

# CITY OF PALM DESERT

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### STAFF REPORT

REQUEST: ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY CHAPTER 5.12 OF THE PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE, SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT PLASTIC BAGS

SUBMITTED BY: Tony Bagato, Principal Planner

DATE: June 26, 2014

CONTENTS: Ordinance No. 1273  
Citizens' Sustainability Committee Draft Minutes, May 12, 2014  
Plastic Bag Educational Flyer

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#### **Recommendation**

By Minute Motion, waive further reading and pass Ordinance No. 1273 to second reading, approving an ordinance amending Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 5.12

#### **Discussion**

On May 8, 2014, the City Council approved an ordinance establishing regulations for single-use carryout plastic bags, and directed staff to consider modifying the ordinance to remove the 10 cent paper bag charge at non-grocery retail establishments.

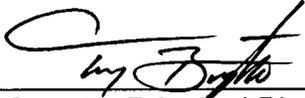
On May 12, 2014, staff discussed the issue with the Citizens' Sustainability Committee. Committee Member Freed stated that the 10 cent charge per paper bag was initiated by the grocery stores, not the Sustainability Committee. He also stated that it makes sense to charge the 10 cents at grocery stores; not at non-grocery retail stores.

Based on staff's research and the comments of the Citizens' Sustainability Committee, the new ordinance has been modified to remove the 10 cent paper bag cost from non-grocery retail stores. To address the modification, the previous ordinance was reorganized and several definitions were modified. In addition to these changes, staff has removed the recordkeeping requirement that was subject to City review for compliance.

The new ordinance will continue to reduce the number of single-use carryout plastic bags used in the City of Palm Desert, which was the intent of the Citizens' Sustainability Committee. Staff will continue to provide educational information to the public and business community before the ordinance takes effect in April 1, 2015 for larger

businesses, and October 1, 2015 for smaller businesses. A sample educational flyer that staff has prepared is attached to this report.

Submitted By:



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Tony Bagato, Principal Planner

Department Head:



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Lauri Aylaian, Director of Community Development

Approval:



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John M. Wohlmut, City Manager

**ORDINANCE NO. 1273**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA,  
AMENDING CHAPTER 5.12 OF THE PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL  
CODE, SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT PLASTIC BAGS**

**WHEREAS**, about nineteen billion (19,000,000,000) single-use bags are used annually in California but less than 5% are recycled; and

**WHEREAS**, about twenty-two million (22,000,000) single-use carryout plastic bags are distributed by retail establishments in the City each year; and

**WHEREAS**, most of these single-use carryout bags are made from plastic or other material that does not readily decompose; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies have documented the prevalence of single-use carryout plastic bags littering the environment and blocking storm drains; in the Coachella Valley, single use plastic bags create a litter problem which is aggravated by windy conditions here; and

**WHEREAS**, the City taxpayers must bear the brunt of clean up costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Palm Desert is the decision-making body for the approval and adoption of this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been 76 ordinances that apply to over 100 jurisdictions in California that restrict or prohibit the use of Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bags; and

**WHEREAS**, there are several alternatives to Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bags readily available in the City, including reusable bags produced from sustainable materials; and

**WHEREAS**, an important goal of the City's Sustainability Plan is to procure and use sustainable products and services; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTION OF THE PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE IS HEREBY AMENDED, AS SHOWN IN EXHIBIT A:**

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 5.12 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as shown in Exhibit A, attached:

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall become effective on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The ordinance provides a 6 month to 12 month operative date for compliance after the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 effective date.

**SECTION 4.** That the City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, California, is hereby directed to provide at City Hall and to publish a notice of this ordinance

**ORDINANCE NO. 1273**

with the attached Exhibit A in the Desert Sun, a newspaper of general circulation, published and circulated in the City of Palm Desert, California.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, at its regular meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
VAN G. TANNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
RACHELLE D. KLASSEN, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

EXHIBIT A

CHAPTER 5.12  
SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT PLASTIC BAGS

SECTIONS: 5.12

5.12.010	Findings and Purpose
5.12.020	Definitions
5.12.030	Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bags Prohibited
5.12.040	Permitted Bags
5.12.050	Carryout Bag Regulations
5.12.060	Exempt Customers
5.12.070	Operative Date
5.12.080	Penalties and Enforcement
5.12.090	Severability

