

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

April 30, 2010

## BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEMBERS

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## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

200 NORTH SPRING STREET  
ROOM 361, CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
(213) 978-0261  
(213) 978-0278 Fax

JAMES A. GIBSON  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

<http://www.lacity.org/BPW>

Motion

Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Room 305, CH

**Attn: Donna Estacio**  
**Director of State Relations**

City Council  
Room 395, CH

As recommended in the accompanying motion of the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation, which this Board has adopted, the Board of Public Works recommends that the Mayor and City Council concur with the Bureau of Sanitation's position in its Bill Response Report supporting legislative bill AB 1998 entitled: "Solid Waste: Single Use Carryout Bags", as amended on April 20, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Gibson, Executive Officer  
Board of Public Works

JAG:dpc

cc: Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Anant R. Mokashi, Regulatory Affairs Division, Bureau of  
Sanitation



For the Meeting of April 30, 2010

Council District(s): All

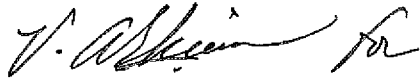
## MOTION

### Discussion/Background:

The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) has prepared the attached Bill Response Report (BRR) on the legislative bill **AB 1998** entitled: "Solid Waste: Single Use Carryout Bags", as amended on April 20, 2010.

The BOS recommends SUPPORTING this version of the bill.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that the Board of Public Works concur with the Bureau of Sanitation's position on this bill and forward to the Mayor and City Council for their approval.



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ENRIQUE C. ZALDIVAR, Director  
Bureau of Sanitation

Prepared by: Anant R. Mokashi, Regulatory Affairs Division  
(310) 648-5385

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**DATE:** April 23, 2010

**TO:** James A. Gibson, Executive Officer  
 Board of Public Works

**FROM:** Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director  
 Bureau of Sanitation

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD  
 PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY  
 of Los Angeles California  
**AND REFERRED TO THE MAYOR**  
**APR 30 2010**  
**AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**  
*James A. Gibson*  
 Secretary

**SUBJECT: BILL RESPONSE REPORT (BRR) ON AB 1998 AS AMENDED ON 4/20/10**

Please schedule a motion on the next available Board Agenda, for the Board of Public Works action. The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) is recommending a position on the referenced legislative bill as indicated below.

BILL NO	AUTHOR	INTRODUCED	AMENDED
AB 1998	Brownley	02/17/2010	04/20/2010
Title	Solid Waste: Single-Use Carryout Bags		

RECOMMENDED POSITION: SUPPORT

I request the Board to approve the attached BRR and the motion and forward it to the Mayor's Office (Attention: Donna Estacio) and City Council for their approval with a copy to Mr. Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst, and to Mr. Anant R. Mokashi of the Regulatory Affairs Division in the Bureau of Sanitation.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Anant R. Mokashi of my staff at (310) 648-5385.

ECZ: arm: 4/21/10

Attachments (2)

c: Cynthia M. Ruiz, Board of Public Works  
 Paula A. Daniels, Board of Public Works  
 Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst  
 John C. Wickham, CLA's Office  
 Varouj Abkian, Assistant Director  
 Alex Helou, Assistant Director  
 Karen Coca, Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division  
 Omar Moghaddam, Regulatory Affairs Division  
 Gus Dembegiotes, Regulatory Affairs Division  
 Anant R. Mokashi, Regulatory Affairs Division  
 Jinderpal Bhandal, Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division

RAD Central File/Legislation/BRR/Support/AB-1998

AB-1998-100420-CLR-BPW

**BILL RESPONSE REPORT**

  
Secretary

BILL NO	AUTHOR	INTRODUCED	AMENDED
AB 1998	Brownley	02/17/2010	04/20/2010
Title	Solid waste: Single-Use Carryout Bags		

