

May 13, 2011

Dear Ms. Ursula Schmidt and the Environmental Advisory Commission,

We are the Green Guerillas club at Westridge School for Girls. We are an Upper School environmental club, and we are very interested in the plastic bag ban in Pasadena. Our club gives many presentations to students and adults about the importance of reducing our plastic use, and we try to make our school as sustainable as possible. To show our support of the proposed plastic bag ban, we created a petition for the Westridge students to sign.

Thank you so much,


Green Guerillas

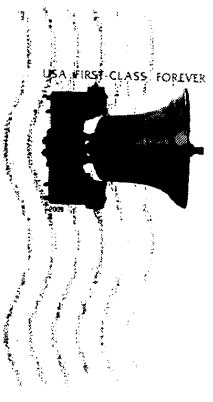
We support the plastic bag ban in Pasadena.

1. ~~Eric~~ ~~Maldeu~~
2. Jara Edwards
3. Misao McBregor
4. Claire Rotaru
5. ~~Sasha~~ Moritz
6. Emma Souther
7. Chloe Casey
8. Jenna Myers
9. Cheli Velez
10. Caran ~~Costo~~
11. Cameron Mason
12. Elly Roth
13. Tiffany Khaw
14. Sabrina Whitford
15. Julia Matthesen
16. Emma Ayzenberg
17. Samantha Ng
18. Jackie Pai
19. Maddy McCormick
20. Katy Chu
21. Inada Chen
22. Lizzie Steidel
23. MAREN HILLARD
24. Anna Perillo
25. Meagan MacPhee
26. Natalie Stanton
27. ~~Nick~~
28. ~~Cass~~

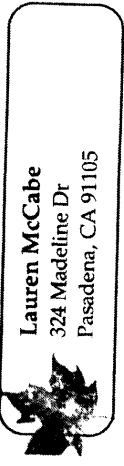
29. Nadine Jalaei
30. Rachel Wood
31. Lauren Hill
32. Marley Baker
33. Laurentom
34. Aileen Po
35. Cathy Jnt Johnson
36. Lauren McCabe
37. Uly Balkso
38. Julie McQuindish
- 39.
40. Andrea Russo
41. Nathalie Sami
42. Sarah Khan
43. Sami Adali
44. Victoria Holker
45. Roberta Ahrens
46. ~~in~~
47. Denise Hany
48. Alekya Prolunz
49. Rachel R. McKnight
50. Sydney Phillin
51. Lulu Sulman
52. Madison Williams
53. Metzger Mejar
54. Buende Soto
55. Hannah
56. Nicole Crawford
57. Ani Shorfstein
58. Jill Eisenberg
59. Kelly Kabib

60. ANGEL DENG
61. Lauren Nelson
62. Hannah Hanlon
63. Anne Myers
64. Niamh James.
65. Hannah Pem
66. Madelyn Bauer
67. Isabela Berera
68. Alice Wilson
69. Jamie Kim
70. Kate Hurley
71. Mia Osinski
72. Megan Brown
73. Mollie Page
74. Julia Jungstedt
75. Einar Haddad
76. Kyle Lindroth
77. Hannah Maltzan
78. Gordon James
79. Kate Gallagher
80. Parsley
81. Carson Micker
82. Maggie
83. Lauren Alvarez
84. Ella Rushing
85. Caroline Brookett
86. Stephens
87. Marjorie Williams
88. Olivia Tekelek
89. Molly Doyle
90. Jordan Shreffler

91. Danielle Bleser
92. Livi Holbrook
93. Marny Wood
94. Rosie Ryden
95. Anna Billy
96. Shayara Semiratra
97. Jace Olinch
98. Charlotte Jwang
99. Emma Hovance
100. Abigail Korafel
101. Josephine Kompassy
102. Muse Lee
103. Sarah Kim
104. Caroline Jones
105. Julia Sorella
106. Lena Tavrian
107. Rachel Kartin
108. Karah Gebhard
109. Sydney Norris
110. Mari Denapoli
111. Emma Rothenberg
112. Serri Kwik
113. Jackie Chen (=
114. Katarina
115. KRIS KIL 
- 116.
- 117.
- 118.
- 119.
- 120.
- 121.



SAVED QUALITY
2013 FEB 14
10:00 AM



Ursula Schmidt
Planning Department
Environmental Advisory Commission
175 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101-1704

91101+1704

Schmidt, Ursula

From: Laveaga, Rosa
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 7:41 AM
To: Schmidt, Ursula
Subject: FW: Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

from the chair of the Rec & Park Commission.

