



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
LA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND WEST HOLLYWOOD ADDENDUM TO THE EIR**

To: All Interested Persons and Agencies
From: City of West Hollywood Department of Community Development
Date: July 2, 2012
Project Title: **Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance**

Lead Agency:
City of West Hollywood
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

An Addendum to the County of Los Angeles' Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the City of West Hollywood (City) for the proposed project. This document is prepared as an addendum to the previously certified EIR that was adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 26, 2010, studying the environmental consequences of ordinances banning single-use plastic carry-out bags in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and in the 88 incorporated cities within the County. The County is the local lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of the EIR, while the City is the local lead agency responsible for the preparation of the Addendum.

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed Plastic Bag Ban is to ban the distribution of single-use plastic carryout bags by all retailers in the City. Retailers will be permitted to distribute or sell both paper and reusable bags, and will charge \$0.10 per paper bags to help cover their costs of implementation and to encourage use of reusable bags. Restaurants, farmers markets and dry cleaners are exempt.

The proposed ban is motivated by the negative environmental effects of plastic bag use. It supports the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan to reduce waste and encourage the use of reusable materials in retail and commercial establishments. Plastic bags have been shown to be environmentally damaging, from their production as an oil-based product, to the damage they cause in clogging up landfills, and the litter created on beaches and waterways. Furthermore, they cause harm to marine life when they end up in our bays and ocean where plastic debris breaks down into small particles that do not decompose. Despite recycling programs and concerns over environmental health, only a small percentage of plastic bags are recycled.

The City has hosted two sets of focus groups with local retailers to discuss the effects of the ban. Additional outreach to businesses, residents, and consumers will take place in the period following adoption of the proposed ban in order to assist businesses and consumers in transitioning to reusable shopping bags.

Summary of Impacts:

No impacts to aesthetics, agricultural and forest resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public service, recreation, and transportation and traffic would occur as a result of the proposed ban. Impacts to air quality, hydrology and water quality, and utilities and service systems would be less than significant. Direct impacts to greenhouse gas emissions would be less than significant, while the cumulative effect is potentially significant due to a potential for increased use of paper bags. The City is undertaking a mitigation monitoring program and statement of overriding considerations to address potential negative impacts to greenhouse gas emissions. The impact on biological resources will be beneficial.

Public Comment Period:

While CEQA does not require a formal comment period for an Addendum to a previously certified EIR, West Hollywood is collecting comments on the Addendum from all interested parties. The public comment period for this Addendum begins on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 and will end on Monday, July 30, 2012 (comment letters must be postmarked by July 30, 2012).

As of July 3, 2012, copies of the County's EIR and the City's Addendum were made available for review at the City Hall Planning Division counter and West Hollywood Library (625 N. San Vicente Boulevard (at Melrose), West Hollywood, CA 90069 (310) 652-5340). The document is also available on the City of West Hollywood website, www.weho.org, and copies are available on request by calling the West Hollywood Planning Division at (323) 848-6475. Please submit comments in writing to the following address:

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