



Appendix A

*Notice of Preparation, Initial Study, and
NOP Comment Letters*



**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR A MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENT REGULATING THE USE OF
PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND RECYCLABLE PAPER CARRYOUT
BAGS AND PROMOTING THE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS
AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for a Municipal Code amendment regulating the use of plastic carryout bags and recyclable paper carryout bags and promoting the use of reusable bags.

The City of Huntington Beach has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project. The NOP includes an environmental assessment that identifies the potential environmental impacts to be addressed in the EIR.

The NOP will be available for public review and comment for 30 days, commencing Thursday, November 17, 2011 and ending Monday, December 19, 2011. Written comments on the NOP must be submitted to Hayden Beckman, Planning Aide, City of Huntington Beach Planning and Building Department, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California 92648 by 5:00 PM, Monday, December 19, 2011. A copy of the NOP is on file at the following locations:

1. Planning and Building Department, 3rd Floor, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648;
2. Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92647; and
3. City website at

<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/Environmentalreports.cfm>

Project Description:

The project involves the adoption of a proposed ordinance (Ordinance) by the City of Huntington Beach City Council 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 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 element in toxic amounts, among other criteria. 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.

Scoping Meeting

A meeting will be held during the comment period to take comments related to the scope of the environmental issues to be analyzed within the draft EIR. The meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 in the Talbert Room at Huntington Beach Library located at 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, California. For further information, please contact Hayden Beckman at 714-374-5317.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. 2011-002**

- 1. PROJECT TITLE:** **MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENT REGULATING THE USE OF PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND RECYCLABLE PAPER CARRYOUT BAGS AND PROMOTING THE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS**
- 2. LEAD AGENCY:** City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
- Contact:** Hayden Beckman, Planning & Building Department
Phone: (714) 536-5271
- 3. PROJECT LOCATION:** Citywide
- 4. PROJECT PROPONENT:** Same as Lead Agency
- 5. GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:** Various
- 6. ZONING:** Various
- 7. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project involves the adoption of a proposed ordinance (Ordinance) by the City of Huntington Beach City Council 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.

Stores located within Huntington Beach that would be affected include the following:

1. A full-line, self-service retail store with gross annual sales of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), or more, that sells a line of dry grocery, canned goods, or nonfood items and some perishable items;
2. A store of at least ten thousand (10,000) square feet of retail space that generates sales or use tax pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law (Part 1.5

(commencing with Section 7200) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code) and that has a pharmacy licensed pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code; or

3. A drug store, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, food mart, or other entity engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, snack foods, including those stores with a Type 20 or 21 license issued by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

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 element in toxic amounts, among other criteria. 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.

8. SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING:

Located in north Orange County, Huntington Beach is bordered by the Cities of Seal Beach, Westminster and Fountain Valley to the north, Costa Mesa and Newport Beach to the southeast, and the Pacific Ocean along an approximately 9.5 mile southwestern boundary. Surrounding uses include residential, commercial, public/semi-public and industrial.

9. OTHER PREVIOUS RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

Green Cities California, a local government coalition, produced a Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) that summarizes existing studies on the environmental impacts of single use plastic, paper, compostable and reusable bags, as well as the impacts of policy options such as fees and bans on bags. Other Environmental Impact Reports (EIR), EIR Addendums or Mitigated Negative Declarations (MND) have been processed in several jurisdictions in Southern California including Los Angeles County, City of Long Beach, City of Santa Monica, City of Manhattan Beach and City of Calabasas.

10. OTHER AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (AND PERMITS NEEDED):

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” or is “Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated,” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a “potentially significant impact” or a “potentially significant unless mitigated impact” on the environment, but at least one impact (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, **nothing further is required.**

Signature

HAYDEN BECKMAN
Printed Name

Date

11.14.2011
PLANNING AIDE
Title

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the project. A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards.
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved. Answers should address off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate, if an effect is significant or potentially significant, or if the lead agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is warranted.
4. “Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XIX at the end of the checklist.
6. References to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances) have been incorporated into the checklist. A source list has been provided in Section XIX. Other sources used or individuals contacted have been cited in the respective discussions.
7. The following checklist has been formatted after Appendix G of Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, but has been augmented to reflect the City of Huntington Beach’s requirements.

