# BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM INFORMATION PLASTIC AND PAPER CARRYOUT BAGS

#### **Recommended Project**

The recommended project, which corresponds to Alternative 5 as evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), would prohibit stores, as defined, from providing single use plastic carryout bags. Paper bags with a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled content could be provided to customers for a charge of 10 cents per bag. Stores would retain the fee revenue to offset their costs for compliance with the ordinance. Stores subject to the Ordinance include supermarkets and large retail stores with a pharmacy, which would be required to comply by July 1, 2011, as well as small grocery stores, small pharmacies, convenience stores, and foodmarts by January 1, 2012.

#### **Background**

#### **Board Actions**

At the April 10, 2007 Board Meeting

Your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Director of Internal Services and the Director of Public Works to solicit input from outside environmental protection and grocer organizations to:

- 1. Investigate the issue of polyethylene plastic and paper sack consumption in the County, including the pros and cons of adopting a policy similar to that of San Francisco.
- 2. Inventory and assess the impact of the current campaigns that urge recycling of paper and plastic sacks.
- 3. Report back to the Board within 90 days on findings and recommendations to reduce grocery and retail sack waste; any impact an ordinance similar to the one proposed in San Francisco would have on recycling efforts in Los Angeles County; and any unintended consequences of the ordinance.

The Board instructions were fully addressed in the January 22, 2008 Board Meeting presenting the staff report that explained the findings and recommended adoption of the voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program (Program).

At the January 22, 2008 Board Meeting

Your Board instructed:

1. The Chief Executive Officer to include in the 2007-08 State Legislative Agenda the sponsoring or pursuit of legislation to enact the following:

- a. Repeal the provision of Assembly Bill 2449 (Section 42254(b)(2) of the Public Resources Code) which prohibits any public agency, including local governments, from imposing a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores.
- b. Implement a Statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with the provision that funds raised would be directed to local governments on a per-capita basis for litter prevention and source reduction efforts; or, establish Statewide benchmarks to reduce the consumption of plastic carryout bags and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags.
- c. Amend the provision of Assembly Bill 2449 (Section 42252(a) of the Public Resources Code) to also require an environmental awareness message imprinted on each plastic carryout bag describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife, and the need to use reusable bags. Currently, Assembly Bill 2449 only requires plastic carryout bags to have the following words imprinted, 'please return to a participating store for recycling.'
- 2. The Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Working Group to develop an environmental awareness message to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed by large supermarkets and retail stores describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife, and the need to use reusable bags. This environmental awareness message would be a required feature under Alternative 5, Large Supermarket and Retail Store Responsibilities, Item 3.
- 3. County Counsel, with input from the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Working Group to explore the development of an ordinance mandating the environmental awareness message described above to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed by, at a minimum, large supermarkets and retail stores in the unincorporated County areas.
- 4. County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, Public Works, Internal Services, Public Health, and the Sanitation Districts, to complete a draft ordinance banning plastic carryout bags at large supermarkets and retail stores upon completion of any necessary environmental review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The first Board instruction regarding legislation was addressed by, among other actions, Item 64-C on the June 1, 2010, Board agenda, recommending support of AB 1998 (Brownley) — Single Use Carryout Bags. This Bill would have phased out the distribution of single use carryout bags in retail food stores. AB 1998 did not pass out of the Senate. In the past, the County sponsored or supported AB 2058 (2008, Brownley, Davis, Levine); AB 2829 (2008, Davis); AB 68 (2009, Brwnley); AB 87 (2009, Davis); and the CEO continues to seek similar legislation to support.

The second Board instruction regarding development of an environmental awareness message was addressed by the County Working Group, which developed several environmental messages. The County Working Group included representatives of the Board offices, the County Sanitation Districts, Cities, consumers, the plastic bag industry, grocery stores, environmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders. These messages were included in the Program Resource Packet distributed to large supermarkets and retail stores in the unincorporated areas of the County, and are currently displayed on the Program website, Brag About Your Bag<sup>®</sup> reusable bags, Program brochures, and other outreach materials distributed at community events and shared with partner cities.

