



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069  
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**JOHN LEOPOLD**  
 FIRST DISTRICT

**ELLEN PIRIE**  
 SECOND DISTRICT

**NEAL COONERTY**  
 THIRD DISTRICT

**TONY CAMPOS**  
 FOURTH DISTRICT

**MARK W. STONE**  
 FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 11/3/09

October 27, 2009

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 701 Ocean Street  
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Members of the Board:

At the May 5, 2009, meeting, this Board unanimously passed a resolution to support the passage of AB 87, a State Assembly Bill that would discourage the single use of plastic and paper carry-out bags. While legislative action on this Bill has been held over to the 2010 session, I suggest that this Board consider local action that would address this issue in Santa Cruz County.

We who live here on the Central Coast are acutely aware that the casual discarding of plastic bags is a common and irritating source of environmental litter. Discarded single-use plastic bags are not only unsightly, but are a non-biodegradable hazard to wildlife, clogging rivers and streams and causing harm to ocean life. Of the 19 billion single-use plastic bags consumed annually statewide, fewer than 5% are recycled. Single-use paper bags also have a negative environmental impact in that they generate significantly more greenhouse gases and water pollution in their production than plastic bags.

In September this year, the San Jose City Council, following recommendations of the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission, voted to make San Jose the largest city in the nation to ban the use of most plastic and paper shopping bags. The ordinance, which will take effect in 2011, will first go through an Environmental Impact Study that will require final sign-off by the City Council. San Jose's action coincides with similar steps already taken by the Cities of San Francisco, Oakland, Fairfax, Los Angeles, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, and Palo Alto. San Jose will also bring other Santa Clara County cities along with them in a county-wide effort to address this major form of pollution.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 October 27, 2009  
 Page 2

Additionally, the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force members and/or representatives in Santa Cruz County have completed significant work on this item to date, including research, an assessment of procedural measures available to local jurisdictions, public discussions, and a draft model ordinance. I believe the Local Task Force should work with the Commission on the Environment to coordinate a joint approach and recommendations regarding an ordinance to decrease or eliminate single-use bags at the point of sale.

I believe it is now time for Santa Cruz County to join with our neighbors in the banning of single-use plastic and carry-out paper bags.

Therefore, I recommend that the Board take the following actions:

1. Direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to this Board for an ordinance that would address the following issues:
  - a. Any recommended ordinance should include all point of sale single-use bags at all retailers.
  - b. The intent is to eliminate single-use plastic bags and reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.
  - c. The Commission should also recommend outreach programs for Santa Cruz County
2. Direct that the Commission on the Environment and the Department of Public Works both work to ensure that this Board will have an ordinance to consider no later than April 20, 2010, which falls just before the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2010.

Sincerely,



MARK W. STONE, Supervisor  
 Fifth District

**13**

MWS:lg

cc: Public Works Department  
 Commission on the Environment

1106N5

## CBD BOSMAIL

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From: CBD BOSMAIL  
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 4:45 PM  
To: CBD BOSMAIL  
Subject: Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date** : 11/3/2009

**Item Number** : 13

**Name** : Charles Paulden

**Email** : Not Supplied

**Address** : Not Supplied

**Phone** : Not Supplied

**Comments :**

Please support the ban on single use bags.

Storm drains gather these materials and send them to our streams and rivers and into the Ocean.

**As** part of the MBMS, we want to take the lead in this reduction of land based pollution.

Please support the Ocean and the land over corporate convince.

We can have green jobs creating bags and baskets for our purchases.

