



Loma Prieta Chapter serving San Mateo, Santa Clara & San Benito Counties

January 8, 2012

Menlo Park City Council
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Honorable Mayor Peter Ohtaki and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the over 800 members of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter who reside in Menlo Park, we thank you for your support of the San Mateo County plastic bag ban Environmental Impact Report and for choosing to move forward with plans of adopting the ban. We commend the city of Menlo Park in taking the lead in participating with this region-wide effort to eliminate plastic waste.

Over 20 billion single-use plastic bags are consumed in California every year. Their impacts have lasting impacts on our surroundings as they contribute towards our consumption and dependence on fossil fuels, release of harmful greenhouse gases, and degradation of the environment and waterways. They cannot be easily recycled, and as a result they end up in landfills and our natural environments where they break down and accumulate toxic substances.

By adopting a ban, as several cities have already demonstrated, the number of plastic bags that enter into the environment and litter streets as well as water-ways will be measurably reduced. Not only does this promote the health of the community by reducing toxic plastic litter, but it generates a positive atmosphere of change towards enhancing the well-being of our local community.

We encourage you to pass your Reusable Bag Ordinance for a comprehensive ban on single-use plastic bags in the city. Menlo Park's adoption of an ordinance in compliance with San Mateo County's ordinance will be a positive step in making the entire region one of the most advanced in the country in its policies to reduce waste in the environment.

We thank you for your support.

Ann Schneider
Chair, Zero Waste Committee
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter