these plastic bags to keep separate and store their produce. Additionally, the burden upon each farmer to supply reusable bags or endure the economic impact of denying a sale because a customer did not bring a reusable bag, would surely drive growers from the Mountain View market. Please exempt raw food purchasing on the proposed single-use bag ordinance.

Sincerely,  
Doug Hayden  
President