6.0 ALTERNATIVES

As required by Section 15126.6 of the *CEQA Guidelines,* this section examines a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. The following three alternatives are evaluated:

- *Alternative 1: No Project*
- *Alternative 2: Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags at all Retail Establishments*
- *Alternative 3: Mandatory Charge of $0.25 for Paper Bags*

This section also includes a discussion of the "environmentally superior alternative" among those studied.

6.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

6.1.1 Description

The No Project alternative assumes that the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance would not be adopted. Thus, the use of carryout bags at retail stores in Huntington Beach would not change compared to current conditions. Single-use plastic and paper carryout bags would be available free-of-charge to customers at most retail stores in Huntington Beach. In addition, reusable carryout bags would be available for purchase by retailers.

6.1.2 Impact Analysis

No change in environmental conditions would occur under this alternative because neither a ban nor a mandatory charge for carryout bags would be imposed. Thus, Huntington Beach retail customers would have no incentive to alter their existing carryout bag preferences. Because conditions would not change under this alternative, none of the impacts in the studied issue areas associated with the proposed Ordinance would occur. This alternative would not result in the change in truck trips associated with delivering reusable and single-use paper bags that would occur with implementation of the proposed ordinance and would therefore eliminate impacts associated with such trips. In addition, because the No Project alternative would not facilitate a shift to reusable bags, the proposed Ordinance's less than significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions would be eliminated. On the other hand, this alternative would not achieve the proposed Ordinance's beneficial effects relative to air quality, biological resources (sensitive species), and hydrology and water quality, nor would it result in the general benefits with respect to litter accumulation that are expected to result from implementation of the proposed Ordinance.

6.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS AT ALL RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

6.2.1 Description

Similar to the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance, this alternative would ban retailers from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale and would create a mandatory $0.10 charge for paper bags. However, under this alternative, the Ordinance would apply to all categories of retail establishments in the City, including restaurants, food providers and stores less than 10,000 square feet. As a result, under this alternative, no plastic bags would be distributed at the point of sale in Huntington Beach.

Under this alternative, the Ordinance would result in a 100% reduction of the number of plastic bags distributed to customers (thus, a reduction of 102,198,343 plastic bags). In contrast, the proposed Ordinance would only reduce 95% of the plastic bags. It is assumed that the additional 5% of plastic bags that would be removed as part of this alternative would be replaced by reusable bags, such that, in total, 55% of single-use plastic bags currently used in the City would be replaced by reusable bags, and 45% would be replaced by paper bags.

The total estimate of bag use under this alternative, compared to the proposed Ordinance, is summarized in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1
Estimated Bag Use: Proposed Ordinance versus Alternative 2

Bag Type	Bags Used Annually	
	Proposed Ordinance*	Alternative 2**
Single-Use Plastic	5,109,917	0
Single-Use Paper	45,989,254	45,989,254
Reusable	982,676	1,080,944

**Refer to Table 4.1-4 in Section 4.1, Air Quality.*
*** Based on assumptions of 55% conversion of the volume of existing plastic bag use in Huntington Beach to reusable bags (based on 52 uses per year) and 45% conversion to paper bags.*

6.2.2 Impact Analysis

a. Air Quality. As described in Section 4.1, *Air Quality,* it is anticipated that the proposed Ordinance would replace the total volume of single-use plastic bags currently used in Huntington Beach with approximately 45% paper bags and 50% reusable bags, leaving 5% of the plastic bags in circulation (or approximately 5.1 million bags, as shown in Table 6-1 above). This alternative would apply to all retail establishments in Huntington Beach and would therefore eliminate an additional 5.1 million single-use plastic bags as compared to the proposed Ordinance. Consequently, this alternative would reduce emissions associated with plastic bag manufacturing, transportation, and disposal to a greater extent than the proposed Ordinance.

Table 6-2 estimates emissions that contribute to the development of ground level ozone and atmospheric acidification that would result from implementation of Alternative 2, as compared with the proposed Ordinance and existing conditions.