From: Kelley Holmes [mailto:kholmesmhna@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thu 4/14/2011 9:38 PM
To: Laveaga, Rosa
Subject: RE: Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

My apologies, but I will be out of town for this meeting. While I am very much in favor of reusable bags, I am concerned about the impact this might have on the economically disadvantaged. I look forward to hearing the outcome of the discussions you will have.

*Sincerely,
 Kelley Holmes*

From: Laveaga, Rosa [mailto:rlaveaga@cityofpasadena.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 5:25 PM
To: Annette Nicole; cdhernandez@charter.net; Felicia Williams; marylouisenberg@sbcglobal.net; alund.ann@gmail.com; 'scheid@usc.edu'; Don Bremner; gregory.harrison@alum.mit.edu; Kelley Holmes; Lark@westernjustice.org; larkcrable@yahoo.com; Margaret Belton; ritanmoreno@sbcglobal.net; thom.mrozek@usdoj.gov; thom@mrozekonline.com; Timothy Wendler
Cc: Schmidt, Ursula; Peretz, Charles; Pluth, Loren
Subject: FW: Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

Please see message below commissioners.

Rosa Laveaga
 Landscape Architect No. 3494
 Arroyo Seco Project Supervisor/HWPAC Liaison
 Department of Public Works
 City of Pasadena
 office: 626.744.3883
 fax: 626.744.3932

The City of Pasadena is extending an invitation to you to attend and provide input as staff recommends a proposed ordinance to the Environmental Advisory Commission that would ban plastic carryout bags, impose a ten cent charge on paper carryout bags, and require affected stores to provide reusable bags to customers for sale or at no charge. The stores that would be affected by the proposed ordinance includes large grocers (gross annual sale of \$2 million or more), retailers (at least 10,000 square feet of retail space and has a licensed pharmacy) as well as farmer's markets, drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, food marts, and liquor stores.

From: Jomsky, Mark

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 5:17 PM

To: Schmidt, Ursula

Cc: Beck, Michael; Walsh, Eric; Bertoni, Vince; Mermell, Steve; Bogaard, Bill; Bogaard, Bill; Gordo, Victor; Haderlein, Steve; Haderlein, Steve; Holden, Chris; Holden, Chris; Madison, Steve; Madison, Steve; McAustin, Margaret; McAustin, Margaret; Robinson, Jacque; Robinson, Jacque; Tornek, Terry

Subject: FW: please forward to list

Good afternoon,

Per the sender's request, please read the email below.

Mark Jomsky

City Clerk

City of Pasadena

(626) 744-4709

(626) 372-6769 (Cell)

From: nancy sagatelian [mailto:nancysagatelian@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 2:19 PM

To: Jomsky, Mark

Subject: please forward to list

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Regarding the upcoming proposed plastic bag ban for the City of Pasadena, I would like to express my concerns.

Some of us dog owners who do not have the luxury of a back yard, do rely on these bags for dog walking purposes. Purchasing doggy waste bags at the pet stores is extremely costly. Also, this ban would force everyone, at a time when most are diligently watching their budget, to have to purchase trash bags which are not necessarily biodegradable.

Based on my observations, we in Pasadena do not have a plastic bag litter problem. With that in mind, and the fact that unlike second hand smoke and the dust created by leaf blowers, plastic bags do not cause discomfort and harm to humans and animals. Also, styrofoam is worse for landfills. Both styrofoam and plastic food containers are still widely being used.

This ban may force some people to do their shopping elsewhere where this ban does not exist.

Perhaps your time, efforts and resources would be better utilized if they can be funneled into a public awareness campaign to use reusable bags, as opposed to banning the plastic ones. This way the public has a choice. We, in Pasadena, are fortunate to have access to many media resources, including KPAS, local papers, In Focus, etc. How about banners on light poles? Glendale did it nicely with their smoking ordinance, which is far more than we have done.

I'd like to point out to you that the reusable bags on the market that are made in China (and most of them are) are toxic and contain lead which rubs off on the contents. Also, it takes just as much energy to produce a paper shopping bag as it does a plastic bag and paper bags come from trees.....

As a staff member representing the City of Pasadena, you can write letters to the plastic bag makers and super market chains suggesting that they produce biodegradable plastic bags, since the technology is available. Also, many markets offer a choice, paper or plastic! The choice is ours to make.

Sincerely,

Nancy Sagatelian
Resident, District 7

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Schmidt, Ursula

From: Dahl, Laura
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 12:48 PM
To: 'Audrey O'Kelley'
Cc: Schmidt, Ursula
Subject: RE: Meeting on Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance - Oppose

Thanks Audrey, I am forwarding your comment to Ursula Schmidt.