Thank you

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 2:09 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** SIERRA CLUB-SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

**Email :** AGsantacruz@sbcglobal.net

**Address :** c/o Aldo Giacchino  
1005 Pelton Avenue  
Santa Cruz CA 95060

**Phone :** 831 460 1538

### **Comments :**

October 29, 2009  
Board of Supervisors  
Santa Cruz County  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Agenda item 13, single use plastic bags

The Sierra Club-Santa Cruz County Group (the "Sierra Club") supports the proposal from Supervisor Mark Stone to direct the County Commission on the Environment to prepare an ordinance that would eliminate the distribution of point of sale, single use, plastic bags. New information about the extent of plastic pollution in the world's oceans makes such a move necessary. Catastrophic impacts upon ocean life are occurring as plastic debris collects in areas such as the North Pacific Gyre (<http://www.greatgarbagepatch.org/>). Animals from albatross to sea turtles are being destroyed as they mistake floating plastic objects for food. In huge areas, there is now more floating plastic than there is plankton! Surely the minor convenience provided by throw away plastic (and paper) is offset by the massive problems caused by these materials. When one considers the impacts of the disposal of this material upon the environment, upon waste treatment and upon the landscapes scared by littering, it is obvious that strong action is necessary. Cities across California are already adopting similar ordinances. We are encouraged that Santa Cruz County will join them in dealing with this problem. Thank you for taking positive action on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Aldo Giacchino  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Sierra Club-Santa Cruz County Group

10/3/2009

13

**Mark Stone**

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**From:** \*\* [jhlittlefield@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 4:56 PM  
**To:** surfridersantacruz@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Support for possible plastic bag and paper bag ban

Dear Members of the County Board of Supervisors,

I am aware that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. In general, I support all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter, so I wish to supply the following comments.

I urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. I ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

As a coastal resident, I am keenly-aware of the catastrophic environmental issue that single-use plastic bags represent because of their incredible longevity in the natural environment. As a petroleum-based material, plastics do not ever biodegrade, and "disposable" plastic bags are a distressing and common item of litter in our neighborhoods, our natural areas, our waterways, and our oceans.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

Carry-out paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

I think your presumed action at this time is clearly in step with the trend evident in other environmentally-aware jurisdictions and demonstrates that Santa Cruz County is a regional leader on this issue.

I look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and I believe that I believe a huge number of county residents will welcome such an ordinance and support such an action.

Sincerely,

Jim Littlefield  
112 Bennett Road  
Aptos, CA 95003

13

**Mark Stone**

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**From:** Brian Katz [bkatz@usefuleng.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 9:28 PM  
**To:** Mark Stone; Tony Campos; Neal Coonerty; Ellen Pirie; John Leopold  
**Subject:** I support a plastic bag ban in Santa Cruz county

Hello,

I support a plastic bag ban in Santa Cruz and in Santa Cruz county.

I live in Los Angeles but visit Santa **Cruz** regularly for both business and pleasure.

I am a frequent traveller up the central CA coast.

I hope that you can initiate this ban as well, so it inspires counties like my own to take powerful action.

You can be bold, visionary, and demonstrate real leadership by helping to forge the way towards a better environmental future.

Thank you!

--  
brian katz, [usefuleng.com](http://usefuleng.com)  
858.775.4114 | skype: usefuleng

**Mark Stone**

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**From:** Christine Simms [achtung@cruzio.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 9:51 AM

**To:** Mark Stone

**Subject:** Paper or Plastic

PLEASE stick to the more serious issues at hand here in SC county. Paper or plastic: NOT important!!!!  
This county is a joke to the rest of America as it is. My relatives think we are goof-balls. And if you think I am going to carry five or six canvas bags with me when I go grocery shopping, you are wrong. I'll go over to Los Gatos to grocery shop if you pass another stupid, useless law.  
You won't get my vote again if you keep this up.....  
Christine Simms

## Mark Stone

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**From:** Melanie Premo [melpremo@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 8:48 AM  
**To:** Mark Stone  
**Subject:** Don't ban bags

Dear Mark,

Don't do it. Bad idea. Both types of bags are recyclable. Trees are a renewable resource. Many people use plastic bags to pick up animal poop, and they use brown paper bags to hold newspapers for recycling, among other things.

How about the county supes put themselves on the crime problem in Santa Cruz, or the traffic problem in Santa Cruz? I can think of many other things that more deserving of attention than plastic or paper bags.

You want to encourage people to use their own bags? Fine, do it on your own time. Perhaps persuade business owners to institute programs that will encourage reusable bags. But this is not something the County government needs to focus on right now. Use your time more wisely, please.

