



# City of Malibu

Andy Stern, Mayor

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March 24, 2009

*Sent via Email to [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)*

State of California Ocean Protection Council  
Attn: Sam Schuchat, Secretary  
Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer  
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 Malibu commends the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for its leadership in addressing critical issues facing California's coast and ocean, including marine debris. On behalf of the Malibu City Council, I am pleased to offer this letter of 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).

As you know, the OPC 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 No. 2 a call for a prohibition on single-use products such as plastic bags.

As an agency that recognizes the importance of eliminating marine litter, the City of Malibu banned the use of expanded polystyrene food packaging in 2005 and single-use plastic shopping bags in May 2008. Many other California cities are also heeding this call for action and are developing ordinances intended to minimize or eliminate single-use bags through the adoption of bans on plastic bags and, in some cases, fees on paper bags. However, a ruling issued February 20, 2009, in Los Angeles County on a challenge under CEQA to a municipal plastic bag ban now requires that municipality to complete an EIR before it can implement its ban.

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Completion of an MEA on single-use bags will greatly simplify the EIR process for these 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. If you have any questions regarding the City of Malibu's environmental programs, please feel free to contact Jennifer Voccola, Environmental Programs Coordinator, at (310) 456-2489 ext. 275 or [jvoccola@ci.malibu.ca.us](mailto:jvoccola@ci.malibu.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Andy Stern  
Mayor

cc: Honorable Members of the Malibu City Council  
Jim Thorsen, City Manager  
Jennifer Voccola, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Doug George, Coastal Conservancy, via email to [dgeorge@scc.ca.gov](mailto:dgeorge@scc.ca.gov)