Laura Dahl

From: Audrey O'Kelley [mailto:aokelley@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 12:43 PM
To: Dahl, Laura
Subject: Re: Meeting on Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance - Oppose

Hi Laura,

Thank you for forwarding. I will be unable to attend. However, I would like to submit for public record my opposition to this ban. The economy is struggling and the less regulations and additional costs to businesses the better.

Please confirm your receipt.

Thanks,

Audrey 'Kelley

From: Dahl, Laura
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Dahl, Laura
Cc: Schmidt, Ursula
Subject: Meeting on Proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance

The City of Pasadena is extending an invitation to you to attend and provide input as staff recommends a proposed ordinance to the Environmental Advisory Commission that would ban plastic carryout bags, impose a ten cent charge on paper carryout bags, and require affected stores to provide reusable bags to customers for sale or at no charge. The stores that would be affected by the proposed ordinance includes large grocers (gross annual sale of \$2 million or more), retailers (at least 10,000 square feet of retail space and has a licensed pharmacy) as well as farmer's markets, drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, food marts, and liquor stores.

Pasadena is committed to forging policies in support of increased environmental stewardship in partnership with the business community. Pasadena's Green City Action Plan, adopted in 2006, identifies the development of a plastic bag reduction program to support its goal of achieving zero waste to landfills by 2040.

Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday April 28th, 2011

6:00p.m.

**Pasadena City Hall
 Council Chambers**

Schmidt, Ursula

From: Jeff Rupp [jsrupp@scotlandco.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 6:56 PM
To: Schmidt, Ursula
Cc: Linda@pasadena-chamber.org
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

Dear Ms. Schmidt,

Tell me the City of Pasadena doesn't have higher priorities than banning plastic bags---sheesh. The "nanny state" strikes again! As a long-time resident of the City, the Counsel must stay up nights figuring out more ways to waste taxpayer dollars by regulating non-issues. No problem, borrow more money from the water and power fund.

Also, I subscribe to the City's mailings and I am just hearing about issue. Seems like the City has predetermined the outcome and has contacted their "friends" to support the issue—Notice any similarity in the e-mails you received?

Jeff Rupp
Canyon Close Road
Pasadena, CA 91107

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April 27, 2011

Ms. Felicia Williams
Chair, Environmental Advisory Commission
City of Pasadena
175 North Garfield Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91109

Re: Carryout Bag Draft Ordinance

Dear Ms. Williams:

It is our understanding that the City of Pasadena is considering whether to adopt an ordinance to ban plastic retail bags and place a 10-cent fee on each paper bag offered by most retailers. By way of background, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association of manufacturing companies, including those domestic producers of fully recyclable retail plastic bags.

ACC members support efforts to reduce bag litter and disposal and it is for that reason we have been working to promote and enhance the recycling of not only plastic bags but other plastic packaging as well. ACC is in full agreement with the intent of this discussion but feel an outright prohibition on these recyclable products is unnecessary. In many cases, suggestions to ban recyclable plastic bags often overlook important, yet unintended environmental impacts. Furthermore, these ordinances have the potential to impact consumers economically, especially for those employees who work at local bag manufacturing facilities in Los Angeles County.

As you and your colleagues discuss this issue, ACC respectfully requests that you consider several policy issues and potential alternative approaches. A common misconception is that plastic bags are not recyclable. California law requires all large grocery stores and pharmacies to provide a recycling bin for plastic bags. These bins provide a local consumer infrastructure that can capture not only recyclable plastic grocery bags but newspaper, dry cleaning, toiletry, and other bags and film as well (e.g., product wraps for cases of soda, paper towels, etc.). Nationally, plastic bag and film recovery has increased by 31 percent since 2005. This recovery growth is more than nine times greater than the 3.4 percent increase in recovery of all municipal solid waste from 2005 to 2009 according to EPA data. Recovery of postconsumer film (which includes plastic bags and product wraps) grew to an estimated 854,377,000 pounds in 2009.

In many communities around the country, ACC has worked in partnership with retailers, public agencies and other stakeholders to promote the recycling of plastic bags and wraps.

In addition to the recycling opportunities, we believe that other policy and legal issues should also be explored, including:

- If the proposed 10-cent fee on paper bags (in an effort to reduce the environmental impacts of those products), would be subject to the provisions of Proposition 26?
- Whether an analysis has been conducted as to the potential consumer cost impact for residents that may now be forced to pay for paper bags, especially those that are not on public assistance but may be struggling to make ends meet?
- Whether such an ordinance would require city expenditures to implement, monitor and audit the program, especially as it relates to a city mandated per bag charge?



In our view, bag litter and disposal can be reduced by encouraging consumers to use reusable bags and to recycle their plastic bags. These activities can be undertaken through partnerships between industry, retailers, local governments, recyclers and environmental organizations all without the burden of additional regulation, unintended environmental impacts, or negative economic impacts on consumers.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to provide these comments and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss potential recycling opportunities in the city of Pasadena. If you or your colleagues have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at ryan_kenny@americanchemistry.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Kenny', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Kenny
Manager, State Affairs
American Chemistry Council

cc: Members, City of Pasadena Environmental Advisory Commission





June 8, 2011

Environmental Advisory Commission
City of Pasadena, Department of Planning
c/o Ursula Schmidt
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Ban on single-use plastic bags

Dear Environmental Advisory Commission members,

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to take no position on the current proposal to ban plastic grocery bags in Pasadena.

The Chamber Board does have an alternate plan that we feel would be more impactful for the environment as a whole and less of a burden on our local grocery stores. That proposal is included later in this communication.

First, while not opposing or supporting the proposal, the Pasadena Chamber Board has several concerns about the proposal to ban plastic bags and impose a cost on paper bags.

The Board feels:

1. This is a state-wide issue that should be dealt with by the California Legislature. By imposing additional costs on Pasadena located companies, the City would be placing those companies at a competitive disadvantage with similar businesses in adjacent communities. Is it really fair for the Vons, Ralphs or Trader Joe's in Pasadena to charge more of its customers than the same store in Eagle Rock or Arcadia? Though the entire unincorporated area of Los Angeles County is currently under a similar ban. That is only 8% of Los Angeles County.
2. Research on the environmental impact of plastic bags is very contradictory, and little of the research stands as independent, scientific inquiry. Those studies with findings opposing bans are funded primarily through the plastics industry and those supporting bans are by environmental groups led by enthusiasts, not scientists.
3. When there are independent studies, such as that done for the Australian government in 2002, they show that 60% of all plastic bags are reused in households to line trash cans, pick up after dogs, as lunch bags, etc. That same study shows that only about 45% of first-time plastic bag use is generated by grocery and convenience stores.
4. According to reports in the UK, the estimates that 100,000 marine mammal die annually as a result of ingesting plastic bags is false. The study cited actually found that 100,000 marine mammals died each year as a result of ingesting fishing tackle, not plastics and certainly not plastic bags.
5. A 2007 study by The Ocean Conservancy found that only 8% of the material collected during oceanfront cleanups each year are plastic bags. A greater problem was plastic food wrappers

which accounted for 9.6% of material cleaned up. Cigarettes and cigarette filters account for 27% of the material collected.

6. Other studies note that there is no data available about the impact ingesting small plastic particles has on sea life or secondary consumers of sea life. While studies have shown that plastic particles can be found in the stomachs of fish, sea mammals and whales, there is no data to show that plastic has been absorbed or digested by the animals, and none that shows ingesting small amounts of plastic has any more detrimental effect on sea animals than it does on humans.
7. The figures for plastic bag use cited in your own staff report seem greatly overstated. Your staff report claims that 85 million plastic bags are used in Pasadena each year. In 2002, prior to their measures to reduce the usage of plastic bags, the entire country of Australia used 2.1 billion plastic bags. Pasadenans therefore are using 620 bags per person per year while Australians were using 84 bags per year per person. To give you some perspective, the figure given by your staff would mean that my household of two uses 1240 plastic bags per year, or 3.4 bags per day. The math simply does not work. At the very least, you should ask your staff to more thoroughly research the subject and come back with realistic, verifiable numbers related to single-use plastic bags provided by grocery stores in Pasadena, not information based on estimated average uses that were compiled by other agencies and which may not be reliable. In the U.S. it was estimated that we used 100 billion plastic bags per year in 2007 or 350 bags per person per year, half of what is estimated for local usage in Pasadena in your staff report.
8. Unlike almost every municipality in California, Pasadena residents and businesses can recycle single-use plastic bags. Here are the plastic items that can be recycled through the Pasadena curbside program, according to the city recycling brochure: *All plastics 1 through 7, Styrofoam labeled 6 (styrofoam that is not numbered DOES NOT go in your recycling container), Plastic grocery bags (bundle bags together).*
9. Switching from plastic bags to paper bags will result in more greenhouse gas emissions as paper bags require significantly more energy to manufacture and the manufacturing process is more impactful on the environment, from a greenhouse gas standpoint. It is also much more costly to transport paper bags, as they take up significantly more space than plastic bags and require more trucks to transport.
10. The Board of the Pasadena Chamber understands that the state legislature has banned taxing or adding additional costs to the use of plastic bags until 2014. While that may be the case, the Board also thinks a more creative approach may reach the desired result while avoiding the legislature's ban. At the same time, we feel it is important for the City of Pasadena and those interested in curbing single-use plastic bags to communicate with our local legislators to stand up to special interests and to remove that ban prior to 2014.

