

**ORDINANCES TO BAN PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

INITIAL STUDY

PREPARED FOR:

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803**

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SECTION 1.0

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project, as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), being considered by the County of Los Angeles (County) consists of proposed Ordinances to Ban Plastic Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County (proposed ordinances). This project would entail adoption of an ordinance to ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores in the unincorporated territories of the County and the adoption of comparable ordinances by the 88 incorporated cities within the County. This Initial Study evaluates the potential for the adoption of such ordinances to result in significant impacts to the environment that would require the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives.

1.1 PROJECT TITLE

Ordinances to Ban Plastic Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

County of Los Angeles

1.3 PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON

Mr. Coby Skye
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Environmental Programs Division
900 South Fremont Avenue, 3rd Floor
Alhambra, California 91803
(626) 458-5163

1.4 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed ordinances would affect an area of approximately 2,649 square miles encompassing the unincorporated territories of the County of Los Angeles and 1,435 square miles encompassing the incorporated cities of the County of Los Angeles, California. The affected areas are bounded by Kern County to the north, San Bernardino County to the east, and Ventura County to the west. To the south, the affected areas are bounded by Orange County to the southeast and the Pacific Ocean to the southwest. San Clemente and Santa Catalina Islands are both encompassed within the territory of the County, and thus are areas that would be affected by the proposed ordinances (Figure 1.4-1, *Unincorporated Territories and Incorporated Cities within the County of Los Angeles*). There are approximately 140 unincorporated communities located within the five County Supervisorial Districts.¹

¹ County of Los Angeles. Accessed June 2009. *Unincorporated Areas*. County of Los Angeles Web site. Available at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/>

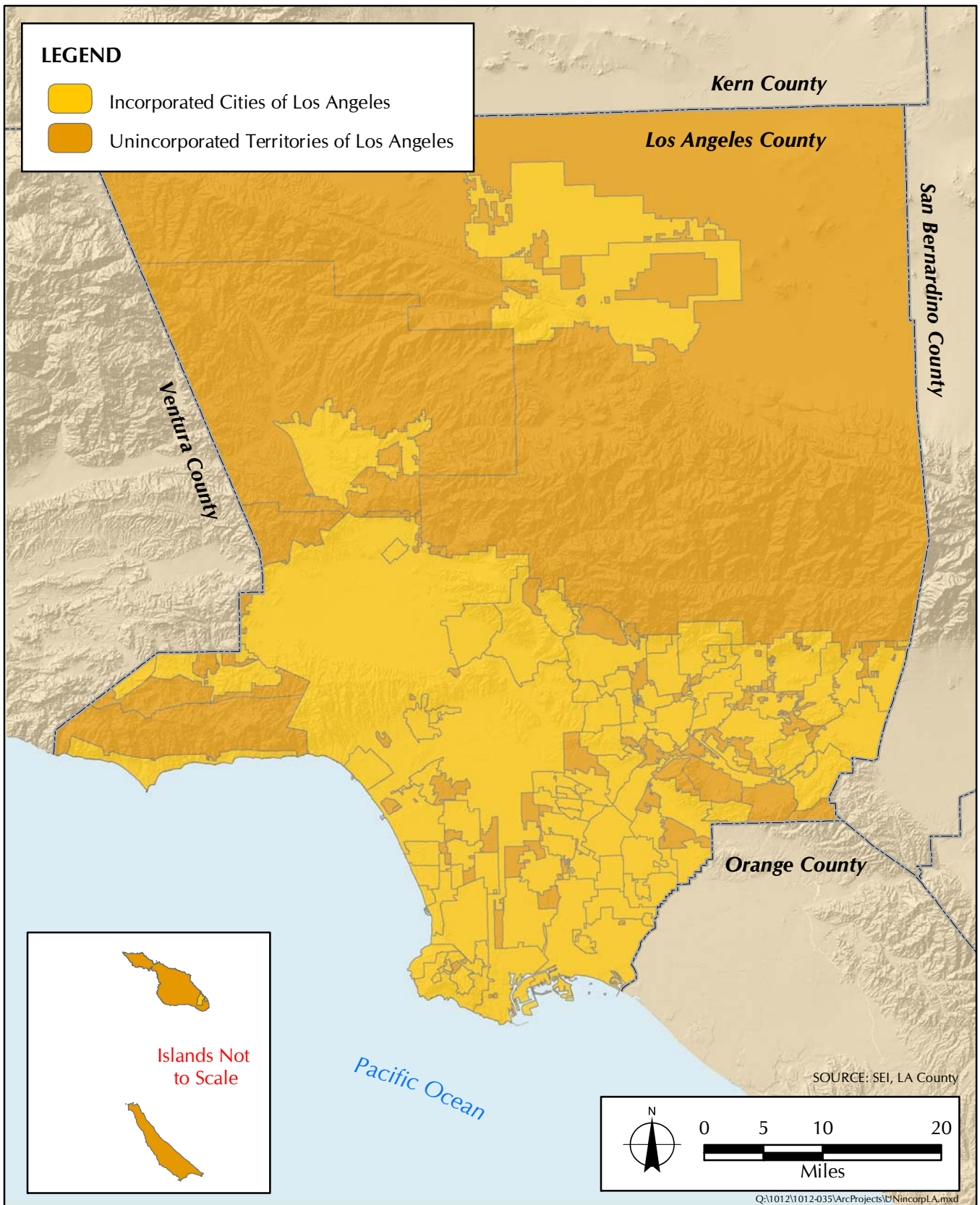


FIGURE 1.4-1

Unincorporated Territories and Incorporated Cities within the County of Los Angeles

1.5 PROJECT SPONSOR

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Programs Development Division
900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor
Alhambra, California 91803

1.6 GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION

The proposed ordinances would apply to stores within the County that (1) meet the definition of a “supermarket” as found in the California Public Resources Code, Section 14526.5; (2) are buildings that have over 10,000 square feet of retail space that generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law and have a pharmacy licensed pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code. In addition, the County is considering extending the jurisdiction of the proposed County ordinance to stores within the unincorporated territories of the County that are part of a chain of convenience food stores, including franchises primarily engaged in retailing a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, and snacks, that have a total combined area of 10,000 square feet or greater within the County. The 88 incorporated cities within the County would be encouraged to adopt comparable ordinances.

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The affected stores may be located within any of the eight general land use designations defined by the County of Los Angeles General Plan: (1) Residential (including low density, low-medium density, medium density, and high density), (2) Commercial, (3) Industrial, (4) Public and Semi-Public Facilities, (5) Non-urban, (6) Open Space, (7) Rural Communities, and (8) Significant Ecological Areas / Habitat Management.² The proposed ordinance would not require any changes to the established land use designations.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The affected stores may be located within any of the land use designations defined by the 88 incorporated cities within the County. The proposed ordinances would not require any changes to established land use designations in any of the incorporated cities.

1.7 ZONING

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The Los Angeles County Code (County Code) contains ordinances that regulate zoning within the unincorporated territories of the County: Title 22, Planning and Zoning, the County Code provides for planning and zoning within these unincorporated territories and includes zones and districts for each of the 140 unincorporated communities.³ As with the land use designation, the stores may occur within any of the seven general zoning designations: (1) Residential, (2) Agricultural, (3)

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ County of Los Angeles. 2 June 2009. Los Angeles County Code. Tallahassee, FL. Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

Commercial, (4) Industrial, (5) Publicly Owned Property, (6) Special Purpose and Combining, and (7) Supplemental Districts (such as equestrian, setback, flood protection, or community standards districts). Chapter 22.46 of Title 22 establishes procedures for consideration of specific plans within the unincorporated territories, which further describe the zoning within each of the communities.⁴ The proposed ordinance would not require any changes to the established land use zoning designations.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The affected stores may occur within any of the zoning designations that allow for commercial or retail uses defined by the 88 incorporated cities within the County. The proposed ordinances would not require any changes to the established zoning ordinances in any of the incorporated cities.

1.8 BACKGROUND

Contribution of Plastic Carryout Bags to Litter Stream

It is estimated that litter from plastic carryout bags that are designed for single use accounts for as much as 25 percent of the litter stream.^{5,6} According to research conducted by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW), each year approximately 6 billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in the County, which is equivalent to approximately 1,600 bags per household per year.^{7,8} Public agencies in California spend over \$375 million each year for litter prevention, clean up, and disposal.⁹ The County of Los Angeles Flood Control District alone spent more than \$18 million annually for prevention, clean up, and enforcement efforts to reduce litter, of which plastic carryout bags are a component.¹⁰

County Motion

On April 10, 2007, the County Board of Supervisors instructed the Chief Executive Office to work with the director of Internal Services and the director of public works to solicit input from both environmental protection and grocer organizations related to three data areas and report their findings:

⁴ County of Los Angeles. 2 June 2009. Los Angeles County Code. Tallahassee, FL. Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

⁵ City of Los Angeles. 10 June 2004. *Waste Characterization Study*. Los Angeles, CA.

⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. October 2008. *County of Los Angeles Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program – Program Resource Packet*. Alhambra, CA.

⁷ California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. "State & County Quick Facts: Los Angeles County, California." Available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06037.html> (at an average of slightly fewer than three people per household)

⁹ California Department of Transportation. Accessed September 2009. "Facts at a Glance." *Don't Trash California*. Available at: <http://www.dontrashcalifornia.info/pdf/Statistics.pdf>

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

- 1) Investigate the issue of polyethylene plastic and paper sack consumption in the County, including the pros and cons of adopting a policy similar to that of San Francisco;
- 2) Inventory and assess the impact of the current campaigns that urge recycling of paper and plastic sacks;
- 3) Investigate the impact an ordinance similar to the one proposed in San Francisco would have on recycling efforts in Los Angeles County, and any unintended consequences of the ordinance; and
- 4) Report back to the Board with finding and recommendations to reduce grocery and retail sack waste within 90 days.^{11,12}

An Overview of Carryout Bags

In response, the LACDPW submitted a staff report, *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County*, in August 2007.¹³ As noted in the report, a memorandum was sent to the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2007, requesting a 45-day extension of the original report due date in order to incorporate feedback from interested stakeholders, consumers, industry, and environmental representatives.

As further noted in the LACDPW report, pursuant to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 [Assembly Bill (AB) 939], the County undertakes the numerous solid waste management functions:^{14,15}

Unincorporated County Area

- Implements source reduction and recycling programs in the unincorporated County areas to comply with the State's 50 percent waste reduction mandate. In 2004, the County was successful in documenting a 53 percent waste diversion rate for the unincorporated County areas.
- Operates seven Garbage Disposal Districts providing solid waste collection, recycling, and disposal services for over 300,000 residents.
- Implements and administers a franchise solid waste collection system which, once fully implemented, will provide waste collection, recycling, and disposal services to over 700,000 residents, and will fund franchise area outreach programs to enhance recycling and waste reduction operations in unincorporated County areas that formerly operated under an open market system.

¹¹ County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. 10 April 2007. *Board of Supervisors Motion*. Los Angeles, CA.

¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹³ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹⁴ California State Assembly. Assembly Bill 939: "Integrated Waste Management Act," Chapter 1095.

¹⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA, first page of Preface. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

Countywide

- Implements a variety of innovative Countywide recycling programs, including: SmartGardening to teach residents about backyard composting and water wise gardening; Waste Tire Amnesty for convenient waste tire recycling; the convenient Environmental Hotline and Environmental Resources Internet Outreach Program; interactive Youth Education/Awareness Programs; and the renowned Household Hazardous/Electronic Waste Management and Used Oil Collection Programs.
- Prepares and administers the Countywide Siting Element, which is a planning document which provides for the County's long-term solid waste management disposal needs.
- Administers the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan which describes how all 89 of the jurisdictions Countywide, acting independently and collaboratively, are complying with the State's waste reduction mandate.
- Provides staff for the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is comprised of appointees from the League of California Cities, the County Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, solid waste industries, environmental groups, governmental agencies, and the private sector. The County performs the following Task Force functions:
 - Reviews all major solid waste planning documents prepared by all 89 jurisdictions prior to their submittal to the California Integrated Waste Management Board;
 - Assists the Task Force in determining the levels of needs for solid waste disposal, transfer and processing facilities; and
 - Facilitates the development of multi-jurisdictional marketing strategies for diverted materials.

Key Findings of the Report

There were four key findings identified in this report:

1. Plastic carryout bags have been found to significantly contribute to litter and have other negative impacts on marine wildlife and the environment.
2. Biodegradable carryout bags are not a practical solution to this issue in Los Angeles County because there are no local commercial composting facilities able to process the biodegradable carryout bags at this time.
3. Reusable bags contribute towards environmental sustainability over plastic and paper carryout bags.
4. Accelerating the widespread use of reusable bags will diminish plastic bag litter and redirect environmental preservation efforts and resources towards "greener" practices.¹⁶

¹⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA, p. 1. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

Definitions

For the purposes of this Initial Study and Environmental Impact Report, the following terms are defined as follows:

- Reusable Bag(s): a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is either (a) made of cloth or other machine-washable fabric, or (b) made of durable plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick
- Paper Carryout Bag(s): a carryout bag made of paper that is provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale
- Plastic Carryout Bag(s): a plastic carryout bag, excluding a reusable bag but including a compostable plastic carryout bag, that is provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale
- Compostable Plastic Carryout Bag(s): a plastic carryout bag, excluding reusable bags, that (a) conforms to California labeling law (Public Resources Code Section 42355 et seq.), which requires meeting the current American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard specifications for compostability; (b) is certified and labeled as meeting the ASTM standard by a recognized verification entity such as the Biodegradable Product Institute; (c) contains no petroleum-derived content; and (d) displays the word “compostable” in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag
- Recyclable Paper Bag(s): a paper bag that (a) contains no old growth fiber, (b) is 100-percent recyclable overall and contains a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled content; and (c) displays the words “reusable” and “recyclable” in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag

1.9 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Plastic Carryout Bags

In 1977, supermarkets began offering plastic carryout bags designed for single use to customers.^{17,18} By 1996, four out of every five grocery stores were using plastic carryout bags.^{19,20} Plastic carryout bags have been found to contribute substantially to the litter stream and to have other adverse effects on marine wildlife.^{21,22,23} The prevalence of litter from plastic bags in the urban

¹⁷ SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association. 2007. Web site. Available at: <http://www.plasticsindustry.org/>

¹⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹⁹ SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association. 2007. Web site. Available at: <http://www.plasticsindustry.org/>

²⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

²¹ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

²² California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

²³ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

environment also compromises the efficiency of systems designed to channel storm water runoff. Furthermore, plastic bag litter leads to increased clean-up costs for the County, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and other public agencies.^{24,25,26} Plastic bag litter also contributes to environmental degradation and degradation of quality of life for County residents and visitors. In particular, the prevalence of plastic bag litter in the storm water system and coastal waterways hampers the ability of and exacerbates the cost to local agencies to comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, and total maximum daily loads (TMDL) limits for trash as specified pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act.^{27,28}

Plastic bag litter is also a major economic operational issue for landfills and other solid waste processing facilities.^{29,30} The California Integrated Waste Management Board estimates that approximately 3.9 percent of plastic waste can be attributed to plastic carryout bags related to grocery and other merchandise. That represents approximately 0.4 percent of the total waste stream in California.^{31,32} Studies have been conducted by several organizations to assess the effects of plastic litter:^{33,34,35,36} a study on freeway storm water litter was conducted by Caltrans; a waste characterization study on the Los Angeles River was conducted by the Friends of Los Angeles River; a waste characterization study on 30 storm drain basins was conducted by the City of Los Angeles; and a trash reduction and a waste characterization study of street sweeping and trash

²⁴California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

²⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

²⁶ Combs, Suzanne, John Johnston, Gary Lippner, David Marx, and Kimberly Walter. 1998–2000. *Caltrans Litter Management Pilot Study*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Transportation.

²⁷ *United States Code*, Title 33, Section 1313: “Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans.” Clean Water Act, Section 303(d).

²⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

²⁹ California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

³⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

³¹ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. “Table ES-3: Composition of California’s Overall Disposed Waste Stream by Material Type, 2003.” *Contractor’s Report to the Board: Statewide Waste Characterization Study*, p. 6. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>

³² Note: Plastics make up approximately 9.5 percent of California’s waste stream by weight, including 0.4 percent for plastic carryout bags related to grocery and other merchandise, 0.7 percent for non-bag commercial and industrial packaging film, and 1 percent for plastic trash bags.

³³ Combs, Suzanne, John Johnston, Gary Lippner, David Marx, and Kimberly Walter. 1998–2000. *Caltrans Litter Management Pilot Study*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Transportation.

³⁴ Friends of the Los Angeles River and American Rivers. 2004. *Great Los Angeles River*. Los Angeles and Nevada City, CA.

³⁵ City of Los Angeles, Sanitation Department of Public Works. June 2006. *Technical Report: Assessment of Catch Basin Opening Screen Covers*. Los Angeles, CA.

³⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

capture systems, near and within the Hamilton Bowl, located in Long Beach, California was conducted by the LACDPW. These studies concluded that plastic film (including plastic bag litter) composed between 7 to 30 percent by mass and between 12 to 34 percent by volume of the total litter collected. Despite the implementation of best management practices (BMPs), installation of litter control devices such as cover fences for trucks, catch basins, and facilities to prevent airborne bags from escaping, and use of roving patrols to pick up littered bags, plastic bag litter remains prevalent throughout the County.³⁷

Assembly Bill 2449 requires all supermarkets (grocery stores with over \$2 million in annual sales) and retail businesses of at least 10,000 square feet with a licensed pharmacy to establish a plastic carryout bag recycling program at each store. Starting on July 1, 2007, each store must provide a clearly marked bin that is easily available for customers to deposit plastic carryout bags for recycling. The stores' plastic bags must display the words "please return to a participating store for recycling."³⁸

In addition, the regulated stores must make reusable bags available to their patrons. These bags can be made of cloth, fabric, or plastic with a thickness of 2.25 mils or greater.³⁹ The stores are allowed to charge their patrons for reusable bags.⁴⁰

Manufacturers of plastic carryout bags must make available to stores educational materials to encourage the reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastic bags.

Store operators must maintain program records for a minimum of three years and make the records available to the local jurisdiction.⁴¹

Paper Bags

The production, distribution, and disposal of paper carryout bags also have known adverse effects on the environment.⁴² There is a considerable amount of energy that is used, trees that are felled, and pollution that is generated in the production of paper carryout bags.^{43,44} The California Integrated Waste Management Board determined in the 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study that approximately 117,000 tons of paper carryout bags are disposed of each year throughout the County by consumers. This amount accounts for approximately 1 percent of the

³⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

³⁸ *Public Resources Code*, Section 42250–42257. 2006. Assembly Bill 2449.

³⁹ *Public Resources Code*, Section 42250–42257. 2006. Assembly Bill 2449.

⁴⁰ *Public Resources Code*, Section 42250–42257. 2006. Assembly Bill 2449.

⁴¹ California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

⁴² County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. October 2008. *County of Los Angeles Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program – Program Resource Packet*. Alhambra, CA.

⁴³ County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. 22 January 2008. *Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Resolution and Alternative 5)*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/Resources.cfm>

⁴⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. October 2008. *County of Los Angeles Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program – Program Resource Packet*. Alhambra, CA.

total 12 million tons of solid waste generated each year.⁴⁵ However, paper bags have the potential to biodegrade when exposed to oxygen, sunlight, moisture, soil, and microorganisms (such as bacteria); are denser and less susceptible to becoming airborne; and generally have a higher recycling rate than do plastic bags. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that “the recycle rate for plastic bags, sacks and wraps measured just 9.1 percent in 2007 (compared to 36.8 percent of paper bags).”⁴⁶ The County anticipates that the national, state, and Countywide recovery amount of plastic bags from this category of recovered plastics is less than 5 percent.^{47,48} Therefore, based upon the available evidence, paper carryout bags are less likely to become litter than are plastic carryout bags.

Reusable Bags

Reusable bags offer an alternative to plastic carryout bags, compostable plastic carryout bags, and paper carryout bags. The utility of a reusable bag has been noted in various reports such as the 2008 report by Green Seal, which estimates the life of a reusable bag as being between two to five years.⁴⁹ The Green Seal report encouraged an industry standard of a minimum of 300 reusable bag uses in 1994 and currently encourages a minimum of 500 uses during wet conditions (such as rainy seasons).⁵⁰ Furthermore, life-cycle studies for plastic products have documented the adverse impacts related to various types of plastic and paper bags; however, life-cycle studies have also indicated that reusable bags⁵¹ are the preferable option to both paper and plastic bags.^{52,53}

⁴⁵ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. *Contractor’s Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/publications/localasst/34004005.pdf>

⁴⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. November 2008. *Municipal Solid Waste in the United States, 2007 Facts and Figures* (Table 21, Recovery of Products in Municipal Solid Waste, 1960 to 2007). Washington, DC. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw07-rpt.pdf>. The referenced table included the recovery of post-consumer wastes for the purposes of recycling or composting; it did not include conversion/fabrication scrap. The report includes the recovery of plastic bags, sacks, and wraps (excluding packaging) for a total of 9.1 percent of plastic recovered in this category. The County of Los Angeles conservatively estimates that the percentage of plastic bags in this category for the County of Los Angeles is less than 5 percent.

⁴⁷ California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

⁴⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

⁴⁹ Green Seal is an independent non-profit organization that uses science-based standards and the power of the marketplace to provide recommendations regarding sustainable products, standards, and practices.

⁵⁰ Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.green Seal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

⁵¹ Reusable bag manufacturers are also expected to enforce industry standards and recommendations to avoid adverse environmental impacts, including the use of recycled materials.