Table 6-2
Estimated Emissions that Contribute to Ground Level Ozone and Atmospheric Acidification (AA) from Alternative 2

Bag Type	# of Bags Used per Year	Ozone Emission Rate per Bag	Ozone Emissions (kg) per 1,000 bags	Ozone Emissions per year (kg)	AA Emission Rate per Bag	AA Emissions (kg) per 1,000 bags	AA Emissions per year (kg)
Single-use Plastic	0	1.0	0.023	0	1.0	1.084	0
Single-use Paper	45,989,254	1.3	0.03	1,380	1.9	2.06	94,738
Reusable	1,080,944	1.4	0.032	35	3.0	3.252	3,515
			Alternative 2 Total	**1,415**		**Total**	**98,253**
			Proposed Ordinance Total	1,529		**Total**	103,473
			Difference	**(114)**			**(5,220)**
			Existing Total (without an Ordinance)	2,351		**Existing**	110,783
			Net Change of Alternative 2 (Alternative 2 Total minus Existing Total)	**(936)**		**Net Change**	**(7,310)**

Source: Refer to Table 4.1-5 in Section 4.1, Air Quality.

This alternative would increase the use of reusable bags in the City compared to the proposed Ordinance. However, the reduction to ground level ozone would be greater than the proposed Ordinance by approximately 114 kg per year (a further reduction of approximately 7%) and the reduction to atmospheric acidification would be greater than the proposed Ordinance by approximately 5,220 kg per year (a further reduction of approximately 5%). Like the proposed Ordinance, Alternative 2 would result in beneficial impacts since the contribution to both ground level ozone and atmospheric acidification would decrease compared to existing conditions as a result of implementation of an ordinance that would ban plastic bags at all retail establishments.

To estimate mobile emissions resulting from Alternative 2, the number of truck trips per day was calculated using the assumptions outlined in Section 4.1, *Air Quality*. As shown in Table 6-3, Alternative 2 would result in an estimated 221 truck trips per year, or 0.61 truck trips per day, which is slightly higher than the proposed Ordinance.

Table 6-3
Estimated Truck Trips per Day
Following Implementation of Alternative 2

Bag Type	Number of Bags per Year	Number of Bags per Truck Load*	Truck Trips Per Year	Truck Trips per Day
Single-use Plastic	0	2,080,000	0	0
Single-use Paper	45,989,254	217,665	211	0.58
Reusable	1,080,944	108,862	9.92	0.027
Alternative 2 Total			**221**	**0.61**
Truck Trips from Proposed Ordinance			**223**	**0.61**
Difference			**(2)**	**0**
Existing Total (without an Ordinance)			49	0.13
Net Change of Alternative 2 (Alternative 2 Total minus Existing Total)			**172**	**0.47**

**City of Santa Monica Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance EIR (SCH #2010041004), January 2011; and City of Sunnyvale Carryout Bag Ordinance EIR (SCH#2011062032), December 2011.*

Based on the estimated truck trips for Alternative 2, mobile emissions were calculated using the URBEMIS model. As shown in Table 6-4, although Alternative 2 would slightly decrease truck trips compared to the proposed Ordinance (decrease by two trucks per year), this decrease is negligible such that daily ROG, NO_x, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions would be the same for Alternative 2 as for the proposed Ordinance. None of these emissions would exceed SCAQMD thresholds.

Table 6-4
Operational Emissions Associated with Alternative 2

	Emissions (lbs/day)				
	ROG	**NO_x**	**CO**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Mobile Emissions: Proposed Ordinance	0.01	0.2	0.05	0.01	0.01
Mobile Emissions: Alternative 2	**0.01**	**0.2**	**0.05**	**0.01**	**0.01**
SCAQMD Thresholds	*55*	*55*	*550*	*150*	*55*
Threshold Exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***

Source: URBEMIS version 9.2.4 calculations for Truck Trips. See Appendix B for calculations

Based on the data in tables 6-3 and 6-4, impacts resulting from bag manufacturing and use (including ground level ozone and atmospheric acidification) would be slightly reduced under this alternative, but would continue to be Class IV, *beneficial,* while impacts relating to an increase in truck trips would be similar, and would continue to be Class III, *less than significant.*

b. Biological Resources. Similar to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would ban single-use plastic carryout bags, thereby reducing the amount of single-use plastic bag litter that could enter the marine environment and affect sensitive species. Although this alternative may incrementally increase the use of reusable bags in Huntington Beach as compared to the proposed Ordinance, the impacts of reusable bags on biological resources are less than those of single-use plastic bags. Because of the weight, biodegradability of the materials, and recyclability, reusable bags are less likely to become litter compared to single-use plastic bags (Green Cities California MEA, 2010). Therefore, the impact to sensitive species as a result of litter entering the marine environment from Alternative 2 would be reduced compared to the proposed Ordinance. Similar to the proposed Ordinance, impacts would be Class IV, *beneficial*. Overall benefits would be somewhat greater than those of the proposed Ordinance since fewer plastic bags would be available within the city.

c. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Compared to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would be expected to reduce the number of single-use plastic bags by approximately 5.1 million bags and increase the number of reusable bags by 98,268. The number of paper bags would not change under this alternative. As noted in Section 4.3, *Greenhouse Gases,* through the manufacturing, transportation, and disposal, each reusable bag results in 2.6 times the emissions of a single-use plastic bag. Because this alternative would increase the number of reusable bags and reduce the number of single-use plastic bags, it would result in a net decrease of GHG emissions compared to the proposed Ordinance.

Table 6-5 (on the following page) shows estimated GHG emissions associated with implementation of Alternative 2.

Compared to the proposed Ordinance, GHG emissions under Alternative 2 would decrease by approximately 0.001 CO_2e per person per year. Like the proposed Ordinance, the net increase in emissions compared to existing conditions as a result of this alternative (net increase of 0.015 CO_2e per person per year) would not exceed the SCAQMD's 4.8 metric tons CDE per person per year threshold. Therefore, impacts would remain Class III, *less than significant.*

d. Hydrology and Water Quality. Similar to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would reduce the number of single-use plastic bags used in Huntington Beach, thereby incrementally reducing the amount of plastic litter and waste entering storm drains. Although this alternative would be expected to replace 5.1 million single-use plastic bags with 98,268 reusable bags (see Table 6-1), due to the weight and sturdiness of reusable bags made for multiple uses, reusable bags are less likely to be littered or carried from landfills by wind as litter compared to both single-use plastic and paper bags. Therefore, shifting toward greater use of reusable bags would not degrade water quality compared to existing conditions as a result of litter, nor would it increase the potential for storm drain blockage (refer to Section 4.4, *Hydrology and Water Quality*). Because reusable bags would be less likely to result in storm drain blockage or contamination, this alternative would reduce litter compared to the proposed

Table 6-5
Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Alternative 2

Bag Type	Estimated Number of Bags Used per Year	GHG Impact Rate per Bag	CO_2e (metric tons)	CO_2e per year (metric tons)	CO_2e per Person
Single-use Plastic	0	1.0	0.04 per 1,500 bags	0	0
Single-use Paper	45,989,254	2.97	0.1188 per 1,000 bags	5,464	0.032
Reusable	1,080,944	2.6	0.104 per 1,000 bags	112	0.0005
			Alternative 2 Total	**5,576**	**0.029**
			Proposed Ordinance	5,702	0.030
			Difference	**(126)**	**0.001**
			Existing Total (without an Ordinance)	2,725	0.014
			Net Change of Alternative 2 (Alternative 2 Total minus Existing Total)	**2,851**	**0.015**

CO_2e = *Carbon Dioxide Equivalent units*
Source: Refer to Table 4.3-4 in Section 4.3, Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Ordinance. As with the proposed Ordinance, an incremental reduction in the amount of litter that could enter storm drains and local waterways would improve water quality and reduce the potential for storm drain blockage. Therefore, like the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would result in generally Class IV, *beneficial,* effects to water quality, and overall benefits would be somewhat greater under this alternative.

This alternative would be expected to result in the use of more reusable bags in Huntington Beach than with implementation of the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. However, as with the proposed Ordinance, reusable bag manufacturing facilities would be required to adhere to NPDES Permit requirements, AB 258 and the California Health and Safety Code reducing impacts to water quality. Impacts to water quality from altering bag processing activities would be the same as the proposed Ordinance and would remain Class III, *less than significant.*

6.3 ALTERNATIVE 3: MANDATORY CHARGE OF $0.25 FOR PAPER BAGS

6.3.1 Description

Similar to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would prohibit three specified categories of retail establishments in Huntington Beach from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale. However, under this alternative, the mandatory charge for each paper bag distributed by stores in the City would be increased from $0.10 per bag (as currently proposed) to $0.25 per bag. As a result of the $0.25 mandatory charge increase for paper bags, it is anticipated that this alternative would further promote the use of reusable bags since customers would be deterred from purchasing paper bags due to the additional cost.

