

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE B. BURKE AND
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

DECEMBER 18, 2007

On April 10, 2007, this Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Director of Internal Services and the Director of Public Works to investigate polyethylene plastic and paper sack consumption in the County and explore alternatives for reducing the related grocer and retail sack waste. While the finalized report is expected to come before the Board in January 2008, the Department of Public Works issued an interim report last August entitled "An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County" which highlighted the considerable number of single-use bags used in the County and the detrimental environmental and ecological impacts of inappropriate disposal.

Discussed in this report was the effectiveness of a per bag fee that has reduced the consumption of plastic carryout bags elsewhere. This program also provides flexibility to the consumer in the event they don't have their reusable bags at the time of purchase. This concept has proven very effective in Ireland, where a 25¢ (U.S.) fee on each bag has reduced consumption by 95%. The collected revenue is used to fund litter abatement and other environmental initiatives.

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A per bag fee, coupled with public education, could have a profound impact in decreasing the 6 billion single-use plastic bags consumed in Los Angeles County each year, resulting in fewer plastic bags littered. However, current California state law preempts local governments from imposing a per bag fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail businesses.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to include in the 2007-2008 State Legislative Agenda the sponsoring or pursuit of legislation to:

- 1) Repeal the provision of Assembly Bill (AB) 2449 (Section 42254(b)(2) of the Public Resources Code) which prohibits any public agency, including local governments, from imposing a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores; and
- 2) Implement a statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with the provision that funds raised would be directed to local governments on a per-capita basis for litter prevention and source reduction efforts; or, establish statewide benchmarks to reduce the consumption of plastic carryout bags and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags.

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