**RECOMMENDED POSITION: SUPPORT**

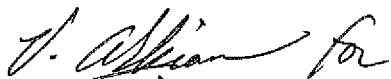
**REPORT BY:**

Anant R. Mokashi, Legislative Liaison on Date April 21, 2010  
(310) 648-5385

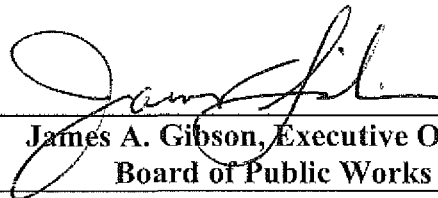
Approved:

Approved by Board of Public Works

On April 30, 2010



Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director  
Bureau of Sanitation



James A. Gibson, Executive Officer  
Board of Public Works

**JUSTIFICATION**

The proposed legislative measure would ban single-use carryout bags and make available reusable carryout bags for purchase at supermarkets, retail pharmacies, and convenience stores throughout the state. A single-use carryout bag is defined as designed for one or more uses, but fewer than 100 uses, and reusable carryout bag for at least 100 uses. The single-use carryout bags include, but are not limited to, paper and compostable plastic bags.

The single-use plastic bags are the most ubiquitous consumer item designed to last for minutes but persist in our marine environment for hundreds of years. Californians use an estimated 19 billion single-use plastic bags every year. Approximately 60 to 80% of all marine debris and 90% of floating debris is plastic and comes from mostly land-based sources. This plastic pollution poses a persistent threat to marine life. Over 267 species worldwide have been impacted by plastic litter, including the single-use plastic bags.

We can no longer recycle our way out of this problem. Despite efforts to expand recycling programs, less than 5% of single-use plastic bags are currently being recycled. The rest of these bags inevitably end up in our landfills or as litter, clogging storm drain systems, and making their way to our waterways and ocean.

The cleanup of litter from single-use bags puts an additional strain on our economy. The State spends an estimated \$25 million annually to clean up and landfill littered plastic bags. One study has estimated that the taxpayer cost to subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of plastic

## BILL RESPONSE REPORT (Continued)

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and paper bags could amount to as much as 17 cents per bag. This figure does not include the additional costs that local governments incur annually for cleaning littered streets and beaches, and for installing trash control devices to comply with total maximum daily load limits (TMDLs) for trash under the Clean Water Act. For example, the City of Los Angeles estimates that complying with the trash TMDL for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek will cost approximately \$85 million to meet the goal of zero trash by 2015.

The bill also addresses paper and compostable plastic bags as they are not viable alternatives to the single-use plastic bags. The production of paper bags contributes to depleted forests and natural resources, emission of greenhouse gasses, and water pollution from toxics chemicals used in the pulp and paper making process. Compostable plastic bags are also problematic because they are lightweight and may easily become litter. They do not readily degrade in aquatic environments, and instead require industrial composting facilities to properly break down. Only a small number of cities currently support the infrastructure to collect and dispose of compostable bags properly.

Bans are not a new approach to dealing with plastic bag blight. San Francisco, Malibu, Fairfax, and Palo Alto have banned plastic bags, and at least 20 more cities in California are considering this approach. Rather than taking a piecemeal city-by-city approach, AB 1998 will create one uniform policy for addressing all types of single-use bags to encourage consumers to use reusable bags, a more sustainable alternative.

California has a critical role to play in becoming a true leader in eliminating plastic bag waste and preventing the proliferation of plastic pollution in our communities. The passage of AB 1998 will be a major step in breaking our addiction to single-use bags and will protect our coasts and beaches from unsightly and costly pollution caused by single-use plastic bags.

This bill would also require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, on or before January 1, 2015, to submit to the Legislature a report regarding the effectiveness of the bill's provisions and recommendations to further encourage the use of reusable bags.

This bill is supported by organizations like: Californians Against Waste.

The City would benefit from this proposed measure by offsetting the cost of clean up of streets and waterways and disposal of single-use carryout bags.

**The Bureau therefore recommends SUPPORTING this version of the bill.**

Note: For additional information contact Anant R. Mokashi Legislative Liaison at (310) 648-5385, or Jinderpal Bhandal of Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division at (213) 485-3686 who originated the response to this version of the bill.

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CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

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