

Single use disposable shopping bags



Roosevelt Park, Coyote Creek, August 09

Community and
Economic
Development
Committee
August 24, 2009

Supports San José policies

- Stormwater Permit Requirements
- Urban Environmental Accords
- Cities Keep it Clean Partnership



10th and Hedding, August 09



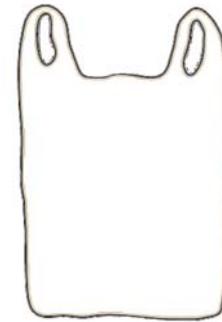
Resources for paper and plastic?



14 million
trees



12 million barrels of
oil



38 billion disposable bags
per year



The lifespan of a bag...by design



Useful life of a disposable bag
averages 12 minutes



By design, lifespan of a reusable...



... many, many years



A regional effort

- Working with Santa Clara County cities and the county
- Commission recommends
 - plastic bag ban, and
 - fee on paper
- BayROC - Bring Your Own Bag
 - San Francisco
 - Oakland
 - Marin





Regional Stormwater Permit

- Impaired by trash – Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, Silver Creek
- Stringent litter reduction requirements
- Bay Area-wide coordination



Canoas Creek, Coyote Creek,
January 09



Palo Alto

- March 18 – voted to ban plastic bags 7 large grocery stores
- Ban effective September 18
 - Plastic bags in produce and meat sections not affected
- Settled litigation
 - will do EIR for future actions

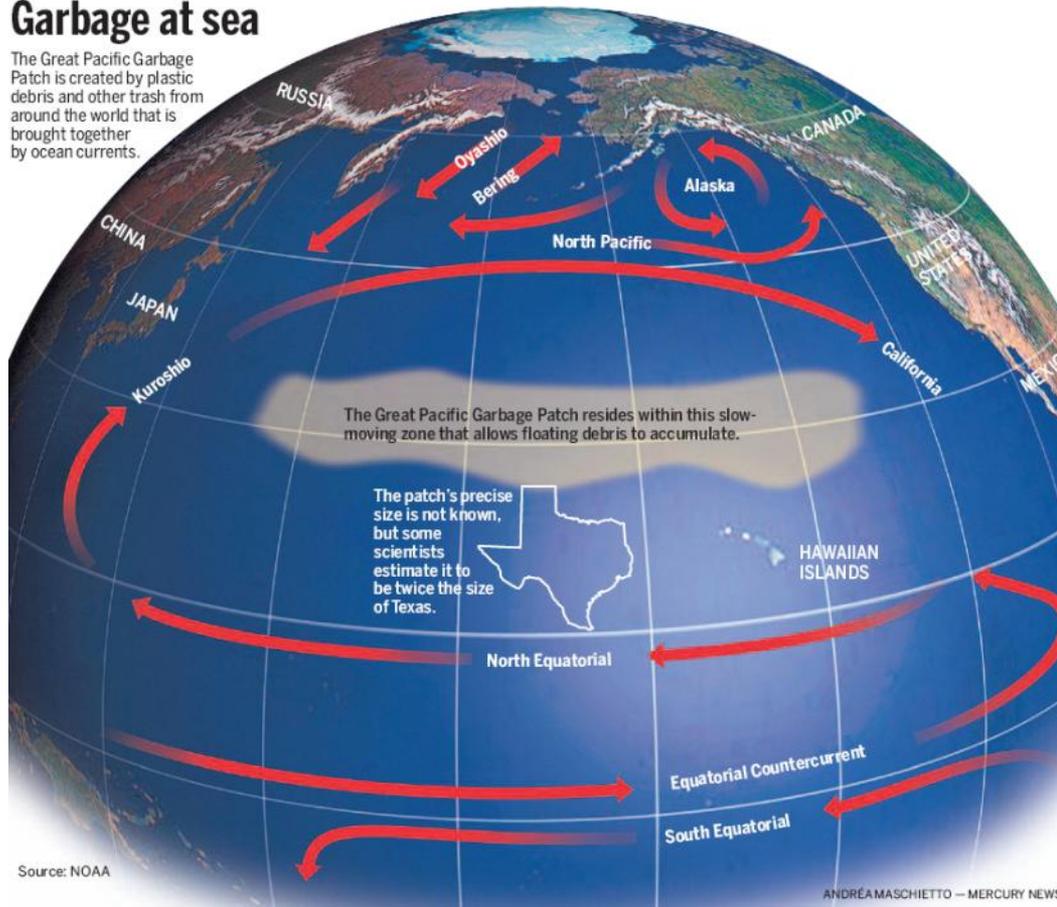




Pacific Gyre and marine debris

Garbage at sea

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is created by plastic debris and other trash from around the world that is brought together by ocean currents.



