

**SRR Subcommittee  
TAC update, October 8, 2009**

Discuss recent action by San Jose City Council and consider updated information and recommendations for the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission.

**San Jose City Council direction regarding Reduction of Single-Use Carryout Bags.**

On September 22, staff was directed to finish environmental review and return to Council with an ordinance to prohibit the use of single-use carryout plastic and paper bags including the following provisions:

- (1) Apply to all retailers but exclude restaurants;
- (2) Exempt non-profit and social service organizations;
- (3) Exempt the use of “green” paper bags, containing at least 40% recycled content and direct staff to work with retail industry and return to Council with a recommendation on whether a 10 or 25 cent fee for retailers to cover additional costs of “green” paper is appropriate;
- (4) Be effective no earlier than December 31, 2010, to allow for sufficient consumer education and “ramp-up” time;
- (5) If the California legislature passes legislation relating to a fee or ban on single-use bags before the date of December 31, 2010, this item should return to Council to determine whether to maintain, alter, or eliminate the municipal ordinance;
- (6) Exempt bulk or off the shelf purchases of plastic or paper bags.

Staff was also directed to

- continue to support legislation that would implement a state-wide program that would significantly reduce use of single-use carryout bags;
- continue its aggressive outreach campaign to promote the use of reusable bags in collaboration with similar regional initiatives prior to the implementation of the ordinance;
- perform additional outreach to include the ethnic Chambers of Commerce and small businesses;
- develop a method for measuring success and establish a baseline of data; and
- obtain acceptance and support from both the Santa Clara County Cities Association and the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission.

This is fairly consistent with the Commission’s recommendations of April 22, but it is not exactly the same, and it may differ from Palo Alto’s plans. Input from TAC is needed for Commission consideration.