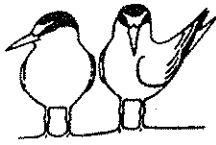


File #111531



Friends of Ballona Wetlands

www.ballonafriends.org

May 9, 2012

Honorable Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
and City Council Members
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Email

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa and City Council Members,

RE: Friends of Ballona Wetlands Comment on Plastic Bag Ban
currently under consideration by the City of Los Angeles

As sympathetic as we would like to be to the plastic bag industry, we believe it is time for a ban of single use plastic bags.

These photos are representative of what we find in Ballona Creek. Despite very effective public works agencies programs to remove trash from our storm drains, many of these bags still find their way into the Ballona Wetlands, creating an eyesore while endangering birds, marine mammals, and other creatures.



Plastic bag around Gull's neck



Plastic bags in Ballona Creek



Closeup of a Plastic Bag in Ballona Creek

Along with other stakeholders concerned about the wellbeing of Santa Monica Bay and surrounding watersheds, we believe single use plastic bags should be banned in the city of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Board of Directors

Dr. David Kay, President
Dr. James Landry, Vice President
Lisa Fimiani, Secretary
John Gregory, Treasurer
Ruth Lansford, Founder
Micah Ali
Paul Costa
Dr. Pippa Drennan
Susan Gottlieb
Stephen Groner
Steve Hirai
Dr. Edith Read
Bob Shanman
Catherine Tyrrell
Richard Wegman

Board Delegates

Jacob Lipa
Michael Swimmer

Emeritus Board

Tim Rudnick
Ed Tarvyd

P.O. Box 5159, Playa del Rey, CA 90296
phone: 310.306.5994 email: info@ballonafriends.org

File #11-1531



May 18, 2012

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Single – Use Bag Ban

Dear Councilmembers,

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) urges the City of Los Angeles to enact a single-use bag ban NOW. Each spring for the last twenty-three years, FoLAR has hosted The Great Los Angeles River Clean-Up, and the thousands of volunteers who take part in it know that, by far, the most prevalent form of trash in the River is plastic bags.

Since 2004, FoLAR has analyzed the kind of trash we are taking out of the River, picking through every fifth bag at five sites. In 2009, plastic bags made up half the volume of the twenty-five tons of trash. The unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County have already banned plastic bags. We demand that the City of Los Angeles join its neighbors in doing the same.

Los Angeles has been a proud green leader in many respects, but the issue of single-use plastic bags can no longer be swept aside. When FoLAR and its friends go down to clean up the River next May, we want to say that this is the last year we have to cut the plastic out of the trees. Please join us to make our vision real.

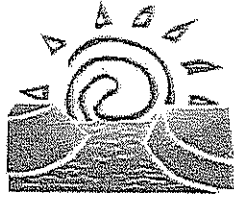
Sincerely,

Lewis MacAdams
Founder and President

FoLAR

Los Angeles River Center
570 W. Ave 26 Suite 250 Los Angeles, CA 90065-1047
Tel: 323-223-0585
Fax: 323-223-2289
WWW.folar.org
E-Mail: mail@folar.org





BALLONA CREEK

Renaissance

P.O. Box 843, Culver City CA 90232

May 1, 2012

Councilmember Paul Koretz
Los Angeles City Council, District 5
200 North Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support for City of Los Angeles Plastic Bag Ban

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

As a broad-based nonprofit organization working toward a healthier environment and community, Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR) appreciates this opportunity to express our strong support for the proposed City of Los Angeles plastic bag ban. Long a leader in watershed planning, creek cleanups, greening, and related education efforts, BCR considers the proposed legislation to be essential in helping to stem the tide of single-use plastic bags and other plastic trash that is overwhelming our communities, landfills, waterways, and oceans at great cost to the state and the environment.

As part of our work, we have enjoyed working with the City of Los Angeles, the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force, all levels of government, and a wide variety of stakeholders toward ecological and personal health and related economic and quality of life benefits. Well-funded industry voices and their misleading messages threaten to mire us in an unsustainable status quo--an approach that we believe will only lead to ever-increasing impacts on our ecosystems and economy rather than to the needed reversal of this tide.

Although some say that the cost of change would be prohibitive and that jobs would be lost, our experience and knowledge of this and similar situations suggests otherwise. In fact, often businesses, institutions, and homeowners find that going green improves the bottom line as well as public and environmental health. Although they and we, the consumers, can adjust, the environment and our future have lost adjustment room.

In our most recent hands-on encounter with run-away plastic bags and other litter, BCR hosted another very successful Ballona Creek Cleanup at Centinela Avenue last Friday, this time for employees of a large company. Yet such efforts, while worthy, capture only a small portion of the trash that is destined for the ocean or landfill.

BCR really appreciates all the positive work that you and the city have done to help heal our environment and economy. Please stay the course and provide a positive example. We look forward to working together!