Thanks for listening,

--Melanie Premo  
331 Van Ness Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Mark Stone**

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From: Cheryl Ferguson [clfesq@comcast.net]  
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 9:06 AM  
To: Mark Stone; Tony Campos; Neal Coonerty; Ellen Pirie; John Leopold  
Subject: Support for Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance

I am aware that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. In general, I support all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter, so I wish to supply the following comments.

I urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. I ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

As a coastal resident, I am keenly-aware of the catastrophic environmental issue that single-use plastic bags represent because of their incredible longevity in the natural environment. As a petroleum-based material, plastics do not ever biodegrade, and "disposable" plastic bags are a distressing and common item of litter in our neighborhoods, our natural areas, our waterways, and our oceans.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

Carry-out paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

I think your presumed action at this time is clearly in step with the trend evident in other environmentally-aware jurisdictions and demonstrates that Santa Cruz County is a regional leader on this issue.

I look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and I believe that I believe a huge number of county residents will welcome such an ordinance and support such an action.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Ferguson  
Felton, CA

10/30/2009

13

## Mark Stone

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**From:** Rich Persoff [mimulus@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 9:51 AM  
**To:** Mark Stone  
**Subject:** Grocery bags

Dear Supervisor Stone,

Here's a group of ideas directed towards your goals of reducing consumption of paper or plastic grocery bags, with, I hope, sufficient carrots to gain store support:

1. Make it illegal for grocery stores to give away plastic or paper grocery carrying bags, e.g., any with handles or with a capacity of over one gallon.
2. Make it mandatory that grocery stores offer either plastic or paper carrying bags at check-out @ \$0.50 each. e.g., substantially over cost. (Virtually no-one is motivated to reuse a bag to receive a \$0.10 credit!)  
80% of store revenue from sales of such bags would be used specifically for either increased vagrant policing, or improved conditions for repeat offenders. (My hunch is that the courts would be less likely to let such offenders off if detention facilities were better.)
4. Make it mandatory that grocery stores offer for sale larger reusable bags or personal shopping carts.
5. Unless authorized in writing by the store, make using a commercial shopping cart beyond a store parking lot a traffic or parking violation, with appropriate fine (perhaps immediate confiscation of contents and donation to Second Harvest or homeless shelters or similar non-profits) and community service (e.g., returning the cart).

Best regards,

Rich Persoff  
Watsonville

N.B. Do you think it would be useful for me to send this message individually to the other Supervisors?

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**Mark Stone**

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**From:** Thomas Quattlebaum [thomas.gq@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 3:19 PM  
**To:** Mark Stone; Tony Campos; Neal Coonerty; Ellen Pirie; John Leopold  
**Subject:** Please consider eliminating single-use plastic bags and paper bags via ordinance

I homeowner and resident of Santa Cruz County and am aware that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. In general, I support all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter, so I wish to supply the following comments.

I urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. I ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

As a coastal resident, I am keenly-aware of the catastrophic environmental issue that single-use plastic bags represent because of their incredible longevity in the natural environment. As a petroleum-based material, plastics do not ever biodegrade, and "disposable" plastic bags are a distressing and common item of litter in our neighborhoods, our natural areas, our waterways, and our oceans.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

Carry-out paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

I think your presumed action at this time is clearly in step with the trend evident in other environmentally-aware jurisdictions and demonstrates that Santa Cruz County is a regional leader on this issue.

13

I look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and I believe that I believe a huge number of county residents will welcome such an ordinance and support such an action.

Sincerely,

Thomas Quattlebaum

13

**Mark Stone**

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From: Duncan Anderson [duncananderson@odicenv.com]  
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 3:21 PM  
To: Duncan Anderson  
Subject: SUPPORT A PLASTIC-BAG BAN IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY!

Dear Supervisor,

I am aware that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. In general, I support all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter, so I wish to supply the following comments.

I urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. I ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

As a coastal resident, I am keenly-aware of the catastrophic environmental issue that single-use plastic bags represent because of their incredible longevity in the natural environment. As a petroleum-based material, plastics do not ever biodegrade, and "disposable" plastic bags are a distressing and common item of litter in our neighborhoods, our natural areas, our waterways, and our oceans.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

Carry-out paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

I think your presumed action at this time is clearly in step with the trend evident in other environmentally-aware jurisdictions and demonstrates that Santa Cruz County is a regional leader on this issue.

I look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and I believe that I believe a huge number of county residents will welcome such an ordinance and support such an action.

**Duncan Anderson**  
Business Development Officer

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Odic Environmental & Energy  
DVBE, SBE, SDVOSB

13

10/30/2009

*Santa Cruz, California*

*C:* 831.454.6288

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"Please consider the environment before printing this email" 

**Mark Stone**

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**From:** Sherry Lippiatt [sherry.lippiatt@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 3:30 PM  
**To:** Mark Stone; Tony Campos; Neal Coonerty; Ellen Pirie; John Leopold  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban!

To whom it concerns,

I am aware that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. In general, I support all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter, so I wish to supply the following comments.

I urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. I ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

As a coastal resident, I am keenly-aware of the catastrophic environmental issue that single-use plastic bags represent because of their incredible longevity in the natural environment. As a petroleum-based material, plastics do not ever biodegrade, and "disposable" plastic bags are a distressing and common item of litter in our neighborhoods, our natural areas, our waterways, and our oceans.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

Carry-out paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

I think your presumed action at this time is clearly in step with the trend evident in other environmentally-aware jurisdictions and demonstrates that Santa Cruz County is a regional leader on this issue.

I look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and I believe that I believe a huge number of county residents will welcome such an ordinance and support such an action.

Thanks for your consideration,

10/30/2009

13

**Sherry Lippiatt**

**PhD Candidate  
UC Santa Cruz  
Ocean Sciences Department**

13

**Mark Stone**

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**From:** Surfrider Santa Cruz [surfridersantacruz@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 2:23 PM  
**To:** scseasurfer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Surfrider support for drafting a plastic bag ban

To all Honorable Santa Cruz County Supervisors,

The Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation is aware that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. In general, we are in support of all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter, so we wish to supply the following comments.

**The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 55,000 members and 80 chapters worldwide. For more information on the Surfrider Foundation, go to [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org) For local information, go to [www.surfridersantacruz.org](http://www.surfridersantacruz.org)**

We urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. We ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

As coastal residents, we are keenly-aware of the catastrophic environmental issue that single-use plastic bags represent because of their incredible longevity in the natural environment. As a petroleum-based material, plastics do not ever biodegrade, and "disposable" plastic bags are a distressing and common item of litter in our neighborhoods, our natural areas, our waterways, and our oceans.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

Carry-out paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

Your presumed action at this time is clearly in step with the trend evident in other environmentally-aware jurisdictions and demonstrates that Santa Cruz County is a regional leader on this issue.

We look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and we will notify our partner-organizations to watch for it, too. We also want you to know that we believe a tremendous number of county residents will welcome such an ordinance and support such an action.

For the oceans, waves, and beaches,

Rich Ferdinand  
Chair  
Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation

Surfrider Foundation, Santa Cruz Chapter  
(831) 476-POOP phone and water quality hotline  
(831) 476-8283 fax  
surfridersantacruz@yahoo.com  
Office:  
2222 East Cliff Drive, Santa **Cruz**, CA 95062  
Santa Cruz

## Mark Stone

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**From:** Jean Brocklebank [jeanbean@baymoon.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 9:10 AM  
**To:** Mark Stone  
**Cc:** John Leopold  
**Subject:** Plastic bag ban

Dear Supervisor Stone ~

It is with pleasure that I have just read your October 27th letter to the Board of Supervisors, recommending that the Board begin its own actions to produce a sensible ban on single-use plastic bags.

I live in the First District but plastic bags know no boundaries, do they?

I intend send supportive comments to the full Board as soon as this item is agendized! With cheap reuseable bags popping up in businesses everywhere (Orchard Home Supply, and Trader Joes as examples) this will create little hardship on residents. We'll adapt!