**5.12.010 Findings and Purpose**

- A. The City Council of the City of Palm Desert finds and determines that the City is committed to protecting the public health, safety, welfare, and environment, and that in order to meet these goals, it is necessary for the City to promote the public purposes served by this Chapter and adopt the following regulations pursuant to these findings.
- B. The City finds that ordinances limiting the use of Single-use Carryout Plastic Bags have been proven to reduce the amount of pollution and improve quality of life for the citizens of Palm Desert.
- C. The City finds that, except in unusual circumstances, it is feasible and reasonable for parties who provide Single-use Carryout Plastic Bags to easily transition to paper bags and move to a model that charges for paper bag use by consumers.
- D. The City of Palm Desert recognizes that plastic bags are a public nuisance and affect public health and impact tourism and quality of life to both residents and visitors in Palm Desert.

**5.12.020 Definitions**

- A. "Customer" means any Person obtaining goods from a Store.
- B. "Food Bank" means is a non-profit, charitable organization that distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough food to avoid hunger.
- C. "Grocery Store" means any retail establishment that sells groceries, fresh, packaged, canned, dry, prepared or frozen food or beverage products and similar items, and

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includes, without limitation, full-line grocery, supermarkets, supercenter retail, convenience stores, liquor stores and gas stations.

- D. "Nonprofit Charitable Reuser" means a charitable organization, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or a distinct operating unit or division of the charitable organization, that reuses and recycles donated goods or materials and receives more than fifty percent (50%) of its revenues from the handling and sale of those donated goods or materials.
- D. "Operator" means the person in control of, or having the responsibility for, the operation of a Store, which may include, but not be limited to, the owner of the Store.
- E. "Paper Bag Cost Pass-Through" means the cost which must be collected by retailers from their customers when providing a Paper Bag.
- F. "Person" means any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other organization or group however organized.
- G. "Pharmacy" means any retail store, where prescriptions, medications, controlled or over the counter drugs, personal care products or health supplement goods or vitamins are sold, but excluding any licensed pharmacy located within a hospital.
- H. "Prepared Food" means foods or beverages which are prepared on the premises by cooking, chopping, slicing, mixing, freezing, or squeezing, and which require no further preparation to be consumed. Prepared Food does not include any raw, uncooked meat product or fruits or vegetables which are chopped, squeezed, or mixed.
- I. "Produce bag" or "product bag" means any bag without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats, or other food items to the point of sale inside a store or to prevent such food items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items.
- J. "Public Eating Establishments" means a restaurant, take-out food establishment, or any other business that receives ninety percent (90%) or more of its revenue from the sale of Prepared Food to be eaten on or off its premises.
- K. "Retail Establishment" means any person, including any corporation, partnership, business, facility, vendor, organization or individual that sells or provides merchandise, goods or materials, including without limitation, clothing, food or personal items of any kind directly to a customer. Retail establishment includes, without limitation, grocery stores, department stores, hardware stores, pharmacy, convenience and liquor stores, and any other retail store or vendor.
- L. "Paper Bag" means a paper bag provided at the check stand, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment.
- M. "Reusable Bag" means either a bag made of cloth or other machine washable fabric that has a handle, or a durable plastic bag with handles that is at least 2.25 mils thick

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and is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse. A reusable bag must not contain lead, cadmium, or any other heavy metal in toxic amounts, as defined by applicable State and Federal standards and regulations for packaging or reusable bags.

- N. "Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bag" means any bag that is less than 2.25 mils thick and is made predominately of plastic derived from petroleum or from bio-based sources, such as corn or other plant sources.

**5.12.030 Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bags Prohibited**

- A. No retail establishment in the City shall provide a single-use carryout plastic bag to a customer unless permitted pursuant to Section 5.12.060.
- B. No grocery store in the City shall provide any type of single-use carryout plastic bag to a customer at the point of sale except a reusable bag or paper bag unless otherwise permitted pursuant to Section 5.12.060.
- C. No person shall distribute a single-use carryout plastic bag at any City facility, City-managed concession, City-sponsored event or City-permitted event unless otherwise permitted pursuant to Section 5.12.060.

**5.12.040 Permitted Carryout Bags**

All grocery stores and retail establishments shall only provide, or make available to, a customer Reusable Bag or a Paper Bag for the purpose of carrying away goods or other materials from the point of sale, subject to the terms of this Chapter. Nothing in this Chapter prohibits customers from using bags of any type that they bring to the retail establishment or grocery store themselves or from carrying away goods that are not placed in a bag.