For your information, we are including the two legislative staff analyses that were performed for the Chamber by our interns, along with their recommendations.

If the City Council is intent on passage of an ordinance to limit use of plastic and paper bags in grocery stores in a way that really helps reduce the impacts on the environment caused by grocery bags, the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce would prefer to see a different approach taken--one that addresses the plastic bag issue head-on without causing other, perhaps more significant, impacts to the environment that would result from the move to paper bags.

The Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce would like to see the City of Pasadena impose a \$0.10 fee to have any and all groceries bagged by a store employee. That fee would be imposed regardless of whether the bag used was paper or plastic and would be a cost imposed to have

the service of bagging done by a store employee, not based on the type of bag used. That fee would be waived if the person receiving the service brought their own bags, regardless of whether those were reusable, paper or plastic. In addition, the Board of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce would like to see the funds collected under this program used to purchase reusable bags that the affected stores could give out to their customers free of charge.

We feel this approach would have a much more positive impact on the environment as it does not encourage switching from plastic bags to the more greenhouse gas impactful paper bags. Further, this approach would provide funds that could be used to subsidize the cost of reusable bags for the stores, which the Chamber Board would like included in any program to reduce the consumption of single-use bags of any kind within the City of Pasadena. Funds could also be used for education and even environmental clean-up locally, depending on the level of funding provided. This approach could also be used to expand the ordinance to include other users of single-use bags and even other forms of single-use packaging.

To really reduce the use of plastic grocery bags, the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce prefers incentives to encourage alternatives to plastic bags. Such incentives, funded through the program outlined above, could be much more effective in helping change shopper behavior and not negatively impact the ability of our local businesses to compete in our regional marketplace or impose additional costs for them to do business in Pasadena. For example, has the City considered providing reusable bags free to the stores as an alternative to plastic bags?

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors still feels this is an issue that should be dealt with on a statewide or even national level and would prefer to see action taken on a broader scale. We do not want our members put at a competitive disadvantage compared to their peers in adjacent communities, especially when the research on the issue is so muddled and inaccurate, and the potential impacts on the environment from Pasadena's proposed action are so negligible, or perhaps even detrimental.

We are also aware that the passage of Proposition 26 in November, 2010, may restrict the ability of the City of Pasadena to impose new fees and taxes of any kind without the approval of 2/3 of the voters. The Chamber Board suggests the Pasadena City Attorney's office thoroughly research whether Proposition 26 limitations apply in this case and whether imposition of any sort of fee can be done absent approval of a super-majority of voters within the jurisdiction.

The current proposal to ban single-use plastic grocery bags and substitute paper bags with a \$0.10 charge applied does not warrant our support, but we would be supportive of a program, such as that we outlined above that deals with the issue directly without adding additional environmental impacts. The Chamber Board would be happy to work on a mutually agreeable program such as that outlined above that we can recommend to the Pasadena City Council for approval.

Thank you,



Dennis Buckley
Chair of the Board of Directors

Encl. Legislative analysis
Cc: Pasadena City Council

To: Mr. Paul Little - CEO, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
From: Omar El Shal - Legislative Analyst Intern, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Subject: Pasadena Ban on Plastic Bags
Status: Will not clear City commission until late May, final vote is expected at the earliest in early June
Date: May 13, 2011

SUMMARY: ORDINANCE FOR PASADENA'S BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS

OVERVIEW

City of Pasadena officials are currently considering a complete ban on plastic bags and a 10 cents surcharge on paper bags. The proposed ban would "prohibit the use of plastic bags at drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, food markets and liquor stores".ⁱ Exempted from the paper bag surcharge would be families using federal or state assistance to buy groceries.ⁱⁱ

