



OCEAN BEACH TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION

In Support of a Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance in the City of San Diego

November 13, 2013

WHEREAS, more than 500 million single-use plastic bags are distributed annually in San Diego, and approximately 3% are recycledⁱ; and,

WHEREAS, improper disposal results in plastic bags becoming windblown through our streets, parks, and beaches, clogging our storm drains and sewers, and degrading our soils and water ways; and,

WHEREAS, those plastic bags that are blown or washed into our water ways may threaten the lives of avian and marine species through entanglement, choking, or by toxicity; and,

WHEREAS, while plastic bags when landfilled do not biodegrade and remain intact for many decades, those that remain in the environment photo-degrade into very small particles that may be consumed by wildlife thus diminishing and contaminating a part of our food chain; and,

WHEREAS, fugitive plastic products have created vast wastelands (gyres) in our oceans where the thousands of pieces of plastic often out-number, and mimic, the plankton available for consumption by wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, locally, plastic bags must be screened out of yard waste collections, have contaminated food scrap composting facilities, and have jammed the mechanical parts of recycling bailers and sewage treatment systems; and,

WHEREAS, single use plastics such as styrofoam, clamshell containers, and plastic bags, are unsustainable products being manufactured from petroleum and natural gas. The energy used in the production and transportation of plastic bags (including for recycling) result in unnecessary natural resource consumption and increased greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the impacts of plastic bag use and pollution have ignited a global movement to dramatically reduce the amount of disposable plastic bags distributed; and,

WHEREAS, over 70 California municipalities have enacted ordinances banning or restricting the use of plastic bagsⁱⁱ; and,

WHEREAS, the OBTC is committed to protecting our natural environment and the public health and welfare of our community's residents now; and, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the OBTC supports a Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance and recommends that the City of San Diego enact a ban on single-use carry-out plastic bags as the most administratively efficient and cost effective measure to address the issues of wasted energy, excess greenhouse gases, litter, and soil and water pollution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the OBTC requests Ocean Beach businesses and organizations to stop carrying single-use carry-out plastic bags and to join the Plastic Pollution Coalition (<http://plasticpollutioncoalition.org/>); and be it further

RESOLVED by the Ocean Beach Town Council Board of Directors that this resolution be sent to, but not limited to, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and members of the City Council of San Diego; the Ocean Beach Main Street Association; the Ocean Beach Planning Board; local media outlets, and the Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter.

This Resolution in Support of a Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance in the City of San Diego was passed by the Ocean Beach Town Council on November 13, 2013.

ⁱ City of San Diego, Report to the Rules and Economic Development Committee, August 30, 2013

ⁱⁱ Ibid