SAMPLE QUESTION:

<i>ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p><i>Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:</i></p> <p><i>Landslides? (Sources: 1, 6)</i></p> <p><i>Discussion: The attached source list explains that 1 is the Huntington Beach General Plan and 6 is a topographical map of the area which show that the area is located in a flat area. (Note: This response probably would not require further explanation).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Physically divide an established community? (Sources: 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – c): The proposed project requires an amendment to the Huntington Beach Municipal Code via adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The proposed ordinance would not result in any land use changes, conflict with any applicable land use plan or policy, nor conflict with any habitat or natural community conservation plan. The proposed project would not physically divide an established community. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extensions of roads or other infrastructure)? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project would not contribute to development of additional housing and would not generate population either directly or indirectly. The project would not displace existing housing or existing residents and would not require any replacement housing. No impacts would occur

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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and no further analysis is required.

III. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

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| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault ? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: The City of Huntington Beach is located in a seismically active region of Southern California and is subject to strong ground shaking in the event of an earthquake, as well as seismic-related ground failure such as liquefaction. However, the proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide only. The project does not include any development, thus implementation of the proposed ordinance would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, or seismic related ground failure. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion, loss of topsoil, or changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion b) – e): As discussed in Section III(a) above, the project does not include any development and therefore would not result in soil erosion, loss of topsoil or involve excavation, grading or fill activities. The project would not place structures or people in areas that are located on expansive soil, and would therefore not create any risks associated with expansive soils. Additionally, the project would not involve soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic or wastewater disposal systems. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

IV. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. It is anticipated that the reduction of plastic carry-out bags would incrementally reduce the amount of litter in the City that enters the storm drains, thereby improving water quality. However, potential increased reliance on paper carry-out bags may result in increased manufacturing wastes that can potentially impact water quality or waste discharge requirements. The promotion of reuseable bags could also potentially affect water quality if reuseable bags are improperly disposed of and become litter that enters the storm drain system. Potentially significant water quality impacts as a result of bag manufacturing processes will be further analyzed by the project EIR.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)

Discussion b) – d): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development, and implementation of the proposed ordinance would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area, deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? (Sources: 1, 6, 10) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: See Discussion under Section IV(a).

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? (Sources: 1, 6, 10) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: See discussion under Section IV(a).

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| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? (Sources: 1, 4, 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? (Sources: 1, 4, 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? (Sources: 1, 4, 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion g) – i): Although some areas in Huntington Beach that would be affected by the City’s proposed ordinance are located within a 100-year Flood Zone area, the ordinance does not include any new development and drainage patterns would not be affected upon implementation. Therefore, the City’s proposed ordinance would not result in impacts to hydrology and water quality related to the 100-year Flood Zone and no further analysis is required.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion: The proposed ordinance would affect some areas in Huntington Beach that are located near the Pacific Ocean and could be subject to seiche or tsunami. However, implementation of the ordinance would not include any new development and would not result in an increase in population. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not be expected to increase the risk and hazard to individuals residing in areas that lie in the vicinity of coastal waters of being subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| k) Potentially impact stormwater runoff from construction activities? (Sources: 1, 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| l) Potentially impact stormwater runoff from post-construction activities? (Sources: 1, 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion k) - l): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development, and implementation of the proposed ordinance would not impact stormwater runoff from construction or post-construction activities. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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| m) Result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas, loading docks or other outdoor work areas? (Sources: 1, 6) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. A large proportion of carry-out bags discarded end up as litter or in a landfill. Even bags collected by recycling and solid waste trucks and handled at transfer stations and landfills may blow away as litter and can enter storm drains or be transported to the Pacific Ocean. Potentially significant impacts from carry-out bags as waste in relation to handling or storage and delivery areas will be analyzed by the project EIR.