The third Board instruction regarding the development of an ordinance mandating the environmental awareness message described above to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed was evaluated by the County Working Group. Since an ordinance banning plastic bags at stores would eliminate the ability for incorporating any environmental messaging, other mechanisms have been evaluated, such as voluntary store efforts, and additional public education and outreach.

The primary purpose of the proposed Ordinance is to address the fourth Board instruction, to prohibit the purchase and use of single use plastic carryout bags at large supermarkets and retail stores in unincorporated areas of the County.

#### Voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program

### **Store Operations**

After the voluntary Program was adopted by the Board in January 2008, Public Works staff generated an initial list of large supermarkets and pharmacies (the stores subject to AB 2449) from a variety of County and public resources, such as the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures through their Scanner Price Verification Program, the County online business license database, online search engines, field visits, as well as search results from a marketing company. A total of 67 "AB 2449 stores" were identified throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. Locations of operating stores were verified by maps and field visits. Phone calls were then made to stores to verify their operational status, explain the voluntary Program, and obtain baseline plastic carryout bag data. Documents were gathered and developed by Public Works staff to assist stores in participating in the voluntary Program. The documents were finalized by the County Working Group through e-mails and stakeholder meetings. Contact was also made to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (now the California Department of Resource Recovery and Recycling, CalRecycle) to obtain data from the State At-Store Plastic Bag Recycling Program reports.

The voluntary Program was officially launched on July 1, 2008. In August 2008, the Program Resource Packet, Store Participation Checklist, and cover letter jointly developed by the County and the California Grocers Association (CGA) were mailed out to identified AB 2449 stores. The stores had the option of returning the completed Store Participation Checklist by postal mail, fax, and electronic mail, or enter their responses on the online version of the checklist.

In late 2008, store site visits commenced. At the visits, store managers were given a Contact List, the California At-Store Recycling Program forms, and a copy of Assembly Bill No. 2449, chaptered in 2006. They were also provided, as needed, another copy of the documents initially mailed out. A Store Visit Form was filled out by County representatives performing the visit. They were responsible for obtaining basic store information (i.e. address, manager, contact information, etc.) and conducting a visual inspection of store policies and practices regarding carryout bags (i.e. location of reusable bags, price of reusable bags, contents of plastic bag recycling bin, etc.). Store visits also provided a way for County representatives to answer questions and share ideas to assist in the implementation of the Program at stores.

At some stores where paper bags were not made available and customers were encouraged to bag their own purchases, the plastic bag recycling bin was not readily available and often solely used by employees to dispose of bags that had fallen to the ground and left unused. Store representatives often expressed concerns that customers would mistake the recycling bins for trash receptacles. Paper trash was the most commonly noticed contaminant in the recycling bins. Since the State law regarding plastic carryout bags was enacted, 75 percent of the 67 "AB 2449 Stores" in the County unincorporated areas have provided designated bins for customers to place plastic bags for at-store recycling, 96 percent have made reusable bags available, and all have a recycling message on their single use plastic carryout bags.

91 percent of the "AB 2449 Stores" completed a checklist to indicate their status, however at any point in time only eight (8) stores were able to meet the minimum participation levels established in the Program Resource Packet. A summary of Store participation is included in Table 1. Following the store site visits, phone calls were made to store contacts to obtain plastic bag recycling data. In 2009, Public Works staff conducted additional store site visits with a consultant of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) to assist stores that were found without plastic bag recycling bins. Of the 67 identified "AB 2449 Stores", 12 did not have recycling bins for plastic bags and some placed their bins at inaccessible locations such as the back of the store.