**5.12.050 Carryout Bag Regulations**

- A. Subject to subsection (B) of this Section, a grocery store, may only provide a paper bag to customers if it collects a paper bag cost-through from the customer for each paper bag provided.
- B. The paper bag cost pass-through shall be ten cents (\$0.10).
- C. No grocery store collecting a paper bag cost pass-through pursuant to this Section shall rebate or otherwise reimburse a customer for any portion of this paper bag cost pass-through.
- D. All grocery stores shall indicate on the customer transaction receipts the number of paper bags provided and the total amount of the paper bag cost pass-through.

**5.12.060 Exemptions**

- A. Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in Section 5.12.030:

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1. Single-use plastic carryout bags or single-use carryout paper bags may be distributed without charge by restaurants for the transportation of food or beverages that are provided to customers for consumption on premises, for take-out or delivery.
  2. Prescription paper may be distributed without charge by a pharmacy for the transportation of prescription medicine.
  3. Grocery stores and retail establishments may distribute produce bags or product bags without charge.
  4. A paper bag may be distributed without charge by a retail establishment that does not distribute any grocery items, including but not limited to, fresh, packaged, canned, dry, prepared or frozen food or beverage products and similar items.
- B. A grocery store or retail establishment may provide a Customer participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 123275) of Chapter 1 of Section 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code; and a Customer participating in the Supplemental Food Program pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 15500) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code, with one (1) or more Paper Bags or Reusable Bags at no cost.

**5.12.070      Operative Date**

- A. This Chapter shall become operative six (6) months after its effective date for any grocery store or retail establishment that meets the following standards:
1. A full-line, grocery store or retail establishment with gross annual sales of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), or more; or
  2. A grocery store or retail establishment of at least 10,000 square feet of retail space that sells any perishable or non-perishable goods including, but not limited to clothing, food, or personal items, and generates sales or use tax pursuant to Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law (Part 1.5, commencing with Section 7200, of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code).
- B. This Chapter shall become operative twelve (12) months after its effective date for any grocery store or retail establishment that meets the following standards:
1. A drugstore, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity engaged in the retail sale of limited line of goods that included milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, including those stores with a Type 20 or 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; or

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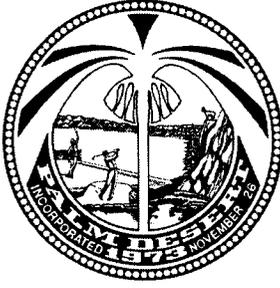
2. A grocery store or retail establishment less than 10,000 square feet of retail space that sells any perishable or non-perishable goods including, but not limited to clothing, food, or personal items, and generates sales or use tax pursuant to Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law (Part 1.5, commencing with Section 7200, of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code).

**5.12.080 Penalties and Enforcement**

- A. The City Manager, or his/her designee, has primary responsibility for enforcement of this Chapter. The City Manager, or his/her designee, is authorized to promulgate regulations and take any and all other actions reasonable and necessary to enforce this Chapter.
- C. Any Store that violates or fails to comply with any of the requirements of this Chapter can be issued a citation.
- D. Fines shall be established and set forth by resolution of the City Council. Established fines may be modified as appropriate by City resolution.
- E. Remedies under this Chapter are in addition to and do not supersede or limit any and all other remedies, civil or criminal. The remedies provided for herein shall be cumulative and not exclusive.

**5.12.090 Severability**

The City Council declares that, should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Ordinance be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this Ordinance as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.



## CITY OF PALM DESERT

### CITIZENS' SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

#### PRELIMINARY MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014 – 2:00 P.M.  
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
73-510 FRED WARING DRIVE, PALM DESERT, CA 92260

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Leo called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

##### Present:

Member Tom Edwards at 2:08 p.m.  
Member Eric Corey Freed at 2:08 p.m.  
Member Dean Gatons  
Member Gregory Gritters at 2:23 p.m.  
Member Dennis Guinaw  
Member Bruce Kassler  
Member Courtney Lingle  
Member Susan Rosenberg  
Member Luke Taylor  
Chair Robert Leo

##### Absent:

Member David Koller  
Member David Mourhess  
Member Ralph Raya

##### Also Present:

Van Tanner, Council Member  
Susan Marie Weber, Council Member at 2:10 p.m.  
John Wohlmuth, City Manager  
Lauri Aylaian, Director of Community Development at 2:07 p.m.  
Mark Greenwood, Director of Public Works  
Tony Bagato, Principal Planner  
Ruth Ann Moore, Economic Development Manager  
Lisa Ream, Recycling Technician  
Monica O'Reilly, Recording Secretary  
Michelle Dan, Youth Committee Member  
Jessica Kozlak, Youth Committee Member  
Cassidy Quilling, Youth Committee Member

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Cassidy Quilling, Youth Committee member, communicated that she will be attending Cal Poly in the fall. She said that two other Youth Committee members will attend the Citizens' Sustainability meetings.