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| n) Result in the potential for discharge of stormwater to affect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters? (Sources: 1, 6, 10) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. Urban runoff from rainfall and non-stormwater runoff from human activities is collected and transported through the City’s storm drain system and ultimately discharged into the Pacific Ocean. Carry-out bags that enter the storm drain system as a result of litter may affect storm water flow by clogging drains, redirecting flow, or ultimately be released into the Pacific Ocean. These impacts can affect the beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean by contaminating and visually degrading the marine ecosystem. Impacts related to the discharge of carry-out bag litter into the Pacific Ocean are potentially significant and will be analyzed by the project EIR.

- o) Create or contribute significant increases in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)

Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development, and implementation of the proposed ordinance would not require construction of new structures or additional stormwater infrastructure. Although plastic bag litter can block waterways resulting in changes in waterflow to surrounding areas, it is not the sole source. Implementation of the proposed ordinance and the prohibition of the distribution of plastic carry-out bags would reduce negative impacts to flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff. Additionally, the capacity of existing storm water drainage systems would remain unchanged. Less than significant impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

- p) Create or contribute significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)

Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development, and would not create or contribute increases in erosion. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

V. AIR QUALITY. The city has identified the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district as appropriate to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? (Sources: 1, 5, 10)

Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development, and would not result in regional or localized construction impacts to air quality. However, operational impacts including indirect emissions based on life-cycle assessments of carry-out bags, pollutant emissions resulting from disposal of paper carry-out bags in landfills and emissions resulting from delivery trips may result in

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	Potentially Significant	No Impact
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potentially significant impacts to air quality, and will be further analyzed in the project EIR.

- b) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (Sources: 5)

Discussion: The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. Sensitive receptors can include residences, schools, playgrounds, athletic facilities, healthcare facilities, and retirement homes. There are many sensitive receptors within the City of Huntington Beach; however, the proposed ordinance does not include any development or construction activities, and would be expected to result in less than significant impacts to air quality in relation to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. No further analysis is required.

- c) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? (Sources: 5)

Discussion: The proposed ordinance would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags, which would not result in any new development or construction activity and, therefore, would not create any objectionable odors. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

- d) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (Sources: 5)

Discussion: The project site is within the South Coast Air Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The local air quality management agency is required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure that the air quality standards are met and, if they're not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards.

Depending on whether or not the standards are met or exceeded, the air basin is classified as being in 'attainment' or 'non-attainment'. The South Coast Air Basin is in nonattainment for both federal and state standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}). The basin currently exceeds several state and federal ambient air quality standards and is required to implement strategies that would reduce pollutant levels to recognized acceptable standards. This non-attainment status is a result of several factors, the primary ones being the naturally adverse meteorological conditions that limit the dispersion and diffusion of pollutants, the limited capacity of the local airshed to eliminate pollutants in the air, and the number, type, and density of emission sources within the South Coast Air Basin. The SCAQMD has adopted an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) that provides a strategy for the attainment of state and federal air quality standards.

The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. Generally, a project would conflict with or potentially obstruct implementation of an air quality plan if the project would contribute to population growth in excess of that forecasted in the AQMP. The proposed ordinance does not include the construction of residences or other physical structures and would not otherwise involve population growth. Therefore, the proposed ordinance would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP and no further analysis is required.

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? (Sources: 5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: Although the proposed ordinance is intended to reduce the amount of plastic and paper carry-out bags and promote a shift towards use of reusable bags in Huntington Beach, a potential change in the number of truck trips associated with delivering and distributing carry-out bags to retailers could increase long-term operational emissions. Impacts related to long-term emissions will be further analyzed in the project EIR.