San Jose Mercury
News 8/4/09



International action

- Plastic bag ban – Asia, Africa
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) – promoting global ban
- Plastic bag fee – Ireland, Germany, Taiwan



Green Team of San José,
plastic bags stockpiled,
December 08



Role of recycling



- At large grocery stores and pharmacies
- Dry cleaning bags, clean plastic bags
- Not at curbside
- No impact on litter



U. S. bans or fees

1. San Francisco, Calif., bag ban (2007)
2. Malibu, Calif., bag ban (2008)
3. Maui County, Hawaii, bag ban (2008)
4. Westport, Conn., bag ban (2008)
5. Fairfax, Calif., bag ban (2008)
6. Palo Alto, Calif., bag ban (2009)
7. North Carolina Outer Banks (3 counties) ban (2009)
8. Edmonds, Wash., ban (2009)
9. Bethel, Alaska, ban (2009)
10. District of Columbia (2009)



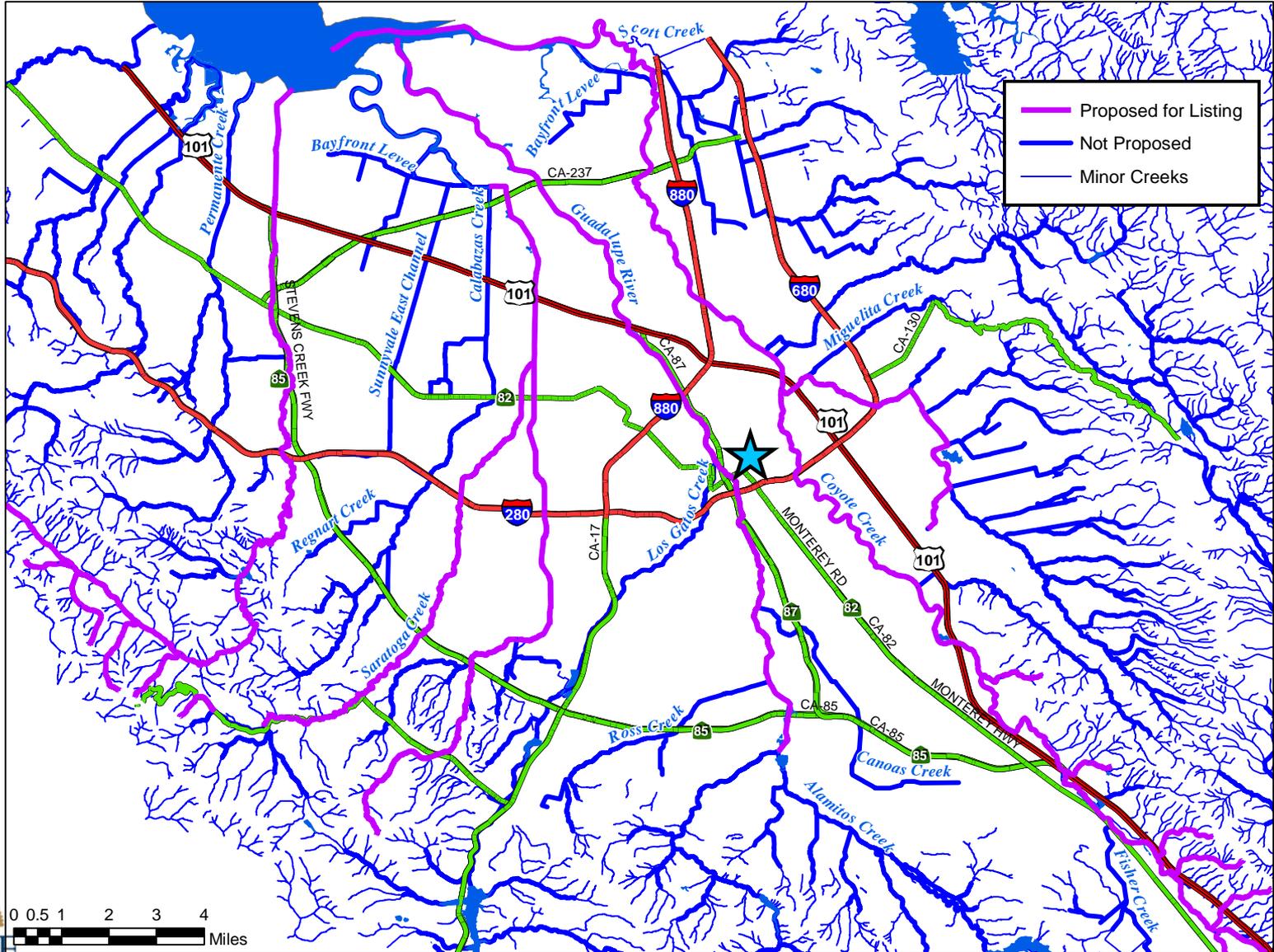
Roosevelt Community Center



80 plastic bags collected from 300' bank, Coyote Creek, August 15, 2009



San Jose Network of Creeks





Outreach in San José



San Jose Flea Market

National Night Out

- Edenvale/Great Oaks
- Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace
- Emma Prusch



Downtown San Jose
Farmers Market



Outreach in San José

Business Associations

The Alameda, Alum Rock Village, Evergreen, Luna Park, Japantown, Story Road

Seniors

Moreland Deaf Seniors, Hank Lopez Sr. Ctr, Senior Citizens Commission, Catholic Charities Senior Housing

Community Associations

Almaden Valley Community, Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council, San Tomas West

And more...

Mercy Housing, Hoffman/Via Monte SNI, Business Owner Space, Generation Engage, SJSU Environmental Students, Algalita Marine Research



Uptown Summer Festival



Bring Your Own Bag Pledge

By accepting this reusable bag, I pledge to shop with it at grocery and retail stores. By doing so I recognize that I am protecting the environment and reducing litter in San José.

Initial here: _____

1) Do you currently own a reusable shopping bag? Yes / No

2) Do you take a reusable bag with you when you shop? Yes / No

If yes, where do you shop with your reusable bag? Circle all that apply:

a. Grocery Store b. Farmers market c. Retail store d. Shopping mall

If no, why not? Circle all that apply:

a. I don't own any b. I forget to bring them c. I think they are inconvenient d. Other _____