Ms. Michelle Dan and Ms. Jessica Kozlak, Youth Committee members, introduced themselves to the Sustainability Committee.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. MINUTES of the Citizens' Sustainability Committee meeting of February 10, 2014.

Rec: Approve as presented.

At the beginning of the meeting there was not a quorum to approve the minutes; therefore, Chair Leo moved to New Business.

At 2:55 p.m., Chair Leo returned to the Consent Calendar for approval of the minutes.

Upon a motion by Member Gatons, second by Member Taylor, and a 8-0-3-2 vote of the Citizens' Sustainability Committee (AYES: Edwards, Freed, Gatons, Gritters, Kassler, Leo, Rosenberg, and Taylor; NOES: None; ABSENT: Koller, Mourhess, and Raya; ABSTAIN: Guinaw and Lingle), the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**V. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER**

None

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. SELECTION of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Member Guinaw moved, by Minute Motion, to nominate Chair Leo for another year as Chairperson; and Member Rosenberg volunteered to serve as Vice Chairperson. Motions were seconded by Member Gatons and carried by a 9-0-4 vote (AYES: Edwards, Freed, Gatons, Guinaw, Kassler, Leo, Lingle, Rosenberg, and Taylor; NOES: None; ABSENT: Gritters, Koller, Mourhess, and Raya)

B. WATER CONSERVATION (Tony Bagato, Principal Planner)

Mr. Tony Bagato, Principal Planner, stated that he emailed the City's water efficient and landscape ordinances to the Sustainability Committee. He said that he does not want to change the water efficient ordinance. However, he is looking

at changing the landscape ordinance for commercial, industrial, and residential. He asked the Sustainability Committee if they had any comments.

Member Bruce Kassler commented that the ordinances currently in place are good; however, there does not seem to be any policing once the landscape and irrigation is constructed according to the approved landscape plans. For example, a gardener will turn on the irrigation controller for an hour a day, four times a day instead of five or ten minutes a day, two times a day. He said he understands that the City is not able to check every water meter, but can there be a program where there is some policing being done.

Member Luke Taylor said that the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is policing water use with the tier rate structure. He mentioned that he does inspections for the County of Riverside. He said that after landscape is completed on county projects, they hold a bond for a year. After a year, he performs another inspection to make sure everything is working properly, and check that the plant material was not replaced with high water use plant material.

Ms. Lauri Aylaian, Director of Community Development, asked Member Taylor if bonds are held on private projects or public projects.

Member Taylor responded that bonds are held for public projects.

Member Eric Corey Freed mentioned that the City of Paso Robles created a water offset program during a water state of emergency. He explained that a certain amount of water is allocated to the customer. If the customer used less than the allocated amount, they could give the offset amount to other people. If the customer used more than the allocated amount, they had to pay for the water.

Mr. Bagato stated that CVWD oversees water, and it would be CVWD's responsibility to declare a water state of emergency.

Member Freed asked how much power the City has since there is a water district.

Mr. John Wohlmuth, City Manager, responded that the City of Palm Desert historically has designed public areas with drought tolerant landscape. He noted that this was to demonstrate that drought tolerant landscape can look good and be a theme in the City. He agreed that CVWD's tier rate structure is the best way to enforce water conservation. He mentioned that CVWD has an offer for residents to have irrigation clocks replaced so that they are programmed by month. Beginning July 1, the City is partnering with CVWD on a turf buyback program. The City is also purchasing flags for all City inspectors to carry in their vehicles. He explained that if an inspector sees a broken irrigation head, it will be flagged. The flag will have the City and CVWD's contact information on it. Mr.

Wohlmuth stated that it makes sense to tackle irrigation issues before strengthening home issues (faucets, showerheads, and toilets).

Member Freed asked if the City could influence CVWD.