VI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion a) – b): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The proposed ordinance is intended to reduce the amount of plastic and paper carry-out bags and promote a shift towards reusable bags. While the proposed ordinance does not include any physical development or construction activities, the shift toward reusable bags could alter regional truck trips associated with delivering bags to retailers. However, the shift toward reusable bags would generate a negligible change in regional vehicle trips and would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy measuring the performance of the circulation system. The anticipated change in truck travel patterns would not impact existing level of service standards or other applicable standards related to road or highway congestion. Less than significant impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The proposed ordinance would not affect air traffic patterns. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion d) – f): The proposed ordinance would not include any physical development, new land uses or construction activities that could result in hazards due to a design feature, or inadequate emergency access or parking capacity. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? (Sources: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The proposed ordinance is intended to promote the use of reusable bags and would not conflict with any programs, policies, or plans supporting alternative transportation. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? (Sources: 1, 5, 10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The City of Huntington Beach shares a direct biological connection with coastal ecosystems. Located in Orange County’s northern coastal area, Huntington Beach’s geography is characterized by broad, sandy beaches backed by low bluffs and mesas, and lowland areas with extensive wetlands. Additionally, Huntington Beach is bordered by the Pacific Ocean along an approximately 9.5 mile western boundary. Although the City is almost completely urbanized, the General Plan identifies several types of biological resources that exist within and surrounding City limits including marine waters, plant life, and wildlife.

The proposed ordinance is intended to reduce the use of plastic and paper carry-out bags and promote a shift in the use of reuseable bags by Huntington Beach retail customers. Although it is anticipated that the proposed ordinance would not result in adverse impacts related to biological resources, promoting the use of reuseable bags could potentially affect sensitive species if reusable bags are improperly disposed of and become litter that enters the storm drain system and ultimately into coastal and marine environments. Potentially significant impacts to biological resources as they relate to candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations will be analyzed by the project EIR.

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service? (Sources: 1, 5, 10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? (Sources: 1, 5, 10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion b) – c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any physical development or construction activities that would result in removal, filling, hydrological interruption, etc. of wetlands, and would not alter or remove any existing riparian habitat or identified sensitive natural community. However, promoting the use of reuseable bags could potentially affect protected wetlands, a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community if reuseable bags are improperly disposed of and become litter that is deposited into coastal and marine environments. Potentially significant impacts to biological resources related to riparian habitats or other sensitive communities identified in local or regional plans or federally protected wetlands will be analyzed by the project EIR.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? (Sources: 1, 5, 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: There are no known migratory wildlife corridors or native nursery wildlife nursery sites within Huntington Beach. However, various trees, shrubs, bushes and marine ecosystems could be considered potential nesting habitat for a variety of migratory and resident bird species. The proposed project does not include any physical development or construction activity and would not alter or remove any existing vegetation or habitat within the City. Therefore, the project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. No impacts would occur and further analysis is not required.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: The proposed project does not include any physical development or construction activity and would not alter or remove any existing vegetation or habitat within the City. The project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The proposed project does not include any physical development or construction activity and would not alter or remove any existing vegetation or habitat within the City. The project would not conflict with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

VIII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion a) – b): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The proposed ordinance would not affect known state, regional, or local mineral resources. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? (Sources: 1, 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion a) – c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. Carry-out bags do not meet the criteria of a hazardous substance, and the ordinance would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The ordinance does not include any development that would create a significant hazard to the public or environment through upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. Numerous schools exist within the City of Huntington Beach; however, the proposed ordinance would not include any physical elements that would involve the emission or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? (Sources: 1, 5, 8) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The proposed citywide ordinance does not include any new development, and implementation would not produce significant hazards to the public or the environment created by activity on a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (Sources: 1, 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? (Sources: 1, 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion e) – f): Although the City of Huntington Beach is located within the Planning Area for the Joint Forces Training Center in Los Alamitos, the proposed ordinance does not include any development and would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the City. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags would not include any development and would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? (Sources: 1)

Discussion: The proposed project does not include any new development and therefore would not expose people or structures to a significant risk associated with wildand fires. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

X. NOISE. Would the project result in:

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| a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (Sources: 1, 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (Sources: 1, 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – f): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide. The project does not include any new development, and would not expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of established standards or excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

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| a) Fire protection? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Police Protection? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Schools? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project would not result in new development or land use changes resulting in impacts to existing fire and police protection services, or existing school facilities. No impacts would occur and further analysis is not required.