⁵² Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.green Seal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

⁵³ Boustead Consulting & Associates, Ltd. 2007. *Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags – Recyclable Plastic; Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic; and Recycled, Recyclable Paper*. Available at: http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/doc.asp?CID=1106&DID=7212

Reusable bags are intended to provide a viable alternative to the use of paper or plastic carryout bags.⁵⁴ Currently, some stores within the County, such as certain Whole Foods divisions, do not offer plastic bags at checkout and instead offer reusable bags for sale and provide rebates if its patrons bring their own reusable bags. Other stores, such as certain Ralph's divisions, offer reusable bags for purchase at registers and offer various incentives such as store rewards or store credit to customers who use reusable bags.⁵⁵

Voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program

On January 22, 2008, the County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to implement the voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Alternative 5) in partnership with large supermarkets and retail stores, the plastic bag industry, environmental organizations, recyclers and other key stakeholders to promote the use of reusable bags, increase at-store recycling of plastic bags, reduce consumption of single-use bags, increase the post-consumer recycled material content of paper bags, and promote public awareness of the effects of litter and consumer responsibility in the County. The voluntary program establishes benchmarks for measuring the effectiveness of the program, seeking a 30-percent decrease in the disposal rate of carryout plastic bags from the 2007–2008 fiscal year usage levels by July 1, 2010, and a 65-percent decrease by July 1, 2013.⁵⁶

The County identified three tasks to be undertaken by the County, stores, and manufacturers as part of the voluntary program's key components:

1. Large supermarket and retail stores: development and implementation of store-specific programs such as employee training, reusable-bag incentives, and efforts related to consumer education
2. Manufacturer and trade associations: encourage members to participate in the program, provide technical assistance and marketing recommendations, and coordinate with large supermarkets and stores
3. County of Los Angeles Working Group: facilitate program meetings, determine specific definitions for target stores, establish a framework describing participant levels and participation expectations, and develop and coordinate program specifics such as educational material, reduction strategies, establishment of disposal rates and measurement methodology, progress reports, and milestones

In March 2008, the County provided each of its 88 incorporated cities a "Resolution to Join" letter that extended to the cities an opportunity to join the County in the abovementioned activities related to the Single Use Plastic Bag Reduction and Recycling Program. The letter invited the cities to join the County in a collaborative effort and to take advantage of the framework already developed by the County. Information related to the efforts by the LACDPW was presented to all 88 cities regarding the proposed ordinances and their actions.

⁵⁴ Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

⁵⁵ Ralphs Grocery Company. 2009. "Doing Your Part: Try Reusable Shopping Bags." Web site. Available at: http://www.ralphs.com/healthy_living/green_living/Pages/reusable_bags.aspx

⁵⁶ County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. 22 January 2008. *Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Resolution and Alternative 5)*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/Resources.cfm>

There are currently 10 cities within the County that have signed resolutions to join the County in its efforts and in adopting similar ordinances for their cities: Azusa, Bell, Glendale, Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Redondo Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and Signal Hill. These cities have implemented a variety of public education and outreach efforts to encourage participation within their cities, including developing public education brochures, running public service announcements on the city's cable television channel, establishing committees focused on community outreach, and distributing recycled-content reusable bags at community events.

The County is currently evaluating the efficacy of volunteer programs, including its own Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program, in relation to the disposal rate of plastic carryout bags using three criteria:⁵⁷ (1) the reduction in consumption of plastic carryout bags, (2) the total number of plastic carryout bags recycled at stores, and (3) the total number of plastic carryout bags recycled via curbside recycling programs.

Since August 2007, the County has facilitated meetings that have been attended by representatives of grocery stores, plastic bag industry groups, environmental organizations, waste management industry groups, various governmental entities, and others. The County has further led efforts to disseminate outreach materials, attend community events, work with cities within the County, visit stores, and provide and solicit support for reusable bags. The American Chemistry Council's consultant and the Plastic Recycling Corporation of California have visited grocery stores within the County to provide stores and consumers with additional information and assistance to enhance their plastic bag recycling programs.

These endeavors were undertaken in an effort to increase the participation of grocery stores, to shift consumer behavior to the use of recycled plastic bags, and to encourage a considerable transition to the use of reusable bags.

1.10 STATEMENT OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Program Goals

The County is seeking to substantially reduce the operational cost and environmental degradation associated with the use of plastic carryout bags in the County, particularly the component of the litter stream composed of plastic bags and the associated government funds used for prevention, clean-up, and enforcement efforts.

The County has identified five goals of the proposed ordinances, listed in order of importance: (1) litter reduction, (2) blight prevention, (3) coastal waterways and animal and wildlife protection, (4) sustainability (as it relates to the County's energy and environmental goals), and (5) landfill reduction.

⁵⁷ Methodology consumption rates based upon plastic bags generated in fiscal year 2007-2008, as provided in data reported to the California Integrated Waste Management Board as required by AB 2449. The methodology is described in its entirety in *County of Los Angeles Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program – Program Resource Packet* published by County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division, Alhambra, CA.

Countywide Objectives

The proposed ordinance program would have six objectives:

- Conduct outreach to all 88 incorporated cities of the County to encourage adoption of comparable ordinances.
- Reduce the Countywide consumption of plastic carryout bags from the estimated 1,600 plastic carryout bags per household in 2007, to fewer than 800 plastic bags per household in 2013.
- Reduce the Countywide contribution of plastic carryout bags to litter that blights public spaces Countywide by 50 percent.
- Reduce the Flood Control District's cost for prevention, clean-up, and enforcement efforts to reduce litter in the County by \$4 million.
- Substantially increase awareness of the negative impacts of plastic carryout bags and the benefits of reusable bags, and reach at least 50,000 residents (5 percent of the population) with an environmental awareness message.
- Reduce Countywide disposal of plastic carryout bags from landfills by 50 percent from 2007 annual amounts.

City Objectives

If using a comparable standard to that of the County, cities would implement objectives that are comparable with the Countywide objectives. Should the cities prepare different objectives, those objectives may need to be evaluated to determine what further CEQA analysis would be required, if any.

1.11 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

With input from the County of Los Angeles Working Group, the Board of Supervisors instructed County Counsel to prepare a draft ordinance for consideration by the Board of Supervisors by April 1, 2009, (revised to July 1, 2010) that would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by large supermarkets and retail stores in the unincorporated territories of the County. Any necessary environmental review in compliance with CEQA would be completed prior to considering the draft ordinance.^{58,59}

The proposed ban on the issuance of plastic carryout bags consists of an ordinance to be adopted prohibiting certain retail establishments from issuing plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County, as well as the County's encouragement of the incorporation of comparable ordinances by each of the 88 incorporated cities in the County.

As previously mentioned, there are currently 10 cities within the County that have signed resolutions to join the County in adopting similar ordinances in their cities. The proposed ordinances as described herein anticipate the adoption of similar proposed ordinances for each of the 88 incorporated cities within the County.

⁵⁸ County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. 22 January 2008. *Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Resolution and Alternative 5)*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/Resources.cfm>

⁵⁹ County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. 22 January 2008. *Minutes of the Board of Supervisors*. Los Angeles, CA.

The proposed ordinances aim to significantly reduce the number of plastic carryout bags that are disposed of or that enter the litter stream by ensuring that certain retail establishments located in the County will not distribute or make available to customers any plastic carryout bags or compostable plastic bags.

The proposed ordinances being considered would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by any retail establishment, defined herein, that is located in the unincorporated territories or incorporated cities of the County. The retail establishments that would be subject to the proposed ordinances include any that (1) meet the definition of a "supermarket" as found in the California Public Resources Code, Section 14526.5; (2) are buildings that have over 10,000 square feet of retail space that generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law and have a pharmacy licensed pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code. In addition, the County is considering extending the jurisdiction of the proposed ordinances to stores that are part of a chain of convenience food stores, including franchises primarily engaged in retailing a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, and snacks, that have a total combined area of 10,000 square feet or greater within the County.

Transition Period Assumption

Should the proposed ordinances be adopted, it is anticipated that there would be a transition period during which consumers would switch to reusable bags. The County anticipates that a measurable percentage of affected consumers would subsequently use reusable bags (this percentage includes consumers currently using reusable bags) once the proposed ordinances take effect. The County further anticipates that some of the remaining consumers, those who choose to forgo reusable bags, may substitute plastic carryout bags with paper carryout bags.

SECTION 2.0

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This section contains the Environmental Checklist prepared for the proposed ordinances. This checklist is consistent with the Environmental Checklist Form found in Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines. This checklist also includes two recommended questions proposed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in April 2009 as additions to Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ A summary of the substantial evidence that was used to support the responses in the Environmental Checklist is contained in Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis. The responses contained in this Environmental Checklist are based on reviews of relevant literature, technical reports, and regulations, and on analysis of existing geographical information from County maps and databases.

¹ California Governor's Office of Planning and Research. 2007. *CEQA Guidelines and Greenhouse Gases*. Available at: <http://www.opr.ca.gov/index.php?a=ceqa/index.html>

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

PAT FROANO

Printed Name

November 23, 2009

Date

L.A. Co. Dept. of Public Works

For

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
2.1. AESTHETICS -- Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
2.2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	_____	_____	_____	_____X_____

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.3. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____

2.4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES² – Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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² Although it is anticipated that the proposed ordinance would not result in adverse impacts related to biological resources; it is recommended that the biological resources section be carried forward for further analysis into the Environmental Impact Report in order to assess the potential for positive effects to biological resources as they relate to listed and sensitive species, riparian habitat, and wetlands.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.5. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
iv) Landslides?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS –

Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____

2.8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS

MATERIALS – Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.10. LAND USE AND PLANNING -				
Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.11. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.12. NOISE – Would the proposed ordinances result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the proposed ordinance expose people residing or working in the proposed project area to excessive noise levels?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the proposed project expose people residing or working in the proposed project area to excessive noise levels?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.13. POPULATION AND HOUSING --

Would the proposed ordinances:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.14. PUBLIC SERVICES --

a) Would the proposed ordinances result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Police protection?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
Schools?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
Parks?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
Other public facilities?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.15. RECREATION –				
a) Would the proposed ordinances increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Do the proposed ordinances include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.16. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC				
– Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
2.17. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -				
- Would the proposed ordinances:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	_____	<u> X </u>	_____	_____
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

2.18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Do the proposed ordinances have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b) Do the proposed ordinances have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>	_____
c) Do the proposed ordinances have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	_____	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

SECTION 3.0

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The environmental analysis provided in this section describes the information that was considered in evaluating the questions in Section 2.0, Environmental Checklist. The information contained in this environmental analysis is based on reviews of relevant literature and maps (see Section 4.0, References, for a list of reference materials consulted).

The environmental analysis in this Initial Study evaluates the potential impacts related to both an ordinance to ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores in the unincorporated territories of the County and the adoption of comparable ordinances by the 88 cities that govern the County's incorporated territory. As such, each of the issue areas is structured to include analyses of the unincorporated territories and incorporated cities of the County.

3.1 AESTHETICS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to aesthetics, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Aesthetics within the incorporated and unincorporated territories of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan;² Caltrans Scenic Highway Program³ designations; and previously published information regarding the visual character of the County, including scenic resources, vistas, and altitude as depicted in County maps.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of four questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to aesthetics.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to scenic vistas. A review of the County of Los Angeles General Plan substantiated that scenic vistas exist within the unincorporated territories of the County: forests ranges, including the Los Padres National Forest, and Angeles National Forest; mountain ranges, including the Santa Monica Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains; and the California coastline.⁴ The proposed ordinance would affect a total of approximately 2,649 square miles of unincorporated territories within the County,⁵ which provides residences and employment for approximately 1 million people. Development within these unincorporated areas exhibits patterns similar to that of urban areas, including public services, utilities, and recreation.^{6,7} As such, residences, schools, churches, and recreation areas located within viewing range of the scenic vistas would serve as sensitive receptors. The proposed ordinance, which aims to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to plastic carryout bags, would likely lead to the improvement of any scenic vista available from these sensitive receptors. As found in the County staff report on plastic bags, due to their expansive and lightweight characteristics, plastic bags are easily carried by wind to become entangled in brush, tossed along freeways, and caught on fences throughout the County, thereby becoming visual eyesores.^{8,9} Furthermore, the distinct white or bright

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ California Department of Transportation. Updated 19 May 2008. "Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (OD) Routes." *California Scenic Highway Program*. Available at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm>

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

⁵ County of Los Angeles. Accessed June 2009. *Unincorporated Areas*. County of Los Angeles Web site. Available at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/>

⁶ County of Los Angeles. Accessed June 2009. *Unincorporated Areas*. County of Los Angeles Web site. Available at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/>

⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

colors of plastic bags and the difficulty of collecting them cause a greater visual eyesore than other materials. The negative impacts on scenic vistas resulting from the prevalence of plastic bags in residential, business, and recreational areas frequented by people would require measures to diminish the prevalence of plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance would be expected to reduce the visual prominence of these materials, and thus could minimize the negative impacts of plastic bags on scenic vistas as viewed by sensitive receptors within the unincorporated territories of the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to aesthetics related to scenic vistas. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to scenic vistas. Development within these incorporated areas exhibits patterns similar to that of the urban areas described within the County, including the public services, utilities, and recreation.^{10,11} As such, residences, schools, churches, and recreation areas located within viewing range of the scenic vistas would serve as sensitive receptors. The proposed ordinances, which aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use plastic carryout bags, would likely lead to the improvement of any scenic vista available from these sensitive receptors. The proposed ordinances would be expected to reduce the visual prominence of these materials and thus could minimize the negative impacts of plastic bags on scenic vistas as viewed by sensitive receptors within the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to aesthetics related to scenic vistas. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state-designated scenic highway. According to the California Scenic Highway Program, California State Route 2 is the only highway located within the jurisdictional boundary of the proposed ordinance that is officially designated as a state scenic highway;¹² State Routes 1, 27, 39, 57, 101, 118, and 210 are also located within the jurisdictional boundary of the proposed ordinance but are designated only as eligible state scenic highways.¹³ Local specific and community plans also designate scenic resources within the unincorporated areas of the County. Furthermore, the County of Los Angeles General Plan documents the presence of scenic resources, including mountains, forest lands, beaches, and varied native vegetation, within the unincorporated territories of the County and within the vicinity of the officially designated or eligible

⁹ Combs, Suzanne, John Johnston, Gary Lippner, David Marx, and Kimberly Walter. 1998–2000. *Caltrans Litter Management Pilot Study*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Transportation.

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles. Accessed June 2009. *Unincorporated Areas*. County of Los Angeles Web site. Available at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/>

¹¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

¹² California Department of Transportation. Updated 19 May 2008. "Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (OD) Routes." *California Scenic Highway Program*. Available at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm>

¹³ California Department of Transportation. Updated 19 May 2008. "Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (OD) Routes." *California Scenic Highway Program*. Available at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm>

state scenic highways, and were confirmed through the review of County maps.¹⁴ The proposed ordinance, which aims to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, would likely lead to an improvement in the quality of scenic resources within the unincorporated territories of the County. As noted in the County staff report on plastic bags, the distinct white or bright colors of plastic bags and the difficulty of collecting them cause a greater negative visual effect than do other materials.¹⁵ As such, the widespread occurrence of plastic bags throughout scenic resource and scenic highway areas would require measures to diminish the prevalence of plastic carryout bags, thereby minimizing the negative impacts of plastic bags on scenic resources in the unincorporated territories of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to aesthetics related to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state-designated scenic highway. The proposed ordinances, which aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, would likely lead to an improvement in the quality of scenic resources within the incorporated cities of the County. As such, the widespread occurrence of plastic bags throughout scenic resources and scenic highway areas would require measures to diminish the prevalence of plastic carryout bags, thereby minimizing the negative impacts of plastic bags on scenic resources in the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to aesthetics related to substantial damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No further analysis is warranted.

- (c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to the substantial degradation of the existing visual character of the unincorporated territories and its surroundings. The unincorporated areas of the County, which would be affected by the proposed ordinance, are designated as part of one of the eight general land use categories in the Land Use element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan,¹⁶ as listed in Section 1.0, Project Description, of this Initial Study. As such, the existing visual character of the unincorporated areas of the County, which would be affected by the proposed ordinance, maintain an appearance ranging from developed urban areas, which are attributed to residential, commercial, and industrial activities, to undeveloped recreational and agricultural areas. The proposed ordinance would likely lead to the improvement of the area's existing visual character because it is intended to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags. As determined in the County staff report on

¹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

¹⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*, pp. 2–3 and Figure 1, *Typical Landfill Activity*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

plastic bags, due to their expansive and lightweight characteristics, plastic bags are easily carried by wind to become entangled in brush, tossed along freeways, and caught on fences throughout the County.^{17,18} Moreover, plastic bags have a distinct white or bright color and are difficult to collect, thus causing a greater visual eyesore than other materials.¹⁹ The prevalence of plastic carryout bags in residential, business, recreational, and other areas that receive greater traffic flows would require means that serve to diminish the existence of plastic carryout bags, and at the same time reduce the visual pervasiveness of these materials and thus improve the visual quality of unincorporated areas of the County for sensitive receptors present within these areas. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse significant impacts to aesthetics related to degradation of the existing visual character of the subject areas and their surroundings. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics in relation to the substantial degradation of the existing visual character of the incorporated cities of the County and their surroundings. The existing visual character of the incorporated cities of the County, which would be affected by the proposed ordinances, range in appearance from developed urban areas, which are attributed to residential, commercial, and industrial activities, to undeveloped recreational and agricultural areas. The proposed ordinances would likely lead to the improvement of the existing visual character of the County's incorporated cities by reducing the visual pervasiveness of plastic bag materials for sensitive receptors present within these areas. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse significant impacts to aesthetics related to degradation of the existing visual character of the incorporated cities of the County and their surroundings. No further analysis is warranted.

- (d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics related to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views within the unincorporated territories of the County. Existing sources of light within the unincorporated areas of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinance, include street lights, light structures in surface parking areas, and security lighting on buildings; no other significant sources of light or glare are present. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not be expected to create additional sources of light and glare. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse significant impacts to aesthetics related to creation of a new source of light or glare. No further analysis is warranted.

¹⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*, pp. 2–3. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹⁸ Combs, Suzanne, John Johnston, Gary Lippner, David Marx, and Kimberly Walter. 1998–2000. *Caltrans Litter Management Pilot Study*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Transportation.

¹⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*, pp. 2–3 and Figure 1, Typical Landfill Activity. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to aesthetics related to the creation of a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not be expected to create additional sources of light or glare. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse significant impacts to aesthetics related to creation of a new source of light or glare. No further analysis is warranted.

3.2 AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to agricultural resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Agricultural resources within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the California Department of Conservation (CDC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP)² and the County of Los Angeles General Plan.³

The State CEQA Statutes define agricultural land as “prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California,” and is herein collectively referred to as “Farmland.”⁴ The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of three questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to agricultural resources.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to the conversion of Farmland. Based upon a review of the Land Use element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan, it was determined that the unincorporated territories of the County include agricultural lands.⁵ As such, portions of the unincorporated territories are utilized for agriculture, grazing, and vegetation. However, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include components that would alter the existing uses within the areas that would be affected by the proposed ordinance. Moreover, the proposed ordinance would not require the conversion of any existing area designated for agricultural land use or Farmland, as it would not require any construction, demolition, or road-paving activities. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to agricultural resources related to the conversion of Farmland. No further analysis is warranted.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2006. *Important Farmland in California 2006*. Sacramento, CA. Available at: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/statewide/2006/>

³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

⁴ *California Public Resources Code*, Division 13, Chapter 2.5, Section 21060.1(a): “Agricultural Land.”

⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to the conversion of Farmland. As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include components that would alter the existing uses within the incorporated cities that adopt the proposed ordinances. In addition, the proposed ordinances would not require the conversion of any existing area designated for agricultural land use or Farmland, as they would not require any construction, demolition, or road-paving activities. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to agricultural resources related to the conversion of Farmland. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract. Although portions of the unincorporated territories of the County may be subject to Williamson Act contracts, the proposed ordinance does not entail components involving changes in the existing land uses or zoning within the unincorporated territories. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and does not include components that would alter or conflict with the specified zoning. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract. The proposed ordinances would not entail components involving changes in the existing land uses or zoning within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinances would not include components that would alter or conflict with the specified zoning. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract. No further analysis is warranted.

- (c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Although a review of the most recent CDC FMMP mapping of the County for Farmland and a map of the unincorporated territories of the County shows that there is designated Farmland within the areas that would be affected by the proposed ordinance, the proposed ordinance would not entail components that would involve changes in

the existing environment.⁶ The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not alter the suitability of any designated farmland for development that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, as the proposed ordinance would not require any construction, demolition, or road-paving activities. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to agricultural resources related to changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to agricultural resources in relation to changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances within the incorporated cities of the County would not entail components that would change the existing environment related to agricultural resources.⁷ The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not alter the suitability of any designated farmland for development that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, as the proposed ordinances would not require any construction, demolition, or road-paving activities. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to agricultural resources related to changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. No further analysis is warranted.

⁶ California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2006. *Important Farmland in California 2006*. Sacramento, CA. Available at: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/statewide/2006/>

⁷ California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2006. *Important Farmland in California 2006*. Sacramento, CA. Available at: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/statewide/2006/>

3.3 AIR QUALITY

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have significant impacts to air quality, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Air quality within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, was evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan,² the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), and the federal Clean Air Act (CAA).³

Data on existing air quality in the County are monitored by a network of air monitoring stations operated by the California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board (CARB), the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD).

State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of five questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to air quality.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

There would be no expected impacts to air quality related to conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of the applicable air quality plan. The proposed ordinance does not sanction violations of the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan or provide any such relief from such regulations. The majority of the unincorporated territories of the County are located within the SCAQMD portion of the South Coast Air Basin, while a northern portion of the unincorporated territories of the County is located within the AVAQMD portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (Figure 3.3-1, *Air Quality Management Districts within the County of Los Angeles*). Therefore, the area affected by the proposed ordinances is located within the boundaries regulated pursuant to the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan and the AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan.^{4,5} The SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan sets forth strategies for attaining the federal particulate matter (PM) air quality standards and the federal 8-hour ozone (O₃) air quality standard, as well as for meeting state standards at the earliest date practicable. The AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan provides planning strategies for attainment of the 8-hour NAAQS for O₃ by 2021.

The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County, which would be expected to result in beneficial impacts

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2005. "Title I Air Pollution Prevention and Control." *Federal Clean Air Act*. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/air/caa/>

⁴ Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. 20 May 2008. *AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan*. Lancaster, CA.

⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

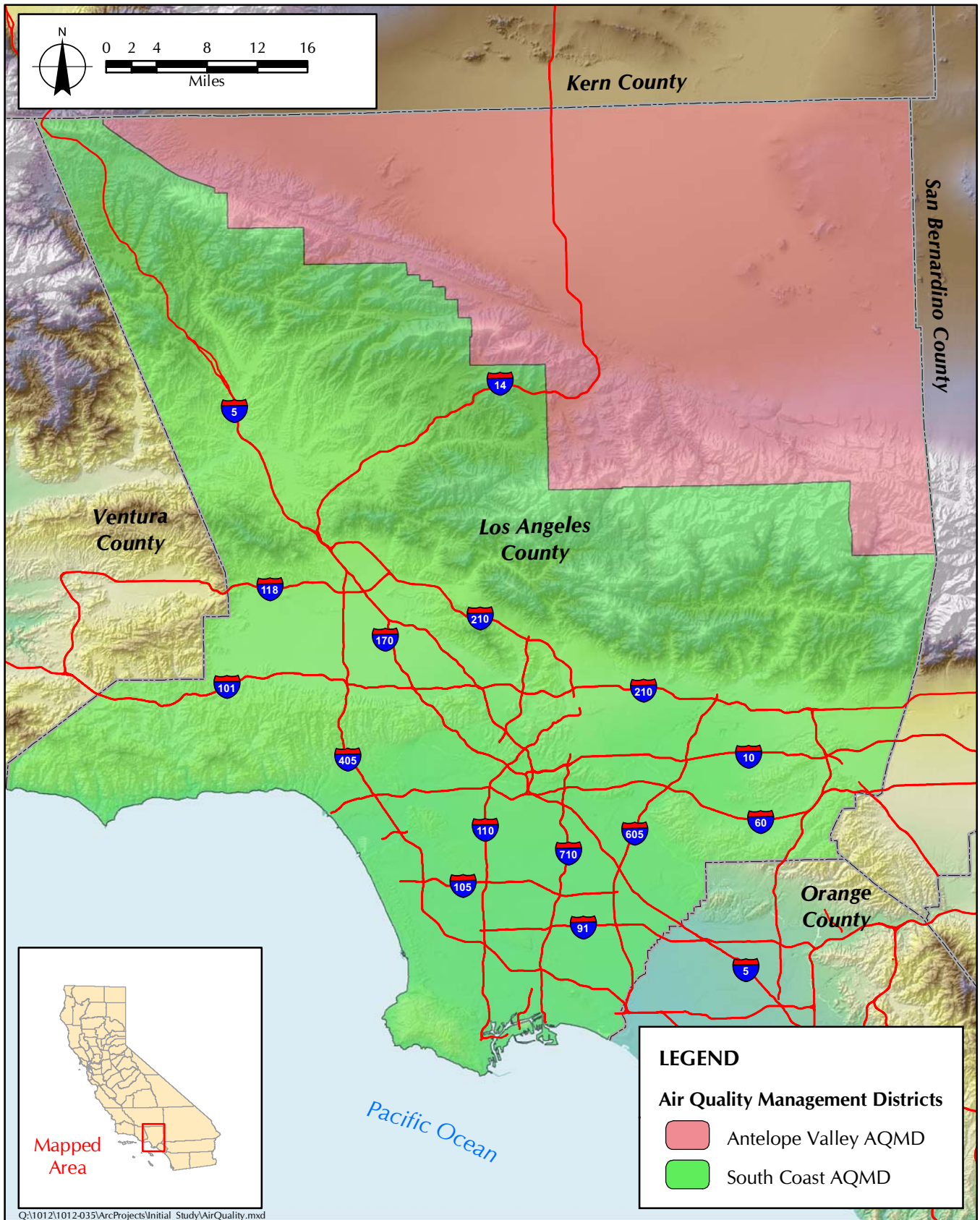


Figure 3.3-1
Air Quality Management Districts within the County of Los Angeles

to air quality. Direct beneficial impacts to air quality would be expected to occur as a result of decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and litter collection along roadways and water channels. In addition, beneficial impacts to air quality would be expected to result from the reduced demand for the production of plastic carryout bags. The production of plastic carryout bags is a chemical process that begins with the conversion of crude oil or natural gas into hydrocarbon monomers such as ethylene;⁶ further processing leads to the polymerization of ethylene to form polyethylene. During processing, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are precursors to the formation of O₃, are emitted into the atmosphere.⁷ In addition, the fuel combustion that is required to operate the facilities that manufacture plastic bags results in the emission of O₃ precursors and PM into the atmosphere. Therefore, the reduced production of plastic carryout bags would be expected to reduce the emission of O₃ precursors into the atmosphere, thereby complying with the O₃ reduction requirements set forth in the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan and the AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan, and would also be expected to reduce PM emissions in compliance with the PM reduction goals set out in the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan.

However, certain plastic bag industry representatives have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in the increased manufacture, use, and disposal of paper carryout bags. As paper bags are significantly heavier than plastic carryout bags, certain plastic bag industry representatives claim that the transport of paper bags has the potential to require the combustion of more fossil fuel, which could result in an increase in the emission of both PM and O₃ precursors. The manufacturing process of paper bags also requires fuel consumption; therefore, these same industry representatives further argue an increase in the production of paper bags could increase the emission of O₃ precursors and PM into the atmosphere.

However, any increases would be offset to some extent due to the fact that paper bags can contain a larger volume of groceries than plastic bags. In addition, a net increase in the use of reusable bags would be expected and would further reduce the potential for increased use of paper carryout bags utilized. Therefore, a potential increase in paper bag manufacturing would not be expected to conflict with the O₃ reduction requirements set forth in the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan and the AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan and with the PM reduction goals set out in the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan. The causes of air pollution in the County are primarily from vehicle exhausts, unlike areas in the East Coast of the United States, where the primary causes are from manufacturing.⁸ Air emissions are regulated by the SCAQMD, which uses the Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) program to regulate air emissions from manufacturing.⁹ Under SCAQMD's command-and-control, almost every piece of equipment that emits air pollution is regulated individually by the SCAQMD. Industrial and miscellaneous manufacturing processes account for less than 10 percent of the sources of O₃-forming pollutants.¹⁰ On-road vehicles account for approximately 44 percent of O₃-forming pollution. The majority of

⁶ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Ethylene." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B451vs2.3.pdf>

⁷ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

⁸ Grill, Mindy. "What is Air Pollution?" Web site. Available at: <http://www.encyclomedia.com>

⁹ South Coast Air Quality Management District. "What AQMD Does." Web site. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov>

¹⁰ South Coast Air Quality Management District. "Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM)." Web site. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov>

vehicle miles travelled is associated with commuters, and transport of goods and services for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and Los Angeles International Airport. The manufacture and transport of plastic and paper carryout bags is a regulated industry that does not represent a measureable contribution to emissions in the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to have the potential to result in indirect significant impacts to air quality related to conformance with the applicable air quality plans. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

There would be no expected impacts to air quality related to conflicts with or obstruction of implementation of the applicable air quality plan. As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in beneficial impacts to air quality. The proposed ordinances would not be expected to conflict with the O₃ reduction requirements set forth in the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan and the AVAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan and with the PM reduction goals set out in the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in indirect significant impacts to air quality related to conformance with the applicable air quality plans. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

Any potential impact to air quality in relation to violation of any air quality standard or a substantial contribution to existing or projected air quality violations resulting from the implementation of the proposed ordinance would be expected to be avoided through conformance with the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan, which includes conformance with the RECLAIM program, which regulates air emissions from manufacturing, as well as the SCAQMD command-and-control that regulates almost every piece of equipment that emits air pollution.¹¹ The jurisdiction of the proposed ordinance covers the unincorporated territories of the County, which are required to comply with the NAAQS and CAAQS. The proposed ordinance would be expected to assist the County in achieving air quality standards over time. However, certain plastic bag industry representatives have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in the increased manufacture of paper carryout bags, thus requiring the consideration of the potential violations of air quality standards and requirements; therefore, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

As with the unincorporated territories of the County, violations of air quality standards from manufacturing within the incorporated cities would be avoided through conformance with the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan.¹² However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR as a means of addressing arguments that have been postulated by

¹¹ South Coast Air Quality Management District. "Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM)." Web site. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov>

¹² South Coast Air Quality Management District. "Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM)." Web site. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov>

certain representatives of the plastic bag industry. Certain plastic bag industry representatives have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags would potentially result in the increased manufacture of paper carryout bags, thus requiring the consideration of the potential violations of air quality standards and requirements; therefore the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR. The jurisdiction of the proposed ordinances covers the incorporated cities of the County, which are required to comply with the NAAQS and CAAQS.

As with the proposed ordinance in the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the incorporated areas of the County. The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in beneficial impacts in relation to the violation of air quality standards and existing or projected air quality violations in the County.

A reduction in the manufacture, transport, and disposal of plastic carryout bags would be expected to reduce the emission of O₃ precursors into the atmosphere, thereby complying with NAAQS and CAAQS for O₃ and PM.

- (c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

Potential impacts to air quality due to a net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the County is in non-attainment would be expected to be avoided through conformance with the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan, particularly the RECLAIM program, which regulates air emissions from manufacturing. The majority of the unincorporated territories of the County are located within the SCAQMD portion of the South Coast Air Basin, while a northern portion of the unincorporated territories of the County is located within the AVAQMD portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (Figure 3.3-1). The SCAQMD portion of the South Coast Air Basin is currently designated as a Severe-17 non-attainment area for O₃, a non-attainment area for PM_{2.5}, and a Serious non-attainment area for PM₁₀;¹³ but the South Coast Air Basin has achieved the federal 1-hour and 8-hour carbon monoxide (CO) air quality standards since 1990 and 2002, respectively, and the County has met the federal air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) since 1992.¹⁴ Although the South Coast Air Basin as a whole is designated as a non-attainment area for PM₁₀, federal PM₁₀ standards in the County are currently being met at all monitoring stations.¹⁵ The AVAQMD portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin is currently classified as a moderate non-attainment area for the federal 8-hour O₃ standard, but is in attainment for all other criteria pollutants.¹⁶

Therefore, implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to adversely impact air quality due to a net increase of any criteria pollutant. However, certain representatives of the

¹³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 15 August 2008. "The Green Book Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants." *Green Book*. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/>

¹⁴ South Coast Air Quality Management District. June 2007. *2007 Air Quality Management Plan*. Diamond Bar, CA.

¹⁵ South Coast Air Quality Management District. June 2007. *2007 Air Quality Management Plan*. Diamond Bar, CA.

¹⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 15 August 2008. "The Green Book Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants." *Green Book*. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/>

plastic bag industry have postulated that the banning of plastic bags would potentially result in a net increase in criteria pollutants; therefore, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

As with the unincorporated territories of the County, emissions of criteria pollutants from manufacturing within the incorporated cities would be avoided through conformance with the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan.¹⁷ However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR, as a means of addressing arguments that have been postulated by certain representatives of the plastic bag industry.

- (d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality in relation to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Land uses identified as sensitive receptors by SCAQMD in the CEQA Air Quality Handbook can include residences, schools, playgrounds, child care centers, athletic facilities, long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes.¹⁸ There are many sensitive receptors throughout the unincorporated territories of the County; however, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in significant localized air pollutant emissions that would have the potential to affect sensitive receptors. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to sensitive receptors. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality in relation to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. There are many sensitive receptors throughout the incorporated cities of the County; however, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in significant localized air pollutant emissions that would have the potential to affect sensitive receptors. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to sensitive receptors. No further analysis is warranted.

- (e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality in relation to objectionable odors. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County, which has the potential to result in decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and the collection of plastic bag collection along roadways and water channels. A reduction in vehicle emissions may serve to reduce objectionable odors

¹⁷ South Coast Air Quality Management District. 1993. *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. Diamond Bar, CA.

¹⁸ South Coast Air Quality Management District. 1993. *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*. Diamond Bar, CA.

because diesel exhaust odors from vehicles may be considered unpleasant by some people. However, this potential decrease in objectionable odors is expected to be minimal. Some representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in environmental impacts due to increased reliance on paper carryout bags.¹⁹ Consequently, the proposed ordinance may result in a slight increase in objectionable odors from the increased diesel consumption by vehicles transporting carryout paper bags. However, this potential increase in objectionable odors is also expected to be minimal. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to objectionable odors. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality in relation to objectionable odors. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the incorporated areas of the County, which has the potential to result in decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and the collection of plastic bag waste along roadways and water channels. A reduction in vehicle emissions may help reduce objectionable odors because diesel exhaust odors from vehicles may be considered unpleasant by some people. However, this potential decrease in objectionable odors is expected to be minimal. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality related to objectionable odors. No further analysis is warranted.

¹⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to biological resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Biological resources within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the Land Use element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan;² information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),³ California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG),⁴ and Bureau of Land Management;⁵ and a review of published and unpublished literature germane to the proposed ordinances.

Although it is anticipated that the proposed ordinances would not result in adverse impacts related to biological resources, it is recommended that the biological resources section be carried forward for further analysis into the EIR to assess the potential for positive effects to biological resources as they relate to listed, sensitive, and locally important species and riparian habitat, wetlands, and habitat conservation plans.

The following list identifies the candidate or listed species that have the potential to occur near or within County limits. These species are either candidates for listing or are currently listed as threatened or endangered in the federal list of threatened and endangered species and are candidates for listing or are currently listed as rare, threatened or endangered in the State of California (Table 3.4-1, *Special-status Species with the Potential to Occur within the County of Los Angeles*):⁶

- Plants: 5 federally listed species, 1 candidate for federal listing, 6 State-listed species and 17 species that are both federal and state listed
- Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths): 2 federally listed species
- Pisces (fish): 3 federally listed species and 2 species that are both federally and State-listed
- Amphibia (amphibians): 3 federal listed species
- Reptilia (reptiles): 1 federal listed species and 2 species that are both federally and State listed
- Aves (birds): 4 federally listed species, 7 state listed species (2 of which are candidates for federal listing) and four species that are both federally and State listed
- Mammalia (mammals): 1 federally listed species, 3 State listed species, and 1 species that is both federally and State listed

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Agency information available at: <http://www.fws.gov/>

⁴ California Department of Fish and Game. Agency information available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>

⁵ Bureau of Land Management. Agency information available at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en.html>

⁶ California Natural Diversity Database. Accessed on: 13 October 2009. Santa Monica, CA.

**TABLE 3.4-1
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Amphibians			
arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	Endangered	None
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	Threatened	None
Sierra Madre yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana muscosa</i>	Endangered	None
Birds			
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Delisted	Endangered
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Delisted	Endangered
Belding's savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>	None	Endangered
California black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	None	Threatened
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
California least tern	<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	Endangered	Endangered
coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Threatened	None
least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Clemente loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi</i>	Endangered	None
San Clemente sage sparrow	<i>Amphispiza belli clementeae</i>	Threatened	None
southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	None	Threatened
western snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Threatened	None
western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Candidate	Endangered
Xantus' murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus hypoleucus</i>	Candidate	Threatened
Fish			
Mohave tui chub	<i>Gila bicolor mohavensis</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Santa Ana sucker	<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	Threatened	None
southern steelhead - southern California ESU	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	Endangered	None
tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	Endangered	None
unarmored threespine stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Invertebrates			
El Segundo blue butterfly	<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	Endangered	None
Palos Verdes blue butterfly	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus palosverdesensis</i>	Endangered	None
Mammals			
Mohave ground squirrel	<i>Xerospermophilus mohavensis</i>	None	Threatened
Nelson's antelope squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i>	None	Threatened
Pacific pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	Endangered	None
San Clemente Island fox	<i>Urocyon littoralis clementae</i>	None	Threatened

**TABLE 3.4-1
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Santa Catalina Island fox	<i>Urocyon littoralis catalinae</i>	Endangered	Threatened
Plants			
Agoura Hills dudleya	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>agourensis</i>	Threatened	None
beach spectaclepod	<i>Dithyrea maritima</i>	None	Threatened
Brand's star phacelia	<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	Candidate	None
Braunton's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	Endangered	None
California orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Catalina Island mountain-mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus traskiae</i>	Endangered	Endangered
coastal dunes milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Gambel's water cress	<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	Endangered	Threatened
island rush-rose	<i>Helianthemum greenei</i>	Threatened	None
Lyon's pentachaeta	<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	Endangered	Endangered
marcescent dudleya	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>marcescens</i>	Threatened	Rare
marsh sandwort	<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Mt. Gleason paintbrush	<i>Castilleja gleasonii</i>	None	Rare
Nevin's barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	Endangered	Endangered
salt marsh bird's-beak	<i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i> ssp. <i>maritimus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Clemente Island bedstraw	<i>Galium catalinense</i> ssp. <i>acrispum</i>	None	Endangered
San Clemente Island bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus argophyllus</i> var. <i>adsurgens</i>	None	Endangered
San Clemente Island bush-mallow	<i>Malacothamnus clementinus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Clemente Island larkspur	<i>Delphinium variegatum</i> ssp. <i>kinkiense</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Clemente Island lotus	<i>Lotus dendroideus</i> var. <i>traskiae</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Clemente Island paintbrush	<i>Castilleja grisea</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Clemente Island woodland star	<i>Lithophragma maximum</i>	Endangered	Endangered
San Fernando Valley spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	Candidate	Endangered
Santa Cruz Island rock cress	<i>Sibara filifolia</i>	Endangered	None
Santa Monica dudleya	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>ovatifolia</i>	Threatened	None
Santa Susana tarplant	<i>Deinandra minthornii</i>	None	Rare
slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	Endangered	Endangered
spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	Threatened	None
thread-leaved brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	Threatened	Endangered
Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Reptiles			
desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	Threatened	Threatened
island night lizard	<i>Xantusia riversiana</i>	Threatened	None

Greenhouse gases are not identified as a factor contributing to the threatened or endangered status of these species.⁷ Declines in the populations of plants and animals are caused by many factors, the most serious of which is habitat degradation and destruction by humans through development activities, environmental pollution, introduction of invasive and nonnative species, overharvesting of wild species, and conversion of habitat to other uses.⁸

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend consideration of the following six questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to biological resources.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFG or the USFWS?

Listed Species

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESAs). The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance would not contain any components that would modify habitat or otherwise adversely affect the survival of any listed species. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and state ESAs. However, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to listed species through the reduction of litter associated with plastic bags. Currently, 45,000 tons of plastic carryout bags are disposed of by residents throughout the County each year.^{9,10} The structural characteristics of plastic carryout bags allow the bags to easily blow away from landfills and trash collection trucks to become entangled in fences, brush, and waterways.^{11,12} By reducing the amount of litter attributed to plastic carryout bags that pollutes potentially suitable upland and aquatic habitats for species

⁷ California Natural Diversity Database. Accessed on: 13 October 2009. Santa Monica, CA.

⁸U.S. Department of Agriculture, Northeastern Area. 1997. *Threatened and Endangered Species and the Private Landowner*. Available at: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/wildlife/endangered/endangered.htm>

⁹ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table 7: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwm.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>. Countywide figures are prorated from State figures.

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹¹ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and state ESAs, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to improve the quality of the habitats in which these listed species dwell. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and state ESAs. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would modify habitat or otherwise adversely affect the survival of any listed species. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and state ESAs. However, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to benefit listed species through the reduction of litter that is associated with plastic bags. By reducing the amount of litter attributed to plastic bags that pollutes potentially suitable upland and aquatic habitats for species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered pursuant to the federal and state ESAs, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to improve the quality of the habitats of the listed species. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

Sensitive Species

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to sensitive species recognized by the USFWS as federal species of concern or by the CDFG as California Species of Special Concern. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinances do not contain any components that would serve to modify habitat or otherwise adversely affect the survival of any sensitive species. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to sensitive species recognized by the USFWS as federal species of concern or by the CDFG as California Species of Special Concern. Currently, 45,000 tons of plastic carryout bags are disposed of by residents Countywide each year.^{13,14} The structural characteristics of plastic carryout bags allow the bags to easily blow away from landfills and trash collection trucks and they end up entangled in fences, brush, and waterways.^{15,16} The proposed ordinances would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to listed species by reducing the amount of plastic bag litter that pollutes potentially suitable upland

¹³ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table 7: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>. Countywide figures are prorated from State figures.

¹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

¹⁵ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf and

¹⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

and aquatic habitats for sensitive species recognized by the USFWS as federal species of concern or by the CDFG as California Species of Special Concern, thereby improving the conditions of the habitats in which these sensitive species dwell. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to sensitive species recognized by the USFWS as federal species of concern or by the CDFG as California Species of Special Concern. The proposed ordinances would not entail any components that would modify habitat or otherwise adversely affect the survival of any sensitive species. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to sensitive species recognized by the USFWS as federal species of concern or by the CDFG as California Species of Special Concern. The proposed ordinances would have the potential to benefit listed species by reducing the amount of plastic bag litter that pollutes potentially suitable upland and aquatic habitats for sensitive species recognized by the USFWS or the CDFG, thereby improving the conditions of the habitats in which these sensitive species dwell. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

Locally Important Species

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to locally important species afforded protection pursuant to California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and CDFG. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic bags issued at certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance does not contain any components that would serve to modify habitats or otherwise adversely affect the survival of any locally important species. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to locally important species afforded protection pursuant to the CNPS and CDFG. However, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to locally important species through the reduction of litter that is attributed to plastic bags. Currently, 45,000 tons of plastic carryout bags are disposed of by residents Countywide each year.¹⁷ The structural characteristics of plastic carryout bags allow the bags to easily blow away from landfills and trash collection trucks and they end up entangled in fences, brush, and waterways.^{18,19} By reducing the amount of litter associated with plastic bags that pollutes potentially suitable upland and aquatic habitats for locally important species designated pursuant to the CNPS and CDFG, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to improve the

¹⁷ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table 7: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwm.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>. Countywide figures are prorated from State figures.

¹⁸ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

¹⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

quality of the habitats of these species. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to locally important species afforded protection pursuant to CNPS and CDFG. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would serve to modify habitats or otherwise adversely affect the survival of any locally important species. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to locally important species afforded protection pursuant to the CNPS and CDFG. However, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to benefit locally important species through the reduction of litter attributed to plastic bags. As previously noted, 45,000 tons of plastic carryout bags are currently disposed of by residents each year throughout the County.^{20,21} The structural characteristics of plastic carryout bags allow the bags to easily blow away from landfills and trash collection trucks and they end up entangled in fences, brush, and waterways.^{22,23} By reducing the amount of litter associated with plastic bags that pollutes potentially suitable upland and aquatic habitats for locally important species designated pursuant to the CNPS and CDFG, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to improve the quality of the habitats of these species. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

- (b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFG or the USFWS?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance does not contain any components that would serve to modify riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. However, implementation of the proposed ordinance would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect related to riparian

²⁰ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table 7: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwm.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>. Countywide figures are prorated from State figures.

²¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

²² United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

²³ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

habitat due to decreased levels of plastic bag litter flowing into waterways and riparian habitats.^{24,25} Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would modify riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. However, implementation of the proposed ordinances would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect related to riparian habitat due to decreased levels of plastic bag litter flowing into waterways and riparian habitats.^{26,27} Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

- (c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance does not contain any components that would directly or indirectly remove, fill, or interrupt any federally protected wetlands. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect on wetlands by reducing the amount of plastic bag waste contained in storm water runoff, thus improving water quality and the quality of biological resources in the unincorporated territories of the County related to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.^{28,29} Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

²⁴ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

²⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

²⁶ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

²⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

²⁸ United Nations Environment Programme. April 2009. *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*. Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/Marine_Litter_A_Global_Challenge.pdf

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would directly or indirectly remove, fill, or interrupt any federally protected wetlands. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect on wetlands by reducing the amount of plastic bag waste contained in storm water runoff, thus improving water quality and the quality of biological resources in the County related to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.^{30,31} Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

- (d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Wildlife Movement Corridors

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in negative impacts to biological resources in relation to movement of any migratory fish or wildlife species or with an established wildlife corridor. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinances do not include any components that would interfere with wildlife movement corridors. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to the movement of any migratory fish or wildlife species or with an established wildlife corridor. However, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to migratory fish or wildlife species by reducing plastic bag litter, thereby improving the quality of potentially suitable habitat for wildlife corridors needed for migration. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

²⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

³⁰ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table 7: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>. Countywide figures are prorated from State figures.

³¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in negative impacts to biological resources in relation to movement of any migratory fish or wildlife species or with an established wildlife corridor. The proposed ordinances would not include any components that would interfere with wildlife movement corridors. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to the movement of any migratory fish or wildlife species or with an established wildlife corridor. However, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to migratory fish or wildlife species by reducing plastic bag litter and thereby improving the quality of potentially suitable habitat for wildlife corridors needed for migration. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

Nursery Sites

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance does not contain any components that would serve to modify habitat or otherwise adversely affect nursery sites. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to biological resources related to impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites. However, the proposed ordinance would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to native wildlife nursery sites by reducing plastic bag litter that pollutes these sites, thereby improving the quality of potentially suitable habitat for wildlife nursery sites. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would serve to modify habitat or otherwise adversely affect nursery sites. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to biological resources related to impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites. However, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to benefit native wildlife nursery sites by reducing plastic bag litter that pollutes these sites, thereby improving the quality of potentially suitable habitat for wildlife nursery sites. Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

- (e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinances?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to biological resources in relation to conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would aim to

significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance does not contain any components that would serve to remove or otherwise adversely impact local biological resources such as oak trees. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to biological resources related to conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to biological resources in relation to conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would remove or otherwise adversely impact local biological resources such as oak trees. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to biological resources related to conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No further analysis is warranted.

- (f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to conflicts with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) or Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). Only one NCCP exists within the County, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Subregional Plan.^{32,33} The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would aim to significantly reduce the use of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County in an effort to reduce the amount of litter that is attributed to plastic carryout bags. The proposed ordinance does not include components that would serve to conflict with any habitat conservation plan. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to conflicts with the provisions of any adopted HCPs or NCCPs. However, the proposed ordinance would have the potential benefit biological resources in relation to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Subregional Plan by reducing litter associated with plastic carryout bags in the sensitive coastal sage scrub habitat, thereby potentially contributing to better area-wide protection of natural wildlife diversity.³⁴ Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

³² California Department of Fish and Game. Accessed on: 24 June 2009. "NCCP Plan Status." *Resource Management*. Available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/status/PalosVerdes.html>

³³ City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Accessed on: 24 June 2009. "Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCP)." *Planning & Zoning*. Available at: <http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv/planning/NCCP/index.cfm>

³⁴ City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Accessed on: 24 June 2009. "Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCP)." *Planning & Zoning*. Available at: <http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv/planning/NCCP/index.cfm>

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to biological resources in relation to conflicts with the provisions of any adopted HCP or NCCP. As previously mentioned, only one NCCP exists within the County, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Subregional Plan.^{35,36} The proposed ordinances would not include components that would conflict with any HCP. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to biological resources related to conflicts with the provisions of any adopted HCP or NCCP. However, the proposed ordinances would have the potential to result in a beneficial effect to biological resources in relation to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Subregional Plan by reducing litter associated with plastic carryout bags in the sensitive coastal sage scrub habitat, thereby potentially contributing to better area-wide protection of natural wildlife diversity.³⁷ Further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

³⁵ California Department of Fish and Game. Accessed on: 24 June 2009. "NCCP Plan Status." *Resource Management*. Available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/status/PalosVerdes.html>

³⁶ City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Accessed on: 24 June 2009. "Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCP)." *Planning & Zoning*. Available at: <http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv/planning/NCCP/index.cfm>

³⁷ City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Accessed on: 24 June 2009. "Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCP)." *Planning & Zoning*. Available at: <http://www.palosverdes.com/rpv/planning/NCCP/index.cfm>

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to cultural resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹

State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of four questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to cultural resources.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5 [of the State CEQA Guidelines]?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. According to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is defined as physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County and would not include any demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of historical resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. As previously noted, according to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is defined as physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource is materially impaired. The proposed ordinances would not include any demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of historical resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories the County and would not include any ground-disturbing activities that could serve to

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

adversely impact archeological resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource. The proposed ordinances would not include any ground-disturbing activities that could serve to adversely impact archeological resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to cultural resources related to a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource. No further analysis is warranted.

- (c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to cultural resources related directly or indirectly to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County and would not include any ground-disturbing activities that could adversely impact paleontological resources, paleontological sites, or unique geologic features. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to cultural resources related to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to cultural resources related directly or indirectly to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature. The proposed ordinances would not include any ground-disturbing activities that could adversely impact paleontological resources, paleontological sites, or unique geologic features. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to cultural resources related to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature. No further analysis is warranted.

- (d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County and would not include any ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. The proposed ordinances would not include any ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. No further analysis is warranted.

3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to geology and soils, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Geology and soils within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan² and in consideration of the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning (APEFZ) Maps.³

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of seven questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to geology and soils.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent APEFZ Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. Although numerous active earthquake faults exist throughout the County, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or elements that would expose or place people within vicinity of a known earthquake fault. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. The proposed ordinances would not entail the development of structures or elements that would expose or place people within vicinity of a known earthquake fault. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. No further analysis is warranted.

¹ California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ California Geological Survey. 2007 (Interim Revision). "Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California." *Special Publication 42*. Supplements 1 and 2 added 1999. Contact: 655 S. Hope Street, #700, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Available at: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/sp/Sp42.pdf>

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Although numerous active faults exist that could result in strong seismic ground shaking, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or elements that would expose or place people near or in areas susceptible to strong seismic ground shaking. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving strong seismic ground shaking. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or elements that would expose or place people near or in areas susceptible to strong seismic ground shaking. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving strong seismic ground shaking. No further analysis is warranted.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Although numerous active faults exist that could result in strong seismic ground shaking, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or elements that would expose or place people near or in an area susceptible to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or elements that would expose or place people near or in an area susceptible to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. No further analysis is warranted.

iv) Landslides?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Due to the substantial topographical changes throughout southern California, there are numerous locations within the County that are susceptible to landslides. However, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not contain components that would require the development of structures or elements that would expose people to potential adverse impacts related to landslides. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving landslides and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. The proposed ordinances would not contain components that would require the development of structures or elements that would expose people to potential adverse impacts related to landslides. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts related to exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects involving landslides and no further analysis is warranted.

(b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to substantial soil erosion and the loss of topsoil. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail construction-related activities such as grading or elements that would be expected to result in changes to the existing soil conditions or create a loss of topsoil within the unincorporated areas of the County. Therefore, there would not be any expected impacts on geology and soils related to substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to substantial soil erosion and the loss of topsoil. The proposed ordinances would not contain elements that would require construction-related activities, such as grading or development that would be expected to result in changes to the existing soil conditions or to create a loss of topsoil within the incorporated areas of the County. Therefore, there would not be any expected impacts on geology and soils related to substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. No further analysis is warranted.

- (c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed ordinance, and that could potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail construction-related activities or the development of structures or elements that would be expected to have the potential to result in impacts related to soil or geologic units that are unstable or that would become unstable. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to geology and soils related to location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed ordinance, and that could potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed ordinance, and that could potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. As previously stated, the proposed ordinances would not require construction-related activities or the development of structures or elements that would be expected to have the potential to result in impacts related to soil or geologic units that are unstable or that would become unstable. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to geology and soils related to location on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed ordinance, and that could potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. No further analysis is warranted.

- (d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to location on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or features that would be located on expansive soils. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to geology and soils related to location of the proposed ordinance on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to location on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property. The proposed ordinances would not entail the development of structures or features that would be located on expansive soils. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to geology and soils related to

location of the proposed ordinance on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to having soils that are incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include any components requiring the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to geology and soils related to having soils that are incapable of supporting septic tanks or alternative waste systems where sewers are not available. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to geology and soils in relation to having soils that are incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available. The proposed ordinances would not entail any components requiring the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to geology and soils related to having soils that are incapable of supporting septic tanks or alternative waste systems where sewers are not available. No further analysis is warranted.

3.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have significant environmental impacts due to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The analysis is based on the two recommended questions proposed by OPR in April 2009 as additions to Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ GHG emissions within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated based on guidance provided by regulatory publications from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association;² the State Office of the Attorney General;³ CARB;⁴ and OPR.⁵

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported that the majority of GHG emissions in the United States can be attributed to the energy sector, which accounted for 86.3 percent of total U.S. GHG emissions in 2007 due to stationary and mobile fuel combustion.⁶ The manufacture and distribution of plastic and paper carryout bags, as well as reusable bags, requires energy use, and therefore contributes to the total GHG emissions in the energy sector. The industrial sector accounted for only 4.9 percent of U.S. GHG emissions in 2007.⁷ In the industrial sector, the top 10 contributors to GHG emissions, which account for more than 90 percent of the total GHG emissions from the industrial sector, include substitution of ozone-depleting substances; iron and steel production and metallurgical coke production; cement production; nitric acid production; hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) production, specifically, HCFC-22; lime production; ammonia production and urea consumption; electrical transmission and distribution; aluminum production; and limestone and dolomite use. Although the production of plastic, paper, and reusable carryout bags can be categorized as part of the industrial sector, it is not included in the top 10 contributors.

OPR recommends the consideration of two questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to GHG emissions.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

¹ California Governor's Office of Planning and Research. 2007. *CEQA Guidelines and Greenhouse Gases*. Available at: <http://www.opr.ca.gov/index.php?a=ceqa/index.html>

² California Air Pollution Control Officers Association. January 2008. *CEQA and Climate Change: Evaluating and Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Projects Subject to the California Environmental Quality Act*. Sacramento, CA.

³ California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. 21 May 2008 (Updated 26 September 2008). *The California Environmental Quality Act Addressing Global Warming Impacts at the Local Agency Level*. Sacramento, CA.

⁴ California Air Resources Board. 24 October 2008. *Preliminary Draft Staff Proposal: Recommended Approaches for Setting Interim Significance Thresholds for Greenhouse Gases under the California Environmental Quality Act*. Available at: http://www.opr.ca.gov/ceqa/pdfs/Prelim_Draft_Staff_Proposal_10-24-08.pdf

⁵ California Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory. 19 June 2008. *CEQA and Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change through California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review*. Sacramento, CA.

⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 2009. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2007*. Washington, DC.

⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 2009. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2007*. Washington, DC.

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The net impact on the environment due to the proposed ordinance in relation to the direct or indirect generation of GHGs would be expected to be below the level of significance. The proposed ordinance would be expected to assist the County in reducing GHG emissions over time. However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances may have the potential to generate GHG emissions due to increased reliance on paper carryout bags;⁸ therefore, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores, which would be expected to result in beneficial impacts in relation to GHG emissions. The proposed ordinance is expected to result in a net reduction in the use of plastic carryout bags, as it is intended to result in a net conversion to the use of reusable bags. Direct reductions in GHGs would be expected to occur as a result of decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and the collection of plastic bag litter along roadways and water channels. In addition, reductions in GHG emissions would be expected to result from the reduction in demand for the production of plastic carryout bags. The production of plastic bags is a chemical process that begins with the conversion of crude oil or natural gas into hydrocarbon monomers such as ethylene;⁹ further processing leads to the polymerization of ethylene to form polyethylene. During processing, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted into the atmosphere.¹⁰ Due to the fact that VOCs undergo a sequence of reactions in the atmosphere to form ozone (O₃) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), VOCs have an indirect global warming potential;¹¹ therefore, the emission of VOCs during the manufacture of plastic bags cause an indirect increase in GHGs. In addition, fuel combustion is required to operate the facilities that manufacture plastic bags.¹² The emission of VOCs and the combustion of fuel during the manufacture of plastic bags results in the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere; therefore, a reduction in the manufacture, transport, and disposal of plastic carryout bags would be expected to reduce the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere.

However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in increases in GHG emissions due to potential increased demand for paper bags.¹³ Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that as paper bags are significantly heavier than plastic bags, the transport of a higher volume of paper

⁸ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁹ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Ethylene." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEP/CORINAIR5/B451vs2.3.pdf>

¹⁰ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEP/CORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

¹¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Chapter 2: Changes in Atmospheric Constituents and in Radiative Forcing*. Cambridge, UK, and New York, NY, USA.

¹² European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEP/CORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

¹³ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

bags could require the combustion of more fossil fuel, thereby resulting in the increased emission of GHGs.¹⁴ The manufacturing process of paper bags requires fuel consumption; consequently, representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that an increase in the production of paper carryout bags would increase the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere.¹⁵ However, any increases in GHG emissions would be offset to some extent by the ability of paper bags to contain a larger volume of groceries than plastic bags; therefore, a conversion of use from plastic to paper would be expected to result in a smaller number of individual paper and plastic carryout bags being manufactured, transported, and used. In addition, a net increase in the use of reusable bags would also be encouraged, which would further reduce the number of paper carryout bags utilized.

Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that the production of paper carryout bags could cause an adverse environmental impact due to the release of GHGs into the atmosphere due to deforestation.¹⁶ In addition, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that GHG emissions may occur due to the process of decomposition of paper bags in landfills, which releases methane into the atmosphere.¹⁷ Therefore, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have concluded that an increase in the production, use, and disposal of paper carryout bags could have the potential to generate increased GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly.¹⁸ In a similar manner, the production and transport of reusable bags could also result in the emission of GHGs; however, the emissions resulting from reusable bags would be expected to be significantly lower than the emission per plastic carryout bag since reusable bags can be reused multiple times and can last two to five years.¹⁹

It is also important to note that, as previously mentioned, although the manufacture and distribution of paper and plastic carryout bags and reusable bags require some fuel consumption that results in GHG emissions, the production of paper and plastic carryout bags and reusable bags is not one of the top 10 contributors to GHG emissions in the U.S. industrial sector.²⁰

The expected net impacts to GHG emissions from the proposed ordinance in relation to the direct or indirect generation of GHGs would be expected to be below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

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The net impact on the environment due to the proposed ordinances in relation to the direct or indirect generation of GHGs would be expected to be below the level of significance. The proposed ordinances would be expected to assist the incorporated cities in the County in reducing GHG emissions over time. However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have

¹⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

¹⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

¹⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

¹⁷ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

¹⁸ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

¹⁹ Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

²⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April, 2009. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2007*. Washington, DC.

argued that the proposed ordinances may also have the potential to generate GHG emissions due to increased reliance on paper carryout bags;²¹ therefore, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags, which would be expected to result in beneficial impacts in relation to the generation of GHG paper and plastic carryout bags, as it is intended to result in a net conversion to the use of reusable bags. Direct reductions in GHGs would be expected to occur as a result of decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and the collection of plastic bag litter along roadways and water channels. In addition, reductions in GHG emissions would be expected to result from the reduction in demand for the production of plastic carryout bags. The production of plastic bags is a chemical process that begins with the conversion of crude oil or natural gas into hydrocarbon monomers such as ethylene;²² further processing leads to the polymerization of ethylene to form polyethylene. During processing, VOCs are emitted into the atmosphere.²³ Due to the fact that VOCs undergo a sequence of reactions in the atmosphere to form O₃ and CO₂, VOCs have an indirect global warming potential;²⁴ therefore, the emission of VOCs during the manufacture of plastic bags cause an indirect increase in GHGs. In addition, fuel combustion is required to operate the facilities that manufacture plastic bags.²⁵ The emission of VOCs and the combustion of fuel during the manufacture of plastic bags results in the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere; therefore, a reduction in the manufacture, transport, and disposal of plastic carryout bags would be expected to reduce the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere.

However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in increases in GHG emissions due to the potential increased demand for paper bags.²⁶ As paper bags are significantly heavier than plastic bags, representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that the transport of a higher volume of paper bags could require the combustion of more fossil fuel, thereby resulting in the increased emission of GHGs.²⁷ The manufacturing process of paper bags requires fuel consumption; consequently, representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that an increase in the production of paper carryout bags could increase the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere.²⁸ However, any increases would be offset to some extent by the ability of paper bags to contain a larger volume of groceries than plastic bags; therefore, a conversion of use from plastic to paper

²¹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

²² European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Ethylene." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B451vs2.3.pdf>

²³ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

²⁴ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Chapter 2: Changes in Atmospheric Constituents and in Radiative Forcing*. Cambridge, UK, and New York, NY, USA.

²⁵ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. "Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density." *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

²⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

²⁷ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

²⁸ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

would be expected to result in a smaller number of individual paper and plastic carryout bags being manufactured, transported, and used. In addition, a net increase in the use of reusable bags would also be encouraged, which would further reduce the number of paper carryout bags utilized.

Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that the production of paper carryout bags could cause an adverse environmental impact due to deforestation.²⁹ In addition, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that GHG emissions may occur due to the process of decomposition of paper bags in landfills, which releases methane into the atmosphere.³⁰ Therefore, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have concluded that a potential increase in the production, use, and disposal of paper carryout bags could have the potential to generate GHG emissions.³¹ In a similar manner, the production and transport of reusable bags could also be expected to result in the emission of GHGs; however, the emissions per reusable bag would be expected to be significantly lower than the emission per plastic carryout bag due to the fact that reusable bags can be reused multiple times and can last for between two to five years.³² It is also important to note that, as previously mentioned, although the manufacture and distribution of plastic and paper carryout bags and reusable bags require some fuel consumption that results in GHG emissions, the production of carryout bags and reusable bags is not one of the top 10 contributors to GHG emissions in the U.S. industrial sector.³³ The expected net impacts to GHGs from the proposed ordinances in relation to the direct or indirect generation of GHGs would be expected to be below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

- (b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

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The proposed ordinance's net impacts on the environment related to conflicts with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs would be expected to be below the level of significance. However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances may also have the potential to generate GHG emissions due to increased reliance on paper carryout bags,³⁴ the County has decided to present its analysis of this issue in the EIR to verify these findings. The County, in its consideration of the proposed ordinance, must consider consistency with applicable standards such as Executive Order S-3-05, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), and Senate Bill (SB) 97 of 2007.

²⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

³⁰ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

³¹ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

³² Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

³³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 2009. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2007*. Washington, DC.

³⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

Executive Order S-3-05 establishes statewide climate change emission reduction targets to reduce CO₂equivalent (CO_{2e}) to the year 2000 level (473 million metric tons) by 2010, to the 1990 level (427 million metric tons of CO_{2e}) by 2020, and to 80 percent below the 1990 level (85 million metric tons of CO_{2e}) by 2050.³⁵ The executive order directs the California Environmental Protection Agency secretary to coordinate and oversee efforts from multiple agencies to reduce GHG emissions to achieve the target levels.

AB 32 also establishes statewide GHG emission reduction targets to reduce carbon dioxide equivalent to the 2000 level by 2010 and to the 1990 level by 2020. AB 32 regulates the following GHG emissions: CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

Furthermore, SB 97 requires OPR “to prepare, develop, and transmit to the [CARB] guidelines for the feasible mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, as required by CEQA, including, but not limited to, effects associated with transportation or energy consumption.”³⁶ Although SB 97 exempts certain transportation projects and projects funded under the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006, it would apply to any environmental documents required by CEQA that have not been certified or adopted by the CEQA lead agency by the date of the adoption of the regulations on or before January 1, 2010.

The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores, which would be expected to result in beneficial impacts in relation to conflicts with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Direct reductions in GHG emissions would be expected to occur as a result of decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and the collection of plastic bag litter along roadways and water channels. In addition, reductions in GHG emissions would be expected to result from the expected reduction in production of plastic carryout bags. The production of plastic bags is a chemical process that begins with the conversion of crude oil or natural gas into hydrocarbon monomers such as ethylene;³⁷ further processing leads to the polymerization of ethylene to form polyethylene. During processing, VOCs are emitted into the atmosphere.³⁸ Due to the fact that VOCs undergo a sequence of reactions in the atmosphere to form O₃ and CO₂, VOCs have an indirect global warming potential;³⁹ therefore, the emission of VOCs during the manufacture of plastic bags causes an indirect increase in GHGs. In addition, fuel combustion is required to operate the facilities that manufacture plastic bags.⁴⁰ The emission of VOCs and the combustion of fuel during the manufacture of plastic bags results in an increase in the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere; therefore, reduced manufacture, transport, and

³⁵ California Governor. 2005. Executive Order S-3-05. Sacramento, CA.

³⁶ California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. 24 August 2007. Senate Bill No. 97, Chapter 185. Available at: http://www.opr.ca.gov/ceqa/pdfs/SB_97_bill_20070824_chaptered.pdf

³⁷ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. “Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Ethylene.” *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B451vs2.3.pdf>

³⁸ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. “Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density.” *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

³⁹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Chapter 2: Changes in Atmospheric Constituents and in Radiative Forcing*. Cambridge, UK, and New York, NY, USA.

⁴⁰ European Environment Agency. 5 December 2007. “Processes in Organic Chemical Industries (Bulk Production) Polyethylene Low Density.” *EMEP / CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook – 2007*. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR5/B456vs2.2.pdf>

disposal of plastic carryout bags would be expected to reduce GHG emissions in compliance with Executive Order S-3-05 and AB 32.

