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Comm from  
~~Dept~~ Bureau  
of Sanitation

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Item No.: 1  
Deputy: Villanueva




**City of Los Angeles  
Single-Use Carryout  
Bag Ordinance**

**Final EIR Findings**

[Redacted]


Bureau of Sanitation  
Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director



**What is the Issue?**

[Redacted]

- Each year billions of single-use plastic bags are consumed in the City of Los Angeles
- Discarded plastic bags that end up in the litter stream impact communities and the environment
- The City spends millions of dollars each year on prevention, cleanup and other activities to reduce litter



## Proposed Ordinance Objectives

- Reduce billions of single-use plastic carryout bags currently consumed in the City of Los Angeles each year;
- Reduce adverse environmental impacts associated with single-use plastic carryout bags, including impacts to air quality, biological resources, water quality, and solid waste;
- Deter the use of single-use paper carryout bags by retail customers in the City;
- Promote the use of reusable carryout bags; and
- Reduce plastic bag litter and the associated adverse impacts to stormwater systems, aesthetics, and the marine environment.

## EIR Public Review and Input

Public input was received and considered at each step of the EIR process:

- **Initial Study**
  - 30-day public review
  - Five public meetings
  - Notice in newspapers in multiple languages
  - Made available on Sanitation's website and in all major libraries

## EIR Public Review and Input

- Draft EIR
  - 45-day public review
  - Seven public meetings
  - Notice in newspapers in multiple languages
  - Made available on Sanitation's website and in all major libraries

## Final EIR

Completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to:

- Evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed ordinance,
- Provide responses to comments received during public review period on the Draft EIR, and
- Provide this information to the decision-makers and the public
- Notice in newspaper and available on Sanitation's website

## Beneficial Impacts

The analysis in the Final EIR concluded that the proposed ordinance would result in beneficial impacts in the following areas:

- **Air Quality:** With the implementation of the proposed ordinance, over 2 billion single-use plastic carryout bags per year would be replaced by reusable carryout bags, and the use of single-use paper bags in the City would be deterred by charging a \$0.10 fee at the point of sale. This would reduce emissions of pollutants that contribute to smog by 59% and to the acidity in oceans and rivers by 42% per year.
- **Biological Resources:** Eliminating billions of single-use plastic bags per year would significantly reduce plastic bag litter that could enter sensitive habitats, thus reducing litter-related harmful impacts to marine, coastal, river, and inland sensitive habitats and sensitive wildlife species.

## Beneficial Impacts (cont.)

- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** The implementation of the proposed ordinance would reduce the amount of litter that could enter storm drains, local waterways, and the Pacific Ocean by eliminating nearly 2 billion single-use plastic bags per year, thus improving water quality.
- **Solid Waste:** The City of Los Angeles has implemented a successful comprehensive program of diverting solid waste from landfills and has achieved a diversion rate of 72% as of 12/31/2012. Paper products, including paper grocery bags, are part of the diverted solid waste. Considering the diversion rate achieved by the City and the reported reduction in single-use paper bag usage after the implementation of the County of Los Angeles ban on single-use plastic carryout bags, the proposed ordinance is anticipated to reduce the amount of solid waste in comparison to that associated with the current use of single-use plastic bags in the City.

## Other Impacts

- All other potential impacts were analyzed in the Final EIR, including greenhouse gas emissions; forest and mineral resources; hazards and hazardous materials; sanitation services; traffic; noise; water, and wastewater.
- The analysis concluded that the project would either have no impact or a less than significant impact in these areas.

## Alternatives in the Final EIR

As required, Final EIR considered alternatives to the project. The alternatives included:

1. No Project
2. Ban Both Plastic and Paper Single-Use Carryout Bags
3. Ban Plastic Single-Use Carryout Bags and Impose Higher Fee on Single-Use Paper Carryout Bags
4. Proposed Ordinance Without a Grace Period
5. Impose a Fee on Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags



## Alternatives in the Final EIR (cont.)

- The alternatives, other than No Project alternative, could achieve the project objectives more rapidly or to a greater extent
- The Proposed Ordinance as well as Alternative 4, are consistent with actions taken in other jurisdictions in Los Angeles County
- Consistency will allow business to provide the same shopping experience within the City