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| d) Parks? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Other public facilities or governmental services?
(Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion d) – e): The implementation of the proposed ordinance will involve enforcement and education outreach to residents and business owners by City staff. City parks are cleaned and otherwise maintained by City staff on a regular basis. It is not anticipated that prohibiting the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases and establishing a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags will result in significant impacts to parks maintenance. Impacts to city government services and facilities are anticipated to be less than significant, and no further investigation is required.

XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

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| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
(Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (Sources: 1)

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| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – e): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The proposed project would not involve the addition of people or new land uses that would require new water, stormwater drainage or wastewater treatment facilities or exceed wastewater treatment requirements or capacity of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. However, it is expected that the ordinance may lead to an increased use of reuseable bags within Huntington Beach. As opposed to plastic carry-out bags, reuseable bags are intended to be used multiple times over many months or years. As these bags become dirty from multiple uses, it is expected that owners will hand wash or launder the bags. The hand washing of reuseable bags or inclusion of reuseable bags in routine laundering would not result in any substantial increase in demand for potable water; therefore, the project would not result in a significant increase in water consumption that was not previously planned for in the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. Less than significant impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

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| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? (Sources: 1, 11) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: Rainbow Environmental Services (RES) is the exclusive hauler of all solid waste for Huntington Beach. RES operates a transfer station within Huntington Beach as well as two Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) through which all solid waste is processed. RES's transfer station has a design capacity of 2,800 tons per day, and current utilization ranges between 53 and 71 percent. In addition, the two MRFs sort and separate all waste and recycle all appropriate materials reducing the waste generation going to the landfills.

The Orange County Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD) currently owns and operates three active landfills that serve the Orange County region, including: Frank R. Bowerman Landfill in Irvine; Olinda

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Alpha Landfill in Brea; and Prima Deshecha Landfill in San Juan Capistrano. All three landfills are permitted as Class III landfills and have a combined design capacity of 20,500 tons per day. Solid waste from Huntington Beach would be sent to the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill in Irvine with a permitted capacity limit of 8,500 tons per day.

Prior to 2008, Assembly Bill (AB) 939 established a requirement of 50 percent diversion of solid waste by the year 2000. Based on data from 2006, the City of Huntington Beach maintained a 71 percent diversion rate from Orange County landfills, thereby meeting and exceeding the requirement. In 2008, California enacted Senate Bill (SB) 1016, which modified the system of measuring a jurisdiction's compliance with solid waste disposal requirements previously under AB 939. SB 1016 established a per-capita disposal rate as the instrument of measurement. The City of Huntington Beach is subject to a per resident disposal rate target of 10.4 pounds per person per day (PPD). According to data from annual reports submitted by the City and published by CalRecycle, the City's PPD rate dropped from 5.5 in 2007 to 4.6 in 2009, demonstrating compliance with SB 1016.

The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The proposed ordinance does not include any development or construction activity. The resulting shift towards reusable bags would reduce the amount of plastic and paper carry-out bags that are sent to the local landfill. Thus, the proposed ordinance would reduce the amount of solid waste generated within the City. Impacts would be less than significant and no further analysis is required.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: As discussed above, the adoption of an ordinance prohibiting the distribution of plastic carry-out bags citywide and establishing a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags would incrementally reduce the amount of solid waste generation created by the use of plastic and paper carry-out bags. The project would comply with regulations pertaining to solid waste. Impacts would be less than significant and no further analysis is required.

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| h) Include a new or retrofitted storm water treatment control Best Management Practice (BMP), (e.g. water quality treatment basin, constructed treatment wetlands?) (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The project does not include a new or retrofitted storm water treatment control BMP. No impacts would result and further analysis is not required.

XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the project:

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| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion a) – c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. One of the main objectives of implementing the proposed ordinance is to reduce the amount and visibility of litter associated with plastic carry-out bags. When improperly disposed of (i.e., not recycled or sent to a landfill), plastic bags may be blown away due to their light weight and end up as litter. The City’s economy relies on maintaining a clean recreation environment, which includes regular removal of litter from City beaches, parks and other public areas. Also, although neither State Route 39 (Beach Boulevard) or Highway 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) are designated State scenic highways within the City of Huntington Beach, a positive visual image on these two major corridors is important. Implementation of the proposed ordinance would reduce negative visual impacts of litter within Huntington Beach and improve scenic resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no further analysis is required.

