



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**  
*Innovative Environmental Solutions*

# Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban

Ordinance and the associated  
Environmental Impact Report

# Background

- Statewide there are 109 adopted ordinances
- 137 Cities and Counties are impacted
- Locally this includes: City of Santa Barbara, City of Carpinteria, as well as the County and all cities within San Luis Obispo.

# Background

- May 17, 2013 - As a member of BEACON, Santa Barbara County released a regional EIR related to Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Ordinances for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.
- June 25, 2013 – Your Board directed staff to develop a draft ordinance and a revised EIR with the County listed as the Lead Agency based on the work provided by BEACON.

# Background

- December 9, 2013 – Draft EIR was released to the public.
- January 16, 2014 – Public Hearing on Draft EIR.  
(Four members of the public attended this meeting.)
- January 24, 2014 – Public comment period ended.  
(Two written comments were received and later responded to)

# Background

- Spring 2014 – Finalization of EIR and Draft Ordinance are placed on hold in lieu of developing State legislation.
- September 30, 2014 – SB 270 signed into law
- Implementation of State law has been delayed pending the result of an initiative on the November 8, 2016 ballot

What is the Ordinance?

What does it do?

# Project Objectives

- Reduction of litter and associated environmental impacts related to single-use plastic bags
- Deterring the use of paper bags
- Promoting a shift toward the use of reusable bags
- Reducing the amount of single-use bags in the trash



# Our Ordinance

- Based on BEACON ordinance (like the City of Santa Barbara and the County of Los Angeles)
- Similar to the State Single-Use Bag Ban legislation SB 270
- If SB 270 is enacted after the November 2016 election
  - State law will replace local ordinance
  - Due to similar language this is expected to be a smooth transition for affected retailers and customers

# Our Ordinance – Key Components

- Single-Use Plastic Bags

**BANNED**



# Our Ordinance – Key Components

- Recyclable Paper Bags cost **\$0.10**



# Our Ordinance – Key Components

- Reusable Bags  
**Available and Encouraged**



# Our Ordinance – Stores Affected

- Only certain retailers affected...
  - Supermarkets
  - Grocery Stores
  - Pharmacies
  - Liquor Stores
  - Other retail stores selling a limited line of goods including: milk, bread, soda, and snack foods



# Our Ordinance – Stores Affected

Doesn't include all bags...

- Product & produce bags (i.e. bags for prescription drugs)

Doesn't include all stores...

- Department stores, clothing stores, hardware stores (stores that don't sell food)
- Restaurants
- Wine/beer tasting rooms

# Our Ordinance – Stores Affected

- Estimated Total Number of Affected Stores in Unincorporated Area:  
**74**
- 8 Large “1<sup>st</sup> Tier” Retailers  
(over 10,000 square feet with gross sales over \$2 million)
- 66 Smaller Retailers  
(smaller markets, pharmacies, and liquor stores not covered by the above definition)

# Our Ordinance - Enforcement

- Primarily complaint based – similar to other jurisdictions
  - Research shows compliance universal
  - No found example of a fine or penalty given to an affected retailer
- Public Works responsible for enforcement
  - Education & outreach



# The Purposes of CEQA

- Disclose significant effects of proposed actions
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce impacts
- Consider feasible alternatives
- Foster interagency coordination
- Enhance public participation
- Inform decision-makers and public at large

# Alternatives in the EIR

1. No project
2. Ban of single-use plastic bags at all retailers except restaurants
3. Mandatory charge of \$0.25 for paper bags
4. Ban on both plastic and paper single-use bags
5. Mandatory charge for both plastic and paper single-use bags
6. Delayed implementation for the northern portion of the County

# EIR study areas

1. Air Quality
2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
3. Biological Resources
4. Water Resources
5. Utilities

# Impact Classifications

- Class I – Significant and Unavoidable
- Class II – Significant but Mitigable
- Class III – Adverse but less than Significant
- Class IV – Beneficial
- Project Specific and Cumulative

# This Project...

- Class III – Adverse but less than Significant
  1. Air Quality
  2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  3. Water Resources
  4. Utilities

# This Project...

- Class IV – Beneficial
  1. Air Quality – reduction in air pollution associated with bag manufacture, transportation and use
  2. Biological Resources – reduction in overall amount of litter entering creeks and coastal habitats
  3. Water Resources – reduction of litter in storm drains

# Findings...

1. Air Quality – Beneficial and less than significant impacts
2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Less than significant impacts
3. Biological Resources – Beneficial impacts
4. Water Resources – Beneficial and less than significant impacts
5. Utilities – Less than significant impacts

# Ordinance Schedule

- Ordinance goes into effect 30 days after adoption (second reading) – September 24, 2015
- Education & outreach efforts to affected retailers – Fall & Winter 2015/2016
- Operative as to first tier (large) stores 180 days after effective date of ordinance – March 22, 2016
- Operative as to second tier (small) stores one year after effective date of ordinance – September 24, 2016



# Recommended Actions

- Today's hearing (July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015)...
  - Approve the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance amending the Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 16 to create 16B Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban (Attachment A);
  - Read the title of the Ordinance and waive reading of the Ordinance in full;
  - Receive and file a report on the Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2013111013) for the Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance within the Unincorporated Area of Santa Barbara County; and
  - Continue the hearing to August 25, 2015

# Recommended Actions

- Next month's hearing (August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015) on the Administrative Agenda...
  - Consider the adoption (second reading) of an Ordinance amending the Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 16 to create 16B to enact a Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County;
  - Read the title of the Ordinance and waive reading of the Ordinance in full;
  - Make the required findings for the Santa Barbara County Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance Final Environmental Impact Report (included as Attachment B); and
  - Certify the Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2013111013) for the Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance within the Unincorporated Area of Santa Barbara County.



**COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS**  
*Innovative Environmental Solutions*

Thank You