

Environmental Impact Report

for Ordinances to Ban Plastic Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County



**County of Los Angeles
December 2009**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION

- 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
- Inventory and assess the impact of the current campaigns that urge recycling of paper and plastic sacks
- Investigate the impact an ordinance similar to the one proposed in San Francisco would have on recycling efforts in L.A. County, and any unintended consequences of the ordinance

PLASTIC BAG LITTER

- Lightweight and easily windblown
- Carried by rivers to the ocean



- Tears apart into smaller pieces
- Release toxins over time
- May entangle sea life, appear as food to animals or wind up as debris

BENEFITS OF REUSABLE BAGS

- ❖ Reduce litter caused by single use plastic carryout bags
- ❖ Instill environmentally sustainable practices
- ❖ Conserve natural resources



LITTER COSTS



- According to the State of California (www.DontTrashCalifornia.com), the current projected annual cost to public agencies in California for litter prevention, cleanup, and disposal is approximately \$375 million.
- In June 2004, a City of Los Angeles Waste Characterization Study reported that plastic bag litter makes up 25% of the litter stream.
- The Los Angeles County Flood Control District spends \$18 million each year on litter prevention, cleanup, and enforcement efforts to reduce litter.

Los Angeles County Voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction & Recycling Program

- Works with individual stores and cities to develop and implement plastic bag recycling
- Holds public education events and distributes free reusable bags
- Currently conducting the Brag About Your Bag® campaign at participating stores and city facilities to encourage residents to recycle plastic bags and use reusable bags



PURPOSE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

- ❑ To describe the background, purpose, and need of the project.
- ❑ To identify mitigation measures and alternatives that are capable of reducing significant impacts.
- ❑ To inform and solicit input from regulatory agency representatives and the community.

PROGRAM GOALS



- ❖ Litter reduction
- ❖ Blight prevention
- ❖ Coastal waterways and animal and wildlife protection
- ❖ Sustainability
- ❖ Landfill reduction

PROJECT LOCATION

- **Unincorporated territories:**
2,649 miles²
- **Incorporated cities:**
1,435 miles²

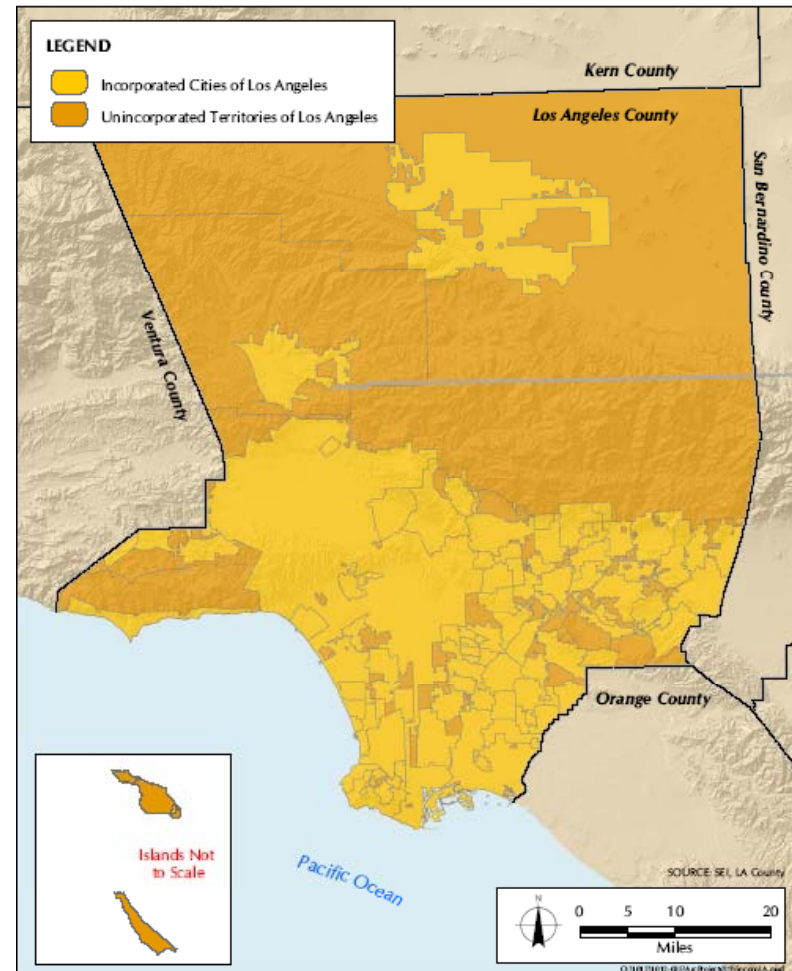


FIGURE 1.4-1
Unincorporated Territories and Incorporated Cities within the County of Los Angeles



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- ❑ **Ban the issuance of plastic carryout bags by large supermarkets and retail stores.**
- ❑ **Necessary environmental review in compliance with CEQA would be completed prior to considering the draft ordinance.**

Proposed Ban

- Prohibit certain retail establishments from issuing plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated territories of the County
- Encourage the incorporation of comparable ordinances by each of the 88 incorporated cities in the County
- 6 cities within the County that have signed resolutions to join the County in adopting similar ordinances in their cities
- Anticipate the adoption of similar proposed ordinances for each of the 88 incorporated cities within the County

AFFECTED RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

- **“Supermarket” - CA Public Resources Code Section 14526.5**

- **Buildings**
 - Over 10,000 ft² of retail space
 - Generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law
 - Have a pharmacy licensed pursuant to Business and Professions Code - Ch. 9 of Div. 2

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO CEQA

- To disclose to the decision makers and the public significant environmental effects of the proposed activities
- To identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage
- To prevent environmental damage by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures
- To disclose to the public reasons for agency approvals of projects with significant environmental effects
- To foster interagency coordination in the review of projects
- To enhance public participation in the planning process

SCOPING

- ❑ **Project is currently in the scoping period with a public review of the Initial Study and Notice of Preparation.**
- ❑ **Public scoping process**
 - **December 1, 2009 to January 4, 2010**
- ❑ **Scoping process intended to provide information on the necessary scope of the EIR**

FINAL EIR

- *Draft EIR*
- *Letters of comment on the Draft EIR*
- *Clarifications and revisions to the Draft EIR resulting from comments received on the document*
- *Responses to comments received on the Draft EIR*



Approval/Certification of the Final EIR by the County Board Of Supervisors

- **Public hearing to consider certification of the environmental document and render a decision on the project**
- **Determination regarding the technical and procedural adequacy of the EIR**
- **Use the EIR during their decision-making process related to rendering decisions on the proposed project**

INITIAL STUDY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities

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