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| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion: The proposed project does not include any development and will not result in the creation of a new source of light or glare. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site unique geologic feature? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? (Sources: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion a) – d): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development or alterations of physical sites or structures. The project would not result in substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or geologic feature, nor disturb any human remains. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

XV. RECREATION. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood, community and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (Sources: 1, 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (Sources: 1, 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Affect existing recreational opportunities? (Sources: 1, 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) –c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. As discussed in Section XIII above, beach litter and contamination of other recreational sites can negatively impact recreational opportunities. Plastic debris including plastic carry-out bags contributes to beach and park litter, and the visual impact of litter detracts from people’s perceptions of the quality of recreational facilities. The combination of physical contamination of beach areas and the perceived lower quality of coastal waters may negatively impact beach use and recreation.

Negative impacts on the beaches and other aspects of the environment could affect tourism and the City’s economy. One of the main objectives of implementing the proposed ordinance is to reduce the amount and visibility of litter associated with plastic carry-out bags, and implementation of the proposed ordinance would reduce negative impacts of litter within Huntington Beach.

The project does not include any development and would not increase the use of existing recreational facilities nor result in physical deterioration of such facilities. The project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and would reduce negative impacts on existing recreational facilities relating to the visibility and amount of litter. Less than significant impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use? (Sources: 1, 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – c): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The project does not include any development and would not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, changes in the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, nor conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract. No impacts would occur and no further analysis is required.

XVII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion a) – b): The proposed project involves adoption of an ordinance that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carry-out bags in point of sale purchases citywide and would establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags. The proposed project does not include any physical development, construction activities, or land use changes that would contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed ordinance is intended to reduce the amount of plastic and paper carry-out bags and promote a

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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shift towards reusable bags. Although overall carry-out bag use is anticipated to decline as a result of the proposed ordinance, the shift toward reusable bags would potentially alter traffic patterns in Huntington Beach related to the transport of plastic and paper carry-out bags as well as processing activities related to bag production and disposal of carry-out bags such that there may be a significant impact on the environment related to greenhouse gas emissions.

The EIR will analyze whether the proposed ordinance would conflict with any plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions impacts associated with the project.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? (Sources: 1, 6, 10)
-

Discussion: As discussed in Section XIV *Cultural Resources*, the project does not include any development or alterations of physical sites or structures. The project would not result in substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or geologic feature, nor disturb any human remains. The project would have no impact on cultural resources.

As discussed in Section VII *Biological Resources*, the City is almost completely urbanized, yet the General Plan identifies several types of biological resources that exist within and surrounding City limits including marine waters, plant life, and wildlife. The proposed ordinance is intended to reduce the use of plastic and paper carry-out bags and promote a shift in the use of reusable bags by Huntington Beach retail customers. Although it is anticipated that the proposed ordinance would not result in adverse impacts related to biological resources, promoting the use of reusable bags could potentially affect sensitive species and their habitat if reusable bags are improperly disposed of and become litter that enters the storm drain system and ultimately into coastal and marine environments. Because the proposed ordinance would have the potential to affect sensitive species or habitat, potentially significant impacts to biological resources as they relate to candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations will be further analyzed in the project EIR.

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.) (Sources: 1, 2, 5)
-

ISSUES (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion: The proposed ordinance does have potential air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions and hydrology/water quality impacts that could be significant and cumulatively considerable. These potentially significant impacts will be discussed in the project EIR.

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? (Sources: 1, 2, 5) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion: The proposed ordinance has potential for adverse effects to human beings related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and hydrology/water quality. The potential for significant impacts will be discussed in the project EIR.