OPPONENTS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE BALLOT

Proponents argue that plastic bags have an onerous environmental effect, particularly to marine life and state beaches.ⁱⁱⁱ On the other hand, opponents argue that paper bags are worse than plastic for the environment due to deforestation and carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by industrial plants used in paper manufacturing and transport of paper bags.^{iv}

The City ordinance mirrors a ban by LA County that bans plastic bags in grocery stores in non-incorporated areas, with the exception of fruit, vegetables or raw meat. Similarly, on May 17th, 2011, the city of Long Beach became the 22nd city in the United States to ban the use of plastic bags.^v The Long Beach ordinance bans plastic, compostable plastic and degradable plastic bags.^{vi} Effective Aug. 1, the ban will cover grocery stores and pharmacies with at least 10,000 square feet or annual sales of \$2 million or more, and place a 10-cent tax for each carryout paper bag.^{vii} Abroad, the European Union is also currently considering a ban on plastic bags across the EU, with some major EU states, including Italy, having already banned the use.^{viii}

ANALYSIS: PAPER OR PLASTIC?

The following analysis relies predominately on a 2007 Washington Post article that utilized sources from both the plastic and paper industry to construct several facts regarding the environmental impacts of paper and plastic bags. While I reviewed other literary sources, the Washington Post analysis is largely representative of the extent of scientific consensus on the issue and provides a comprehensive source of data on environmental facts.

Energy

Plastic requires 594 British Thermal Units ("BTU") to produce, while paper requires *four times* more energy at 2,511 BTU's.^{ix}

PRODUCTION PROCESS

Plastic bags are produced from oil refining waste products while paper is of course, produced from trees. In considering the environmental impact of plastic bags, attention should be given to:^x

- Extraction of oil;
- Separation of products in the refinishing process;
- Manufacturing of plastics.

On the other hand, the environmental impact of paper includes: ^{xi}

- The process of obtaining timber and whether it comes from a sustainable managed forest (i.e. most industrial timber is from plantations);
- Management of the environmental processing plant.

Pollution

The production of plastic bags generates 70 percent less air pollution and 50 times less water pollutants than paper bags.^{xii}

The non-partisan Environmental Literacy Council (“ELC”) estimates that all types of plastic compose 14 to 28 percent of trash volume nationwide, with compression reducing it to 9 to 12 percent. On the other hand, since plastic bags require less space than paper bags, the ELC estimates that all paper occupies half of nationwide landfill volume.^{xiii} The percentage of landfill volume taken up by plastics has remained steady since 1970 even as plastics have become more widely used.^{xiv} The ELC also estimates that since plastic is 9 times lighter than paper, transportation of the same number of paper bags would require seven additional regular size trucks, which also imposes an environmental impact in the form of truck pollution.^{xv}

However, every year, nationwide thousands of marine mammals die as a result of plastic. It has been reported, for example, that turtles mistake floating plastic for jelly fish and ingest them, possibly choking or blocking their intestines.^{xvi}

Recycling

Overall, it takes 98% less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle a pound of paper.^{xvii} Paper is degradable, but not completely, because modern landfills lack the water, light, or necessary oxygen.^{xviii} On the other hand, petroleum-based plastic bags are non-degradable; however, as discussed earlier, they take significantly less space than paper bags.^{xix} One to 3 percent of plastic bags used nationwide are recycled, while ten to fifteen percent of paper bags are recycled.^{xx}

IMPACT ON PASADENA AND LOS ANGELES BUSINESS

The Environmental Impact

The proposed ordinance will have negligible environmental effect in the area. Research suggests that, while not the most efficient available bag, plastic bags are overall *more* environmentally friendly than paper bags or *at worst* of equal detriment to the environment. Therefore, if reducing the environmental impact of plastic and paper bags is the main concern of the City Council, Pasadena should ban both plastic and paper bags and/or impose a surcharge for the use of both.

Additionally, the Council could either force the use of reusable bags or subsidize (perhaps via a small fee on trash collection dues), the allocation of biodegradable reusable bags to every home in Pasadena. Rather than imposing a trash fee or a resident fee, the Council may also consider raising funds by allowing Companies to advertise their product/company logos on biodegradable bags, which would either incentive new suppliers to manufacture these bags, or boost the sales of current manufacturers by selling advertising space. This method could pay both the City and resident expenditures for a proposed reusable bag program, while also giving

local companies the benefits of advertising space. Overall, a ban on both plastic and paper bags would have a far greater environmental impact than banning only plastic bags.

