

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
IN SUPPORT OF SB1053 AND AB2236 BANNING
PLASTIC BAGS**

WHEREAS, plastic bags are a big contributor to California’s plastic waste pollution problem. In CalRecycle’s 2021 Waste Characterization Report, it is estimated Californians generated 230,000 tons of plastic bag waste that year, and much more by volume as plastic bags are light in weight; and

WHEREAS, plastic does not degrade and plastic film is not widely recycled, so most plastic ends up in our landfills, in polluting incinerators, or in our environment, where it can harm wildlife and contaminate food and drinking water; and

WHEREAS, banning plastic carryout bags has proven to be an effective and simple way to reduce plastic pollution. For example, following the ban in San Jose, there was an 89% reduction of plastic bag pollution in storm drains and a 60% reduction in creeks and rivers; and

WHEREAS, California’s statewide bag ban law, SB 270, is no longer working as intended. The law banned single-use plastic bags, but allowed stores to continue to sell plastic bags for 10 cents if they are recyclable and thick enough to be reusable 125 times. Plastic bag companies have circumvented the law’s intent by mass producing thicker HDPE plastic bags that they claim are exempt from the law because they can technically be reused, but the reality is that few people actually reuse them; and

WHEREAS, thick plastic bags provided at grocery stores end up as trash and harm our environment just as much as the thinner ones. Because plastic carryout bags at grocery stores are now thicker, plastic bag waste by weight increased in the last few years to the highest level on record; and

WHEREAS, thick HDPE plastic bags are also not recyclable. The Los Angeles Times reached out to municipal and city recycling centers across the state and were “unable to find a single one that accepts HDPE bags for recycling.” Santa Barbara County does not accept plastic bags in our local recycling facilities as there is no buyer that will recycle them; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions including the cities of Los Angeles and Berkeley, have taken action to ban thick plastic bags for use in retail stores and restaurants. However, jurisdictions are prevented by SB 270 from taking similar action with most grocery store bags.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors supports SB1053 and AB2236 to ban plastic bags in grocery stores.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara,
State of California, this 20th day of August, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOS:

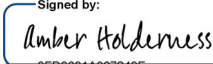
ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

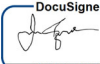
Steve Lavagnino, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: 
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Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:
BETSY SCHAFER
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

By: 
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Deputy