As previously noted, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in increases in GHG emissions due to the increased reliance on paper bags.⁴¹ As paper bags are significantly heavier than plastic bags, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that the transport of a higher volume of paper bags could require the combustion of more fossil fuel, thereby possibly resulting in the increased emission of GHGs.⁴² The manufacturing process of paper bags also requires fuel consumption; consequently, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that an increase in the production of paper carryout bags could increase the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere.⁴³ However, any increases would be offset to some extent by the ability of paper carryout bags to contain a larger volume of groceries than plastic carryout bags; therefore, a conversion of use from plastic to paper would be expected to result in a smaller number of individual paper and plastic carryout bags used. In addition, a net increase in the use of reusable bags would also be encouraged, which would further reduce the number of paper carryout bags utilized. In a similar manner, the production and transport of reusable bags would also be expected to result in the emission of GHGs; however, the emissions per reusable bag would be expected to be significantly lower than the emission per plastic carryout bag due to the fact that reusable bags can be reused multiple times and can last two to five years.⁴⁴ Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have also argued that the production of paper carryout bags could impact the amount of GHGs in the atmosphere due to deforestation.⁴⁵ Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have also stated that GHG emissions may occur due to the process of decomposition of paper bags in landfills, which releases methane into the atmosphere.⁴⁶ Therefore, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have concluded that increased production, use, and disposal of paper carryout bags could have the potential to increase GHG emissions.⁴⁷

Adoption of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to facilitate the violation of any existing applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. As such, the expected environmental impacts from the proposed ordinance in relation to conflicts with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs would be expected to be below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

⁴¹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁴² Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁴³ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁴⁴ Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

⁴⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁴⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁴⁷ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

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The net environmental impacts from the proposed ordinances related to conflicts with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions would be expected to be below the level of significance. However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances would have a potential to generate GHG emissions due to increased reliance on paper carryout bags;⁴⁸ the County has decided to present its analysis of this issue in the EIR to verify these findings. As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances within the incorporated cities of the County would be required to comply with AB 32 and Executive Order S-3-05.

The proposed ordinances would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags, which would be expected to result in beneficial impacts in relation to conflicts with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Direct reductions in GHG emissions would be expected to occur as a result of decreased vehicle emissions related to the distribution of plastic carryout bags, the transport of plastic bag waste, and the collection of plastic bag litter along roadways and water channels. In addition, reductions in GHG emissions would be expected to result from the expected reduction in production of plastic carryout bags. The emission of VOCs and the combustion of fuel during the manufacture of plastic bags results in an increase in the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere; therefore, reduced manufacture, transport, and disposal of plastic carryout bags would be expected to reduce GHG emissions in compliance with Executive Order S-3-05 and AB 32.

However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that potential increases in GHG emissions could occur as a result of the potential increase in the consumption of paper bags.⁴⁹ Paper bags are heavier than plastic bags; therefore, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that transport of a higher volume of paper bags could require the combustion of more fossil fuel, thereby possibly resulting in the increased emission of GHGs.⁵⁰ The manufacturing process of paper bags also requires fuel consumption; consequently, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that an increase in the production of paper carryout bags could increase the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere.⁵¹ However, any increases would be offset to some extent by the ability of paper bags to contain a larger volume of groceries than plastic bags, which would be expected to result in a smaller number of individual paper and plastic carryout bags being manufactured, transported, and used. In addition, a net increase in the use of reusable bags would also be encouraged, which would further reduce the number of paper carryout bags utilized. In a similar manner, the production and transport of reusable bags could result in the emission of GHGs; however, the emissions per reusable bag would be expected to be significantly lower than the emissions per plastic carryout bag, due to the fact that reusable bags can be reused multiple times and can last two to five years.⁵²

⁴⁸ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁴⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁵⁰ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁵¹ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁵² Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that the production of paper carryout bags could cause an adverse environmental impact due to deforestation.⁵³ In addition, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that GHG emissions may occur due to the decomposition process of paper bags in landfills, which releases methane into the atmosphere.⁵⁴ Therefore, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have concluded that a potential increase in the production, use, and disposal of paper carryout bags could potentially increase GHG emissions.⁵⁵

Adoption of the proposed ordinances would not be expected to facilitate the violation of any existing applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Therefore, expected impacts to GHGs from the proposed ordinances in relation to conflicts with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions would be expected to be below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

⁵³ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁵⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

⁵⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. Accessed on: 21 October 2009. Web Site. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/>

3.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to hazards and hazardous materials, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹

Hazardous wastes are by-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Hazardous wastes exhibit at least one of four characteristics—ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity—or appear on special U.S. EPA lists.²

Hazards and hazardous materials related to the proposed ordinances were evaluated based on expert opinion supported by facts, and a review of the County of Los Angeles General Plan.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of eight questions when addressing the potential for significant impact to hazards and hazardous materials.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

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The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials with respect to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The proposed ordinance would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act.³ The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores, which do not meet the criteria of a hazardous substance, because they do not possess at least one of four characteristics of hazardous wastes in the condition in which they are intended to be used from stores and do not appear on special U.S. EPA lists.⁴ Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to create impacts related to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazards or hazardous materials. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials related to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials with respect to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The proposed ordinances would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as defined by the Hazardous

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Part 261: “Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste.”

³ *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Parts 106–180.

⁴ *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Part 261: “Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste.”

Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act.⁵ In addition, plastic carryout bags that would be banned do not meet the criteria of a hazardous substance for the reasons described above.⁶ Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to create impacts related to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazards or hazardous materials. There would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials related to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts from hazards and hazardous materials with respect to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores, which could potentially reduce the prevalence of plastic bags in the litter stream and could result in a reduction in the accidental release of plastic bags into the environment. However, carryout and compostable plastic bags, in the condition in which they are intended to be used from stores, do not meet the criteria of a hazardous substance, including possessing at least one of the four characteristics of hazardous wastes or appearing on special U.S. EPA lists.⁷ The proposed ordinance would not involve any type of construction or activities that would require the use of hazardous materials or that would result in the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials related to the creation of a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts from hazards and hazardous materials with respect to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. As previously noted, carryout and compostable plastic bags, in the condition in which they are intended to be used from stores, do not meet the criteria of a hazardous substance, including possessing at least one of the four characteristics of hazardous wastes or appearing on special U.S. EPA lists.⁸ The proposed ordinances would not involve any type of construction or activities that would require the use of hazardous materials or that would result in the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials related to the creation of a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. No further analysis is warranted.

⁵ *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Parts 106–180.

⁶ *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Part 261: “Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste.”

⁷ *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Part 261: “Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste.”

⁸ *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 40, Chapter 1, Part 261: “Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste.”

- (c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials with respect to the emission of hazardous emissions or the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Numerous schools exist within the unincorporated territories of the County; however, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include any physical elements, or otherwise, that would involve the emission or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to the emission of hazardous emissions or the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials with respect to the emissions or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Numerous schools exist within the incorporated areas of the County; however, the proposed ordinances would not include any physical elements, or otherwise, that would involve the emission or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to the emissions or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. No further analysis is warranted.

- (d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to the Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to the location of the proposed ordinance on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Although there are numerous hazardous materials sites within the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail elements that would be located on a site or sites, including hazardous materials sites. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials related to location of the proposed ordinance on a hazardous materials site, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to the location of the proposed ordinances on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Although there are numerous hazardous materials sites within the incorporated cities of the County, the proposed

ordinances would not entail elements that would be located on a site or sites, including hazardous materials sites. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials related to location of the proposed ordinances on a hazardous materials site, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials in relation to its proximity to an airport and thus would not be expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the unincorporated territories of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinance. Numerous airports exist within the unincorporated territories of the County; however, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include elements that would be located on any site or sites, including one near a public airport or public use airport or within an airport land use plan. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hazards and hazardous materials in relation to the proximity of the proposed ordinance to an airport and would not be expected to create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the proposed ordinance area. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials in relation to its proximity to an airport and thus would not be expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the incorporated cities of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances. Numerous airports exist within the incorporated cities of the County; however, the proposed ordinances would not include elements that would be located on any site or sites, including one near a public airport or public use airport or within an airport land use plan. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hazards and hazardous materials in relation to the proximity of the proposed ordinances to an airport and would not be expected to create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the area that would be affected by the proposed ordinances. No further analysis is warranted.

- (f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials due to the location of the proposed ordinance in the vicinity of a private airstrip and the potential for safety hazards for people residing or working in the unincorporated territories of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinance. Although many private airstrips exist throughout the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include physical elements that would be located on a site or sites within the vicinity of a private airstrip that would be expected to result in impacts related to safety hazards for people residing or working in the vicinity of a private airstrip.

Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hazards and hazardous materials due to the location of the proposed ordinance within a private airstrip and the potential for safety hazards for people residing or working in the proposed ordinance area. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials due to the location of the proposed ordinances in the vicinity of a private airstrip and the potential for safety hazards for people residing or working in the incorporated areas of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances. Although many private airstrips exist throughout the incorporated cities of the County, the proposed ordinances would not include physical elements that would be located on a site or sites within the vicinity of a private airstrip that would consequently be expected to result in impacts related to safety hazards for people residing or working in the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hazards and hazardous materials due to the location of the proposed ordinances within a private airstrip and the potential for safety hazards for people residing or working in the areas that would be subject to the proposed ordinances. No further analysis is warranted.

- (g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to impairing the implementation of or physically interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not entail the development of structures or any components that would interfere with emergency response plans or evacuation plans. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials from impairing the implementation of or physically interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to impairing the implementation of or physically interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed ordinances would not entail the development of structures or include any components that would interfere with emergency response plans or evacuation plans. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts from hazards and hazardous materials from impairing the implementation of or physically interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. Although wildlands exist within the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not contain any components that would expose people or structures to significant risks. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts related to the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hazards and hazardous materials related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. Although wildlands exist within the incorporated cities of the County, the proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would expose people or structures to significant risks. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts related to the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. No further analysis is warranted.

3.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to hydrology and water quality, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Hydrology and water quality within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan,² State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan for the Colorado River RWQCB Region 7,³ and the National Flood Insurance Program Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the County.⁴

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of 10 questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to hydrology and water quality.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The net impact to hydrology and water quality in relation to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would be expected to be below the level of significance. The impacts to hydrology and water quality related to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements from the proposed ordinance would be expected to assist the County in better achieving water quality standards over time through a net reduction of litter comprised of plastic carryout bags. Over time, the transition from carryout bags to reusable bags would be anticipated to reduce the amount of litter found in water sources such as drain outlets and storm water runoff that can be attributed to plastic carryout bags, which in turn would be expected to have a positive impact on the water waste discharge requirements within the unincorporated territories of the County. However, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in environmental impacts that could result in violations of water quality standards due to the increased reliance on paper bags during the period required for consumers to transition to using reusable bags.⁵

The proposed ordinance would not entail elements that would directly violate the standards or requirements specified in the County of Los Angeles General Plan⁶ or the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Region 7), and adoption of the proposed ordinance would not

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ State Resources Control Board. 2007 (Adopted June 2006). *Water Quality Control Plan - Colorado River Basin – Region 7*. Palm Desert, CA. Available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/publications_forms/publications/docs/basinplan_2006.pdf

⁴ Federal Emergency Management Agency. December 1980. *Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the County of Los Angeles*. Washington, DC.

⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

permit or sanction the violation of any established industry standards, management, or policies.⁷ The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County that are subject to the ordinance. While certain representatives of the plastic bag industry argue that any proposed ordinance could potentially temporarily increase the consumption and production of paper bags as stores and consumers transition to the use of reusable bags, any ordinance would be consistent with the applicable standards or requirements for the area. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the unincorporated territories of the County.⁸ Direct discharge of pollutants into a water body from point sources such as the manufacturing of paper bags, which could be subject to the regulatory authority of the RWQCB under the federal Clean Water Act, is required to comply with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Region 7). However, due to arguments raised by certain representatives of the plastic bag industry in this area, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

Impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would be expected to be below the level of significance. As with the discussion above for the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County that are subject to the ordinance. While certain representatives of the plastic bag industry argue that any proposed ordinance could potentially temporarily increase the consumption and production of paper bags as stores and consumers transition to the use of reusable bags, any ordinance would be consistent with the applicable standards or requirements for the area. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the incorporated cities of the County.⁹ Direct discharge of pollutants to a water body from point sources such as the manufacturing of paper bags, which could be subject to the regulatory authority of the RWQCB under the federal Clean Water Act, would be required to be consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Region 7). However, due to arguments raised by certain representatives of the plastic bag industry in this area, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

⁷ State Resources Control Board, California Regional Water Quality Control Board. 2007 (adopted June 2006). *Water Quality Control Plan: Colorado River Basin – Region 7*. Palm Desert, CA. Available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/publications_forms/publications/docs/basinplan_2006.pdf

⁸ Reusable bags have been defined as having a lifetime of 2 to 5 years or at least 300 uses for its useful lifetime. Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Also available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

⁹ Reusable bags have been defined as having a lifetime of 2 to 5 years or at least 300 uses for its useful lifetime. Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Also available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

- (b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge in relation to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that the proposed ordinance could result in an increase in the consumption of paper bags as stores and consumers transition to the use of reusable bags.¹⁰ As a result, they argue that there could be an expected increase in the manufacturing of paper bags. Studies prepared or referred to by certain representatives of the plastic bag industry that compare the production of plastic bags to that of paper bags have stated their position that manufacturing of plastic bags consumes less than 4 percent of the total amount of water needed to manufacture paper bags (5,527 cubic meters of water to produce 100 million plastic bags versus 145,729 cubic meters of water to produce 100 million paper bags).¹¹ Their perception of the comparable water demand for production of paper bags versus production of plastic bags underlies their position that the banning of plastic bags would result in a net increase in water consumption due to production of alternative bag choices; therefore, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to impacts from the proposed ordinances to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge. As discussed above, the proposed ordinances would be expected to cause a decrease in the number of plastic carryout bags used throughout the County, which would be expected to reduce the amount of water consumed related to the manufacturing of plastic carryout bags. However, based on the perception of certain representatives in the plastic bag industry that the comparable water demand for production of paper bags versus production of plastic bags would result in a net increase in water consumption, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

¹⁰ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹¹ Based upon an anticipated worst case scenario as described in: Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *Review of Life Cycle Data Relating to Disposable, Compostable, Biodegradable, and Reusable Grocery Bags*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent486.aspx> or http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-p2-recycling-PaperPlasticSummary_2.pdf

- (c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to altering existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. The proposed ordinance would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the unincorporated territories of the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinance. Alterations to drainage patterns are subject to the regulatory authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the CDFG, and the County, and the proposed ordinance does not sanction any change in drainage pattern. Consequently, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to altering existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. The proposed ordinances would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the incorporated cities of the County that would be subject to the proposed ordinance. . Alterations to drainage patterns are subject to the regulatory authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the CDFG, and the County, and the proposed ordinances do not sanction any change in drainage pattern. As a result, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to altering existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site. The proposed ordinance would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the unincorporated territories of the County. As such, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site. Therefore, there would be no significant impacts to hydrology and water quality related to alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to altering existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site. The proposed ordinances would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the incorporated cities of the County. As such, there is no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site. Therefore, there would be no significant impacts to hydrology and water quality related to alteration of existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or providing substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

There would be no anticipated impacts from the proposed ordinance to hydrology and water quality in relation to creating or contributing runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or providing substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. Plastic carryout bags have a high propensity to become litter and account for as much as 25 percent of the litter stream within the County.¹² Due to the thin film used to create plastic carryout bags (which is generally 0.025 millimeter or less),¹³ their low density, and their light weight (which has been noted as anywhere between 6 to 10 times lighter than paper bags),¹⁴ plastic carryout bags have a very high propensity to become airborne and to ultimately contribute to the pollution in storm water drainage systems and runoff. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the unincorporated territories of the County.

The proposed ordinance would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the unincorporated territories of the County. Consequently, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to creating or contributing runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or providing substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No further analysis is warranted.

¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. October 2008. *County of Los Angeles Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program – Program Resource Packet*. Alhambra, CA.

¹³ Green Seal, Inc. 13 October 2008. *Green Seal Proposed Revised Environmental Standard For Reusable Bags (GS-16)*. Washington, DC. Also available at: http://www.greenseal.org/certification/gs-16_reusable_bag_proposed_revised_standard_background%20document.pdf

¹⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *Scottish Executive 2005 Environment Group Research Report (2005/06)*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent486.aspx> or <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016899.pdf>

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

There would be no anticipated impacts from the proposed ordinances to hydrology and water quality in relation to creating or contributing runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or providing substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

As with the proposed ordinance discussed above, the proposed ordinances would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the incorporated cities of the County. Consequently, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to creating or contributing runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or providing substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No further analysis is warranted.

- (f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

There would be no anticipated adverse impacts from the proposed ordinance to hydrology and water quality related to the substantial degradation of water quality. Water quality and use within California is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed ordinance would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the unincorporated territories of the County that would negatively affect water quality. However, the reduction of plastic bag litter in the litter stream resulting from implementation of the proposed ordinance would be expected to benefit the unincorporated territories of the County. Consequently, further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinance.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

There would be no anticipated adverse impacts from the proposed ordinances to hydrology and water quality related to the substantial degradation of water quality. As previously mentioned, water quality and use within California is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed ordinances would not entail construction elements and would not involve any changes to existing physical property within the incorporated cities of the County that would negatively affect water quality. The reduction of plastic bag litter in the litter stream resulting from implementation of the proposed ordinance would be expected to benefit the incorporated cities within the County. Consequently, further analysis is warranted to discuss the potential beneficial effects that may result from the proposed ordinances.

- (g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores and would not entail the construction of housing units; thus, there is no potential for impacts to hydrology and water

quality in relation to the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, there are no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. The proposed ordinances would not entail the construction of housing units or the development of any structures. As such, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, there are no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the placement of structures (other than housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area. Although there are 100-year flood hazard areas identified within the unincorporated territories of the County that would be subject to the proposed ordinance, the proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores and would not entail any construction and thus would not place or develop structures within a 100-year flood hazard area.¹⁵ As such, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to placement of structures (other than housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, there are no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to placement of structures (other than housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the placement of structures (other than housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area. As within the unincorporated territories of the County, there are 100-year flood hazard areas identified within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinances would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores and would not entail any construction, and thus structures would not be placed or developed within a 100-year flood hazard area.¹⁶ As such, there would be no potential for impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to placement of structures (other than housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area. Therefore, there are no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to placement of structures (other than housing) within a 100-year flood hazard area, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹⁵ Federal Emergency Management Agency. December 1980. *Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the County of Los Angeles*. Washington, DC.

¹⁶ Federal Emergency Management Agency. December 1980. *Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the County of Los Angeles*. Washington, DC.

- (i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the failure of a levee or dam. The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores and would not entail the construction, placement, or development of structures within or adjacent to an area that would be susceptible to flooding.¹⁷ The proposed ordinance would not result in or expose people to areas that are susceptible to flooding.¹⁸ There would be no potential for and thus no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to the failure of a levee or dam, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to the failure of a levee or dam. The proposed ordinances would not entail the construction, placement, or development of structures within or adjacent to an area that would be susceptible to flooding.¹⁹ The proposed ordinances would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores, and as such, they would not result in or expose people to areas that are susceptible to flooding.²⁰ There would be no potential for and thus no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality related to the failure of a levee or dam, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Although there are areas located within the unincorporated territories of the County where seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows are potential threats, the proposed ordinance would not entail components that would result in or be subject to a potential threat by such occurrences. The proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by certain stores and would not be expected to impact lakes and/or flood control basins or areas adjacent to any steep-sided slopes covered with soils and/or vegetation. Therefore, there would be no potential for and thus no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹⁷ Federal Emergency Management Agency. December 1980. *Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the County of Los Angeles*. Washington, DC.

¹⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

¹⁹ Federal Emergency Management Agency. December 1980. *Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the County of Los Angeles*. Washington, DC.

²⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. As with the unincorporated territories of the County, there are areas within the incorporated cities of the County where seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows are potential threats. The proposed ordinances would not entail components that would result in or be subject to a potential threat by such occurrences. The proposed ordinances would not be expected to impact lakes and/or flood control basins or areas adjacent to any steep-sided slopes covered with soils and/or vegetation. Therefore, there would be no potential for and thus no expected impacts to hydrology and water quality in relation to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow, and no further analysis is warranted.

3.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances might have a significant impact to land use and planning, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Land use and planning within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan² and its adopted maps, the County Code,³ and coordination with the USFWS and the CDFG regarding the applicable proposed or adopted land use plans and regulations.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of three questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to land use and planning.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Physically divide an established community?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to land use and planning through the physical division of an established community. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. Specifically, implementation of the proposed ordinance would require that no store subject to the proposed ordinance would be allowed to make available or distribute plastic bags to customers. As such, it would not be expected that there would be a physical division of an established community resulting from the implementation of the proposed ordinance. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to land use and planning related to the physical division of an established community, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to land use and planning through the physical division of an established community. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinances would not require any changes to the existing conditions within the established communities. As such, implementation of the proposed ordinances would not be expected to physically divide an established community. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to land use and planning related to the physical division of an established community, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ County of Los Angeles. 2 June 2009. *Los Angeles County Code*. Tallahassee, FL. Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

- (b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to land use and planning in relation to a conflict with adopted or proposed land use plans, policies, or regulations. A review of the Land Use element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan identifies Policy 9.0 pursuant to the goal of providing sufficient commercial and industrial land to protect major landfill and solid waste disposal sites from encroachment of incompatible uses.⁴ This policy observes the existing conditions in the County, where each year approximately 6 billion plastic carryout bags are consumed,⁵ and where the annual disposal rate of plastic carryout bags at landfills is 45,000 tons.⁶ The proposed ordinance would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to carryout or compostable plastic bags by ensuring that no subject retail establishment would be allowed to distribute or make available to customers any carryout or compostable plastic bags. As such, the proposed ordinance would comply with Policy 9.0 of the County of Los Angeles General Plan Land Use element, as it would be anticipated that the reduced number of plastic bags available to consumers would in turn lower the volume of waste deposited in landfills. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to land use and planning related to a conflict with adopted or proposed land use plans, policies, or regulations, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to land use and planning in relation to a conflict with adopted or proposed land use plans, policies, or regulations. As previously noted, the County of Los Angeles General Plan Land Use element identifies Policy 9.0 pursuant to the goal of providing sufficient commercial and industrial land to protect major landfill and solid waste disposal sites from encroachment of incompatible uses.⁷ The proposed ordinances would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to carryout or compostable plastic bags by ensuring that no subject retail establishment would be allowed to distribute or make available to customers any carryout or compostable plastic bags. As such, the proposed ordinances would be in compliance with Policy 9.0 of the County of Los Angeles General Plan Land Use element, as it would be anticipated that the reduced number of plastic bags available to consumers would in turn lower the volume of waste deposited in landfills. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to land use and planning related to a conflict with adopted or proposed land use plans, policies, or regulations, and no further analysis is warranted.

