

ORDINANCE NO. 686

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLEDAD ADDING
NEW CHAPTER 8.24 –“USE OF SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS, RECYCLED
PAPER BAGS, AND RESUABLE BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS” TO TITLE
8-“HEALTH AND SAFETY” OF THE SOLEDAD MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, millions of plastic single use carryout bags are distributed by retailers in the City of Soledad each year; and

WHEREAS, the manufacture and distribution of single use carryout bags requires utilization of finite natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the use of single-use shopping bags have severe environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, water consumption and solid waste generation; and

WHEREAS, plastic bag litter results in costs to the City through removal of bag debris from storm drains, public roadways and open space; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Soledad to conserve natural resources, to protect wildlife and natural habitat, to reduce waste, litter and marine pollution and to protect the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council expressed its desire to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would restrict the use of single-use carryout plastic bags within the City limits, and an ordinance has been prepared in this regard; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance is a Categorically Exempt, Class 7 action, Section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) and Class 8 action, Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) meeting the following conditions:

- (a) The purpose of the ordinance is to assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources and protection of the environment, and
- (b) The proposed ordinance would result in benefits to biological resources and hydrology/water quality; and

WHEREAS, in considering the proposed ordinance, the City Council has complied with Government Code Section 65913.2 by considering the effect of the ordinance on housing needs in the region and has determined that the proposed ordinance is in keeping with the goals and programs of the City’s General Plan which provide due and adequate consideration of the City’s housing needs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered oral comments and written information concerning the proposed ordinance at a public hearing, duly noticed in a newspaper of local circulation in accordance with applicable law, at a public meeting held on August 6, 2014.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Soledad as follows:

SECTION 1: All of the recitals set forth above are true and correct to the best of the Council's knowledge, and by this reference, are incorporated herein as findings.

SECTION 2: Chapter 8.24 is hereby added to Title 8- "Health and Safety" of the Soledad Municipal Code to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 8.24
USE OF SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS, RECYCLED PAPER BAGS, AND
REUSABLE BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS**

Sections:

8.24.010	Purpose and Findings
8.24.020	Applicability
8.24.030	Definitions
8.24.040	Regulations
8.24.050	Recordkeeping and Inspection
8.24.060	Enforcement

8.24.010 PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to ban thin-film plastic single-use carryout bags and prohibit the free distribution of paper bags or reusable bags by certain types of retail establishments in the City of Soledad in order to reduce litter and protect the natural resources of Soledad.

B. Pursuant to Article XI, section 7 of the California Constitution, the City of Soledad may adopt and enforce ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

C. The use of single-use carryout bags by consumers at retail establishments is detrimental to the environment, public health and welfare.

D. The manufacture and distribution of single-use carryout bags requires utilization of natural resources and results in the generation of greenhouse gas emissions.

E. Single-use carryout bags contribute to environmental problems, including litter in storm drains, creeks, the Monterey Bay, and the ocean.

F. Single-use carryout bags provided by retail establishments impose unseen costs on consumers, local governments, the state and taxpayers and constitute a public nuisance.

G. Prohibiting retail establishments from using plastic single-use carryout bags and requiring a fee for paper bags reduces litter and benefits the environment by encouraging customers to use reusable bags.

H. This city council, accordingly, finds and declares that it should restrict single use carry-out bags and require a fee for recycled paper bags and reusable bags.

8.24.020 APPLICABILITY

This chapter applies in the City of Soledad city limits.

