

HOOP Plastic

Thousands of pounds of plastic hoop coverage are being put up every month. Product life is 4-5 years. The question of where the degraded plastic goes has been ignored.

Inexplicably the EIR position on this difficult issue was to do nothing.

FROM EIR:

Mitigation to reduce this impact to a less significant level was considered; however, no feasible measures were identified. The major barrier to agricultural plastics recycling is the lack of a consistent recycling market for the plastics.

Under existing conditions when a recycling market is available, it offers an incentive to farmers who are already incentivized to recycle plastic when there is a market available because the farmers stand to earn money from their plastic waste versus instead of spending money to have it hauled and deposited in a landfill.

Thus, additional ordinance requirements to recycle agricultural plastics would have no effect on actual practice.

The question is, what happens to Hoop Plastic when no longer usable? There is absolutely no guidance, or even comment. The answer is uncomfortable, but simple. If there is no recycling market, it must go to landfill. It is totally unacceptable to bury it, or let it degrade on site.

The State of California has curtailed the distribution of plastic straws and utensils. The City of Santa Barbara has banned them outright. The usage is down, and at least, we know where and how the straws are disposed of.

Staff and the people in this room (except for possibly Supervisor Adam) don't have a clue about where these hundreds of thousands pounds of used material is going. Either that, or they are reticent to say.

I propose the following:

Plastic sheeting that has degraded and reached its useful end of life (EOL) must be disposed of in an approved manner. EOL is defined as sheeting that is torn, brittle, discolored or beyond further use.

It cannot be left on hoop frames, or on property in a degraded condition. Disposal is the responsibility of the landowner, and specified in lease contracts, if applicable.

This is not an unreasonable request, and it has been ignored in the several meetings that I have attended with Planning Commission and staff. If this is not dealt with I will take my concerns to Sacramento. I will set aside 4 or 5 days to go door to door at every elected official and State Board that is applicable.

CC Monique Limon, Hannah-Beth Jackson. Additionally, **EVERY** legislator that supported AB-1884 (banning of plastic straws)

Mark Preston, Buellton CA