Impact on Business

The opportunity cost of a paper and/or plastic ban would include seriously hurting plastic and paper bag manufacturers, as well as, to a lesser extent chemical products manufacturers. To be truly effective, this type of ban should be an LA County and/or statewide ban. However, as environmental policy trends suggest, it is only a matter of time before ordinances banning the use of plastic bags spread across California. Without all of LA County also adopting the same measure, this ordinance will have a minimal environmental impact and be largely symbolic.

RECOMMENDATION

In its current form, I recommend that the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce oppose or abstain from supporting the ordinance. Overall, both plastic and paper are negative environmentally and more environmentally friendly substitutes exist. As I briefly proposed in the analysis, this ordinance can be better structured to maximize the environmental benefit. Additionally, a plastic and/or paper bag ban would be better served by a common ordinance by all of LA County (not just unincorporated areas, which compose only 14% of the greater LA county population).

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- ⁱ http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_17971257#ixzz1MpaRIMTZ
- ⁱⁱ Ibid.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.
- ^{iv} Ibid.
- ^v <http://www.plasticsnews.com/headlines2.html?id=22040&channel=284>
- ^{vi} Ibid.
- ^{vii} Ibid.
- ^{viii} <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5goLAxvtTbEwQQZK06KWpt6O9URsA?docId=CNG.e1e3011dfa5c9e06530678b2c4c69dcc.201>
- ^{ix} <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2007/10/03/GR2007100301385.html?referrer=emalilink>
- ^x <http://www.enviroliteracy.org/article.php/1268.html>
- ^{xi} Ibid.
- ^{xii} <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2007/10/03/GR2007100301385.html?referrer=emalilink>
- ^{xiii} <http://www.enviroliteracy.org/article.php/1268.html>
- ^{xiv} Ibid.
- ^{xv} Ibid.
- ^{xvi} Ibid.
- ^{xvii} <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2007/10/03/GR2007100301385.html?referrer=emalilink>
- ^{xviii} Ibid.
- ^{xix} Ibid.
- ^{xx} Ibid.

Daniel Rabiner

Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

April 30, 2011

Recommendation:

My recommendation is to support a Plastic Bag Tax versus a ban. A tax will reduce the use of plastic bags in a significant manner while raising funds for enforcement and to educate the populous regarding the harms of plastic bags and benefits of reducing their usage. The reason I'm opposed to a ban is plastic bags have a place where paper bags lack durability and functionality.

Plastic versus Paper Bags:

Plastic bags are a superior bag for a number of goods such as frozen goods or goods that will produce condensation. In addition paper bags while biodegradable are not particularly more environmentally friendly pre-use as they require more energy to produce. This second finding regarding the environmental benefits of paper versus plastic is why a Judge ordered an injunction to Oakland's plastic bag ban in 2008 while asking for further study.

State versus City:

Statewide or Countywide legislation is superior to localities since pollution doesn't stop at the border of Pasadena when it happens nearby. Plastic bags ending up in rivers, streams, or watersheds will affect the quality of life of Pasadena residents even if they impose a ban or tax unilaterally. Also educating the population can be done more effectively on a broader scale.

Why a Tax over a Ban:

A tax will reduce the usage of plastic bags except where they are far superior to paper bags. In Ireland when a tax was introduced nationwide in 2002 of 24 cents (US value) per bag, the use of plastic bags dropped from 328 annually to 21 per capita. The revenue generated was used to fund environmental cleanup, education outreach, and enforcement of the policy.

Other alternative methods that you may prefer can be found at: <http://cga.ct.gov/2008/rpt/2008-R-0421.htm>

We, the undersigned residents and/or retail and grocery shoppers of Pasadena, recognizing our responsibility and capability of living as better stewards of our planet simply by changing our habit of convenience, do hereby support a city-wide comprehensive plastic bag ban for Pasadena on the grounds that plastic bags:

- a) degrade our watershed rivers, our ocean environment, and the fish we eat;
- b) are a waste nuisance that costs millions of dollars for cities to clean up;
- c) are an inherently unsustainable product, made from non-renewable resources;
- d) can immediately be replaced by reusable bags, which are easy to use and to launder.

