



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 12, 2008

The Honorable John Edelston
Mayor, City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mayor Edelston:

INVITATION FOR THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS TO JOIN COUNTY PROGRAM TO REDUCE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAG LITTER

On January 22, 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors took a major step forward in addressing the use of plastic carryout bags by adopting the "Single-Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program." The Program is a comprehensive strategy to reduce plastic bag litter through a partnership with supermarkets, retailers, environmental groups, the plastic bag industry, local government, and the public focused on reducing plastic bag usage over time while increasing the use of reusable bags. We invite you to work with the County and stakeholders to develop a coordinated Countywide implementation strategy that will significantly reduce the environmental damage caused by plastic bags for the benefit of all of our constituents.

Each year approximately 6 billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in Los Angeles County, the equivalent of 600 bags per person per year. Currently, less than 5 percent of bags are recycled and the rest end up landfilled or on our beaches, waterways, parks, and roads in the form of litter. Plastic bag litter makes up as much as 25 percent of the litter stream and significantly impacts our communities and the environment. In Los Angeles County alone, local and State governments spend tens of millions of dollars each year on prevention, cleanup, and enforcement activities to reduce litter. Communities throughout the State and around the world are grappling with this issue, and searching for ways to reduce the impact that littered plastic bags have on their quality of life.

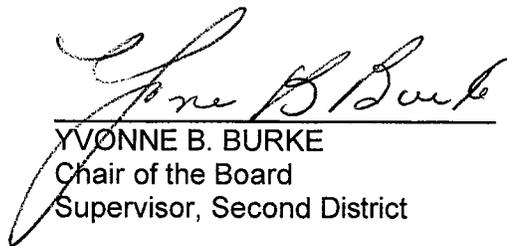
We believe that by implementing the Single-Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program plastic bag litter will be reduced by: (1) decreasing plastic carryout bag usage, (2) encouraging consumer recycling efforts, and (3) establishing a public education program to increase the use of reusable bags. In addition, the Program will encourage the use of paper bags that are minimally manufactured with 40 percent recycled content. The Program is summarized in the fact sheet (Attachment I), which also identifies State legislation that the County is pursuing relative to the plastic bag issue.

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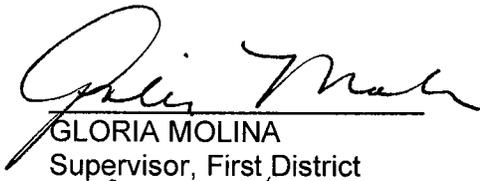
We encourage your City to join this collaborative effort and take advantage of the framework already developed by the County with stakeholders. A sample resolution endorsing the Single-Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program is attached for your consideration (Attachment II). We would also appreciate your careful consideration of the State legislation that the County is pursuing and your declaration of support for these State law changes.

We look forward to working with you on this very important issue. County staff is available to provide a presentation or additional information at your request. Please contact Ms. Lari Sheehan of the Chief Executive Office at (213) 893-2477, or via e-mail at lsheehan@ceo.lacounty.gov.

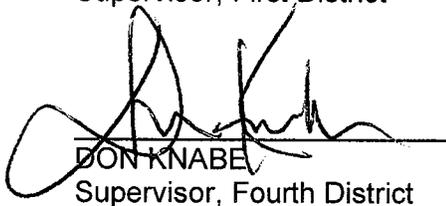
Sincerely,



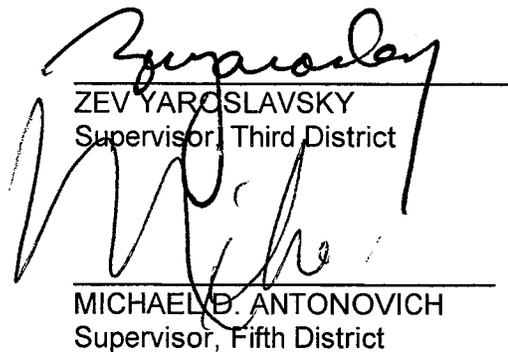
YVONNE B. BURKE
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Second District



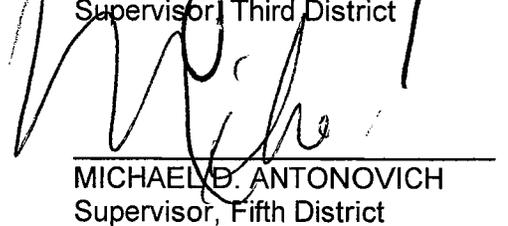
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Attachments (2)