

Ojai gives final approval to ban on plastic shopping bags

By From staff reports

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Ojai has become the first city in Ventura County to adopt a ban on single-use plastic bags in grocery stores and other retailers and levy a 10-cent surcharge on paper bags.

The Ojai City Council unanimously gave the ordinance final approval Tuesday night.

The ordinance, widely supported by such groups as Surfrider and the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, was introduced Feb. 28, and the council last month made extensive revisions. The ordinance was reintroduced for a first approval March 27.

The plastic bag ban will take effect July 1. It applies to all "retail establishments," including grocery, department, hardware, convenience, pharmacy and liquor stores. It will include the Ojai farmers market but not restaurants.

The 10-cent fee charged to people wanting a paper bag will be retained by the retail establishments and is designed to encourage shoppers to switch to reusable bags.



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