Thank you for your leadership on this important environmental issue of marine and landscape degradation.

Regards,  
Jean Brocklebank

## Mark Stone

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**From:** SC SEA [scseasurfer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 7:45 PM  
**To:** Andrew Mencinsky; Christian Fine  
**Subject:** SURFERS' ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE SUPPORT FOR A PLASTIC-BAG BAN

To the Honorable Board of Santa Cruz County Supervisors,

Surfers' Environmental Alliance has learned that the Board of Supervisors will consider directing staff to pursue research regarding a county-wide ordinance aimed at reducing or eliminating the widespread use of single-use plastic bags and single-use paper bags in the county's retail establishments at your scheduled meeting of November 3, 2009. As the people in and on the water, we support all actions which tend to reduce marine and environmental litter. Please, accept the following comments.

In preliminary matters: Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA) is a grass-roots, project-based organization aggressively committed to the cultural and environmental integrity of the sport of surfing. SEA is as much devoted to protecting the natural wonders of the coastal environment as we are to fostering and protecting beach access. Lately, SEA has been working hard to ensure that coastal real estate and infrastructure development does not destroy our heritage, or our children's. SEA was founded by surfers who wanted to do something to protect the ocean, beaches, and coastlines and keep this planet a safe place to surf.

We urge all members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to direct the Department of Public Works to take this issue to the Commission on the Environment with the request that the Commission look at the ordinances from nearby jurisdictions and make a recommendation to the BOS for a county ordinance that would address the active reduction of the use of single-use bags at all retailers. We ask that the ordinance's intent shall be to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to reduce reliance on single-use paper bags.

Single-use plastic bags represent an incredible long-term threat to the natural environment, because as a petroleum-based material, plastics have amazing longevity in the natural environment. Plastics, including single-use plastic bags do not ever biodegrade, and such "disposable" plastic bags are a very disturbing and common item of trash and litter in our waterways, oceans, roadsides, neighborhoods, in all natural areas.

Plastic bags are also a notorious threat to our wildlife, both on land and sea. For example: each year over one million seabirds and one-hundred thousand marine animals die from ingestion of or entanglement in plastics, (including plastic bags which look like jellies to hungry sea creatures).

Around 100 billion petroleum-based plastic checkout bags are used each year in the United States, requiring an estimated 12 million barrels of oil each year. Sadly, less than 5% of these bags are recycled each year and cities, counties, and non-profit organizations must pay millions of dollars each year to clean up plastic litter.

We also realize that "carry-out" paper bags are also a major source of litter in our communities, and as products commonly intended for a one-time-use, their manufacture, transport, and disposal represents a huge waste of shrinking resources.

SEA welcomes your desire to take legal action on this issue, and we believe this step is in line with similar actions taken by other environmentally-aware jurisdictions. Such a new ban by Santa Cruz County would provide a powerful example for other nearby

jurisdictions to follow.

On this issue, we believe the four cities in the county will see the County has a clear leader and seek to draft similar ordinances of their own. Clearly, all such litter-reduction efforts are most effective when viewed as a regional issue.

We look forward to reviewing the forthcoming draft ordinance, and, based on the many comments we have heard from a wide segment of the coastal public, we think such action on your part will enjoy wide support.

For the sea and the surf,

Andrew Mencinsky, Executive Director  
Surfers' Environmental Alliance

James Littlefield, Santa Cruz Chapter Director  
Santa Cruz Office:  
410 Seacliff Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 2:52 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

---

**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Kevin Collins

**Email :** bats3@cruzio.com

**Address :** P.O. Box 99  
Felton, CA 95018

**Phone :** Not Supplied

**Comments :**  
October 30, 2009

Board of Supervisors  
Santa Cruz County  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Single use plastic bags, Agenda item 13 for November 3

The Lompico Watershed Conservancy supports Supervisor Mark Stone's proposal to direct the County Commission on the Environment to prepare an ordinance to eliminate the distribution of point of sale, single use, plastic bags and to limit paper bag waste.

Massive volumes of plastics are polluting the Pacific Ocean and collecting in a region known as the North Pacific Gyre. Animals from fish to marine mammals, sea birds and turtles are being destroyed as they mistake floating plastic objects for food or accidentally ingest plastics while catching food.

We have become accustomed to the minor conveniences provided by throw-away plastic (and paper). However the way this material is constantly shoved into a shopper's hands, whether or not they actually even want it, is absurd and destructive. The impacts of the production and disposal of this material upon the environment and upon waste treatment have become unacceptable.

Please proceed through to the adoption of this ordinance.

Regards,

Kevin Collins  
Lompico Watershed Conservancy  
P.O. Box 99  
Felton, CA 95018  
bats3@cruzio.com  
<http://www.lompicocreek.org>

10/30/2009

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## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 6:07 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Nick Peros

**Email :** Not Supplied

**Address :** P.O. Box 1946  
Freedom, Ca.

**Phone :** Not Supplied

### **Comments :**

RE: Proposed Ordinance on the ban of plastic and paper bags.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors,

With the current economic climate, the stresses placed on private business in our community, and social issues battering our community, it is with surprised interest that I see this "ban the bag" topic raised at so unfortunate a time.

A simple search on Google reveals, however, that "ban the bag" here in Santa Cruz County is but a trendy wave of similar movements in other cities and counties in California if not the entire country. Trendy ideas such as this one, however, do not add any viable reason to adopt it except to reveal that certain groups likely are supporting a "ban the bag" widely as this is their passion. Sadly, many of these folks, though well meaning, are not fully informed on the truth of the topic.

Have the courage to look at the facts of the issue. A computer can replicate actions, a person should use reason, wisdom, and rational thought rather than playing "follow the leader".

1.) Bags are not evil. We have used them for several centuries and they are useful items of commerce, most used more than once and many of those used many more times than two.

2.) So called plastic bags are not petroleum based products at all, despite misinformation to the contrary. They are made of polyethylene which is made of ethane that is extracted from natural gas that would otherwise be allowed to burn off to allow the BTU levels of the gas to lower to acceptable levels for distribution. Burning off the ethane gas rather than extracting it would result in increased emissions.

3.) Most paper bags are made entirely of recycled paper. Recycling of such bags and the products that make them up provides jobs, funding to recycling groups and generally completes the circle of use widely considered, well, a good idea.

I note that many of the letters in this mailbox on the topic are scripted letters from various environmental groups. They are well meaning, but again, the idea behind them is a "follow the leader" mentality that we all too much of in politics and civic matters.

Please take the time and study the topic on this one. You might find this website a source of balance to

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"ban the bag" advocates. <http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/ReadContent461.aspx> Yes, it is obviously a site funded by so called plastic bag makers, but does contain some well thoughtout information and facts that you might not read anywhere else.

Do not "ban the bag". Do continue with and step-up bag recycling and reuse programs. They seem to be working, encourage folks to use their own bags if they chose to do so, and still provide flexibility and freedom in our complex world of commerce.

Sincerely,

Nick Peros

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 31, 2009 9:33 AM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Karen Burman

**Email :** Not Supplied

**Address :** Felton

**Phone :** Not Supplied

**Comments :**

I urge the board to unanimously support Supervisor Stone's resolution regarding single use plastic bags. As a coastal county we should be in the forefront of this movement.

## **CBD BOSMAIL**

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2009 5:48 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Michael Burns

**Email :** mb0448@comcast.net

**Address :** 844 Hanover St

**Phone :** 425 1780

**Comments :**

I want as strong a motivation as possible for people to bring their own bags to stores; no store bags available, a charge for store bags, a discount for customer's bags.

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2009 7:27 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Ed Kilduff

**Email :** Edkilduff@aol.com

**Address :** 140 allan Lane  
Corralitos, Ca 95076

**Phone :** Not Supplied

### **Comments :**

I suggest Super Stone do her/his homework on carbon footprints

I cannot believe that there is not more important things to do- by the board of supervisors- than to waste their time on plastic market bags  
Why were you elected? For plastic bags?  
Have you taken a poll from affected people?

Rediculous as the above is:  
What is the alternative?

