

## Proposed 2010 Council Study Issue

**DPW09-09 Banning the Use of Plastic Grocery Bags Throughout the City**

**Lead Department** Public Works  
**Element or Sub-element** Solid Waste Sub-element, Storm Water Runoff Sub-element  
**New or Previous** Previous  
**Status** Pending      **History** 1 year ago Below the line      2 years ago None

**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

In June, 2008, the Santa Clara County Cities Association asked its members to encourage their jurisdictions to develop and implement local ordinances that would reduce the number of plastic bags used to hold customer purchases from retail stores. Councilmember Lee brought this issue back to Council at its meeting of June 24, 2008, at which time three Councilmembers (Lee, Swegles and Howe) requested a study issue on the topic.

This study would sort through the large number of options and issues in order to provide Council with optional ways to minimize plastic bag use. The goal would be to produce an enforceable, practical ordinance and/or other courses of action that would minimize use and disposal of single-use bags and avoid, to the extent possible, unintended consequences.

**2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**

**Zero Waste Policy**  
(see Section 8)

**Solid Waste Sub-element Policy 3.2B.1.** Reduce generation of solid waste by providing source reduction programs and promoting source reduction behavior.

**Surface Runoff Sub-element Policy A.3.** Ensure that Best Management Practices are implemented to reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water to the maximum extent practicable.

**LAP 3.0 (1)** Support incentives to limit all types of pollution at their source.

**3. Origin of issue**

**Council Member(s)** Lee, Swegles, Howe  
**General Plan**  
**City Staff**  
**Public**  
**Board or Commission** none

**4. Multiple Year Project?** No      **Planned Completion Year** 2010

**5. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?**

**Does Council need to approve a work plan?** No  
**Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission?** No  
**If so, which?**  
**Is a Council Study Session anticipated?** No

**What is the public participation process?**

A meeting or meetings, with prior notice to the public and to interested parties that include the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, California Grocers Association, American Chemistry Council, Save the Bay, Acterra, Californians Against Waste, and Sunnyvale Cool Cities.

**6. Cost of Study**

**Operating Budget Program covering costs**  
323 Solid Waste Mgmt, 344 Wastewater Trtmnt

**Project Budget covering costs**

**Budget modification \$ amount needed for study**

**Explain below what the additional funding will be used for**

**7. Potential fiscal impact to implement recommendations in the Study approved by Council**

<b>Capital expenditure range</b>	None
<b>Operating expenditure range</b>	\$500 - \$50K
<b>New revenues/savings range</b>	\$500 - \$50K

**Explain impact briefly**  
Depending on the content of the ordinance adopted, staff time may be required to enforce the ordinance, respond to public complaints about non-compliant stores, etc. If a portion of any fees for bag use was retained by the City, this revenue could be used to offset City operating costs.

**8. Staff Recommendation**

**Staff Recommendation For Study**

**If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain**

A ban, fee or combination of the two that reduced the use of single-use bags would further the purposes of the Zero Waste Policy adopted by Council in December 2008, by:

- Protecting the environment and conserving natural resources that would otherwise be used to produce, transport, dispose and recycle single-use bags
- Helping to prevent pollutants from entering the air, land, and water
- Creating a more efficient economy
- Preserving the environment for future generations

**9. Estimated consultant hours for completion of the study issue**

<b>Managers</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Manager</b>			<b>Hours</b>	
	Lead	Bowers, Mark	Mgr CY1:	150	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	200	Staff CY2:	0
	Support	Gervin, Lorrie	Mgr CY1:	60	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	20	Staff CY2:	0
	Interdep	Boco, Robert	Mgr CY1:	60	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	0	Staff CY2:	0
	Interdep	Verceles, Connie	Mgr CY1:	20	Mgr CY2:	0
			Staff CY1:	0	Staff CY2:	0

Total Hours CY1: 510

Total Hours CY2: 0

**Note: If staff's recommendation is 'For Study' or 'Against Study', the Director should note the relative importance of this Study to other major projects that the Department is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing services/priorities.**

Reviewed by



Department Director

10/13/09

Date

Approved by



City Manager

10/14/09

Date

### Addendum

**A. Board / Commission Recommendation**

**Issue Created Too Late for B/C Ranking**

Board or Commission	Rank	Rank 1 year ago	Rank 2 years ago
Arts Commission			
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee			
Board of Building Code Appeals			
Board of Library Trustees			
Child Care Advisory Board			
Heritage Preservation Commission			
Housing and Human Services Commission			
Parks and Recreation Commission			
Personnel Board			
Planning Commission			

**Board or Commission ranking comments**

**B. Council**

**Council Rank** (no rank yet)  
**Start Date** (blank)  
**Work Plan Review Date** (blank)  
**Study Session Date** (blank)  
**RTC Date** (blank)  
**Actual Complete Date** (blank)  
**Staff Contact**