

# Plastic Bag Ban Presentation

## January 7, 2013



# Why ban plastic bags?



Communities free of plastic bags lead to healthier oceans and rivers free of plastic.

# Why are plastic bag bans so important to coastal communities?

In the marine environment, plastic wreaks havoc on marine life, breaking down into smaller and smaller particles that absorb toxic chemicals which are ingested by wildlife and enter the food chain.

# The benefit of a plastic bag ban to the City of Avalon is:



Create a cleaner community that helps preserve natural resources, reduces litter and protects our beaches and waterways.

# Important Statistics

Over 90 California Cities and Counties have implemented plastic bag bans.

1 in 3 Californians live in a community where plastic bags are banned.

80% of Avalon's visitors are Californians.



# Timeline of Plastic Bag Ordinance

1977  
U.S. supermarkets offer plastic bags to customers



1988  
NOAA predicts the existence of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Coalition to Support Plastic Bag Recycling vs. City of Oakland



1994  
Denmark adopts a fee on plastic and paper bags

1996  
Four out of every five grocery stores in the U.S. use plastic bags

1997  
J. Moore discovers the Great Pacific Garbage Patch



2002  
Ireland levies a fee on plastic bags

2003  
Switzerland requires stores to charge for plastic bags  
South Africa adopts a fee on plastic bags  
Taiwan bans plastic bags  
Bangladesh bans plastic bags

2007  
Belgium adopts a fee on plastic bags

San Francisco bans plastic bags

November 21

2008

China implements a fee on plastic bags

City of Malibu bans plastic bags

August 12, 2008

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of Manhattan Beach

November 19, 2008

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. Santa Clara County

November 28, 2008

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of San Diego

2009

City of Palo Alto bans plastic bags

Washington, DC, bans plastic bags

April 21, 2009

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of Palo Alto

January 12, 2009

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of Santa Monica

January 26, 2009

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of Morgan Hill

January 26, 2009

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of Mountain View

January 29, 2009

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of San Jose

September 17, 2009

Save the Plastic Bag Coalition vs. City of Encinitas

2010

Researchers discover the North Atlantic Garbage Patch

August 2010

Assembly Bill 1998 fails to pass in California

September 2010

American Samoa bans plastic bags

November 2010

County of Los Angeles adopts ordinance to ban plastic bags and place a charge of 10 cents on paper bags

2011

Opportunity for cities within the County of Los Angeles to tier off of the County EIR

1975

1980

1990

2000

2010

# Legal Challenges

Despite many legal challenges from the plastics industry, California Courts have continually upheld the right of cities and counties to ban plastic bags in their communities.

# Next steps for the City of Avalon

- Determine allowable cost merchants can charge for paper bags
- Reach out to business community
- Determine the procedures for banning plastic bags in the City of Avalon.
- Have the Planning Director determine correct CEQA category or;
- Tier off the County of Los Angeles EIR
- Determine when the ban should become effective

# Next steps for the City of Avalon Continued

- City Council Adopts an Ordinance banning plastic bags
- Educate the community
- Promote the use of reusable bags including:
  - Reusable bag design contest
  - Informational Pamphlets
  - Free reusable bag offer
  - Business have the opportunity to promote themselves on reusable bags

