

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Monday, November 14, 2011**

**1:00 P.M.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room #1**

**Application:** ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. 11-002 (Municipal Code Amendment Regulating the Use of Plastic Carryout Bags and Recyclable Paper Carryout Bags Promoting the Use of Reusable Bags)

**Applicant:** City of Huntington Beach  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
Contact: Hayden Beckman  
Email: hbeckman@surfcity-hb.org

**Request:** To review the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed ordinance that would prohibit distribution of plastic carry-out bags in commercial point of sale purchases within the City of Huntington Beach and establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags at all grocery stores and supermarkets, drug stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, foodmarts and Huntington Beach farmer's markets. All stores affected by the proposed ordinance would be required to provide reusable bags to customers either for sale or at no charge, and each store would be strongly encouraged to promote the use of reusable bags through staff education and customer outreach.

The Ordinance would also prohibit the distribution of compostable and biodegradable plastic carry-out bags, as they are included in the definition of a plastic carry-out bag. The Ordinance would impose a ten (10) cent charge on recyclable paper carry-out bags and requires that the paper bags be one hundred percent (100%) recyclable overall, contain a minimum of forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled material, and be accepted for recycling in curbside programs within the City, among other criteria. The Ordinance further requires that reusable bags be specifically designed and manufactured for a minimum lifetime of 125 uses, be machine washable or made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected, does not contain lead, cadmium, or other heavy elements in toxic amounts. Plastic bags that are a minimum of 2.25 mils thick are considered to be reusable bags per the definition in the Ordinance. The Ordinance would exempt from the ten (10) cent charge those customers who are participating in either the California Special Supplemental Food Program for the Women, Infants, and Children or the Supplemental Food Program. All applicable stores must provide at the point of sale, free of charge, either reusable bags or recyclable paper carry-out bags or both, to these customers, at the store's option. Customers will have the option to use their own reusable bags, or no bag at all.

**Location:** Citywide

**Project**

**Planner:** Hayden Beckman, Planning Aide

*For information on the above items, please contact the specified project planner in the City of Huntington Beach Dept. of Planning and Building at (714) 536-5271.*