

City Council Makes Plastic Bag Ban Official

However, the ban will go into effect much later than the originally planned date of April 25.

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At Monday night's City Council meeting, Redwood City's reusable bag ordinance was unanimously approved.

This was the "second reading" of the ordinance, and followed the introduction of the ordinance, which took place at the meeting on March 11.

The ordinance bans distribution of single-use carryout plastic bags by all retailers except restaurants and nonprofit organizations, and does not include protective bags used for produce or meat, dry-cleaning, and newspapers, among other exemptions.

As is common, the ordinance also requires retailers to charge a minimum of 10 cents per paper bag for shoppers who require a bag - and could go up to as much as 25¢ per bag in 2015.

According to a statement the City of Redwood City sent out Tuesday, enforcement of the ordinance will be complaint-based, and will be conducted by San Mateo County.

More details are available on the City's [reusable bag ordinance information page](#).

While technically the ordinance becomes effective 30 days from approval, the City amended that recently, and decided to make the actual implementation and enforcement effective on Oct. 1, 2013.

"This is to provide an ample transition period for affected retailers, and to use up existing stock of the single-use carryout plastic bags that will no longer be distributed as of October 1," the City's statement read.