TABLE 1:
Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program
STORE OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Store Information				Voluntary Program		Bag Data			
					Checklist	Meets Minimum	FY 07/08	2009	2009
Name	Address	Zip	Community	SD	Received	Participation	Consumption	Consumption	Recycling
99 Ranch Market #03	1015 S Nogales St	91748	Rowland Heights	1	х		Х	Х	Х
99 Ranch Market #18	1625 S Azusa Ave	91745	Hacienda Heights	4	х		Х	Х	Х
Acton Market	3638 Smith Ave	93510	Acton	5	х				
Albertsons #6301	23850 Copper Hill Dr	91355	Saugus	5	х	х	Х	Х	Х
Albertsons #6422	26850 The Old Road	91381	Stevenson Ranch	5	х		х	х	х
Albertsons #6537	19725 Colima Rd	91748	Rowland Heights	4	х		Х	Х	х
Albertsons #6580	17120 Colima Rd	91745	Hacienda Heights	4	x		Х	Х	х
Best Way Markets	19050 E La Puente Rd		Valinda	1	х				
Big Saver Foods #5	5829 Compton Ave	90001	Florence	2	х		Х	х	Х
Bodega R-Ranch Market #4	8601 Hooper Ave	90002	Florence	2					
Cost Saver Market	22905 S Vermont Ave	90502	West Carson	2					
Cost Saver Market #2	1141 W Carson St	90502	West Carson	2	х				
CVS #4065	858 N Sunset Ave	91744	Valinda	1	х	х	Х	х	Х
CVS #8898	7300 S Alameda St	90255	Walnut Park	1	х		Х	х	Х
CVS #9477	5399 W Centinela Ave	90045	Ladera Heights	2	х		Х	Х	Х
CVS #9507	650 E El Segundo Blvd	90059	Willowbrook	2	х		Х	Х	Х
CVS #9531	4501 W Slauson Ave	90043	View Park	2	х		Х	Х	Х
CVS #9688	451 S Sierra Madre Blvd	91107	East Pasadena	5	х	Х	Х	х	х
CVS #9696	10048 Mills Ave	90624	South Whittier	4	х		Х	Х	Х
CVS #9730	2141 S Hacienda Blvd		Hacienda Heights	4	х		Х	х	Х
Dominguez Food Warehouse	15107 S Atlantic Av	90221	East Rancho Dominguez	2					
El Super	1301 E Gage Ave	90001	Florence	2	х			Х	
El Super #4	3405 Cesar E Chavez Ave	90063	East Los Angeles	1	х		Х	Х	
Food 4 Less #334	11407 S Western Ave		West Athens	2	х				
Food 4 Less #368	851 W Sepulveda Blvd	90502	West Carson	2	х				
Food 4 Less #378	11840 Wilmington Ave	90059	Willowbrook	2	х				
Greenland Market	18901 Colima Rd	91748	Rowland Heights	1	х		Х		
Howie's Ranch Market	6580 N San Gabriel Blvd	91775	East San Gabriel	5	х				
Hows Market	3035 Huntington Dr	91107	East Pasadena	5	х		Х	х	х
Payless Foods #10	620 E El Segundo Blvd	90059	Willowbrook	2	х				
Ralphs #001	2675 Foothill Blvd	91214	La Crescenta	5	х	X		х	
Ralphs #084	29675 The Old Rd	91384	Castaic	5	х	X		Х	
Ralphs #143	31970 Castaic Rd	91384	Castaic	5	х	Х		х	
Ralphs #185	5245 W Centinela Ave	90045	Ladera Heights (partial)	2	х			Х	
Ralphs #279	4700 Admiralty Way	90292	Marina del Rey	4	х			Х	
Ralphs #626	520 Workman Mill Rd	91746	Valinda	1	х			Х	
Ralphs #630	2270 N Lake Ave	91001	Altadena	5	х			х	
Ralphs #757	24975 Pico Canyon Rd	91381	Stevenson Ranch	5	х			Х	
Rite Aid #5423	1534 E Florence Ave	90001	Florence	2	х		Х	х	X
Rite Aid #5455	11750 Wilmington Ave		Willowbrook	2	х		Х	х	х
Rite Aid #5492	1237 W Carson St		West Carson	2	х		Х	х	х
Rite Aid #5526	735 E Altadena Dr	The same of the sa	Altadena	5	x		х	х	х

