

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY/TOWN/COUNTY TO DECLARE SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND FISCAL CONCERN

WHEREAS, the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County has determined that paper and plastic single-use carryout bags are of concern to the environment because of their one time use;

WHEREAS, litter collection for beaches, state highways, cities and counties costs the state \$303.2 million each year; plastic bags represent approximately 1% of total litter and accounts for a disproportionate share of visual blight, environmental damage, and cleanup costs;

WHEREAS, plastic single-use carryout bags have been found in road, beach, and waterway litter surveys as a significant portion of the litter stream;

WHEREAS, single-use carryout bags provided by stores impose hidden costs on consumers, local governments, the state, taxpayers, and the environment;

WHEREAS, requiring stores to end the subsidy of single-use carryout bags and charge their full economic and environmental costs would provide consumers with an appropriate market signal to make informed decisions regarding carryout bag reduction and reuse options;

WHEREAS, the City/Town/County has engaged stakeholders in a public process to garner input, comments and opinions regarding the single-use carryout bag issue and will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders throughout the process;

WHEREAS, the problems resulting from all types of plastics in the environment affects the world beyond Santa Clara County. Santa Clara County land-based debris, especially bags, packaging and single-use disposable products, is conveyed through storm drains to local creeks, into San Francisco Bay and into the Pacific Ocean, endangering marine and wildlife;

WHEREAS, streams within the County of Santa Clara have been identified as trash-impaired, which requires mitigation for achieving no impacts to beneficial uses of receiving waters from trash within 15 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City/Town/County, State of California does hereby find, resolve, and determine as follows:

1. The City/Town/County strongly encourages all retailers to provide an incentive for customers who bring their own bag.
2. The City/Town/County supports amendment of AB 2449 to include more retail establishments and to remove the preemption of local governments' ability to establish fees on carryout bags.
3. The City/Town/County encourage consumers use of reusable bags for purchases at local retailers.
4. The City/Town/County strongly encourages the use of recyclable or compostable take out food containers where programs exist for recycling or processing such containers.
5. The City/Town/County will cooperate with industry and local stores to encourage recycling of paper and plastic single-use bags.

6. The City/Town/County will collect available data on the number of single-use carryout bags generated by retailers, the rate of bags that are returned for recycling, and the actual disposition of the returned bags.
7. The City/Town/County will work with retailers to measure bag reuse, including both the reuse of single-use bags and the use of reusable bags.
8. The City/Town/County will support SB 55 or other legislation that will expand the definition of beverage containers to include vegetable, nut, grain or soy drinks that contain any percentage of juice and would delete the requirement that a vegetable drink be sold in a container of 16 ounces or less to be subject to California Recycling Value under AB 2020.
9. The City/Town/County will conduct an annual survey to monitor and measure the amount and the sources of litter on its road and waterways.
10. The City/Town/County will report back to their City/Town Council/County Board of Supervisors and to the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission in one year on the results of litter surveys and bag data collected during the previous twelve months.
11. The City/Town/County will commit to evaluation of appropriate mitigation for the environmental impacts of single-use carryout bags if recycling and/or bag reuse rates are below 70%, or if disposal and littering of single-use bags does not decline by 30% by 2011.