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

⁵ California Integrated Waste Management Board. 12 June 2007. Board Meeting Agenda, Resolution: Agenda Item 14. Sacramento, CA.

⁶ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table 7: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study*. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>

⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

- (c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to land use and planning in relation to a conflict with any applicable HCP or NCCP. The proposed ordinance would not alter the existing land uses in the unincorporated areas of the County. According to the National Community Conservation Planning program of the CDFG, the only Natural Community Conservation Planning region⁸ that would be affected by the proposed ordinance is the Palos Verdes Peninsula NCCP, which lies approximately 26 miles south of the City of Los Angeles and which addresses the conservation of most of the coastal sage scrub habitat as well as other habitats on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.⁹ Moreover, the USFWS HCP program does not include any HCPs that would apply to the unincorporated territories of the County.¹⁰ Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to land use and planning related to a conflict with any adopted HCP or NCCP, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to land use and planning in relation to a conflict with any applicable HCP or NCCP. The territory that would be affected by the proposed ordinances would encompass the incorporated cities of the County, whose existing land uses would not be altered by implementation of the proposed ordinances. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to land use and planning related to a conflict with any adopted HCP or NCCP, and no further analysis is warranted.

⁸ California Department of Fish and Game. Accessed on: 5 August 2009. "Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP)." *Resource Management*. Available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/>

⁹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. May 2005. *Habitat Conservation Plans: Working Together for Endangered Species*. Available at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pubs/HCPBrochure/HCPsWorkingTogether5-2005web%20.pdf>

¹⁰ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. May 2005. *Habitat Conservation Plans: Working Together for Endangered Species*. Available at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pubs/HCPBrochure/HCPsWorkingTogether5-2005web%20.pdf>

3.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to mineral resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Mineral resources within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to California Geological Survey and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) publications and the adopted County of Los Angeles General Plan.²

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of two questions when addressing the potential for significant impact to mineral resources.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to mineral resources in relation to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. The proposed ordinance would affect approximately 2,649 square miles encompassing the unincorporated territories of the County. According to the USGS,³ the County is a major producing area of common clay, crushed stone, construction sand and gravel, perlite, lime, sulfur (oil), and gypsum. A review of the County of Los Angeles General Plan confirmed that California is the largest producer of sand and gravel in the nation, and that the greater Los Angeles area is the nation's leading producer for its geographic size.⁴ As such, sand and gravel must be protected and conserved because sand and gravel reserves have declined in the past due to the encroachment of incompatible development. According to "Mines and Minerals Producers Active in California (1997–98)," published by the Division of Mines and Geology of the CDC, there are 25 active mines located within the County, which further indicates the presence of mineral resources within the boundary of the jurisdictional areas for the proposed ordinance.⁵ However, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would not be expected to affect the extraction of these resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to mineral resources related to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. 2006. *2006 Minerals Yearbook: California*. Available at: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/state/2006/myb2-2006-ca.pdf>

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

⁵ California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. 1990. "Mines and Mineral Producers Active in California (1997–98)." *Special Publication 103*. Prepared by: Division of Mines and Geology, Los Angeles, CA.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to mineral resources in relation to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Based on a review of California Division of Mines and Geology publications, it is found that there are 25 active mines located within the County, which further indicates the presence of mineral resources within the incorporated territories included within the jurisdictional areas of the proposed ordinances.⁶ However, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to affect the extraction of these resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to mineral resources related to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to mineral resources in relation to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource recovery site. Based on a review of California Division of Mines and Geology publications,^{7,8} in conjunction with the Conservation element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan, there are no known mineral resources of state-wide or regional importance located within the unincorporated territories of the County, nor are there known mineral resource recovery sites of local importance located within the unincorporated territories.⁹ Furthermore, the proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would not be expected to alter the availability of locally important mineral resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to mineral resources related to the loss of availability of a known locally important mineral resource recovery site, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to mineral resources in relation to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource recovery site. There are no known mineral resources of state-wide or regional importance located within the incorporated cities of the County, nor are there any known mineral resource recovery sites of local importance located within the incorporated cities.¹⁰ Moreover, the proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would not be expected to alter the availability of locally important mineral resources. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to mineral resources related to the loss of availability of a known locally important mineral resource recovery site, and no further analysis is warranted.

⁶ California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. 1990. "Mines and Mineral Producers Active in California (1997–98)." *Special Publication 103*. Prepared by: Division of Mines and Geology, Los Angeles, CA.

⁷ California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. 1966. "Minerals of California Volume (1866–1966)." *Bulletin 189*. Prepared by: CDMG, Los Angeles, CA.

⁸ California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. 1990. "Mines and Mineral Producers Active in California (1988–89)." *Special Publication 103*. Prepared by: CDMG, Los Angeles, CA.

⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

3.12 NOISE

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to noise, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Noise within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, was evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan Noise element² and the County Noise Control Ordinance.³

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of six questions when addressing the potential for significant impact to noise.

Would the proposed ordinances result in:

- (a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to exposure or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores and would apply to areas located within the unincorporated territory of the County. The County's unincorporated areas have a wide range of noise environments, from quiet residential and rural areas to relatively noisy commercial and industrial areas. The method commonly used to quantify environmental noise involves evaluation of all frequencies of sound, with an adjustment to reflect the constraints of human hearing. Since the human ear is less sensitive to low and high frequencies than to midrange frequencies, noise measurements are weighted more heavily within those frequencies of maximum human sensitivity in a process called "A-weighting." A measured noise level is called the A-weighted sound level measured in A-weighted decibels, written as dBA. The County does not set land use standards for noise in the Noise element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan. However, the County has adopted a noise control ordinance that specifies exterior noise standards as shown in Table 3.12-1, *County of Los Angeles Exterior Noise Standards*.⁴ The exterior noise levels presented in the final column of Table 3.12-1 indicate the average hourly dBA to be maintained for designated noise zone level use.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ County of Los Angeles. 1978. *Noise Control Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles*. Ord. 11778, Section 2 (Art.1, Section 101), and Ord.11773, Section 2 (Art. 1, Section 101). Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

⁴ County of Los Angeles. 1978. *Noise Control Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles*. Ord. 11778, Section 2 (Art.1, Section 101), and Ord.11773, Section 2 (Art. 1, Section 101). Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

**TABLE 3.12-1
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES EXTERIOR NOISE STANDARDS**

Noise Zone	Designated Noise Zone Land Use (Receptor Property)	Time Interval	Exterior Noise Level ¹
I	Noise-Sensitive Area ²	Anytime	45 dBA
II	Residential Area	10:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m. (nighttime)	45 dBA
		7:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. (daytime)	50 dBA
III	Commercial Area	10:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m. (nighttime)	55 dBA
		7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. (daytime)	60 dBA
IV	Industrial Area	Anytime	70 dBA

NOTES:

1. Required average hourly noise standard
2. Noise-sensitive area is designated to ensure exceptional quiet

SOURCE: County of Los Angeles. 1978 (updated 21 July 2009). *Noise Control Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles*, Title 12, Chapter 12.08.390. Ordinance 11778, Section 2 (Article 1, Section 101); and Ordinance 11773, Section 2 (Article 1, Section 101). Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

The proposed ordinance would be expected to have an inconsequential impact to noise levels in the unincorporated areas of the County and the surrounding vicinity. There are two ways in which the proposed ordinance could have potential noise impacts:

1. Certain plastic bag industry representatives have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in increased numbers of vehicles transporting carryout bags. A change in the noise generated by these vehicles, which are mobile noise sources, could potentially alter the noise levels in the areas surrounding major roadways.
2. Certain plastic bag industry representatives of the plastic bag industry have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in the increased manufacture of paper carryout bags, thus requiring the consideration of the effect of fixed-point manufacturing noise sources on ambient noise levels.

While the proposed ordinance would be expected to reduce the need for vehicles to transport plastic carryout bags, it could also potentially increase the number of vehicles or the number of vehicle miles traveled for vehicles transporting paper bags and reusable bags. Certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase reliance on paper carryout bags.⁵ Implementation of the proposed ordinance could potentially lead to an increase in noise levels related to the increase in delivery of paper carryout and reusable bags to the unincorporated areas of County. Although the number of vehicles on the roads does affect ambient noise levels, neither the decrease in vehicles transporting plastic carryout bags nor the potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting paper carryout and reusable bags would likely be on a scale that would be large enough to result in a discernable change in noise levels around roadways in areas in and around the unincorporated

⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

areas of the County. Further, the truck trips would be dispersed over a large network of roadways and highways and would not substantially increase truck traffic along any one route.

While the proposed ordinance would potentially result in reduced demand for plastic bags, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase demand for paper carryout bags.⁶ A lower demand for plastic bags would likely result in either a decrease in the number of plastic carryout bag manufacturing facilities or a decrease in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. Therefore, the noise produced by these facilities would be either eliminated or reduced. A potential increase in the demand for paper bags could likely result in either an increase in the number of paper carryout bag and reusable manufacturing facilities or an increase in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. An increase in production at existing facilities could potentially increase the noise produced by those facilities.

However, it is assumed that both plastic and paper carryout bag manufacturing facilities are located within areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted. The facilities would also be required to comply with the relevant local or County noise ordinances. Similarly, the proposed ordinance could potentially result in an increased number of reusable bag manufacturing facilities that in turn could create new noise sources. It is assumed that any new manufacturing facilities would be located in similar locations where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to exposure or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to exposure or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards. As stated in the previous discussion, the proposed ordinances would be expected to reduce the need for vehicles to transport plastic carryout bags, but would also potentially increase the number of vehicles or the number of vehicle miles traveled for vehicles transporting paper carryout and reusable bags. While the number of vehicles on the roads does affect ambient noise levels, neither the decrease in vehicles transporting plastic bags nor the potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting paper carryout and reusable bags would likely be on a scale large enough to result in a discernible change in noise levels around roadways in the incorporated cities of the County. Furthermore, the truck trips would be dispersed over a large network of roadways and highways and would not substantially increase truck traffic along any one route.

In addition, a lower demand for plastic bags would likely result in a decrease in the number of plastic carryout bag manufacturing facilities or a decrease in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. Therefore, the noise produced by these facilities would be either eliminated or reduced. Conversely, a potential increase in the demand for paper carryout and reusable bags would likely result in either an increase in the number of facilities that manufacture paper bags and reusable bags or an increase in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. An increase in production at existing facilities would

⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

potentially increase the noise produced by those facilities. However, it is assumed that paper carryout and reusable bag manufacturing facilities are, and would continue to be, located within areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted. The facilities would also be required to comply with the relevant local or County noise ordinances. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to exposure or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. The County deems it a violation of the Noise Control Ordinance to operate or permit the operation of any device that creates vibration that is above the vibration perception threshold of any individual at or beyond the property boundary of the source if on private property, or at 150 feet (46 meters) from the source if on a public space or public right-of-way. The Noise Control Ordinance considers the perception threshold to be a motion velocity of 0.01 inch per second over the range of 1 to 100 Hertz.⁷ There would be two ways in which the proposed ordinance could have potential vibration impacts:

1. Certain plastic bag industry representatives have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in increased numbers of vehicles transporting carryout bags. A change in the vibration levels generated by these vehicles, which are mobile noise sources, could potentially alter the perceived vibration levels in the areas surrounding major roadways.
2. Certain plastic bag industry representatives of the plastic bag industry have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in the increased manufacture of paper carryout bags, thus requiring the consideration of the effect of fixed-point manufacturing noise sources on perceived vibration levels.

In regard to the transportation of plastic carryout bags, paper carryout bags, and reusable bags, while the proposed ordinance would be expected to eliminate the need for vehicles to transport plastic bags to and from the unincorporated territory of the County, it could also potentially increase the number of vehicles or the number of vehicle miles traveled for vehicles transporting paper bags and reusable bags, as certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the reliance on paper bags.⁸ The proposed ordinance would also potentially result in increased demand for reusable bags. While the number of vehicles on the roads does affect vibration levels in the vicinity of the roadway, neither the decrease in the number of vehicles transporting plastic bags nor the potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting paper bags would likely be on a scale that would be large enough to result in a discernable change in vibration levels at sensitive receptors near roadways in areas in and around the unincorporated areas of the County.

⁷ County of Los Angeles. 1978. *Noise Control Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles*. Ord. 11778, Section 2 (Art.1, Section 101), and Ord.11773, Section 2 (Art. 1, Section 101). Available at: <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>

⁸ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

In terms of the production of plastic and paper bags, while the proposed ordinance would potentially result in reduced demand for plastic bags, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase demand for paper bags.⁹ The proposed ordinance would also potentially result in increased demand for reusable bags.

A lower demand for plastic bags would likely result in either a decrease in the number of plastic bag manufacturing facilities or a decrease in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. Therefore, the vibration levels produced by these facilities would be expected to be either eliminated or reduced. An increase in the demand for paper bags and reusable bags could likely result in either an increase in the number of manufacturing facilities or an increase in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. An increase in the production at existing facilities would potentially increase the vibration levels produced by those facilities. However, it is assumed that paper bag manufacturing facilities are located within areas zoned for industrial uses, where receptors sensitive to vibration would not be expected to be impacted.

There are two ways in which the proposed ordinance could have potential impacts related to groundborne noise:

1. Certain plastic bag industry representatives have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in increased numbers of vehicles transporting carryout bags. A change in the groundborne noise generated by these vehicles, which are mobile noise sources, could potentially alter the noise levels in the areas surrounding major roadways.
2. Certain plastic bag industry representatives of the plastic bag industry have postulated that the banning of plastic carryout bags could potentially result in the increased manufacture of paper carryout bags, thus requiring the consideration of the effect of fixed-point manufacturing noise sources on groundborne noise levels.

In regard to the transportation of plastic carryout bags, paper carryout bags, and reusable bags, while it would be anticipated that the proposed ordinance would reduce or eliminate the need for vehicles to transport plastic bags, it would also potentially increase the number of vehicles or the number of vehicle miles traveled for vehicles transporting paper bags as certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the reliance on paper bags.¹⁰ While the number of vehicles on the roads does affect ambient noise levels, neither the decrease in vehicles transporting plastic bags nor the increase in the number of vehicles transporting paper bags would likely be on a scale that would be large enough to result in a discernable change in groundborne noise levels around roadways in areas in and around the unincorporated areas of the County.

In terms of the production of plastic and paper carryout bags, while the proposed ordinance would potentially result in a reduction in the demand for plastic carryout bags, certain representatives of the plastic carryout bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to

⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹⁰ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

result in an increase in the demand for paper carryout bags.¹¹ Furthermore, it could be anticipated that the proposed ordinance would increase the demand for reusable bags. As noted, a lower demand for plastic bags would likely result in either a decrease in the number of plastic bag manufacturing facilities or a decrease in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. Therefore, the groundborne noise produced by these facilities would be expected to be either eliminated or reduced. A potential increase in the demand for paper bags and reusable bags would likely result in either an increase in the number of paper bag manufacturing facilities or an increase in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. An increase in the production at existing facilities would potentially increase the noise produced by those facilities. However, it is assumed that paper bag manufacturing facilities are located within areas zoned for industrial uses where higher noise levels are permitted or in areas where noise-sensitive receptors would not be impacted due to their distance away from these facilities. Therefore, an increase in the level of production of paper bags at manufacturing facilities would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to exposure or generation of groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels in excess of established standards. An anticipated increase in the number of paper bag manufacturing facilities would be expected to create new noise sources; however, it is assumed that any new manufacturing facilities would be located in areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted. The facilities would be required to comply with the relevant local or County noise ordinances. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts related to exposure or generation of groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels in excess of established standards, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. While it would be anticipated that the proposed ordinances would reduce or eliminate the need for vehicles to transport plastic bags, they would also potentially increase the number of vehicles or the number of vehicle miles traveled for vehicles transporting paper bags, as certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase reliance on paper bags.¹² While the number of vehicles on the roads does affect ambient noise levels, neither the potential decrease in vehicles transporting plastic bags nor the potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting paper bags would be on a scale that would be large enough to result in a discernible change in groundborne noise levels around roadways in and around the incorporated areas of the County.

In addition, while the proposed ordinances would potentially result in reduced demand for plastic bags, certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase demand for paper bags.¹³ It could also be anticipated

¹¹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹² Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹³ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

that the proposed ordinance would increase the demand for reusable bags. As previously noted, a lower demand for plastic bags would likely result in either a decrease in the number of plastic bag manufacturing facilities or a decrease in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. Therefore, the groundborne noise produced by these facilities would be expected to be either eliminated or reduced. A potential increase in demand for paper bags would likely result in either an increase in the number of paper bag manufacturing facilities or an increase in the operation of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios. An increase in production at existing facilities could potentially increase the noise produced by those facilities. However, it is assumed that paper bag manufacturing facilities are located within areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted. Therefore, an increase in the level of production of paper bags at manufacturing facilities would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to exposure or generation of groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels in excess of established standards. An anticipated increase in the number of paper bag manufacturing facilities would be expected to create new noise sources; however, it is assumed that any new manufacturing facilities would be located in areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted. The facilities would be required to comply with the relevant local or County noise ordinances. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts related to exposure or generation of groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels in excess of established standards, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to permanent increases in ambient noise levels. The County Noise Control Ordinance does not define "substantial." In general, one way of estimating a person's subjective reaction to a new noise is to compare the new noise with the existing noise environment to which the person has become adapted; for example, the increase over the so-called "ambient" noise level. An increase of 1 dBA over the ambient noise level cannot be perceived unless it occurs in carefully controlled laboratory experiments; a 3-dBA increase is considered as a just-perceivable difference; an increase of at least 5 dBA is a noticeable change, thereby causing community response and often being considered a significant impact; and a 10-dBA increase is subjectively heard as approximately a doubling in loudness, thereby almost always causing an adverse community response. As a 5-dBA increase is often considered a significant increase, in lieu of a County standard, this analysis will consider an increase in noise levels of 5 dBA to be considered substantial.

As discussed in the response to question (a), any potential increase in noise levels that would result from the implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be perceptible at noise-sensitive receptors. A doubling of traffic volumes on a roadway would be expected to result in a 3-dBA increase in noise generated by traffic, which is the human threshold for perceiving a change in the ambient noise level. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase reliance on paper bags,¹⁴ the potential

¹⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

decrease in the number of vehicles transporting plastic bags, when compared with the potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting paper bags resulting from implementation of the proposed ordinance, would not double traffic volumes on the roadways in and around the unincorporated areas of the County. While the proposed ordinance could likely result in either an increase in the number of paper bag manufacturing facilities or an increase in the operation levels of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios, it is assumed that existing and new manufacturing facilities would be located in areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted.

Similarly, the proposed ordinance could potentially result in an increase in demand for reusable bags, subsequently leading to a potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting and facilities manufacturing reusable bags. It is anticipated that any potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting reusable bags would not likely be on a scale that would be large enough to result in a discernable change in noise levels around roadways in areas in and around the unincorporated areas of the County. The facilities would also be required to comply with the relevant local or County noise ordinances. Consequently, any increase in ambient noise levels would not be considered a significant impact. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to permanent increases in ambient noise levels, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to permanent increases in ambient noise levels. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the incorporated cities of the County. As previously discussed, lower demand for plastic bags would likely result in either a decrease in the number of plastic bag manufacturing facilities or a decrease in the operation of existing facilities. While the proposed ordinances would likely result in either an increase in the number of paper bag manufacturing facilities or an increase in the operation levels of existing facilities, or some combination of the two scenarios, it is assumed that existing and new manufacturing facilities would be located in areas zoned for industrial uses, where noise-sensitive receptors would not be expected to be impacted, and where higher noise levels are permitted. Consequently, any increase in ambient noise levels would not be considered significant. The proposed ordinance could potentially result in an increase in demand for reusable bags, and subsequently lead to a potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting and facilities manufacturing reusable bags. It is anticipated that any potential increase in the number of vehicles transporting reusable bags would not be on a scale that would be large enough to result in a discernable change in noise levels around roadways in areas in and around the incorporated areas of the County. The facilities would be required to comply with the relevant local or County noise ordinances. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to noise in relation to permanent increases in ambient noise levels, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity about levels existing without the project?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to noise in relation to temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels. The proposed ordinance would not

include components that would be sources of temporary or periodic noise. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to noise related to temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to noise in relation to temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels. The proposed ordinances would not include components that would be sources of temporary or periodic noise. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to noise related to temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to noise in relation to public airports. The proposed ordinance would not require people to be located or to work near any public airport. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to noise related to public airports, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to noise in relation to public airports. The proposed ordinances would not require people to be located or to work near any public airport. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to noise related to public airports, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to noise in relation to private airstrips. The proposed ordinance would not require people to be located or to work near any private airstrips. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to noise related to private airstrips, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to noise in relation to private airstrips. The proposed ordinances would not require people to be located or to work near any private airstrips. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to noise related to private airstrips, and no further analysis is warranted.

3.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to population and housing, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Population and housing within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinance, was evaluated with regard to state, regional, and local data and forecasts for population and housing, and the proximity of the County to existing and future planned utility infrastructure.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of three questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to population and housing.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to population and housing in relation to inducing substantial direct or indirect population growth. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. As such, the proposed ordinance would not be anticipated to increase the demand for new housing, nor would it be expected to increase the quantity of new homes and businesses constructed. In addition, the proposed ordinance would not entail construction of infrastructure in areas not currently served by existing roads and utilities. As determined in the LACDPW staff report on plastic bags, the expansive and lightweight characteristics of plastic bags allow them to be carried by wind to become entangled in brush, tossed along freeways, and caught on fences throughout the County, thereby causing a visual impact to the surrounding areas.² The proposed ordinance would be expected to reduce the occurrence of fly-away plastic bag litter and consequently to improve the visual quality of the areas that are accessible and visible to sensitive receptors such as residences, schools, churches, and recreational areas. Furthermore, the distinct white or bright colors of plastic bags, and the difficulty of collecting the bags, cause a greater visual eyesore than other materials. The aesthetic and economic value associated with an increase in visual quality of the areas as viewed from such sensitive receptors could potentially induce a minor migration of individuals into these areas. However, it is expected that population growth within the jurisdictional areas for the proposed ordinance would remain consistent with the existing population growth projection for the County because the proposed ordinance would not entail development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the unincorporated territories of the County. Migration is a basic component of observed population growth, of which a majority of people relocate for housing-related reasons.³ It is unlikely then that the proposed ordinance would be a contributor to population growth within the unincorporated areas of the County.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

³ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. *Population Profile of the United States: 2000*.