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Store Information					Voluntary Program		Bag Data		
					Checklist	Meets Minimum	FY 07/08	2009	2009
Name	Address	Zip	Community	SD	Received	Participation	Consumption	Consumption	Recycling
Rite Aid #5538	2647 Foothill Blvd		La Crescenta	5	х	,	Х	Х	Х
Rite Aid #5562	31910 Castaic Rd	91384	Castaic	5	х		Х	Х	х
Rite Aid #5591	18993 Colima Rd	91748	Rowland Heights	1	х		Х	Х	Х
Rite Aid #5592	2060 S Hacienda Blvd	91745	Hacienda Heights	4	х		Х	Х	х
SF Supermarket	18475 Colima Rd	91748	Rowland Heights	1	х			Х	
Smart & Final #341	1125 E El Segundo Blvd	90059	Willowbrook	2					
Smart & Final #348	21600 S Vermont Ave	90502	West Carson	2	х				
Stater Brothers #15	14212 Mulberry Dr	90604	South Whittier	4	х		Х	Х	х
Stater Brothers #67	19756 Colima Rd	91748	Rowland Heights	4	х		Х	Х	х
Super King Market #3	2260 N Lincoln Ave	91001	Altadena	5	х	х		Х	х
Superior Grocers #102	7316 Compton Ave	90001	Florence	2	х		Х	Х	х
Superior Grocers #113	3600 Cesar E Chavez	90063	East Los Angeles	1	х		Х	Х	х
T.S. Emporium	1457 S Nogales St	91748	Rowland Heights	1	х				
Top Valu Market #03	10819 S Hawthorne Blvd	90304	Lennox	2	х		Х	Х	х
Top Valu Market #14	4831 Whittier Blvd	90022	East Los Angeles	1	х		Х	Х	Х
Top Valu Market #18	970 W 1st St	90731	La Rambla	4	х		Х	Х	х
Trader Joe's #32	7260 S Rosemead Blvd	91775	East San Gabriel	5					
Valu Plus #39	15055 Mulberry Dr	90604	South Whittier	4	х			Х	Х
Vons #2030	25850 The Old Road	91355	Stevenson Ranch	5	х	х			
Vons #3086	2122 S Hacienda Blvd	91745	Hacienda Heights	4	х				
Walgreens #6125	6325 S Rosemead Blvd		East San Gabriel	5	х				
Walgreens #7529	27983 Sloan Canyon Rd	91384	Castaic	5	х				
Walgreens #7556	28460 Haskell Canyon Rd	91390	Saugus	5	х				
Walgreens #9468	13331 Telegraph Rd	90605	South Whittier	1					
Wal-Mart #2297	25450 The Old Road	91381	Stevenson Ranch	5	х				

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

#### Brag About Your Bag® Campaign

On November 10, 2009, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to launch the first Countywide Brag About Your Bag<sup>®</sup> Campaign, which began on "America Recycles Day" (November 15) and concluded with "A Day Without a Bag" on December 17. Bags were provided to residents at public outreach events, including events held at the Los Angeles County Fair.

The campaign was designed to reach at least 50,000 residents both in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County by conducting a four-week partnership with various entities including grocery stores, EarthShare of California, Heal the Bay, and Public Works, in order to distribute reusable bags to residents at no cost, and reduce the amount of plastic bags that enter the litter stream. In exchange for the bags received, residents were asked to bring in five used clean plastic bags. The collected plastic bags would then be used to make the world's largest plastic bag ball, in order to draw visual attention to the immense problem of plastic bag consumption within the County.

On September 24, 2009, a letter and form were sent to each city recycling coordinator to gauge interest in participating in the campaign. Follow-up calls were placed to all 88 cities, which resulted in 55 cities participating. Furthermore, nine cities in the County provided a proclamation to join in the campaign launch.

The success of the campaign owes itself to the organizations and individuals in which the County partnered. Luke Walton, who is a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, was the official spokesperson for the campaign and lent his voice to radio commercials on 710 ESPN as well as his image that appeared on posters and other promotional materials. Other campaign partners included Heal the Bay, EarthShare of California, One Bag at a Time, Earthwise Bags, 710 ESPN, 101.9 LA Nueva, and 107.5 KLOVE. Public Works staff contacted various companies to become a partner in sponsoring the campaign. At any of the three sponsorship levels, sponsors would get their logo on the reusable bags. Companies provided cash donations, reusable bags, and items to use for contests, which greatly reduced the cost of the campaign to the County.

Public Works worked with various markets throughout the region to host campaign events. Primarily, the market partners consisted of Albertson's, Buy Low, Food 4 Less, How's, Ralphs, and Valu Plus. Due to the difficulty of working with certain local proprietors, other locations, including city halls, were secured for the event dates. Other market locations included Jax, Northgate, Stater Bros., Wal-Mart, Whole Foods, and Wolfe's. In order to provide flexibility for city participants, and to distribute bags outside of limited dates provided originally, Public Works distributed bags at nine (9) other events.

Public Works used a variety of outlets to promote the campaign. Press releases were sent to local cities to be tailored for their specific campaign events and sent to their local press and/or placed on their city websites. Articles written about the campaign also

appeared in five (5) different County newsletters and in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. The County purchased radio spots that were played during the month-long campaign funded by a State grant. Campaign posters were distributed to local cities, which provided a degree of flexibility by allowing cities to write in their event locations and dates.

Approximately 60,000 bags were distributed at local events within the County. For the majority of events, Public Works handed out between 600 and 1,000 bags per market event. Aside from these events, local city hall events received between 200-300 bags and a Wal-Mart event in Rosemead passed out approximately 2,000 bags. Cities, as well as non-profits including LA Works, Heal the Bay, and EarthShare of California helped to assist in the distribution of reusable bags at local supermarkets. Local governments also donated approximately 1,000 bags which were handed out during their city's Brag About Your Bag® event.

Public Works worked with 710ESPN radio to host a special one-day distribution event at the UCLA vs. USC football game that took place on Saturday, November 28, 2009 at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Public Works distributed approximately 7,500 customized Brag About Your Bag<sup>®</sup> reusable bags. Both USC and UCLA agreed to allow Public Works to use their logo for this one-time event.

As an added incentive to bring in five (5) single use plastic bags in exchange for a reusable bag, residents were also given an opportunity to win two prizes: lunch with Luke Walton (18 and under) and a trip for two to Miami. The winners for the events were announced at the concluding press conference on December 17, 2009.

The collected plastic bags were gathered together to construct a ball structure made exclusively from single use plastic bags. The feat was completed with help of individual volunteers and members of CalWorks, the Sierra Club, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Conservation Corp., La Causa, and Public Works. The ball was completed on December 30, 2009, and has been certified with the Guinness World Record for the Largest Plastic Bag Sculpture using 36,700 bags.

#### **Data Collection Efforts for Disposal Rate Reduction Measurement**

## **CalRecycle Data Collection**

In an effort to establish baseline consumption data for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08, Public Works attempted to work with CalRecycle over a two year period since supermarkets and large retail stores with a pharmacy are required by State law to submit plastic bag consumption and recycling data to CalRecycle. Although CalRecycle provided recycling data for calendar years 2007 and 2008, this data does not enable us to calculate accurate baseline consumption figures because:

• Data is aggregated Statewide making it virtually impossible to identify the proportion attributable to the County's unincorporated areas.

- Most data received from CalRecycle are aggregated by store chain due to the corporate reporting procedure of most companies even though State law requires stores to maintain store-specific data.
- Plastic film is commingled with plastic bags by stores for recycling and CalRecycle has not been able to develop an accurate ratio by which to estimate the percentage of plastic bags contained in the commingled plastic film.

#### **Public Works Data Collection**

Due to the above cited limitations from CalRecycle, Public Works attempted to work directly through the 67 unincorporated area stores to obtain the necessary data. Public Works experienced significant challenges and delays in collecting this data despite sending letters, repeatedly calling store managers, and meeting directly with store personnel. As indicated in Table 1, Public Works has collected limited purchasing and/or recycling data from 45 out of the 67 stores located in the County unincorporated areas. A total of 31 stores have provided data for all years, however, this recycling data is for commingled plastic film with no method identified for adjusting the stated amounts to account only for plastic bags. Therefore, this data collection methodology has not enabled us to obtain data to determine if the first voluntary Program benchmark has been achieved.

#### **American Chemistry Council Proposed Data Collection**

At the request of the ACC, the Working Group had agreed to include plastic bags that are recycled through curbside recycling programs in the benchmark calculation. The ACC submitted a report of plastic bags recycled from material recovery facilities (MRFs) that collect plastic film and bags from curbside programs, covering calendar years 2007-09. Public Works has determined that this report cannot be used in its current form because it contains incomplete information and data that is difficult to segregate and/or verify. Public Works has requested the following important follow-up information from the ACC for verification:

- Documented records of percentage of plastic bags present in the soft plastic recycling stream, which may include plastic bags, plastic film, or other plastic products and materials.
- Documented records of amount of soft plastic specifically originating from County unincorporated areas.
- Quantity of soft plastic originating from curbside programs, segregated from materials originating from commercial sources (which likely include store-collected materials already accounted for in data provided by CalRecycle and/or individual stores).
- Amount of soft plastic recycled or recovered from the total amount processed by the facility (the remainder would be contaminated materials sent for disposal).

Public Works has been unable to verify this information either through ACC or directly through the MRFs that provided the data originally. In many cases, it appears that the MRFs did not track this information or for proprietary reasons are unwilling to share it publicly. In order to develop a methodology to include curbside recycling in the calculation of the benchmark, the above issues must be addressed to ensure that only plastic bags are counted; bags counted as recycled are actually being recycled; and the same bags are not counted at multiple stages of the recycling process. The estimated plastic bag recycling figures may be substantially inflated without such verification. Additionally, absent these critical factors, estimates could only be extrapolated, with questionable accuracy, based on limited data currently available.

#### **Program Evaluation**

On January 28, 2008, your Board adopted benchmarks to establish numerical standards by which to evaluate the effectiveness of stores in reducing single use plastic bags as a component of the voluntary Program. The first Board-established voluntary benchmark, using total consumption during FY 2007-08 as the baseline, is 30 percent disposal reduction by July 1, 2010.

Public Works initially planned to address the benchmark utilizing data from CalRecycle, however, as discussed below, when the data was not available for the unincorporated areas, the Department attempted to directly collect the data from the unincorporated area stores. This methodology resulted in a limited response from stores, as discussed above.

Over a two-year period and despite State law, stores in the unincorporated areas have not provided data that would enable staff to determine if the voluntary Program benchmark of 30 percent disposal reduction of plastic bags by July 1, 2010 has been met. The public education and outreach aspects of the voluntary Program, including the enormously successful Brag About Your Bag Campaign®, were effective in raising awareness of the environmental impacts of single use bags and the benefits of reusable bags. However, this awareness did not translate into a shift in consumer behavior that was significant enough to address the major objectives of the County, including the primary objective of significantly reducing the use of single use bags, and the corresponding litter and disposal of those bags.

The final measure of the effectiveness of the Program was the participation of stores in the voluntary Program. Despite site visits, phone calls, faxes, and letters from County staff, less than 12 percent of the 67 large supermarkets and pharmacies in the County unincorporated areas met the minimum participation levels identified in the Resource Packet distributed to each store in August 2008. As a result, in August 2010, a recommendation was presented to the Program Working Group to:

- Discontinue the County's labor-intensive outreach to stores to collect data.
- 2. Finalize the EIR and ordinance to ban plastic bags for adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

3. Continue to support AB 1998 that seeks to ban single use bags Statewide.

The overall assessment of the Voluntary Program was that it was not successful in achieving the County's objectives.

#### **Reusable Bag Standard**

Under current State law (California Public Resources Code, Chapter 5.1), plastic carryout bags are considered reusable if they meet certain requirements, including being at least 2.25 mils thick. It does not specify a standard for durability of reusable bags, leading to a standard that may lead to a proliferation of slightly thicker bags that are essentially utilized by the public as single-use bags. Although there are no current Federal and local laws regulating reusable bags, the County has gathered and analyzed relevant current and proposed reusable bag standards and guidelines worldwide, including the Green Seal standard, Korean Industrial Standards, and Canada's Environmental Choice Program, to establish a performance-based standard for reusable bags that is designed to ensure multiple uses of these bags. The following minimum reusable bag performance standards are recommended:

- Bags must have a minimum volume of 15 liters.<sup>2</sup>
- Bags must have a minimum load capacity of 22 pounds under wet conditions<sup>3</sup>.
- Bags must have a minimum lifetime of 125 uses<sup>4</sup>.

Figure 1 shows a sample bid specifications for ordering reusable bags developed by Public Works.

<sup>1</sup> http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/cacode/PRC/1/d30/3/5.1/s42250

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Choice Program CCD-100 (Reusable Utility Bags) See: <a href="http://www.terrachoice-certified.com/common/assets/criterias/CCD-100">http://www.terrachoice-certified.com/common/assets/criterias/CCD-100</a> ndf

certified.com/common/assets/criterias/CCD-100.pdf

3 Green Seal<sup>TM</sup> Environmental Standard for Reusable Bags (GS-16) See:
http://www.greenseal.org/certification/standards/reusable\_utility\_bags\_gs-16.pdf

4 As tested by Environmental Choice Program Acceptance Test Procedure ATP001

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# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE ALHMABRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331

SPECIFICATION #: REQUISITION #:	QUOTATION #:						
MAKE:	MODEL:						
	BID PREPARED BY:						
ADDRESS:							
	BID EXPIRATION DATE:						
SPECIFICATION WRITTEN BY: (Name)	APPROVED: (Name)						
NOTICE: Bidder shall complete the right-hand column, indic when not exactly as specified. State "As Specified RETURN THIS BID TO: (Name) Environmental Programs Division (Date)	cating specific size and/or make and model of all components of if item is exactly as shown in left column.  PHONE #: (Phone) FAX #: (Fax) TIME: (Time)						
JOB DESCRIPTION: Provide domestically manufactured reusable bags with handles  QUANTITY: 5,000	<ul> <li>Minimum load capacity of 22 pounds under wet conditions</li> <li>Minimum lifetime of 300 uses</li> <li>Federal Hazardous Substances Act</li> <li>Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act,</li> </ul>						
DESCRIPTION: Made from 80-100% cotton canvas	section 101  Code of Federal Regulations, Title 16, Part 1303						
DIMENSIONS: 17"x14" x 4"; 24" (handles)  COLOR: Natural with Black trim and handles	California Toxic Toy Bill (AB 1108)     Label must list Fiber content & Country of origin  Vendor may disclose certificates of compliance and test						
IMPRINT COLOR: 1-color/2 sides Black trim – Black ink  IMPRINT AREA: 10" x 10"	reports (by an accredited testing laboratory) at the tile of proofing/draft review by the County to prove the dye/ink of the bags also do not:  Rub off when dry or wet  Fade through machine washing, perspiration						
ARTWORK: Customer will provide artwork for customized imprint. File will be prepared in PC Illustrator, EPS format. Smeared/blurry logos will not be accepted.	and light exposure  NOTE: If you are unable to bid on this job, please write "No Bid" and re-fax these specs to the number above.						
QUALITY: Vendor is responsible for superior quality.  Vendor is required to disclose any certificates of compliance and test reports (by an accredited testing laboratory) at the time of proofing/draft review by the County, and all fees associated with testing and producing reports to the County shall be incorporated into the bid quote. The bags shall be required to comply with the following:	Job Quote: \$  Tax: \$  Shipping & Handling \$  TOTAL: \$  PROOF REQUESTED: Vendor to submit proof within 2 weeks of being notified of winning this job. Proof must be						

(email address)

#### **Enclosure III**

County of Los Angeles Reusable Bags Page 2 of 2

DELIVERY DATE: Must be in warehouse NO LATER than (Date).

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONTACTS:

(FOR PROOFING) (Name) (Phone)

Los Angeles County contacts may be reached Monday thru Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE RETURN ANY NEGATIVES, ARTWORK, ORIGINAL DISC AND COPIES TO:

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CA 91803
ATTN: (Name)
ANNEX 2nd FLOOR

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

BIDS MUST INCLUDE AN EXPIRATION DATE SPECIFYING THE TIME FRAME FOR WHICH THE GIVEN PRICES ARE VALID.

INVOICE WILL NOT BE PAID UNTIL ALL MERCHANDISE, COPIES, NEGATIVES, AND ARTWORK HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS.