

## Midtown Neighborhood Association

*Creating a strong community and a clean, safe and thriving neighborhood through partnerships*

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March 2, 2016

### VIA EMAIL

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street, Suite 1450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Sacramento County Single-Use Bag Ban Ordinance - SUPPORT

Dear Supervisors,

The Midtown Neighborhood Association urges your support for the single-use bag ordinance scheduled for discussion on Tuesday March 8, 2016.

As you know, in 2014 the California Legislature successfully passed a statewide ban on plastic bags (SB 270) that has been suspended by a \$3 million industry-funded referendum put forth by out-of-state plastic bag manufacturers. Municipalities, who are primarily responsible for the cleanup and cost of plastic litter, can take action now to reduce litter and waste and stop paying these out-of-state polluters. The phase-out of single-use bags is a proven solution for combating waste and plastic bag litter costs.

Single use bag ordinances are effective in reducing flood potential, environmental blight and cleanup costs associated with plastic shopping bags, as evidenced by data from multiple jurisdictions, most recently Los Angeles County and San Jose. One year after implementing a local ban, San Jose reported an 89 percent reduction in plastic bag litter in storm drains, a 59 percent reduction in city streets and neighborhoods, and a 60 percent reduction in creeks and rivers. In addition to eliminating the primary source of single-use plastic shopping bags, LA County found that the plastic bag ban, when paired with a 10 cent charge on paper bags, capped paper bags at 90 percent of "pre-law" levels.

Polling has shown that this policy is popular with the public. It has also shown that support for banning plastic bags is even higher in communities that have already eliminated them. This will be hugely helpful in November when voters will decide SB270's fate.

Plastic pollution is a global problem with local solutions. We commend the County's leadership and urge you to adopt the single-use bag ordinance.

Sincerely,

Angela Tillotson, Interim Co-chair

Danny Yost, Interim Co-chair