

Contact Information

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Brief Summary: Single use plastic bags entering our ecosystem is a monstrous problem for wildlife and people. The GGPNC supports the draft EIR Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance (LA-State Clearinghouse No. 201209053) with the addition of alt. 3 (pg 16) and a 6 month transition rather than 12. The GGPNC supported this in a letter to Mayor Villaraigosa June 29, 2010. We encourage the City to move quickly to join the ranks of other progressive cities in the nation.

Additional Information:



**PRESIDENT**  
Linda Demmers

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

Lisa Sedano – Administration  
Chris McKinley – Communications

**TREASURER**  
Nelson Bae

**SECRETARY**  
Kris Anderson

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**GREATER GRIFFITH PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

*Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council*



**CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36**

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February 20, 2013

Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa  
Mayor City Of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring St., Rm. 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Single Use Plastic Bags

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

The Greater Griffith Park area is positioned in areas of environmental sensitivity. Bordered by the Los Angeles River on one side and Griffith Park on the other we feel a particular connection to our local environment. Many wildlife and people in all areas all over the City and the world are affected adversely by the single use plastic bag (LDPE –Low Density Polyethylene).

The single use plastic LPDE bag adversely affects many sectors addressed in the draft EIR Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance (City of Los Angeles-State Clearinghouse No. 201209053), such as air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gases, forest resources, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, noise, sanitation services, traffic, and utilities. This in part affects wildlife, flora and fauna and our rivers and oceans.

The GGPNC wrote a letter to Mayor Villaraigosa on June 29, 2010 supporting the ban and by a unanimous vote reaffirmed this support at its regularly scheduled publicly noticed meeting on February 19, 2013.

The Neighborhood Council and its Green Committee is still in full support of the proposed plastic bag ban and its objectives in the EIR on page 10. "The City's objectives for the proposed ordinance include:

- Reducing the billions of single-use plastic carryout bags currently consumed in the City of Los Angeles each year;
- Reducing the adverse environmental impacts associated with single-use plastic carryout bags, including impacts to air quality, biological resources (including marine environments), water quality, and solid waste;
- Deterring the use of single-use paper carryout bags by retail customers in the City
- Promoting a shift toward the use of reusable carryout bags; and
- Reducing litter and the associated adverse impacts to storm water systems, aesthetics, and the marine environment."

In pursuant to the ideas on page 16 in the EIR the GGPNC supports Alternative 3 (a higher bag use fee) in combination with a 6-month grace period for all business. We believe that the increased fee of .25 cents per paper bag rather than .10 per bag will be a more effective disincentive for shoppers. Furthermore, six months should be sufficient time for business' to go through their current supply of single use plastic bags and purchase recycled content paper bags in order to comply with the ordinance. The additional six months, making it one year total, will only increase the negative effect on our environment.

We encourage the City to move quickly to join the ranks of other progressive cities in the State of California that have already banned the single use plastic bag. The Cities of Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, Long Beach, Glendale, West Hollywood, Laguna Beach, Pasadena, San Jose, San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Calabasas, as well as the Counties of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo, Marin, and San Mateo have all banned plastic bag use in various retail establishments.

Plastic entering into our diverse ecosystem has become a monstrous problem. We are now seeing turtles, birds, fish and land animals being poisoned by the ingestion or absorption of littered plastic bags as well as bags that inadvertently escape from landfills and waste bins. The EIR states on page 52 that actually only 5% of all single use plastic bags that are attempted to be put into the recycle stream are recycled. There is no way to effectively contain or recycle the 2 billion bags per year that City residents use.

In conclusion the GGPNC fully supports the implementation of the Single Use Carry Out Bag Ordinance and the science behind the creation of the Draft EIR. Moving forward in the near future we would also support a ban on paper bags.

Sincerely,

Linda Demmers  
President Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

By: Adam Meltzer  
Green Committee Chair, GGPNC

cc: LaBonge, Tom (CD4)  
Garcetti, Eric (CD13)  
LA City Council Members  
Coca, Karen City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation