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Attn: Doug George

Sam Schuchat  
Ocean Protection Council Secretary  
Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer  
Ocean Protection Council  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Support for the Completion of a Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) on single-use (plastic and paper) and reusable bags.**

Dear Secretary Schuchat and Members of the California Ocean Protection Council:

The City of San Clemente commends the California Ocean Protection Council for its leadership in addressing critical issues facing California's coast and ocean including marine debris. Please accept our support for the recommended action to complete a Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) on single-use (plastic and paper) and reusable bags. This MEA will provide the necessary background information for California municipalities to quickly complete Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) necessary for the development of new ordinances placing restrictions on usage of single-use bags.

As you know, the Ocean Protection Council has clearly identified that single-use plastic bags significantly contribute to the serious litter and marine debris problem facing the state. For that reason, OPC's Ocean Litter Implementation Strategy includes as Priority Action #2 a call for a prohibition on single-use products such as plastic bags.

The City of San Clemente heeded this call for action and developed a draft ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags. However, a Los Angeles County Court recently ruled that a municipal plastic bag ban requires completion of an EIR analysis under CEQA. The reality of the costs associated with an EIR and/or potential lawsuit is something that poses a fiscal challenge and therefore, staff has delayed further efforts and postponed bringing this draft ordinance before the City Council.

Completion of an MEA on single-use bags will greatly simplify the EIR process for many cities, allowing them to incorporate the MEA into their individual EIRs, saving time and money, and facilitating the implementation of single-use bag regulations throughout the state. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Donchak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Donchak  
Mayor