

Single Use Carryout Bag Ordinance



Why adopt an ordinance restricting distribution of single-use carryout bags?

- Novato retailers are estimated to give out **28 million plastic carryout bags each year**
- Between 5-11% of plastic bags are recycled
- Due to their weight and shape, plastic bags easily become litter when discarded, ending up in open space and storm drains, requiring the City staff and volunteer time for removal
- Plastic bags harm wildlife

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The proposed ordinance:

- Bans specified retailers from distributing plastic carryout bags
- Allows retailers to sell recycled content paper carryout bags for a minimum charge of 10 cents
- Exempts plastic produce and meat bags, and paper prescription bags
- Exempts participants in the Supplemental Food Program from paying for paper bags

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Applicable to the following stores on September 1:

- Supermarkets with over \$2 million in annual sales, and
- Pharmacies over 10,000 square feet in size

Applicable to the following stores on March 1, 2015:

- Convenience or liquor stores that sell milk, bread, soda and snack foods

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Alternatives evaluated in the EIR:

Model Ordinance: 5¢ fee; groceries, pharmacies & convenience stores only

1. No Project (no new regulations adopted)
2. 5¢ fee; all retailers except restaurants
3. 5¢ fee; all retailers including restaurants
4. 10¢ fee; groceries, pharmacies & conv. stores only
5. 25¢ fee; groceries, pharmacies & conv. stores only
6. 5¢ fee; groceries, pharmacies & conv. stores only; precludes product bags too
7. 25¢ fee; all retailers except restaurants

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