Mr. Wohlmuth responded that the City works with CVWD. They are currently working together on the turf buyback program and flag system. He stated that he would be reluctant to tell the CVWD board of directors and general manager what they need to do in Palm Desert. CVWD is in the water business; the City is not.

Member Freed mentioned that the City of Palm Springs has offered to set aside funds to incentivize waterless gray water systems for existing homeowners. He asked if the City of Palm Desert could do something similar.

Mr. Wohlmuth responded that the City has put in \$100,000 into the turf buyback program. He noted that the City has gone through next year's budget process, and additional funds have not been set aside for sustainability purposes. However, the City Council could consider using money from reserves.

Councilmember Van Tanner asked Member Freed to explain a waterless irrigation system.

Member Freed explained that a waterless urinal does not flush, and used for urination only. He also explained that with a gray water system you can save all the water from one sink, and use that water to flush the toilet. He commented that the Sustainability Committee is not short on ideas; however, he would like to know what is possible.

Mr. Bagato stated that many items being discussed are educational. He stated that he would like to form a couple of groups to work on the education for water conservation and single-use plastic bags.

Chair Leo asked for volunteers to assist Mr. Bagato on the education program for water conservation.

Councilman Tanner and Members Freed, Kassler, and Taylor volunteered to work with Mr. Bagato on the water conservation education program.

Member Tommy Edwards suggested working with someone from CVWD.

Mr. Bagato mentioned that Member David Koller works for CVWD. He also mentioned that Ygrene that has been contracted by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) will cover water infrastructure. He noted that the City's Code Department will be working with CVWD on enforcing nuisance water.

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**VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS**

None

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. UPDATE ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS (Tony Bagato, Principal Planner)**

Mr. Tony Bagato, Principal Planner, reported that the second reading of the ordinance was approved with a \$.10 charge for all paper bags. He mentioned that the retailers on El Paseo are concerned with the \$.10 charge for paper bags since they already provide paper bags for free. He stated that he would like to form another group of members of the Sustainability Committee to work with the retailers and do more research.

Member Freed commented that the \$.10 charge did not come from the Sustainability Committee; it came from the grocery stores. He stated that he rather not see a \$.10 charge. It makes sense to have a charge for the grocery stores, but not the retailers.

The Committee agreed with Member Freed. Chair Leo directed staff to move forward with what the City Council prefers.

Mr. Bagato stated that he will work directly with the retail group.

Councilman Tanner asked what Palm Springs is doing with the \$.10 charge.

Member Freed responded that they are charging \$.10 across the board; however, they do not have an El Paseo.

At the conclusion of discussions on the \$.10 charge, Mr. Bagato asked for volunteers to assist with the single-use plastic bag education program.

Chair Leo and Members Guinaw and Lingle volunteered.

Member Gatons inquired about the thickness of bags.

Mr. Bagato responded that in accordance with the ordinance drafted by CVAG; a reusable bag is considered either cloth, woven, or a plastic bag that is at least 2.25 mil thick.

Member Gatons asked if the retailers will change the thickness of the bags so customers can get the bag.

Mr. Bagato responded that he hopes in a year, when the ordinance goes into effect, the retailers will all have uniform bags and he does not have to worry about enforcing the thickness of bags.

Mr. David Fletcher, Chartwell Properties, 73-061 El Paseo, Suite 200, Palm Desert, California 92260, mentioned that he received a call from the president of the downtown retail district in Palm Springs. After reading the newspaper, he realized that ordinance passed in Palm Springs without input from the retailers. Mr. Fletcher said that the retailers may now go back to the Palm Springs City Council because they are not onboard with the decision.

## IX. REPORTS AND REMARKS

### A. Committee Members Comments

Member Taylor commented that he is looking forward to working on the water conservation program.

Member Rosenberg commented that she would like to see something in the *BrightSide* reminding the citizens to take a reusable bag to the store. She would also like the store owners and employees to get educated. They automatically want to put items in a plastic bag.

Member Lingle said that she has found single-use plastic bag very interesting and educational.

Member Gritters apologized for being late. He stated that he also is interested in water conservation. He is also happy to hear that the City is budgeting funds for the turf buyback program.

Member Gatons circulated a copy of *The Pinecone Press Waste and Recycling Newsletter*. He commented that the newsletter comes with their quarterly Burrtec statement. He noted that the newsletter is sponsored by the County of San Bernardino and Mountain Disposal. Member Gatons stated that he would like to see something with the Burrtec statement in Palm Desert.