Buy and Carry your own cloth bag

If you have 10 kids (some do) run a business-

go to Costco- then the "customers" have to buy

and carry MANY MANY cotton bags to market, in order to carry food/small items back to home/resturant, etc

Better idea!

Enhance the recycle effort with incentives/  
recycling methods- County help in doing so

Ed K

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2009 9:07 AM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Sonya Newlyn

**Email :** sonya\_newlyn@yahoo.com

**Address :** 310 Nobel Dr.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Phone :** 831-429-5603

### **Comments :**

I urge you to pass the ordinance to ban single-use plastic and paper carry-out bags in Santa Cruz County. As a sailor on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, I've sailed past floating plastic grocery bags and been unable to retrieve them from the water. This plastic will last thousands of years, chemically unaltered. Before it breaks apart into microscopic plastic, the bags pose a considerable threat to health and life for many marine animals. Thank you for your sensitivity and ecological awareness by addressing this issue!

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2009 11:44 AM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Susan Renison

**Email :** Not Supplied

**Address :** PO Box 397  
Felton,CA 95018

**Phone :** Not Supplied

**Comments :**

I am proud of Supervisor Stone's efforts to focus on the serious environmental issue of single use paper and plastic bags. Please help this issue to move forward by drafting an ordinance. Thank you.

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2009 1:52 AM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Richard Wieckowicz

**Email :** rw12343@hotmail.com

**Address :** Aptos, CA

**Phone :** 831-662-3222

### **Comments :**

My name is Richard Wieckowicz and I was a physicist with NASA during the Apollo Moon Program in the 1960s and 70s. I am now retired but have retained a serious interest in alternative energy, climate change, and pollution.

The Board of Supervisors is considering a ban on single-use plastic and paper bags. I believe that there will be real resistance from the public to suddenly require them to buy and bring reusable bags to markets. I am concerned that a compromise may be allowed that would allow some type of single-use bags. In my opinion it is very important that paper bags NOT be allowed. Unlike their eco-friendly reputation here are some facts about paper bags.

In ascending order of importance:

1. Paper bags cost at least 5 times the price of plastic bags.
2. Paper bags weigh 9 times as much as plastic and require much more energy to transport. They are also 18 times more bulky to handle.
3. Paper takes at least 4 times more energy to manufacture.
4. Recycling a paper bag takes 85 times as much energy.
5. Paper bags produce 50 times as much water pollution!

This last fact is staggering. Paper mills dump 220,000,000 pounds per year of toxic pollutants mixed in with billions of gallons of polluted water into rivers. This is very serious stuff and includes: chlorine, dioxins, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, mercury, nitrates and benzene to name just some. According to the Federal Office of the Environment, ".the toxicity of the chemicals is long-term and settles into the sediments, working its way through the food chain."

Paper bags are the worst single-use bags available. We must not encourage their use by banning plastic bags, and until people do get accustomed to reusable bags some sort of single-use bag will probably be needed.

Thank you,

Richard Wieckowicz

## **CBD BOSMAIL**

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2009 9:48 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Louis LaFortune

**Email :** lafort@cruzio.com

**Address :** 1540 Leila Court  
Live Oak

**Phone :** 831.476.5019

**Comments :**

I enthusiastically support the proposed ban on single use plastic and paper bags. Please take all measures to implement this ban. The planet, and all of its creatures, thanks you.

## CBD BOSMAIL

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**From:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2009 9:15 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 11/3/2009

**Item Number :** 13

**Name :** Michele Whizin

**Email :** mwhizin@gmail.com

**Address :** 260 Dufour St  
SC 95060

**Phone :** 831-427-3153

**Comments :**

I support the supervisors in directing the development of a proposed ordinance banning single-use plastic and paper carry-out bags. The cost to our environment is too high. The plastic ends up in our oceans and the toxic chemicals in our air. I am a citizen that is ready to eliminate these bags and carry our own.

COMMENT ON ITEM #13 - 11/3/09

Beth Benjamin  
13325 Big Basin Way  
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Urges all members of the Board to support the recommendation of Supervisor Stone with regard to single-use bags.