XIX. EARLIER ANALYSIS/SOURCE LIST.

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c)(3)(D). Earlier documents prepared and utilized in this analysis and referenced sources are as follows:

<u>Reference #</u>	<u>Document Title</u>	<u>Available for Review at:</u>
1	City of Huntington Beach General Plan	City of Huntington Beach Planning & Building Dept., Planning/Zoning Information Counter, 2000 Main Street, 3 rd Floor, Huntington Beach, and at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/gp
2	City of Huntington Beach Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance	City of Huntington Beach City Clerk's Office, 2000 Main Street, 2 nd Floor, Huntington Beach, and at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/charter_codes
3	Huntington Beach Map	Attachment No. 1
4	FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (December 3, 2009)	City of Huntington Beach Planning & Building Dept., Planning/Zoning Information Counter, 2000 Main Street, 3 rd Floor, Huntington Beach, and at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/flood
5	CEQA Air Quality Handbook South Coast Air Quality Management District (1993)	“
6	City of Huntington Beach CEQA Procedure Handbook	“
7	Airport Environs Land Use Plan for Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos (Oct. 17, 2002)	“
8	Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List	www.calepa.gov/sitecleanup/cortese
9	City of Huntington Beach Municipal Code	City of Huntington Beach City Clerk's Office, 2000 Main Street, 2 nd Floor, Huntington Beach, and at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/charter_codes
10	Green Cities California Master Environmental Assessment	http://www.greencitiescalifornia.org/mea
11	CalRecycle Jurisdiction Diversion/Disposal Rate Summary	http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Tools/MARS/DRMCMMain.asp

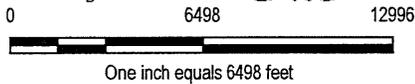


Huntington Beach

Map produced by information contained in the City of Huntington Beach Information Services Department Geographic Information System. Information warranted for City use only. Huntington Beach does not guarantee its completeness or accuracy.
 Map Produced on 11/8/2011



HB
 a/s



CITY BOUNDARY

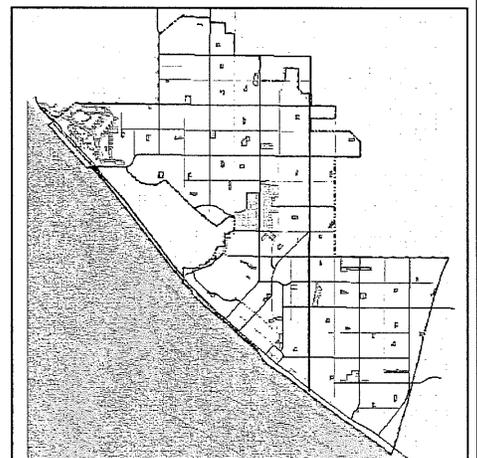
STREET CENTERLINES (DCTAClass)

- Smartstreet
- Major
- Collector
- Primary
- Secondary
- Residential
- Travelway
- Alley

ISOBATHS

- HARBOR

- PIER





CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

December 16, 2011

Hayden Beckman
City of Huntington Beach
Department of Planning and Building
2000 Main St
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Subject: Environmental Assessment No. 2011-002

Dear Mr. Beckman,

At the December 1, 2011 Environmental Board meeting, a team of board members presented their review of the Environmental Checklist Form No. 2011-002. The Board recognizes this preliminary checklist as the first phase in a multi-step process. The scope of this checklist is to identify target concerns for the Project EIR. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

General:

We are pleased to see the general objectives stated in the project proposal and in the project description. We are interested in seeing sustainable community education objectives identified in the community outreach plans with stated implementation goals. We understand that subsequent to this checklist, actions will be undertaken to finalize and present a) the City's proposed ordinance, b) the outreach and communications plan for the plastic bag ban along with c) the ongoing and iterative environmental and d) economic monitoring of the ban and its subsequent effects coupled with e) long term tracking.

Hydrology:

Discussion IV a): We disagree with your discussion that "The promotion of reusable bags could also potentially affect water quality if reusable bags are improperly disposed of and become litter that enters the storm systems." Plastic carry-out bags, generally made from PETE, LDPE, or other plastic constituents, enter the storm systems because they are lightweight. Due to their weight, reusable plastic bags that are a minimum of 2.25 millimeters thick, canvas bags, and other fiber-based bags would not be carried in the air and deposited in storm drains or into ocean waterways.

