

Elements of a Successful Single-Use Bag Ordinance

- Prohibition on the distribution of single-use plastic carryout bags.
- Prohibition on the distribution of single-use paper bags with less than 50 percent recycled content (at least 40 percent postconsumer content).
- End the wasteful and costly practice of hiding the price of carryout bags, by requiring retailers to charge not less than the actual average cost of providing recycled paper bags.
- Stores retain revenue, but required to report the amount charged and number of bags sold
- Store definition:
 - gross annual sales of \$2 million or more selling food and nonfood goods
 - at least 10,000 square feet of retail space with a licensed pharmacy
 - pharmacy, convenience store, or other retail store selling a limited line of food goods
- Ordinance can be customized to phase in stores, restaurants, clothing retailers, nonprofits, farmers markets, etc., with different implementation dates based on store size/category
- Exemptions for protective/produce type bags, WIC/lower income
- Defines reusable bags as: Handled bag specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and
 - made of cloth or other machine washable fabric, and/or made of durable plastic at least 2.25 mils thick
 - meets lead and other heavy metal safety requirements as specified for packaging under state Toxics in Packaging law (Health & Safety Code Sections 25214.11-25214.26)

Several California companies are leading the globe in the manufacture of durable, reusable bags made from recycled materials. As this market becomes more fully developed, jurisdictions may want to consider policies and incentives to promote the use of California manufactured reusable bags with the highest level of post-consumer recycled material.

Single-Use Bag Ordinances in CA (updated February 16, 2012)

| Local Jurisdiction (click for ordinance language) | Brief Description | Effective Year | CEQA/Strategy | Key Elements and Notes |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Fairfax | plastic ban | 2008 | Voter Initiative | Ban includes all retail |
| Malibu | plastic ban | 2008/2009 | Exemption | Ban includes all retail and restaurants |
| Manhattan Beach | plastic ban | 2012 | Neg Dec | Ban includes all retail and restaurants |
| Palo Alto | plastic ban | 2009 | Neg Dec | Ban includes large supermarkets only |
| LA County | plastic ban, 10 c paper charge | 2011/2012 | EIR | |
| San Jose | plastic ban, 10/25 c paper charge | 2012 | EIR | Ban includes all retail except nonprofit, Limited exemption for WIC/low income |
| Marin County | plastic ban, 5 c paper charge | 2012 | Exemption | Limited free giveaway of reusable bags |
| Santa Monica | plastic ban, 10 c paper charge | 2011/2011 | EIR | Ban includes retail and famers markets |
| Calabasas | plastic ban, 10 c paper charge | 2011/2012 | used LAC EIR | |
| Santa Clara County | plastic ban, 15 c paper charge | 2012 | Neg Dec | Ban includes all retail except nonprofit, Limited exemption for WIC/low income |
| Long Beach | plastic ban, 10 c paper charge | 2011/2012 | used LAC EIR | Ban includes farmers markets |
| Santa Cruz Co (amended) | plastic ban, 10/25 c paper charge | 2012 | Mit Neg Dec | Ban includes all retail |
| Pasadena | plastic ban, 10 c paper charge | 2012/2012 | used LAC EIR | Ban allows free paper bags for farmers markets and city events |
| Monterey | plastic ban, 10/25 c paper charge | 2012 | Neg Dec | Ban includes all retail except nonprofit |
| Sunnyvale | plastic ban, 10/25 c paper charge | 2012/2013 | EIR | Ban includes all retail except nonprofit |
| San Luis Obispo County and 7 Cities | plastic ban, 10 c paper charge | 2012 | Exemption | Ban includes all SLO County jurisdictions: Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, SLO City & County |
| Alameda County and 14 Cities | plastic ban, 10/25 c paper/reusable bag charge | 2013 | EIR | Ban includes all Alameda County jurisdictions: Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Alameda City & County |
| San Francisco | plastic ban, 10 c paper/reusable bag charge | 2012 (expansion of 2007 ban) | Exemption | Allows compostable bags, ban includes all retail and restaurants, no price requirement on bags for restaurant leftovers |
| Millbrae | plastic ban, 10 c paper | 2012 | Neg Dec | Ban includes all retail except nonprofit/drycleaner |