Based on a cost requirement of $0.25 per bag, it is assumed that the total volume of plastic bags currently used in Huntington Beach (estimated at 102,198,343 plastic bags per year) would be replaced by approximately 35% paper bags and 60% reusable bags under Alternative 3 (compared to 45% paper and 50% reusable assumed for the proposed Ordinance). It is assumed that 5% of existing single-use plastic bags would remain in use, similar to the proposed Ordinance, since the alternative would not apply to some retailers who distribute plastic bags (e.g. restaurants). Table 6-6 summarizes the changes in bag distribution as a result of a $0.25 mandatory charge under this alternative compared to the $0.10 charge under the proposed Ordinance.

Table 6-6
Estimated Bag Use: Proposed Ordinance versus Alternative 3

Bag Type	Bags Used Annually	
	Proposed Ordinance	Alternative 3
Single-Use Plastic	5,109,917	5,109,917
Single-Use Paper	45,989,254	35,769,420
Reusable	982,676	1,179,211

** Refer to Table 4.1-4 in Section 4.1, Air Quality.*
*** Based on an assumption of 5% existing plastic bag use in Huntington Beach (approximately 102,198,343 plastic bags per year) to remain, 35% conversion of the volume of existing plastic bag use in Huntington Beach to paper bags and 60% conversion to reusable bags (based on 52 uses per year).*

6.3.2 Impact Analysis

a. Air Quality. As described in Section 4.1, *Air Quality,* it is estimated that the proposed Ordinance would replace the total volume of single-use plastic bags currently used in Huntington Beach with approximately 45% paper bags and 50% reusable bags, leaving 5% of the plastic bags in circulation (or approximately 5.1 million bags, as shown in Table 6-1 above). This alternative would increase the mandatory charge on paper bags by fifteen cents, and would therefore promote a greater shift toward reusable bags. Consequently, this alternative

would reduce the number of single-use paper bags and increase the number of reusable bags compared to the proposed Ordinance. Because this alternative would apply to the same retailers as the proposed Ordinance, the number of single-use plastic bags remaining in circulation would be the same. In total, Alternative 3 would result in 10,023,299 fewer bags (including single-use plastic, single-use paper, and reusable) than the proposed Ordinance. Air pollutant emissions associated with bag manufacturing, transportation, and disposal would therefore be reduced when compared to the proposed Ordinance.

Table 6-7 estimates emissions that contribute to the development of ground level ozone and atmospheric acidification that would result from implementation of Alternative 3, as compared to the proposed Ordinance and existing conditions.

Table 6-7
Estimated Emissions that Contribute to Ground Level Ozone and Atmospheric Acidification (AA) from Alternative 3

Bag Type	# of Bags Used per Year	Ozone Emission Rate per Bag	Ozone Emissions (kg) per 1,000 bags	Ozone Emissions per year (kg)	AA Emission Rate per Bag	AA Emissions (kg) per 1,000 bags	AA Emissions per year (kg)
Single-use Plastic	5,109,917	1.0	0.023	117.52	1.0	1.084	5,539.15
Single-use Paper	35,769,420	1.3	0.03	1,073	1.9	2.06	73,685
Reusable	1,179,211	1.4	0.032	38	3.0	3.252	3,835
			Alternative 3 Total	**1,229**		**Total**	**83,059**
			Proposed Ordinance Total	1,529		**Total**	103,473
			Difference	**(300)**			**(20,414)**
			Existing Total (without an Ordinance)	2,351		**Existing**	110,783
			Net Change of Alternative 3 (Alternative 3 Total minus Existing Total)	**(1,122)**		**Net Change**	**(27,724)**

Source: Refer to Table 4.1-5 in Section 4.1, Air Quality.

This alternative would increase the use of reusable bags in the City compared to the proposed Ordinance. However, because the alternative would reduce the number of paper bags by almost 10 million, the reduction to ground level ozone would be greater that the proposed Ordinance by approximately 300 kg per year (a further reduction of approximately 20%) and the reduction to atmospheric acidification would be greater than the proposed Ordinance by approximately 27,724 kg per year (a further reduction of approximately 27%). Like the

proposed Ordinance, Alternative 3 would result in beneficial impacts since the contribution to both ground level ozone and atmospheric acidification would decrease compared to existing conditions as a result of implementation of an ordinance that would apply a $0.25 fee on paper bags.