Air Quality:

Discussion V e): We disagree with your discussion that "...a potential change in the number of truck trips associated with delivering and distributing carry-out bags to retailers could increase long-term operational emissions." This discussion needs clarification, as it appears to combine the impacts of plastic and reusable bags. We recommend that you analyze the potential change in truck trips and associated emissions based on the difference between i) the current truck trips and associated air emissions for delivery and distribution of all carry-out bags (both plastic and paper) and reusable bags and ii) the potential future truck trips and associated emissions for delivery and distribution of reusable bags and carry-out paper bags.

Biological Resources:

Discussions VII a) and b) - c): We disagree with your discussions that "...promoting the use of reusable bags could potentially affect sensitive species if reusable bags are improperly disposed of and become litter that enters the storm system and ultimately into coastal and marine environments" and that "promoting the use of reusable bags could potentially affect protected wetlands, a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community..." Plastic carry-out bags, generally made from PETE, LDPE, or other plastic constituents, enter the storm systems because they are lightweight. Due to their weight, reusable plastic bags that are a minimum of 2.25 millimeters thick, canvas bags, or other fiber-based bags would not be carried in the air and deposited in storm drains or into ocean waterways.

Recreation:

Discussion XV a) - c): We agree with your discussion, but disagree with the assessment that there will be "Less than Significant Impact". This may be only a semantic disagreement - but the logic statements presented in paragraph a) and b) do not mean that no further analysis is required. Please include these topics in the Project EIR scope.

Green House Gas Emissions:

Discussion XVII a) - b): We disagree with your discussion that "the shift toward reusable bags would potentially alter traffic patterns in Huntington Beach related to the transport of plastic and paper carry-out bags..." We question the assumption, made explicit elsewhere, that only GHG – ARB models and data be used. We urge that the consultant also consider data from existing traffic flow databases. Furthermore, the reference to "processing activities related to bag production and disposal" implies that manufacturing activities for carry-out bags exist within the City of Huntington Beach but fails to specify the types of carry-out bags being manufactured – plastic or paper or both. We suggest that you clarify this reference.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

Discussion XVII: The category "Potentially Significant Impact" is interpreted to mean either positive impacts with beneficial results to the category, or negative impacts with harmful results to the category or both. Since much of the prior work identified in the Master Environmental Assessment involves a specialized method called "Life Cycle Cost Analysis" (LCA), we recommend expanding LCA to include more robust methods of analysis that include sustainability metrics as well as the limited life-cycle financial discounted cash flow techniques.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. Please contact us with any related questions or concerns. The appendix includes materials reviewed while preparing the above analysis of the Plastic Bag EIR Checklist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sue Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Gordon
Chairman, Huntington Beach Environmental Board

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 12
3347 Michelson Drive, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92612-8894
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Fax: (949) 724-2592



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DEC 1 - 2011
Dept. of Planning
& Building

December 13, 2011

Hayden Beckham
City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street, 3RD Floor
Huntington Beach CA 92648

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2011111053
Log #: 2849 & 2849A

Subject: Municipal Code Amendment Regulating the Use of Plastic Carryout Bags and Recyclable Paper Carryout

Dear Beckham.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the **Municipal Code Amendment Regulating the Use of Plastic Carryout Bags and Recyclable Paper Carryout**. The project consists of a adoption of a proposed ordinance by the City of Huntington Beach City Council that would prohibit the distribution of plastic carryout bag in commercial point of sale purchases within the City of Huntington Beach and establish a ten (10) cent on the issuance of recyclable paper carryout bags at all grocery stores and supermarket, drug stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, food marts and Huntington Beach farmers markets. All stores affected by the proposed ordinance would be required to provide reusable bag to customers for either 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 Department of Transportation (Department) is a commenting agency on this project and has no comment at this time. However, in the event of any activity in the Department's right-of-way, an encroachment permit will be required.

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to call Ed Khosravi at (949) 724-2338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Herre".

Christopher Herre, Branch Chief
Local Development/Intergovernmental Review

C: Terry Roberts, Office of Planning and Research