



Public Works Department
123 E. Anapamu Street • Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-3000 • FAX (805) 568-3019
www.countyofsb.org/pwd

P R E S S R E L E A S E

News Media Contact:

Carlyle Johnston, Project Leader
Public Works Department
(805) 882-3617
cjohnst@cosbpw.net

Tuesday August 25, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Board of Supervisors Passes Ordinance Banning Single-Use Plastic Bags at Markets & Pharmacies in the Unincorporated Area

Today, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to join over 130 other communities across California by enacting a ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery stores, liquor stores, and pharmacies. These types of stores will no longer be allowed to distribute single-use bags for free, but will have recycled paper bags available for 10 cents and reusable bags for sale. The ban will take effect at large supermarkets and pharmacies (greater than 10,000 square feet or more than \$2 million in annual sales) in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County on March 22, 2016. The ban will take effect at smaller markets and pharmacies, convenience stores, and liquor stores on September 24, 2016.

First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal, a long supporter of a local ban, said, "This is a policy that protects and improves our environment. There have been numerous studies on the positive effects of limiting the use of plastic bags, such as the reduction of litter in our watersheds and ocean; and I believe that we, as a coastal community, have a responsibility to promote these types of benefits."

As part of this action, the County also circulated and certified an environmental impact report on this policy that showed beneficial impacts for:

- Air quality, by reducing the air pollution associated with the manufacture, transportation and use of plastic bags;
- Biological resources, by reducing the overall amount of litter entering our creeks and coast habitats; and
- Water resources, by reducing litter in our storm drains.

Second District Supervisor and Chair Janet Wolf, also a supporter of this ordinance, said, "I am pleased that the Board of Supervisors finally passed this ordinance. It is a reflection of our values of environmental stewardship and the protection of our marine environment."

For more information about the County's Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags, please call 882-3617 or visit the County recycling website's dedicated page on this program at www.lessismore.org/supbb.

###