3) Did you know that plastic bags are no longer accepted at curbside recycling in San José? Yes / No

4) Do you bring back your clean plastic bags to your local grocery store or pharmacy for recycling? Yes / No

Can we contact you in a couple months to see how you are using your free reusable bag?

Name _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

The City will make every reasonable effort to protect your privacy. It restricts access to your personal identifiable information to those employees who will respond to your request. The City does not intentionally disclose any personal information about our customers to any third parties or outside the City except as required by law or by the consent of the person providing the information.



Strategies - fees

Pros:

- Effective
- Avoidable with reusable bags
- Retains consumer options

Cons:

- Current economy
- Administrative effort

Strategies – bans

Pros:

- Addresses marine debris, most persistent waste
- Less administrative effort

Cons:

- Fewer options for consumers at check-out

Strategies – public education only

Pros:

- Raises awareness

Cons:

- Costly
- Ineffective for behavior change

Next steps



- Continue with public education
- Respond to Council direction
- CEQA document

International Actions – Ban or Fee

- Argentina
- Australia (7 cities)
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Bhutan
- Brazil
- Buenos Aires
- Canada (8 Cities)
- Chile
- China
- Denmark
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Rwanda
- Somaliland
- South Africa
- Spain
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- United Kingdom (12 Cities)
- Uganda
- Uruguay
- Zanzibar
- Uganda

U.S. and California – under consideration

- Alaska
- Austin
- Arizona
- Boston
- Chicago
- Florida
- Lake County
- Maui
- Michigan
- New Jersey
- New York City
- New York State
- 4 New York Counties
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Rhode Island
- Seattle
- Tempe
- WashingtonDC
- West Virginia
- Westport
- Berkeley
- Encinitas
- Fairfax
- Fresno
- Gilroy
- Los Angeles
- LA County
- Malibu
- Manhattan Beach
- Mendocino County
- Oakland
- Pasadena
- Palo Alto
- Palm Springs
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Clara County
- 15 Santa Clara County Cities
- Santa Monica
- Solana Beach