Ms. Lisa Ream, Recycling Technician, stated that she could look at the franchise agreement regarding inserts.

Member Freed commented that Chair Leo gave a rousing speech at the City Council meeting regarding single-use plastic bags.

Member Edwards commented that he likes seeing the progress on plastic bags, and he interested to see where they go with water conservation.

With three additional Sustainability Committee members, Chair Leo returned to the Consent Calendar to approve the minutes (see Consent Calendar).

Councilmember Tanner mentioned that the City is changing turf to desert tolerant landscaping at Desert Willow.

Mr. Wohlmuth added that they are looking at reducing turf, and reducing some of the sand traps on both courses at Desert Willow.

Ms. Ream mentioned that Coca-Cola has a LEED certified building in Coachella, and they are having a tour on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. She said they have five spaces available. Please contact her if interested in going on the tour.

Member Gatons also mentioned that the Arrowhead building off the Interstate 10 is also a LEED certified building.

Member Gritters commented that the 30 acres retrofit at Desert Willow could potentially save over \$100,000 a year in water.

It was announced that August 11 is the next Citizens' Sustainability Committee meeting.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a unanimous vote of the Citizens' Sustainability Committee, Chair Leo adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m. (AYES: Edwards, Freed, Gatons, Gritters, Guinaw, Kassler, Leo, Lingle, Rosenberg, and Taylor; NOES: None; ABSENT: Koller, Mourhess, and Raya).

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Monica O'Reilly, Recording Secretary

# Palm Desert's Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags

## **BANNED**

Single-Use Plastic Bags  
Prohibited at all stores  
(Grocery, pharmacy, gas  
stations, retail, etc.)



## **10¢ FEE**

Grocery stores (Any store  
that sells groceries,  
produce, canned, prepared,  
or fresh food, drinks, etc.)



## **What the City of Palm Desert Law Requires:**

- All full-line grocery and retail stores with gross annual sales of \$2 million, or that are larger than 10,000 square feet, are prohibited from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags on April 1, 2015.
- All other full-line grocery and retail stores are prohibited from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout (shopping) bags on October 1, 2015
- All grocery stores (including supermarkets, supercenters, convenience stores, liquor stores, or gas stations that sell any kind of grocery product) may provide customers with a grocery-sized reusable paper bag or reusable bag; however, these stores must charge 10 cents for each grocery-sized reusable paper bags.
- All paper bag revenue is retained by the store to offset the cost of using paper bags.
- Non-grocery retail stores may provide customers with a reusable bag or paper bag for free.
- Any stores may provide plastic bags that are 2.25 mil or thicker for free.



**See reverse side for more details**

# Exemptions & Information

## Exemptions from Palm Desert's Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ban:

- Customers participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), or Customers participating in the Supplemental Food Program are exempt from the 10-cent charge for paper bags.
- Plastic bags used to protect vegetables, meat, fish and poultry, frozen foods, flowers, deli foods and similar products where moisture or contamination may occur.
- Plastic bags for take-out orders from restaurants.
- Dry-cleaner, newspaper and plastic bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for garbage bags or to contain pet waste.

## BAGS ALLOWED



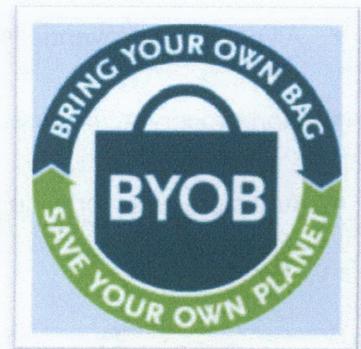
Small paper bags  
Retail Paper Bags  
Plastic Bags 2.25 ML  
Thick  
Canvas/Woven Bags  
Produce  
Meat  
Prescription Drugs  
Flowers  
Dry cleaning  
Restaurants



## Encouraged:

### Reusable Carryout Bags

- Reusable bags are encouraged as a carryout bag for all customers. "If used once per week, four or five reusable bags will replace 520 plastic bags a year" according to Nick Sterling, research director at Natural Capitalism Solutions.
- Reusable bags conserve resources and landfill space, reduce air and water pollution, and save money in cleanup and reduce litter that harms our wildlife.
- When using reusable bags, customers should be careful to separate raw foods from other food products.
- It is highly recommended to wash your reusable bags between each use.



**Bring Your Own Bag!**  
**It's what is best for the Environment**