To estimate mobile emissions resulting from Alternative 3, the number of truck trips per day was calculated using the assumptions outlined in Section 4.1, *Air Quality*. As shown in Table 6-8, Alternative 3 would result in an estimated 178 truck trips per year, or 0.49 truck trips per day, which is approximately 20% fewer truck trips than the proposed Ordinance.

Table 6-8
Estimated Truck Trips per Day
Following Implementation of Alternative 3

Bag Type	Number of Bags per Year	Number of Bags per Truck Load*	Truck Trips Per Year	Truck Trips per Day
Single-use Plastic	5,109,917	2,080,000	2.5	0.007
Single-use Paper	35,769,420	217,665	164	0.45
Reusable	1,179,211	108,862	11	0.03
		Alternative 3 Total	**178**	**0.49**
		Truck Trips from Proposed Ordinance	223	0.61
		Difference	**(45)**	**(0.12)**
		Existing Total (without an Ordinance)	49	0.13
		Net Change of Alternative 3 (Alternative 3 Total minus Existing Total)	**129**	**0.35**

**City of Santa Monica Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance EIR (SCH #2010041004), January 2011; and City of Sunnyvale Carryout Bag Ordinance EIR (SCH#2011062032), December 2011.*

Based on the estimated truck trips for Alternative 3, mobile emissions were calculated using the URBEMIS model. As indicated in Table 6-9, daily ROG and PM_{10} emissions would be the same for Alternative 3 as for the proposed Ordinance, while daily emissions of NO_x and $PM_{2.5}$ would be slightly lower. Like the proposed Ordinance, none of these emissions would exceed SCAQMD thresholds.

Table 6-9
Operational Emissions Associated with Alternative 3

	Emissions (lbs/day)				
	ROG	**NO_x**	**CO**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Mobile Emissions: Proposed Ordinance	0.01	0.2	0.05	0.01	0.01
Mobile Emissions: Alternative 3	**0.01**	**0.09**	**0.03**	**0.01**	**0.00**
SCAQMD Thresholds	*55*	*55*	*550*	*150*	*55*
Threshold Exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***

Source: URBEMIS version 9.2.4 calculations for Truck Trips. See Appendix B for calculations

Based on the above, Alternative 3 would slightly reduce air quality impacts compared to the proposed Ordinance. Impacts resulting from bag manufacturing and use (ground level ozone and atmospheric acidification) would continue to be Class IV, *beneficial,* while impacts relating to an increase in truck trips would continue to be Class III, *less than significant.*

b. Biological Resources. Similar to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would ban single-use plastic carryout bags from certain retailers, thereby incrementally reducing the amount of single-use plastic bag litter that could enter the marine environment and affect sensitive species. Compared to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would also further reduce the amount of single-use paper bag litter that could enter the marine environment. Although single-use paper bags are less likely to become litter compared to single-use plastic bags (refer to Section 4.2, *Biological Resources*), the net reduction of all bag types associated with this alternative would result in overall less litter entering the marine environment. As a result, the benefits with respect to marine species would be greater than those of the proposed Ordinance.

c. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Compared to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would be expected to reduce the number of single-use paper bags by approximately 10 million bags and increase the number of reusable bags by approximately 196,535. The number of single-use plastic bags would not change under this alternative. As noted in Section 4.3, *Greenhouse Gases,* the manufacturing, transportation, and disposal of each single-use paper bag results in 3.3 times the emissions of a single-use plastic bag, while the manufacturing, transportation, and disposal of each reusable bag results in approximately 2.6 times the emissions of a single-use plastic bag. This alternative would increase the number of reusable bags by approximately 196,535, which would slightly increase GHG emissions; however, it would reduce the number of single-use paper bags to a greater extent (approximately 10 million bags).

Table 6-10 provides an estimate of GHG emissions that would result from the reduction of carryout bags as a result of implementation of Alternative 3.

