



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

May 10, 2010

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **EP-4**

NAME OF MANAGER  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE, ZIP

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S SINGLE-USE BAG REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, RESOURCE PACKET, AND STORE VISIT NOTIFICATION**

In January 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the Single-Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program, a comprehensive strategy to reduce plastic bag litter and its impact on the environment by reducing plastic bag consumption and increasing the use of reusable bags. A Working Group consisting of stakeholders from the grocery retail industry, plastics industry, environmental groups, and government agencies was subsequently formed to develop and implement this voluntary Program.

In August 2008, we mailed Program Resource Packets to large supermarkets and drugstores in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to encourage participation in the Program. From December 2008 to August 2009 we visited stores to follow up and provide technical assistance.

During the initial store visits, we surveyed the stores on their current operations and plans to implement the three Program components (training of store staff, incentives for customers, and customer education/awareness). We also discussed the at-store recycling mandates of State law (AB 2449, Chapter 5.1 of 2006 Statutes), which apply to certain stores, as defined in the law, and require those stores to have recycling service for plastic bags; provide bins to collect plastic bags from customers; have reusable carryout bags available for customers; and incorporate the following message on each plastic carryout bag: "PLEASE RETURN TO A PARTICIPATING STORE FOR RECYCLING." Each store, as defined, must also "maintain records describing the collection, transport, and recycling of plastic bags collected for a minimum of three years and shall make the records available to the Board of Supervisors or the local jurisdiction, upon request, to demonstrate compliance."

We are now following up on our initial efforts to survey how each store has incorporated the Program components into its operations, and to request/collect individual store data regarding plastic bag purchasing and recycling. Please note that the Board of Supervisors has established aggressive plastic bag disposal reduction goals, which the Program aims to accomplish by increasing plastic bag recycling and the use of reusable bags. The goals are to achieve disposal reduction rates of 30 percent by July 1, 2010, and 65 percent by July 1, 2013. The Board of Supervisors will consider the effectiveness of the store programs in achieving the above goals in deciding whether to implement a ban on single-use plastic carryout bags.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Public Works' staff recently contacted affected stores to obtain the following information and we are requesting that you forward it to us by **May 27, 2010**:

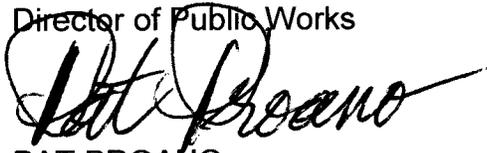
- participation checklist (copy enclosed)
- copies of your plastic bag purchasing and recycling records from July 1, 2007, through December 31, 2009, for each individual store location (State law requires this information be kept at each store location)

We will be conducting our follow-up visits in the next few weeks, during which we would like to discuss opportunities to increase your store's level of participation in the Program and how County staff may be able to assist in this effort. Additional resources and information are available on the Program's website, [www.BragAboutYourBag.com](http://www.BragAboutYourBag.com).

We look forward to your active participation in the Program. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Suk Chong of this office at (626) 458-5167, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

GAIL FARBER  
Director of Public Works



PAT PROANO  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Environmental Programs Division

NG:kp  
P:\SEC\2nd stores letter.docx

Enc.