According to data obtained from the California Department of Finance, the population of the unincorporated territories of the County was estimated to be 1,083,392 in 2008, and in 2009 added 8,586 residents, which represents an annual average growth rate of approximately 0.79 percent,⁴ indicating a limited projected population growth. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to population and housing related to inducing substantial direct or indirect population growth. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to population and housing in relation to inducing substantial direct or indirect population growth. The proposed ordinances would not be expected to cause an increase in demand for new housing, nor would it be expected to increase the quantity of new homes and businesses constructed within the 88 cities that govern the incorporated cities of the County. In addition, the proposed ordinances would not entail construction of infrastructure in areas not currently served by existing roads and utilities. As such, it would be expected that population growth in the incorporated cities of the County would remain consistent with the existing population growth projection for the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to population and housing related to inducing substantial direct or indirect population growth. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to population and housing in relation to the displacement of substantial amounts of existing housing that would necessitate construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed ordinance would aim to curb the amount of litter that can be attributed to plastic carryout bags within the unincorporated territories of the County and it would not contain any components that would result in the displacement of existing housing. The unincorporated areas that would be affected by the proposed ordinance provide residences and employment for approximately 1 million people in the County.⁵ The implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to lead to an increase in population, but rather would be expected to be consistent with the County's projected population growth. As such, existing housing is anticipated to accommodate the current population and projected population growth in the County and thus would not necessitate construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to population and housing related to the displacement of substantial amounts of existing housing as a result of the proposed ordinance. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to population and housing in relation to the displacement of substantial amounts of existing housing that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed ordinances would not be expected

⁴ State of California Department of Finance. May 2009. *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, CA.

⁵ County of Los Angeles. Accessed June 2009. *Unincorporated Areas*. County of Los Angeles Web site. Available at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/>

to result in the displacement of existing housing. The implementation of the proposed ordinances would not be expected to lead to an increase in population, but rather would be expected to be consistent with the projected population growth for the 88 incorporated cities of the County. As such, existing housing is anticipated to accommodate the present population and projected population growth in these areas, and thus would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to population and housing related to the displacement of substantial amounts of existing housing as a result of the proposed ordinance. No further analysis is warranted.

- (c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to population and housing in relation to the displacement of substantial numbers of people that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed ordinance would limit the amount of litter that can be attributed to plastic carryout bags within the unincorporated territories of the County and would not contain any components that would result in the displacement of substantial numbers of people. The implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to lead to an increase in population, but rather would be expected to be consistent with the County's projected population growth. As such, existing housing would accommodate the projected County population growth and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to population and housing related to the displacement of substantial numbers of people. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to population and housing in relation to the displacement of substantial numbers of people that would necessitate construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The implementation of the proposed ordinances would not be expected to lead to an increase in the population of the 88 incorporated cities of the County; the proposed ordinances would be expected to be consistent with the projected population growth for these areas. As such, existing housing would accommodate the projected growth in population in the County and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to population and housing related to the displacement of substantial numbers of people. No further analysis is warranted.

3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to public services, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Public services within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated based on review of the County of Los Angeles General Plan,² the County Web site,³ Web sites of the County police and fire departments,^{4,5} and previously completed environmental documentation related to the proposed ordinances.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of one question when addressing the potential for significant impact to public services.

Would the proposed ordinances result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- (1) Fire protection?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to fire protection. As determined in Section 3.12 of this Initial Study, the proposed ordinance would not be anticipated to contribute to significant population growth in the County, and would not include the provision of new or physically altered fire protection services. Implementation of the proposed ordinance would be expected to improve the visual quality of areas of the unincorporated of the County that are accessible and visible to sensitive receptors—residences, schools, churches, and recreational areas—due to the anticipated reduction of plastic bag litter in those areas. The aesthetic and economic value associated with the anticipated increase in the visual quality of the areas as viewed from sensitive receptors could potentially induce migration of individuals into these areas. However, it is anticipated that population growth within the unincorporated territories of the County would remain consistent with the current population growth projection for the County. Migration is a basic component of observed population growth, with a majority of people relocating for housing-related reasons.⁶ The proposed ordinance would not entail development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the unincorporated territories of the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to affect population growth or migration

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ County of Los Angeles. Accessed June 2009. *Unincorporated Areas*. County of Los Angeles Web site. Available at: <http://portal.lacounty.gov/>

⁴ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Accessed August 2009. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Web site. Available at: <http://www.lasd.org/lasdservices.html>

⁵ Los Angeles County Fire Department. Accessed 6 July 2009. Los Angeles County Fire Department Web site. Available at: <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/>

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. *Population Profile of the United States: 2000*.

within the unincorporated territories of the County, and thus would not be expected to increase the need for fire protection services or related facilities.

According to data obtained from the California Department of Finance, the population of the unincorporated territories of the County was estimated to be 1,083,392 in 2008, with the addition of 8,586 residents in 2009, representing an annual average growth rate of approximately 0.79 percent.⁷ Implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to affect the County's current growth rate projection, and thus would not be anticipated to overburden existing fire protection facilities or to interfere with service benchmarks, response times, or other performance objectives related to fire protection. As a result, it is anticipated that existing fire protection services would be adequate to support the projected population growth of the unincorporated territories of the County, and no additional fire protection facilities would be required. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to public services related to fire protection, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to fire protection. As previously discussed, the proposed ordinances would not be anticipated to contribute to significant population growth in the County, and would not include the provision of new or physically altered fire protection services. According to data obtained from the California Department of Finance, the population of the incorporated cities of the County was estimated to be 9,218,266 in 2008, with the addition of 82,941 residents in 2009, representing an annual average growth rate of approximately 0.90 percent.⁸ The aesthetic and economic value associated with the anticipated increase in the visual quality of these areas could potentially induce migration of individuals into these areas. However, it is anticipated that population growth within the incorporated cities of the County would remain consistent with the existing population growth projection for the County. Moreover, the proposed ordinances would not entail development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to affect population growth or migration within the incorporated cities of the County, and thus would not be expected to increase the need for fire protection services or related facilities. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impacts to public services related to fire protection, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (2) Police protection?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to police protection. As determined in Section 3.12 of this Initial Study, the proposed ordinance would not be anticipated to contribute to the County's projected population growth and would not include or require the provision of new or physically altered facilities for police protection services. Implementation of the proposed ordinance would be anticipated to improve the visual quality of areas of the unincorporated territories of the County that are accessible and visible to sensitive

⁷ State of California Department of Finance. May 2009. *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, CA.

⁸ State of California Department of Finance. May 2009. *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, CA.

receptors—residences, schools, churches, and recreational areas—due to the anticipated reduction of plastic bag litter in those areas. The aesthetic and economic value associated with an increase in the visual quality of the areas as viewed from sensitive receptors could potentially induce migration of individuals into these areas. However, the population growth within the unincorporated territories of the County would be expected to remain consistent with the current County population growth projection. Migration is a basic component of observed population growth, with a majority of people relocating for housing-related reasons.⁹ The proposed ordinance would not entail any development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the unincorporated territories the County. It would not be anticipated that the proposed ordinance would contribute to population growth or migration within the unincorporated territories of the County and thus would not be expected to affect the need for police protection.

According to data obtained from the California Department of Finance, the population of the unincorporated territories of the County was estimated to be 1,083,392 in 2008, with the addition of 8,586 residents in 2009, representing an annual average growth rate of approximately 0.79 percent.¹⁰ Implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to affect the projected population change in relation to this average growth rate, and thus it would not be anticipated to overburden existing police protection facilities or to interfere with service benchmarks, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection services. As a result, it is anticipated that existing police protection services would be adequate to support the projected population growth of the unincorporated territories of the County, and no additional police protection or related facilities would be required. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to public services related to police protection, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to police protection. The proposed ordinances would not entail any development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence population growth within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinances would not be expected to contribute to population growth or migration within the incorporated cities of the County and thus would not be expected to increase the need for police protection. As a result, it is anticipated that existing police protection services would be adequate to support the projected population growth of the incorporated cities of the County, and no additional police protection or related facilities would be required. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impacts to public services related to police protection, and no further analysis is warranted.

(3) Schools?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to schools. As determined in Section 3.12 of this Initial Study, the proposed ordinance is not anticipated to contribute to the County's projected population growth. The proposed ordinance would not include or be expected to require the provision of new or physically altered

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. *Population Profile of the United States: 2000*.

¹⁰ State of California Department of Finance. May 2009. *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, CA.

governmental facilities related to schools. Implementation of the proposed ordinance would be anticipated to improve the visual quality of areas of the unincorporated territories the County that are accessible and visible to sensitive receptors—residences, schools, churches, and recreational areas—due to the anticipated reduction of plastic bag litter in those areas. The aesthetic and economic value associated with an increase in the visual quality of these areas as viewed from sensitive receptors could potentially induce migration of individuals and families into these areas. However, it is anticipated that population growth within the unincorporated territories of the County would remain consistent with the currently projected population growth for the County. As noted, migration is a basic component of observed population growth, with a majority of people relocating for housing-related reasons.¹¹ The proposed ordinance would not entail development of structures or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the unincorporated territories of the County. It would not be expected that the proposed ordinance would contribute to population growth or migration within the unincorporated territories of the County, and thus would not be expected to create an additional demand for schools or related facilities.

As previously stated, according to data obtained from the California Department of Finance, the population of the unincorporated territories of the County was estimated to be 1,083,392 in 2008, with the addition of 8,586 residents in 2009, representing an annual average growth rate of approximately 0.79 percent.¹² Implementation of the proposed ordinance would not be expected to affect the County's current or projected average growth rates, and thus would not be anticipated to contribute to the exceedance of existing school facility capacities or to prevent the attainment or maintenance of school-related performance objectives. As a result, it would be expected that the services provided by the Los Angeles Unified School District as well as other educational facilities would be adequate to support the projected population growth of the County, including areas within the unincorporated territories of the County, and no additional schools would be required. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to public services related to schools, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to schools. It is anticipated that population growth within the incorporated cities of the County would remain consistent with the currently projected population growth for the County. The proposed ordinances would not entail any development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the incorporated cities of the County. It would not be expected that the proposed ordinances would contribute to population growth or migration within the incorporated areas of the County, and thus would not be expected to create an additional demand for schools or related facilities. As a result, it would be expected that the services provided by the Los Angeles Unified School District as well as other educational facilities would be adequate to support the projected population growth of the County, including areas within the incorporated cities of the County, and no additional schools would be required. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impacts to public services related to schools, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. *Population Profile of the United States: 2000*.

¹² State of California Department of Finance. May 2009. *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark*. Sacramento, CA.

(4) Parks?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to parks. As determined in Section 3.12 of this Initial Study, the proposed ordinance would not be anticipated to affect the projected population growth in the County, and would not include the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities related to parks. As previously mentioned, implementation of the proposed ordinance would be anticipated to improve the visual quality of areas of the unincorporated territories of the County that are accessible and visible to sensitive receptors—residences, schools, churches, and recreational areas—due to the anticipated reduction of plastic bag litter in those areas. The aesthetic and economic value associated with an expected increase in the visual quality of the areas as viewed from sensitive receptors could potentially induce migration of individuals into these areas. However, it is anticipated that population growth within the unincorporated territories of the County would remain consistent with the current County population growth projection. Migration is a basic component of observed population growth, with a majority of people relocating for housing-related reasons.¹³ The proposed ordinance would not entail development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the unincorporated territories of the County. It would not be expected that the proposed ordinance would significantly contribute to population growth or migration within the unincorporated territories of the County.

The currently projected population change according to the average growth rate noted in the two previous responses would not be anticipated to lead to the exceedance of existing park facility capacities with the implementation of the proposed ordinance, as the proposed ordinance would not be expected to affect population. As such, existing local and regional parks within the County would be expected to adequately accommodate the projected population growth of the unincorporated territories of the County, and no additional parks would be required. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts resulting from the proposed ordinance to public services related to parks, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to parks. As previously discussed, the proposed ordinances would not be anticipated to affect population growth in the County, and would not include the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities related to parks. It is anticipated that population growth within the incorporated cities of the County would remain consistent with the current population growth projection for the County. The proposed ordinances do not entail development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the incorporated cities of the County. It would not be expected that the proposed ordinance would significantly contribute to population growth or migration within the incorporated cities of the County. As such, existing local and regional parks within the County would be expected to adequately accommodate the projected population growth of the incorporated cities of the County, and no additional parks would be required. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impacts resulting from the proposed ordinance to public services related to parks, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. *Population Profile of the United States: 2000*.

- (5) Other public facilities?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to other public facilities. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores in the unincorporated territories of the County and would not entail any development or features that would be expected to affect population growth in the County in such a way that it would lead to an increase in the demand for and use of public facilities. Furthermore, the proposed ordinance would not include elements that would directly or indirectly require residential development or the construction of public facilities. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to public services related to other public facilities, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to public services in relation to other public facilities. The proposed ordinances would not entail any development or features that would be expected to affect population growth in the incorporated cities of the County in such a way that it would lead to an increase in the demand for and use of other public facilities. Furthermore, the proposed ordinances do not include elements that would directly or indirectly require residential development or the construction of public facilities. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impacts to public services related to other public facilities, and no further analysis is warranted.

3.15 RECREATION

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to recreation, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Recreation within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, was evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan,² expert opinion, and technical studies, and in consideration of the potential for growth-inducing impacts evaluated in Section 3.12, Population and Housing, of this Initial Study.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of two questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to recreation:

- (a) Would the proposed ordinances increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to recreation in relation to the increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities that would contribute to their physical deterioration. A review of the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation elements of the County of Los Angeles General Plan indicates that 71,800 acres of existing open space in the County consist of public and private land utilized for outdoor recreation.³ This land area includes, but is not limited to, 67 local parks, 17 community regional parks, and 10 regional parks.⁴ As such, the County's recreational resources are varied and extensive, where the National Forests and Santa Catalina Island are the largest recreational areas in the County. The proposed ordinance would not contain any components that would increase or impact the demand for the existing recreational facilities. As such, it is expected that existing recreational facilities would be able to support the present and future needs of residents and visitors to the County. This is supported by Section 3.12 of this Initial Study, which states that the proposed ordinance would not be expected to cause an increase in residents or visitors because the proposed ordinance would not entail development or other features that would be expected to shift or influence the growth or migration rates within the unincorporated territories of the County. Furthermore, the proposed ordinance, which would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, would likely lead to the improved aesthetic appearance and opportunities of recreational facilities, because, as found in the County staff report on plastic bags, due to their expansive and lightweight characteristics, plastic bags are easily carried by wind to become entangled in brush, tossed along freeways, and caught on fences throughout the County.⁵ Furthermore, the distinct white or bright colors of plastic bags and the

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 2007. *Department of Parks and Recreation Annual Report 2005–2006 County of Los Angeles*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: http://parks.lacounty.gov/cms1_069242.pdf?Title=2005-2006%20Annual%20Report

⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

difficulty of collecting the bags cause a greater visual eyesore than other materials when they are improperly disposed of. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to recreation related to increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities that would contribute to the physical deterioration of existing facilities. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to recreation in relation to the increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities that would contribute to their physical deterioration. The proposed ordinances would not contain any components that would increase or impact the demand for the existing recreational facilities. As such, it is expected that existing recreational facilities would be adequate to support the present and future needs of residents and visitors to the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not require any changes to the established existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Do the proposed ordinances include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse physical effects on the environment as a result of existing recreational facilities or proposed construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Section 3.12 of this Initial Study concluded that although it would be expected that the implementation of the proposed ordinance would improve the visual quality of the areas accessible and visible to sensitive receptors, such as residences, schools, churches, and recreational areas, the projected population growth would remain consistent with the existing growth rates. The proposed ordinance would not increase or impact the demand for the existing recreational facilities. As such, it is expected that existing recreational facilities would be able to support the present and future needs of residents and visitors to the County. The proposed ordinance would aim to limit the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags within the unincorporated territories of the County, and it would not include construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to recreation related to adverse physical effects on the environment as a result of existing recreational facilities or proposed construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse physical effects on the environment as a result of existing recreational facilities or proposed construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The proposed ordinances would not increase or impact the demand for the existing recreational facilities. As such, it is expected that existing recreational facilities would be able to support the present and future needs of residents and visitors to the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to recreation related to adverse physical effects on the environment as a result of existing recreational facilities or proposed construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No further analysis is warranted.

3.16 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to transportation and traffic, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Transportation and traffic related to the proposed ordinances were evaluated with regard to the Circulation element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan,² the Congestion Management Plan for the County,³ and Caltrans.⁴

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of seven questions when addressing the potential for significant impact to transportation and traffic.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to transportation and traffic related to creating a substantial increase in traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system. The proposed ordinance would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter in the unincorporated territories of the County that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, which would potentially lead to a reduction in the amount of waste transported throughout the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to increase the number of paper carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County,⁵ the proposed ordinance would also be expected to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, a decrease in the number of plastic carryout bags delivered throughout the County would be expected to further reduce the volume of traffic related to the transportation of plastic bags. As a result, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to generate any vehicle trips that would contribute to the existing traffic within the County, and may have the potential to reduce the number of vehicle trips caused by the transportation of plastic carryout bag waste throughout the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to increase vehicle/capacity ratio or level of service (LOS) at any of the streets, highways, or intersections located throughout the County. Therefore, impacts related to transportation and traffic related to creating a substantial increase in traffic would be expected to be less than significant, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, CA. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ County of Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority. 2004. *2004 Congestion Management Program for Los Angeles County*. Los Angeles, CA.

⁴ California Department of Transportation. Web site. Available at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/>

⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

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The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to transportation and traffic related to creating a substantial increase in traffic in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system. The proposed ordinances would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter in the incorporated cities of the County that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, which would potentially lead to a reduction in the amount of waste transported throughout the incorporated cities of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County,⁶ the proposed ordinances would also serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, a decrease in the number of plastic carryout bags delivered throughout the County would further reduce the volume of traffic related to the transportation of bags. As a result, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to generate any vehicle trips that would contribute to the existing volume of traffic within the County, and would have the potential to reduce the number of vehicle trips generated during the transportation of plastic carryout bag waste throughout the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would be expected to increase vehicle/capacity ratio or LOS at any of the streets, highways, or intersections located throughout the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, impacts to transportation and traffic related to creating a substantial increase in traffic would be expected to be less than significant, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to exceeding, either individually or cumulatively, an LOS standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways. The proposed ordinance would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, which would have the potential to lead to a reduction in the amount of waste transported throughout the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County,⁷ the proposed ordinance would be expected to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in an expected reduction in the total number of carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, a decrease in the number of plastic carryout bags being delivered throughout the County would further reduce the volume of traffic related to the transportation of bags. The County congestion management

⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁷ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

program set the threshold for arterial roadways to achieve an LOS E or above.⁸ The proposed ordinance would not directly generate new or additional trips as it is not anticipated to increase development in the unincorporated areas of the County more than would be expected without the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance may have the potential to reduce the amount of vehicle trips caused by transporting plastic bag waste throughout the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not serve to increase LOS at any of the streets, highways, or intersections located throughout the County. There would be no expected adverse impacts to transportation and traffic related to exceeding an LOS standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to exceeding, either individually or cumulatively, an LOS standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways. The proposed ordinances would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter that can be attributed to the use of plastic carryout bags, which would have the potential to lead to a reduced amount of waste transported throughout the incorporated cities of the County. As previously noted, although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County,⁹ the proposed ordinances would be expected to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags used, disposed of, and transported throughout the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, a decrease in the amount of plastic carryout bags being delivered throughout the County would further reduce the volume of traffic related to the transportation of bags. The County congestion management program set the threshold for arterial roadways to achieve an LOS E or above.¹⁰ The proposed ordinances would not directly generate new or additional trips as it is not anticipated to increase development in the incorporated areas of the County more than would be expected without the proposed ordinances. The proposed ordinances would have the potential to reduce the number of vehicle trips generated by transporting plastic bag waste throughout the County. Therefore, the proposed ordinances would not be expected to increase LOS at any of the streets, highways, or intersections located throughout the incorporated cities of the County. There would be no expected adverse impacts to transportation and traffic related to exceeding an LOS standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways, and no further analysis is warranted.

⁸ County of Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority. 2004. *2004 Congestion Management Program for Los Angeles County*. Los Angeles, CA.

⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority. 2004. *2004 Congestion Management Program for Los Angeles County*. Los Angeles, CA.

- (c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

Unincorporated territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. The proposed ordinance would not include any direct development, and as such it would not entail elements that would be located near a private or public airport. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and it would not result in any direct or indirect effects upon air traffic patterns. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to a change in air traffic patterns that would result in substantial safety risks, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. The proposed ordinances would not include any direct development, and as such they would not entail elements that would be located near a private or public airport. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and it would not be expected to result in any direct or indirect impacts to air traffic patterns. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to a change in air traffic patterns that would result in substantial safety risks, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to substantially increasing hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses. The proposed ordinance would not include any development. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and it would not entail elements that require construction, and thus would not result in any direct or indirect effects upon increasing hazards due to a design feature. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to substantially increasing hazards due to a design feature, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to substantially increasing hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses. The proposed ordinances would not include any development. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores, which would not entail elements that require construction, and thus would not result in any direct or indirect effects upon increasing hazards due to a design feature. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to substantially increasing hazards due to a design feature, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to inadequate emergency access. The proposed ordinance would not include any development. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores, and would not be expected to result in any direct or indirect effects upon the availability of emergency access as the proposed ordinance would not include elements that would require or alter the availability of or access to any emergency route within the unincorporated territories of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to inadequate emergency access, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to inadequate emergency access. The proposed ordinances would not include any development. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores, and would not be expected to result in any direct or indirect effects upon the availability of emergency access as the proposed ordinances would not include elements that would require or alter the availability of or access to any emergency route within the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to inadequate emergency access, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to inadequate parking capacity. The proposed ordinance would not include any development. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include any components that would be expected to result in any direct or indirect effects upon parking capacity within the unincorporated territories of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to inadequate parking capacity, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to inadequate parking capacity. The proposed ordinances would not include any development. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include any components that would be expected to directly or indirectly affect parking capacity within the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to inadequate parking capacity, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. The proposed ordinance would not include any development that would conflict with alternative transportation in the unincorporated areas of the County. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include any components that would directly or indirectly affect adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation within the unincorporated territories of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to transportation and traffic in relation to conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. The proposed ordinances would not include any development that would conflict with alternative transportation in the incorporated areas of the County. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores and would not include any components that would be expected to directly or indirectly affect adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation within the incorporated cities of the County. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to transportation and traffic related to conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation, and no further analysis is warranted.