Name	Address	City	Zip Code	Email
1 Therese Brummel	1235 N. Mar Vista	Pasadena	91104	therese@brum@yaho.com
2 MARIONA S. COLEMAN	503 So. Euclid Ave	Pasadena	91101	marbcoleman@jacobell.net
3 Joseph Hall	28 S. Daisy Ave. C	Pasadena	91107	jhalle@erms.la
4 Alice Debbaut	10932 Wescott Ave.	SUNLAND	91040	amkd@ca.rr.com
5 Ann Erhard	2283 N Lake Ave	Altadena	91001	annerhard@yahod.com
6 Janet Rietow	2529 Gardi St	Duarte	91010	j.rietow@gmail
7 Isha Wadala	2195 San Pasqual St.	Pasadena	91107	ishaw&2@yahoo.com
8 PABLO BAJANT	22606 OXFORD LN	SANTA CLARITA	91356	pvlax@yahoo.com
9 Mary Coles	11066 Heelhaven Ave	Tujunga	91042	mary.coles327@gmail.
10 Dorsey Lawson	1780 N. Altadena Dr	Pasadena	91107	dorsey.lawson@earthlink.net
11 Janet DeBauer	1010 Synamore Ave	S Pasadena	91030	jdebauer@jacobell.net
12 John Hopkins	608 LAS FLORES	ALTADENA	91001	
13 Thomas Holaday	664 Alameda St	Altadena	91001	
14 NEAL TAYLOR	549 WEST AVE 46	LA	90065	nealtaylor@nrc.com
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
 RECEIVED
 2011 SEP 21 AM 10:18

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

Date: September 8, 2011

Re: Support for a Citywide Plastic Carryout Bag Ban

I am writing to urge you to continue your ongoing environmental leadership and ban the free distribution of single use plastic carryout bags at all stores within Pasadena. An estimated 6 billion plastic bags are used each year in Los Angeles County, and it is likely that millions of plastic carryout bags are used annually in Pasadena. Unfortunately, these bags are seldom recycled. Designed only for single-use, these bags have a high propensity to become litter. In fact, data from the 2006 International Coastal Clean-up Day show that over 120,000 discarded bags were collected in California, making bags one of the most abundant types of litter found in the State.

Plastic bags severely threaten wildlife and degrade the environment. For months after a storm, streamside vegetation, in-stream habitats, and creek bottoms are littered with seemingly endless piles of plastic shopping bags. Streams and storm drains carry plastic bags to the ocean where they are frequently mistaken as food and ingested by marine life.

Plastic bag litter is also costly to clean up; public agencies collectively spend millions of dollars each year on clean-up, enforcement, and prevention. Unfortunately, despite this effort, plastic bags remain ubiquitous in the environment, partially because of careless consumer treatment and also due to the difficulty associated with their clean-up.

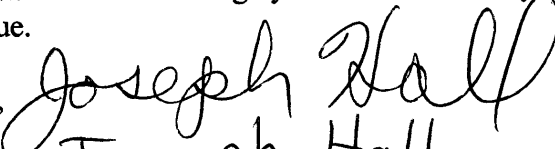
The City of Pasadena has an opportunity to be a true leader in dealing with plastic bag pollution. Voluntary recycling programs do not work. We urge the City to adopt an ordinance banning plastic and biodegradable carryout bags at all retailers citywide. Biodegradable plastic bags do not decompose in landfills or aquatic environments. Shifting to a biodegradable bag alternative will not alleviate the environmental blight caused by single-use bag litter. We also recommend the City of Pasadena include a retail fee on paper carryout bags in its ordinance. Paper bags are also fraught with environmental impacts. Paired with a plastic and biodegradable bag ban, a paper bag fee is critical in driving the most sustainable option, reusable bags.

The urgency for local government to take action has never been greater. Banning plastic bags in the City of Pasadena will help enhance the city's recreational and tourism economy, improve the quality of life for residents, free valuable landfill space, and restore our environment to a cleaner and healthier state. We urge you to make the City of Pasadena better with expeditious action on this issue.

Signed,

Name

Address:


Joseph Hall
28 S. Daisy Ave, Apt. C
Pasadena, CA 91107

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

Date: September 8, 2011

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Signed,

Name: Tom Brady, Chair, EDEN - The Environmental
Address: Ministry of All Saints Episcopal Church
132 N. Euclid Ave.

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

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Signed,

Name

Address:

Alice Dubbault

10932 Wescott Ave.

Sunland, Ca. 91040

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

Date: September 8, 2011

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Signed,

Name

Address:

Janet Rietow (Janet Rietow)
2529 Garfield
Quartz, CA 91010

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

Date: September 8, 2011

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Signed,

Name BRETT BRANDIE
Address: 4013 SUNSET BLVD APT 2
LOS ANGELES, CA 90029

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

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Signed, 

Name Jennifer Lao
Address: 2654 23rd St.
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Mayor Bogaard & Pasadena City Council Members
PO Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

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Signed,

Name NEAL TAYLOR
Address: 549 WEST AVE 46
LA - CA 90065