

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: December 5, 2012
TO: Councilmember Jose Huizar, Chair
Councilmember Dennis Zine
Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
Councilmember Richard Alarcón
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Energy and Environment Council Committee

Date: 12/5/12
Submitted in E+E Committee
Council File No:
Item No.: 1
 Report from the Bureau
of Sanitation

FROM: Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director
Bureau of Sanitation



SUBJECT: STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT BANNING SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TRANSMITTALS

1. Council Action on CF# 11-1531 dated May 23, 2012.
2. Agreement C-114277 TOS-S41
3. List of municipal actions on single use bag bans

INTRODUCTION

The State of California estimates that billions of single-use plastic carryout bags and 400 million single-use paper bags are used annually in the City of Los Angeles. These bags become a major component of litter in our streets and in our waterways. The State also estimates that less than 5 percent of plastic bags and around 21 percent of single-use paper bags are recycled statewide.

The City has been examining its options with respect to plastic bag litter since 2004 when a Reyes-Perry motion (Council File: 04-1311) directed the Bureau of Sanitation to create a Los Angeles River Plastics Industry Task Force to combat the amount of discarded singleuse plastic bags.

On May 23, 2012, the City Council approved an Energy and Environment Committee report which 1) approves a Citywide policy to examine a project that would ban plastic single-use plastic carryout bags and mandate a charge on single-use paper carryout bags in specified retailers; 2) Directs Sanitation to prepare appropriate environmental analysis; and 3) Requests the City Attorney draft ordinances consistent with the Council actions, 4) Instructs Sanitation to return with a program evaluation two years after adoption.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

In June 2012, Sanitation completed a scope of work for the EIR and received a proposal from Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (PB).

In July, Sanitation completed Agreement C-114277 TOS-S41 with PB to prepare an EIR to examine banning single-use plastic carryout bags in the City of Los Angeles.

In October, 2012, Sanitation completed an Initial Study (IS) and a Notice of Preparation (NOP), a pre-requisite step for the preparation of an EIR banning the use of single-use plastic carryout bags in the City of Los Angeles. The IS and NOP were made available to the public at several Los Angeles libraries. Sanitation held four public meetings throughout the city to solicit public comments and suggestions. The meetings were advertised on the World Wide Web, and print media such as LA Times, La Opinion, Armenian, Chinese, and Korean newspaper. Sanitation staff attended all the meetings and most of the attendees concurred with Council actions banning the single-use plastic bags.

Sanitation staff and the City Attorney's Office are currently in the process of reviewing the draft EIR. The estimated timeline is as follows:

Date	Action
August 1, 2012	Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) delivers the Initial Study in coordination with City staff and City Attorney/kick off meeting <i>[completed on schedule]</i>
September 20	30-day public review for IS/NOP starts <i>[completed on schedule]</i>
October 19	30-day public review ends <i>[completed on schedule]</i>
November 15	PB delivers administrative Draft EIR to Sanitation <i>[completed on schedule]</i>
December 27	PB delivers final Draft EIR to Sanitation
January 4, 2013	45-day public review on Draft EIR starts; four public meetings to be held (Meeting dates and locations will be advertised on the World Wide Web, and print media)
February 18	45-day public review ends
March 4	PB delivers administrative Draft Responses to Comments to Sanitation
April 29	PB delivers final EIR (with responses to comments); PB delivers administrative Draft Findings of Facts and Statement of Overriding

Considerations (if necessary) to Sanitation

- May 11 PB delivers final Findings of Facts and Statement of Overriding Considerations (if necessary) to Sanitation
- May 30 Proposal submitted to the City Council

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Dating back to 2006, the State of California legislature has considered numerous measures which would have banned single-use plastic bags under State law. The City has supported each and every one of these proposals as they would have created a statewide program, reducing inconsistency between local municipal actions. Unfortunately, none of these measures were adopted.

As a result, Sanitation is preparing an EIR and ordinance which would effectuate the ban of single-use plastic carryout bags in the City of Los Angeles.

PLASTIC BAG BANS IN CALIFORNIA

A number of municipalities in California have passed single-use plastic bag bans: Calabasas, Carpinteria, Long Beach, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Monterey, Pasadena, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica, Solana Beach, Sunnyvale, Watsonville, and West Hollywood. Also, the counties of Los Angeles, Marin, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz enacted bans.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND REUSABLE BAG GIVEAWAYS

Sanitation has held many events promoting the use of reusable bags throughout the City to help raise awareness about the benefits of using reusable bags as opposed to single-use bags. Since 2005, the Bureau has purchased and distributed over 250,000 reusable bags through retailers, nonprofit groups, and neighborhood councils to encourage shoppers to stop using single-use bags. During 2012 alone, over 40,000 reusable bags were distributed through Council and Mayor events, Sanitation outreach activities, and Neighborhood Councils.

Sanitation conducted extensive outreach during February and March, 2012, with 30 events at large grocery stores throughout the city, two in each council district. Informational brochures in English and Spanish, and free reusable bags were distributed to the customers at all events. During these events, over 6,000 residents participated in the reusable bag survey and turned in their comments.

Sanitation is partnering with Heal the Bay for "A Day Without A Bag" on December 20, 2012 and is providing 5,000 reusable bags to be distributed citywide at 22 locations. In addition, Sanitation staff will distribute an additional 3,000 bags at 10 locations throughout the City during the week of December 17-21.