



Venice Neighborhood Council

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April 26, 2011

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa,
Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, and
Los Angeles City Council Members
200 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Ban of Plastic Bag Issuance by Retail Establishments in Los Angeles

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa, Councilmember Rosendahl, and City Councilmembers:

Acknowledging the November 16, 2010, passage of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's ban on plastic bags and the Environmental Impact Report which legally supports it, and, in lockstep with the *Clean Seas Coalition (7th Generation Advisors, Heal the Bay, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, et al)*, we want to convey Venice's support for a citywide ban on plastic bags.

Recognizing the importance of being good stewards of nearby Ballona Creek, the Ballona Wetlands, Santa Monica Bay and the oceans beyond, the Venice Neighborhood Council has long supported efforts to clean up and improve waterways that affect our Southern California communities and our beaches that are so vital to our tourism industry.

According to *the Los Angeles Times*, Californians use more than 120,000 tons of the bags each year and, despite efforts to increase it, only 5% are actually recycled. Taxpayers therefore end up paying close to \$25 million a year to rid streets, beaches, parks and waterways of the bags. A ban will help save city and state monies in troubled economic times and conserve important natural resources which could be put to a more beneficial use.

A citywide ban on plastic bags, identical to the County ban, would take us a giant step in the right direction. We look forward to your swift action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucks
President, Venice Neighborhood Council

cc: Councilmember Garcetti, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Reyes,
Councilmember Krekorian, Councilmember Zine, Councilmember LaBonge,
Councilmember Koretz, Councilmember Cardenas, Councilmember Alarcon,
Councilmember Parks, Councilmember Wesson, Councilmember Smith,
Councilmember Huizar, Councilmember Hahn