3.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances may have a significant impact to utilities and service systems, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives, in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Utilities and service systems within the County, which would be subject to the proposed ordinances, were evaluated with regard to the County of Los Angeles General Plan² and the California RWQCB Basin Plan for the Los Angeles Region. The scope of the utilities and service systems investigations included natural gas, telephone, electric, sewer, storm drain, and water utilities.

The State CEQA Guidelines recommend the consideration of seven questions when addressing the potential for significant impacts to utilities and service systems.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable regional water quality control board?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a less than significant impact to utilities and service systems in relation to exceeding the wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles RWQCB. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the unincorporated territories of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in increased reliance on paper bags,³ the proposed ordinance would facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the unincorporated territories of the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinance would be expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags manufactured for use in the unincorporated territories of the County, the number of reusable bags required would be significantly lower than the number of plastic carryout bags currently consumed. Therefore, a reduction in the total consumption of plastic bags would be expected to decrease the amount of wastewater generated by bag manufacturing facilities. Further, a potential increase, if any, in the production of paper bags would not be expected to increase wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles RWQCB. Any County project or facility is adjudicated by the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) for water resources and is required to comply with the relevant local or County wastewater regulations and ordinances. Therefore, impacts to utilities and service systems related to exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles RWQCB would be expected to be less than significant, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1980 (updated 6 December 1990). *Existing Adopted Los Angeles County General Plan*. Los Angeles, California. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan#gp-existing>

³ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to exceeding the wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles RWQCB. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the incorporated cities of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the reliance on paper bags,⁴ the proposed ordinances would serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags in the long-term, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the incorporated cities of the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinances would be expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags manufactured for use in the incorporated cities of the County, the number of reusable bags required would be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags currently consumed. A reduction in the total consumption of plastic bags would be expected to decrease the amount of wastewater generated by bag manufacturing facilities. Therefore, as with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems in the incorporated cities of the County in relation to exceeding the wastewater treatment requirements of the Los Angeles RWQCB, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of facilities, causing significant environmental effects. The proposed ordinance would ban the plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the unincorporated territories of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags,⁵ the proposed ordinance would serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags in the long-term, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinance is expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags manufactured for use in the County, the number of reusable bags required would be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags currently consumed. Therefore, a reduction in the total number of bags manufactured would be expected to lead to a decrease in the amount of wastewater generated by bag manufacturing facilities. A potential increase in the production of

⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

paper bags would not be expected to increase the requirement for water or wastewater treatment facilities. Any County project or facility is adjudicated by the Basin Plan for water resources and is required to comply with the relevant local or County wastewater regulations and ordinances. Therefore, there would be no expected impacts to utilities and service systems related to the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of facilities that could cause significant environmental effects, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of facilities, causing significant environmental effects. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the incorporated cities of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of carryout paper bags consumed,⁶ the proposed ordinances would serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags in the long-term, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the incorporated cities of the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinances are expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags manufactured for use in the incorporated cities of the County, the number of reusable bags required would be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags currently consumed. Therefore, a reduction in the total number of bags manufactured would be expected to lead to a decrease in the amount of wastewater generated by bag manufacturing facilities. Therefore, as with the unincorporated territories of the County, there would be no expected impacts to utilities and service systems related to the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of facilities that could cause significant environmental effects, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?

Unincorporated County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, which could cause significant environmental impacts. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County, which would not be expected to result in an increase in storm water runoff in the County. Plastic bags that end up in storm drain systems serve to impede the system's ability to channel storm water runoff.⁷ Therefore, a reduction in the number of plastic bags used in the County would have the potential to lead to improvements in the efficiency of the currently existing storm water

⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf.

drainage facilities. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags disposed of,⁸ paper bags are less likely to be littered and to end up in storm water runoff as they are heavier (paper bags have been noted to be anywhere between 6 to 10 times heavier than plastic bags) and also quickly biodegrade, even if littered, and therefore less likely to become airborne and scattered throughout the areas that would be subject to the proposed ordinance.⁹ Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to utilities and service systems related to the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, which could cause significant environmental impacts, and no further analysis is warranted.

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, which could cause significant environmental impacts. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County, which would not be expected to result in an increase in storm water runoff in the incorporated cities of the County. Plastic bags that end up in storm drain systems serve to impede the system's ability to channel storm water runoff.¹⁰ Therefore, a reduction in the number of plastic bags used in the incorporated cities of the County would have the potential to lead to improvements in the efficiency of the currently existing storm water drainage facilities. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags disposed of,¹¹ paper bags are less likely to be littered and to end up in storm water runoff as they are heavier (paper bags have been noted to be anywhere between 6 to 10 times heavier than plastic bags) and also quickly biodegrade, even if littered and therefore less likely to become airborne and scattered throughout the areas served by the proposed ordinances.¹² Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to utilities and service systems related to the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, which could cause significant environmental impacts, and no further analysis is warranted.

⁸ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *Scottish Executive 2005 Environment Group Research Report (2005/06)*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent486.aspx> or <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016899.pdf>

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf.

¹¹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹² Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *Scottish Executive 2005 Environment Group Research Report (2005/06)*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent486.aspx> or <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016899.pdf>

- (d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to having sufficient water supplies available to serve the unincorporated territories within the County from existing entitlements and resources, or having new expanded entitlements needed. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the unincorporated territories of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags manufactured for use,¹³ it is anticipated that the proposed ordinance would serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the County as compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinance would be expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags consumed in the County, the number of reusable bags required would be expected to be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags (both paper and plastic) that are currently used. Therefore, a reduction in the total number of bags manufactured would be expected to lead to a decrease in the amount of water required by bag manufacturing facilities. A potential increase in the production of paper bags, if any, would not be expected to increase the demand for water supplies in California. Any County project or facility is adjudicated by the Basin Plan for water resources and is required to comply with the relevant local or County wastewater regulations and ordinances. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse impacts to utilities and service systems related to having sufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed ordinance from existing entitlements and resources, or having new expanded entitlements needed, and no further analysis is warranted.

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The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to having sufficient water supplies available to serve the incorporated cities within the County from existing entitlements and resources, or having new expanded entitlements needed. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the incorporated cities of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags manufactured for use,¹⁴ it is anticipated that the proposed ordinances would serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the incorporated cities of the County as compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinances would be expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags consumed in the

¹³ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹⁴ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

incorporated cities of the County, the number of reusable bags required would be expected to be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags (both paper and plastic) that are currently used. Therefore, a reduction in the total number of bags manufactured would be expected to lead to a decrease in the amount of water required by bag manufacturing facilities. Any County project or facility is adjudicated by the Basin Plan for water resources and is required to comply with the relevant local or County wastewater regulations and ordinances. Therefore, as with the unincorporated territories of the County, there would be no expected adverse impacts to utilities and service systems related to having sufficient water supplies available to serve the proposed ordinances from existing entitlements and resources, or having new expanded entitlements needed, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to resulting in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the unincorporated territories of the County that it has adequate capacity to serve the projected demand in the unincorporated territories of the County in addition to the provider's existing commitments. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the unincorporated territories of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags consumed,¹⁵ the proposed ordinance would also serve to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinance is expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags manufactured for use in the County, the number of reusable bags required would be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags currently consumed. Therefore, over time, a reduction in the total number of bags manufactured would be expected to lead to a decrease in the amount of water required and discharged by bag manufacturing facilities. A potential increase, if any, in the production of paper bags would not be expected to increase wastewater treatment requirements in California. Any County project or facility is adjudicated by the Basin Plan for water resources and is required to comply with the relevant local or County wastewater regulations and ordinances. Therefore, there would be no expected adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems related to resulting in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the unincorporated territories of the County that it has adequate capacity to serve the projected demand of these areas in addition to the provider's existing commitments, and no further analysis is warranted.

¹⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to resulting in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the incorporated cities of the County that it has adequate capacity to serve the projected demand in the incorporated cities of the County in addition to the provider's existing commitments. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County. The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in a significant reduction in the consumption of plastic carryout bags and to significantly increase the use of reusable bags within the incorporated cities of the County. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags consumed,¹⁶ it is anticipated that the proposed ordinances would also be expected to facilitate an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags consumed in the incorporated cities of the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, although the proposed ordinances would be expected to lead to an increase in the number of reusable bags manufactured for use in the incorporated cities of the County, the number of reusable bags required would be significantly lower than the number of carryout bags currently consumed. Therefore, over time, a reduction in the total number of bags manufactured would be expected to lead to a decrease in the amount of water required and discharged by bag manufacturing facilities. Any County project or facility is adjudicated by the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) for water resources and is required to comply with the relevant local or County wastewater regulations and ordinances. Therefore, as with the unincorporated territories of the County, there would be no expected adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems related to resulting in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the incorporated cities of the County that it has adequate capacity to serve the projected demand of these areas in addition to the provider's existing commitments, and no further analysis is warranted.

- (f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in potentially significant impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to being served by a landfill that has sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the solid waste disposal needs resulting from the implementation of the proposed ordinance. The expected impacts would be reduced to below the level of significance with the incorporation of mitigation measures. The proposed ordinance would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the unincorporated territories of the County, which would be expected to result in a significant decrease in the amount of waste attributable to plastic carryout bags. The California Integrated Waste Management Board estimates that approximately 3.9 percent of plastic waste can be attributed to plastic carryout bags related to grocery and other merchandise. That represents approximately 0.4 percent of the total waste stream in California.^{17,18}

¹⁶ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

¹⁷ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table ES-3: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream by Material Type, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board:*

Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags that are consumed,¹⁹ it is anticipated that the proposed ordinance would also lead to an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of carryout bags (both paper and plastic) disposed of in the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, paper bags are more likely to be recycled than plastic bags, as supported by the higher recycling rate of paper as compared to that of plastic.²⁰ Due to the fact that paper bags have a greater volume than plastic bags,²¹ some representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances may result in adverse impacts to utilities and service systems related to being served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the solid waste disposal needs that would be anticipated to result from implementation of the proposed ordinance. If true, the potential increase in the usage of paper bags that would be expected to result from the implementation of the proposed ordinance would require mitigation to reduce the impact to below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

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The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in potentially significant impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to being served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the solid waste disposal needs that would be anticipated to result from the implementation of the proposed ordinances. The expected impacts would be reduced to below the level of significance with the incorporation of mitigation measures. The proposed ordinances would ban plastic carryout bags issued by certain stores within the incorporated cities of the County, which would be expected to result in a significant decrease in the amount of waste attributable to plastic carryout bags. Due to the greater volume of paper bags than of plastic bags,²² some representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances would be expected to result in adverse impacts to utilities and service systems related to being served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the solid waste disposal needs that would be anticipated to result from implementation of the proposed ordinances. If true, the potential increase in the usage of paper bags that would be expected to result from the implementation of the proposed ordinances would require mitigation to reduce the impact to below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis of this issue in an EIR.

Statewide Waste Characterization Study, p. 6. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>

¹⁸ Note: Plastics make up approximately 9.5 percent of California's waste stream by weight, including 0.4 percent for plastic carryout bags related to grocery and other merchandise, 0.7 percent for non-bag commercial and industrial packaging film, and 1 percent for plastic trash bags.

¹⁹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

²⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. November 2008. *Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2007 Facts and Figures*. Washington, DC. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw07-rpt.pdf>

²¹ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *Scottish Executive 2005 Environment Group Research Report (2005/06)*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent486.aspx> or <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016899.pdf>

²² Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *Scottish Executive 2005 Environment Group Research Report (2005/06)*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent486.aspx> or <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016899.pdf>

- (g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Unincorporated Territories of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) requires the County to attain specific waste diversion goals. These goals can be met through the implementation of County waste reduction policies, which could include the proposed ordinance once adopted. The California Integrated Waste Management Board estimates that approximately 3.9 percent of plastic waste can be attributed to plastic carryout bags related to grocery and other merchandise. That represents approximately 0.4 percent of the total waste stream in California.^{23,24} Therefore, the proposed ordinance, which would be expected to significantly reduce the amount of litter attributed to plastic carryout bags, would serve to facilitate compliance with AB 939. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags that are consumed,²⁵ it is anticipated that the proposed ordinance would also promote an increase in the use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduction in the total number of plastic carryout bags disposed of in the County compared to existing conditions. In addition, paper bags are more likely to be recycled than plastic bags, as supported by the higher recycling rate of paper as compared to that of plastic.

The Los Angeles RWQCB adopted a Basin Plan Amendment on March 4, 2004, requiring the TMDL of trash in the Ballona Watershed to be incrementally reduced to zero within 10 years.²⁶ In addition, the Los Angeles RWQCB adopted a Basin Plan Amendment on August 9, 2007, requiring the TMDL of trash in the Los Angeles River Watershed to be incrementally reduced to zero within 9 years.²⁷ The Los Angeles RWQCB acknowledges that the majority of the trash in these watersheds comes primarily from trash in storm water runoff, and it has been documented that a significant percentage of trash in storm water runoff in the County is composed of plastic film, such as plastic carryout bags.²⁸ Therefore, the proposed ordinance, which would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter attributable to plastic carryout bags, would comply with the TMDL requirements of

²³ California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board. December 2004. "Table ES-3: Composition of California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream by Material Type, 2003." *Contractor's Report to the Board: Statewide Waste Characterization Study*, p. 6. Produced by: Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. Berkeley, CA. Available at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1097>

²⁴ Note: Plastics make up approximately 9.5 percent of California's waste stream by weight, including 0.4 percent for plastic carryout bags related to grocery and other merchandise, 0.7 percent for non-bag commercial and industrial packaging film, and 1 percent for plastic trash bags.

²⁵ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

²⁶ Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. 4 March 2004. *Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region for the Ballona Creek Trash TMDL*. Available at: http://63.199.216.6/larwqcb_new/bpa/docs/2004-023/2004-023_RB_BPA.pdf

²⁷ Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. 9 August 2007. *Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region to Incorporate the TMDL for Trash in the Los Angeles River Watershed*. Available at: http://63.199.216.6/larwqcb_new/bpa/docs/2007-012/2007-012_RB_BPA.pdf

²⁸ Combs, Suzanne, John Johnston, Gary Lippner, David Marx, and Kimberly Walter. *Results of the Caltrans Litter Management Pilot Study*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Transportation. Available at: <http://www.owp.csus.edu/research/papers/papers/PP020.pdf>

the Los Angeles RWQCB. In addition, the adopted TMDL requirements also call for the initial 20-percent reduction to be achieved by September 30, 2006, and 100-percent trash reduction to be achieved by September 30, 2015.²⁹ There would be no expected adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems related to compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no further analysis is warranted.

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The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems in relation to compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances, which would be expected to significantly reduce the amount of litter attributed to plastic carryout bags, would serve to facilitate compliance with AB 939. Although certain representatives of the plastic bag industry have argued that similar proposed ordinances have the potential to result in an increase in the number of paper carryout bags that are consumed,³⁰ it is anticipated that the proposed ordinances would also promote increased use of reusable bags, thereby resulting in a reduced total number of plastic carryout bags disposed of in the incorporated cities of the County compared to existing conditions.

As with the unincorporated territories of the County, the proposed ordinances, which would aim to significantly reduce the amount of litter attributable to plastic carryout bags, would comply with the TMDL requirements of the Los Angeles RWQCB. There would be no expected adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems related to compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no further analysis is warranted.

²⁹ City of Los Angeles. 2009. *City of Los Angeles Stormwater Program: Trash TMDLs*. Available at: <http://www.lastormwater.org/Siteorg/program/TMDLs/trashtmdl.htm>

³⁰ Save the Plastic Bag. 2008. *The ULS Report: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bag Use in San Francisco*. Available at: <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent700.aspx> or <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

3.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

This analysis was undertaken to determine if the proposed ordinances would result in any of the conditions that would require the preparation of an EIR, in accordance with Section 15065 of the State CEQA Guidelines.¹ Mandatory Findings of Significance for the proposed ordinances were evaluated with regard to the information contained in this Environmental Analysis gathered during literature reviews (see Section 4.0, References, for a list of reference materials consulted).

The State CEQA Guidelines require the consideration of three questions when determining whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Would the proposed ordinances:

- (a) Do the proposed ordinances have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

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The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in Mandatory Findings of Significance in relation to the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The proposed ordinance intends to ban plastic carryout bags issued in certain stores in the unincorporated territories of the County, and thus would not be expected to create or result in any changes to the existing environmental as related to biological and cultural resources. As discussed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, and Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, of this Initial Study, the proposed ordinance does not include any development, alteration, or degradation of any habitat, physical sites, buildings, or structures, nor does it include any ground-disturbing activities. Conversely, the proposed ordinance would be expected to result in beneficial environmental effects (resulting from the reduction of litter in plant and wildlife habitats, aesthetic improvements, and other impacts discussed in this Initial Study) as they relate to biological and cultural resources within the County. Adoption of the proposed ordinance would not permit any direct or indirect degradation of the existing conditions within the County. Therefore, there would be no expected Mandatory Findings of Significance related to the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. No further analysis is warranted.

¹ *California Code of Regulations*, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000–15387, Appendix G.

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The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in Mandatory Findings of Significance in relation to the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The proposed ordinances would not include any development, alteration, or degradation of any habitat, physical sites, buildings, or structures, nor would they include any ground-disturbing activities. The proposed ordinances would be anticipated to result in beneficial environmental effects as described above. Adoption of the proposed ordinances would not permit any direct or indirect degradation of the existing environmental conditions within the County. Therefore, there would be no expected Mandatory Findings of Significance related to the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. No further analysis is warranted.

- (b) Do the proposed ordinances have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

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The proposed ordinance would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to Mandatory Findings of Significance in relation to impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The proposed ordinance would not be expected to contribute to the incremental environmental impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, or reasonably foreseeable projects. Although the proposed ordinance would not entail development, a ban of plastic carryout bags issued at some stores may lead to an increase in the consumption of paper bags as subject stores transition to the use of reusable bags. A temporary increase could result in indirect impacts to air quality, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, noise, and utilities and service systems as discussed in this Initial Study. However, the indirect impacts that would be attributed to the proposed ordinance would be anticipated to be temporary and localized, and the County maintains that the adoption of the proposed ordinance would not permit the violation of existing County policies. Furthermore, the County has proposed efforts to minimize these impacts through outreach and educational programs. In addition, although there have been comparable ordinances in other jurisdictions, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to exacerbate any existing conditions within the County. As such, these indirect impacts would not be cumulatively considerable in connection with the effects of past, current, or reasonably foreseeable projects. Therefore, the expected Mandatory Findings of Significance related to impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable would be below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis on this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

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The proposed ordinances would be expected to result in Mandatory Findings of Significance in relation to impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The proposed ordinances would not be expected to contribute to the incremental impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, or reasonably foreseeable projects. As discussed above, a ban on plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores may lead to a temporary increase in the consumption of paper bags as subject stores transition to the use of reusable bags. This temporary increase could result in indirect impacts to air quality, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, noise, and utilities and service systems as discussed in this Initial Study. However, the indirect impacts that would be attributed to the proposed ordinances would be anticipated to be temporary and localized, and the County maintains that the adoption of the proposed ordinances would not permit the violation of existing County policies. Furthermore, the County has proposed efforts to minimize these impacts through outreach and educational programs. As such, these indirect impacts would not be cumulatively considerable in connection with the effects of past, current, or reasonably foreseeable projects. Therefore, the expected Mandatory Findings of Significance related to impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable would be below the level of significance. However, the County has decided to present the analysis on this issue in an EIR to verify these findings.

- (c) Does the proposed ordinance have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

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The proposed ordinance would not be expected to result in Mandatory Findings of Significance in relation to having environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. While the adverse impacts related to the issuance and consumption of plastic carryout bags designed for single use, and the litter associated with them, have been evaluated,² the proposed ordinance would ban the issuance of such bags to significantly reduce these impacts. However, the proposed ordinance may result in indirect impacts because a ban on plastic carryout bags would be expected to increase the issuance and consumption of paper bags within the unincorporated territories of the County. An increase in the use of paper bags could be expected to result in indirect impacts to air quality, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, noise, and utilities and service systems as discussed in this Initial Study. These indirect impacts to human beings would not be considered substantial as they would be limited and would be significantly reduced by the County's efforts to encourage the use of reusable bags in place of plastic carryout bags. The beneficial environmental impacts discussed in the response to question (a) above and throughout this Initial Study would be expected to have positive impacts on human beings and their environment. In addition, the five goals of the proposed ordinance—(1) litter reduction, (2) blight prevention, (3) coastal waterways and animals and wildlife protection, (4) sustainability (as it relates to the County's energy and environmental goals), and (5) landfill reduction—are intended to directly and indirectly benefit human beings. Therefore, there would be no expected Mandatory Findings of Significance related to environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and no further analysis is warranted.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. August 2007. *An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County: A Staff Report to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*. Alhambra, CA. Available at: http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/PlasticBags/PDF/PlasticBagReport_08-2007.pdf

Incorporated Cities of the County of Los Angeles

The proposed ordinances would not be expected to result in Mandatory Findings of Significance in relation to having environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly. As previously discussed, the proposed ordinances may result in indirect impacts, as a ban on plastic carryout bags issued at certain stores would be expected to increase the issuance and consumption of paper bags within the incorporated cities of the County. An increase in the use of paper bags would be expected to result in indirect impacts to air quality, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality, noise, and utilities and service systems as discussed in this Initial Study. These indirect impacts would not be considered substantial to human beings as they would be limited and would be significantly reduced by the County's efforts to encourage the use of reusable bags in place of plastic carryout bags designed for a single use. The beneficial environmental impacts discussed in the response to question (a) above and throughout this Initial Study would be expected to have positive impacts on human beings and their environment. In addition, the five goals of the proposed ordinance—(1) litter reduction, (2) blight prevention, (3) coastal waterways and animals and wildlife protection, (4) sustainability (as it relates to the County's energy and environmental goals), and (5) landfill reduction—are intended to directly and indirectly benefit human beings. Therefore, there would be no expected Mandatory Findings of Significance related to environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and no further analysis is warranted.

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