Table 6-10
Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Alternative 3

Bag Type	Estimated Number of Bags Used per Year	GHG Impact Rate per Bag	CO_2e (metric tons)	CO_2e per year (metric tons)	CO_2e per Person
Single-use Plastic	5,109,917	1.0	0.04 per 1,500 bags	136	0.0007
Single-use Paper	35,769,420	2.97	0.1188 per 1,000 bags	4,249	0.022
Reusable	1,179,211	2.6	0.104 per 1,000 bags	123	0.0006
			Alternative 3 Total	**4,508**	**0.023**
			Proposed Ordinance	5,702	0.030
			Difference	**(1,194)**	**(0.007)**
			Existing Total (without an Ordinance)	2,725	0.014
			Net Change of Alternative 3 (Alternative 3 Total minus Existing Total)	**1,783**	**0.009**

CO_2e = *Carbon Dioxide Equivalent units*
Source: Refer to Table 4.3-4 in Section 4.3, Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Compared to the proposed Ordinance, GHG emissions under Alternative 3 would decrease by approximately 0.007 CDE per person per year. Like the proposed Ordinance, the net increase of emissions compared to existing conditions as a result of this alternative (net increase of 0.009 CO_2e per person per year) would not exceed the SCAQMD's 4.8 metric tons CDE per person per year threshold. Therefore, impacts would remain Class III, *less than significant.*

d. Hydrology and Water Quality. Similar to the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would reduce the number of single-use plastic bags used in Huntington Beach, thereby incrementally reducing the amount of plastic litter and waste entering storm drains. In addition, this alternative would further reduce the number of single-use paper bags compared to the proposed Ordinance (by approximately 10 million bags), replacing them instead with approximately 196,535 reusable bags. As a result, overall, this alternative would reduce litter compared to the proposed Ordinance. As with the proposed Ordinance, an incremental reduction in the amount of litter that could enter storm drains and local waterways would improve water quality and reduce the potential for storm drain blockage. Therefore, like the proposed Ordinance, this alternative would result in Class IV, *beneficial,* effects to water quality. Overall benefits would be somewhat greater under this alternative.

This alternative would be expected to result in the use of fewer single-use paper carryout bags in Huntington Beach than with implementation of the proposed Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance. However, it would not completely eliminate single-use paper bags. As with the

proposed Ordinance, single-use paper bag manufacturing facilities would be required to adhere to NPDES Permit requirements, AB 258 and the California Health and Safety Code reducing impacts to water quality. Impacts to water quality from altering bag processing activities would be the same as the proposed Ordinance and would continue to be Class III, *less than significant*.

6.4 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

This subsection identifies the environmentally superior alternative. The Mandatory Charge of $0.25 for Paper Bags alternative would be considered environmentally superior among the alternatives, as it would have more environmental benefits compared to the proposed Ordinance. This alternative would result in beneficial effects to the environment compared to existing conditions in the areas of air quality, biological resources, and hydrology/water quality. This alternative would also meet the project objectives, including:

- Reducing the number of single-use plastic bags distributed by retailers and used by customers in Huntington Beach
- Deterring the use of paper bags by customers in Huntington Beach
- Promoting a shift toward the use of reusable carryout bags by retail customers in Huntington Beach
- Reducing the environmental impacts related to single-use plastic carryout bags, such as impacts to biological resources (including marine environments) and water quality
- Avoiding litter and the associated adverse impacts to stormwater systems, aesthetics and the marine environment (Pacific Ocean and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve)

The proposed Ordinance would not have any significant impacts; therefore, adopting Alternative 3 (Mandatory Charge of $0.25 for Paper Bags) rather than the proposed project would not avoid any significant environmental effects.

Table 6-11 compares the impacts for each of the alternatives.

Table 6-11
Impact Comparison of Alternatives

Issue	Proposed Ordinance	Alt 1: No Project	Alt 2: Ban on Plastic Bags at all Retail Establishments	Alt 3: Mandatory Charge of $0.25 for Paper Bags
Air Quality	=	-/+	+/=	+
Biological Resources	=	-	+	+/=
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	=	-/+	+/=	+
Hydrology/Water Quality	=	-	+/=	+/=

+ Superior to the proposed project (reduced level of impact)
- Inferior to the proposed project (increased level of impact)
= / + slightly superior to the proposed project in one or more aspects, but not significantly superior
= Similar level of impact to the proposed project