

## City of Mountain View Reusable Bag Ordinance Development & EIR

The history of the development of the Reusable Bag Ordinance and Environmental Impact Report is shown below (previous City webpage).

### Reusable Bag Ordinance Updated December 13, 2012

The City of Mountain View is considering a proposed Reusable Bag Ordinance regulating the distribution of carryout bags at retail stores and promoting reusable bags. Excluded from the ordinance are restaurants, fast-food places, charitable nonprofit thrift organizations, and protective bags for produce, meat, prescriptions, greeting cards, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, and live fish/pets.



Plastic carryout bags would be banned, but retailers may make available for sale to a customer recycled paper bags or reusable bags for a minimum charge of 10 cents per bag (increasing to 25 cents in 2015). There would be no charge to customers participating in WIC and other supplemental food programs for recycled paper bags until the end of 2014. Retailers would keep the money from the sale of bags.

This is a two-step process beginning with a regional Environmental Impact Report and ending with consideration of a local ordinance. Both processes are described below and give more information about how to learn more, make comments or participate in the process.

**The Environmental Impact Report has been certified by the host agency, and the proposed ordinance was scheduled for a public hearing before the Mountain View City Council on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. for a first reading (approved by Council by a 5-2 vote). A second reading was scheduled for December 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. and was adopted by City Council. Read more below or skip to [Ordinance Process](#) or [Document Links](#) for the staff report.**

### Environmental Impact Report Process (Regional)



Cities throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties have joined together to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed Reusable Bag Ordinance. The County of San Mateo is the host agency preparing the EIR for the region. The EIR is the first step in a process to help cities evaluate environmental issues before considering an ordinance in their community.

Cities participating in the Draft EIR study are shown in maps of [San Mateo County](#) and [Santa Clara County](#). Please note that San Jose, Sunnyvale and Palo Alto are not shown on these maps since they have already adopted ordinances.

Public meetings were held by the County of San Mateo in Mountain View and several other surrounding communities in April and May 2012 to learn about the EIR process and provide input for the EIR scope of work. A draft EIR was prepared and circulated to local libraries and participating cities. The 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIR closed on August 6, 2012.

The County of San Mateo prepared the Final EIR (see documents below) for consideration by their Planning Commission (September 12, 2012) and their Board of Supervisors (October 23, 2012). As the host agency for the region, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors certified the Final EIR on October 23, 2012. As a result, each participating city may now consider adopting the ordinance for their own community through their local ordinance process (below).

The Draft and Final EIR is available at the Mountain View Library and at the document [links](#) below. The [Executive Summary](#) below provides a good overview. Further information about the EIR is available from:

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### **Ordinance Process (Local)**

While the County of San Mateo was gathering input about the Draft EIR for the region, Mountain View held public information meetings with residents and businesses about the proposed ordinance. A meeting with the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce Business In Public Policy Committee (BIPP) was held on July 11, 2012. Two community information and input meetings for Mountain View residents and businesses were held on July 23 and July 31, 2012, one in the daytime and one in the evening. See documents below for the meeting [presentation](#) except that the jurisdiction name would be changed.

Since the Final EIR covering the region was certified by the host agency, San Mateo County, on October 23, 2012, Mountain View and other participating cities may proceed

with consideration of the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance was presented to the Mountain View City Council at a public hearing on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. for a first reading, and a second reading by City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. [The proposed ordinance](#) is provided under Document Links below. To be covered under the regional Final EIR, the ordinance would need to be adopted substantially as is presently drafted. Notices about the meeting have been mailed to over 320 retail businesses in Mountain View, and emailed to neighborhood associations, environmental groups, and other interested persons. A print advertisement was published in the Mountain View Voice on November 30, 2012.

If adopted by the Mountain View City Council, the Reusable Bag Ordinance would likely be effective on April 22, 2013, to be consistent with other cities in the region. A workplan to educate retail stores and the public will likely begin in January 2013. The workplan will be coordinated with the participating cities to develop consistent messages, work with corporate stores, and maximize cost-efficiency of outreach campaigns. The workplan will also include evaluation of the ordinance. For information about the previous regional **Bring Your Own Bag** store campaign, please click [here](#).

## Document Links

### Ordinance (City)

[Letter to Retail Businesses in Mountain View \(April 23, 2012\)](#)

[Presentation - Public Information Meetings \(July 2012\)](#)

[Notice to Retail Businesses in Mountain View of Public Hearing \(December 4, 2012\)](#)

[Council Report for Public Hearing December 4, 2012 \(includes ordinance, resolution, and public comments\)](#)

**[Proposed Ordinance](#)**

[Proposed Resolution & CEQA Findings](#)

[Public Comments](#)

[Council Presentation \(Slides\) December 4, 2012](#)

[Council Report for Second Reading December 11, 2012 \(Item 4.03 "Adopt an Ordinance Adding Title IV to Chapter 16"\)](#)

[State Board of Equalization News - No Sales Tax on Paper Bags in cities with Ordinances](#)

### EIR (Regional)

[Single-Use Bag Ordinance EIR Meetings Flyer](#)

[EIR Scoping Meeting - Presentation by San Mateo County Health \(same presentation used at all meetings\)](#)

[Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR](#)

[Notice of Availability DEIR \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)

[Executive Summary DEIR](#)

[Draft Environmental Impact Report \(with maps\)](#)

[Final Environmental Impact Report](#)

[County Staff Report Final EIR](#)

[County Staff Report Exhibits Final EIR](#)

[County Staff Report Letter from California Grocers Association](#)

[County Staff Report Presentation](#)

[County Resolution Certifying Final EIR & CEQA Findings](#)

[More Information at San Mateo County Health \(EIR Host Agency\)](#)