Copy: Andy Shrader, Deputy of Environmental Affairs & Sustainability,
Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz

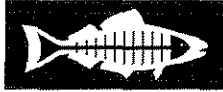
Sincerely,

Jim Lamm, President

Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR)...Connecting Creek and Community
A Culver City-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID No. 95-4764614
310-839-6896, www.ballonacreek.org

Board of Directors
Jim Lamm, President
Gerald Sallus, Vice President
Rich Hibbs, Treasurer
David Valdez, Secretary
Michele Bigelow
Lucy Blake-Elahi
Bobbi Gold
Cathi Lamm
Irene Reingold
Amy Rosenstein
Mim Shapiro
Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt
Advisory Council
Steven Coker
Lori Escalera
Bob Hadley
Pat Hadley
Scott Malsin
Dino Parks
Marina Tidwell

File # 11-1531



Heal the Bay®

1444 9th Street
Santa Monica CA 90401

tel 310-451-1500
fax 310-496-1902

info@healthebay.org
www.healthebay.org

May 21, 2012

Councilmember Koretz
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3239

RE: SUPPORT – Single-use Bag Ban

Dear Councilmember Koretz:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, I write in strong support of the City of Los Angeles moving forward with a single-use bag ban. Specifically, we support the policy recommendation that moved out of the Energy and Environment Committee on April 4, 2012. We also would support a policy that mimics the current County of Los Angeles single-use bag ordinance, which allows for specified paper bags to be distributed for a 10 cent charge.

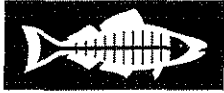
Heal the Bay is extremely concerned with the environmental and economic impacts of single-use bag pollution in inland and coastal communities throughout our City. Californians use an estimated 12 billion single-use plastic bags every year. The City of San Francisco estimated that to clean up, recycle, and landfill plastic bags costs the city 17 cents per bag. This figure does not include all of the energy costs associated with producing single-use bags, or the negative environmental, economic and public health costs associated with single-use bag litter.

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 end up in our landfills or as litter, clogging stormdrain systems, and making their way to our waterways and ocean. Plastic lasts for hundreds of years in our environment and may never biodegrade in the ocean. As a result, it poses a persistent threat to wildlife. Over 267 species worldwide have been impacted by plastic litter, including plastic bags.

Paper bags are not a viable alternative to plastic bags. Paper bag production contributes to deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and waterborne wastes from the pulping and paper making process. Even compostable plastic bags made of plant-based sources have not proven to degrade in the ocean. Instead, they require industrial composting facilities, which the City does not currently have.

A total of 46 municipalities in California have moved forward a single-use bag ordinance, including Los Angeles County, Long Beach, Pasadena, Calabasas, Santa Monica, San Francisco, and San Jose. Dozens of other cities in California are considering this approach.

The City of Los Angeles 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. Thus



1444 9th Street
Santa Monica CA 90401

tel 310-451-1500
fax 310-496-1902

info@healthebay.org
www.healthebay.org

Heal the Bay.

we strongly support urge the Council to move forward a single-use bag ban or a single-use plastic bag ban/ paper bag 10 cent minimum charge expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Kirsten James
Water Quality Director
Heal the Bay

Sarah Sikich
Coastal Resources Director
Heal the Bay

cc: Los Angeles City Council
Mayor Villaraigosa



Californians Against Waste

Conserving Resources. Preventing Pollution. Protecting the Environment.

May 22, 2012

TO: City Council President Herb Wesson, Jr.
FROM: Mark Murray, Executive Director, Californians Against Waste
RE: **Phasing Out Single-Use Plastic Bags – Support w/Koretz/Huizar Amendments**

We urge your support this week for the revised proposal by Council Members Koretz and Huizar to initiate a phase-out of single-use plastic grocery bags in Los Angeles.

This thoughtful and balanced proposal, while equal to the most ambitious in the state, tracks the recommendations of labor (United Food & Commercial Workers), grocers, and the environmental community.

This is an important global environmental policy, as well as a pragmatic "nuts and bolts" waste reduction and cost savings measure for the City.

Analyses by City staff and others have determined that single use bags cost City of Los Angeles consumers more than \$63 million in higher grocery costs, and city tax/rate payers an additional estimated \$10 million each year to handle plastic bag litter for Total Maximum Daily Load requirements in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek, plastic bag litter cleanups, and bag management in the environment, landfills, and waste/recycling streams.

While the City of Los Angeles was one of the first jurisdictions in the nation to attempt to recycle plastic bags at curbside, that effort has proven to be costly and unsuccessful. Despite previous promises from the plastics industry, financial support and end-use markets for plastic bags collected at curbside have failed to materialize. The costs and contamination imposed in the city's curbside program by plastic bags far exceed any environmental benefit.

The State has learned a similar lesson with regard to efforts to recycle plastic bags returned to grocery stores for recycling. The last assessment by CalRecycle places the statewide recycling rate for plastic bags at 3%, or just about 1,500 tons of plastic bags diverted from landfill through recycling.

By comparison, the local effort in Los Angeles (City and County), and the 47 other jurisdictions that have voted to phase out single use plastic bags, will eliminate nearly 17,000 tons of plastic bags from the litter and waste stream.

We appreciate the time and effort of City Staff and Council Members to work with all stakeholders to develop a thoughtful and balanced solution in the effort to reduce plastic litter and waste and promote cost-saving reusable bags.

Adoption of this action will affirm Los Angeles as trendsetter and leader on the environment.