8.24.030 DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise expressly stated, whenever used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- A. “Customer” means any person obtaining goods from a retail establishment.
- B. “Chapter” means Chapter 8.24 of the Soledad Municipal Code.
- C. “City” means the City of Soledad.
- D. “Director” or “Director of Health” means the City Manager or his/her designee.
- E. “Effective date” means the effective date of this ordinance enacting Chapter 8.24.
- F. “Garment bag” means a travel bag made of pliable, durable material with or without a handle, designed to hang straight or fold double and used to carry suits, dresses, coats, or the like without crushing or wrinkling the same.
- G. “Mils” is the thickness of a material measured in increments of one-thousandth (1/1000th) of an inch.
- H. “Nonprofit charitable reuser” is defined as a charitable organization which is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a distinct operating unit or division of the charitable organization, that reuses and recycles donated goods or materials and receives more than 50 percent of its revenues from the handling and sale of those donated goods or materials. Nonprofit charitable reusers are not considered retail establishments for the purpose of this ordinance.
- I. “Person” means any individual, sole proprietorship, firm, association, organization, partnership (whether limited or general), corporation, limited liability corporation, political subdivision, government agency, municipality, industry, public or private corporation, trust, joint venture, regulatory authority, or any other entity.
- J. “Prepared food” means foods or beverages which are prepared on the premises by cooking, chopping, slicing, mixing, freezing, or squeezing, and which require no further preparation to be consumed. “Prepared food” does not include any raw, uncooked meat product or fruits or vegetables which are chopped, squeezed, or mixed.
- K. “Public eating establishment” is defined as a restaurant, take-out food establishment, or any other business that receives 90 percent or more of its revenue from the sale of prepared food, which is prepared on the premises, to be eaten on or off its premises. Public eating establishments are not considered retail establishments for the purpose of this ordinance.
- L. “Recycled paper bag” is defined as a bag that contains no old growth fiber and a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled content, is 100 percent recyclable, and has printed in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag the words “reusable” and “recyclable”, the name and location of the manufacturer, and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content
- M. “Retail establishment” means any commercial establishment that sells perishable or nonperishable goods including, but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer and that is located within or doing business within the City of Soledad. The term “retail establishment” includes farmers’ markets. The term “retail establishment” does not include public eating establishments, nonprofit charitable reusers, and wholesale agricultural produce packing and shipping businesses.
- N. “Reusable bag” is defined as a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured to be reused at least 125 times and that is either (1) made of cloth or other washable fabric, or, (2) made of durable, recyclable material that is at least four (4.0) mils thick that can be cleaned or disinfected at least 125 times. A “reusable bag” may be made of recyclable plastic such as high density polyethylene (HDPE), low density polyethylene (LDPE), or polypropylene.

O. “Single-use carryout bag” is defined as a bag, other than a reusable bag or recycled paper bag, provided at the check stand, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the retail establishment. Single-use carryout bags do not include bags, a maximum of 11” x 17”, without handles provided to the customer for the following purposes: (1) to transport produce, bulk food or meat from a product, bulk food or meat department within a store to the point of sale; (2) to transport produce, bulk food, or other items to the point of sale at a farmers’ market; (3) to hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy; (4) to segregate food or merchandise that could damage or contaminate other food or merchandise when placed together in a bag; or (5) a garment bag regardless of size.

10.42.040 REGULATIONS

A. No retail establishment that sells perishable or nonperishable goods including, but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer, shall provide a single-use carryout bag to a customer at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment, except as provided in this chapter.

B. To allow retail establishments an opportunity to make necessary arrangements for compliance and to use remaining stocks of plastic single-use carryout bags, retail establishments shall have six (6) months from the effective date to comply with the regulations of this chapter. During this period, it shall be the policy of the city to encourage voluntary adherence to the requirements of this chapter.

C. Six (6) months from the effective date and thereafter, a retail establishment may make recycled paper bags or reusable bags available to customers only if the retail establishment charges a minimum charge of ten cents (\$0.10). Only recycled paper bags and reusable bags as defined in this chapter may be made available for purchase.

D. No earlier than twelve (12) months from the effective date, the city council may establish a higher minimum charge for a recycled paper bag and reusable bag up to twenty-five cents (\$0.25) by amendment of this chapter.

E. Notwithstanding this chapter, when a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag is distributed to the customer, the amount of the sale of the recycled paper bag or reusable bag shall be separately itemized on the sales receipt.

F. These regulations do not apply to public eating establishments as defined herein.

G. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a retail establishment may provide one or more recycled paper bags or reusable bags at no cost to the following individuals: a customer participating in the California Special Supplement Food Program, for Women, Infants, and Children pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 123275) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the California Health and Safety Code; a customer participating in the Supplemental Food Program pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 15500) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code; and a customer participating in Calfresh pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code.

10.42.050 RECORDKEEPING AND INSPECTION

All retail establishments shall keep complete and accurate records or documents of the purchase and sale of any recycled paper bag by the retail establishment. Such records shall be kept for a minimum period of one year from the date of purchase and sale, and such records shall be available for inspection by the city at no cost to the city during regular business hours. Unless

the city and retail establishment mutually agree upon an alternative location or method of review, the records or documents shall be available at the retail establishment address. The provision of false information, including but not limited to incomplete records or documents to the city, shall be a violation of this chapter.

10.42.060 ENFORCEMENT

A. The Director of Health shall be primarily responsible for implementation and enforcement of this chapter. The Director is authorized to establish guidelines and procedures to implement this chapter and to take such action as may be necessary, including inspection of retail establishments, to monitor compliance with this chapter.

B. In the event of a violation of this chapter or any requirement imposed pursuant to this chapter, the city may in its discretion, in addition to all other remedies, take such enforcement action as is authorized under the Soledad Municipal Code and any other action authorized by law.

C. If the city elects to utilize the administrative procedures set forth in Chapter 1.10 of the Soledad Municipal Code to enforce this chapter, the Director of Health shall serve as the enforcement official within the meaning of Chapter 1.20.

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such a decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The city council declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases, be declared invalid.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective on the thirty-first day following its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 1st day of October, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Councilmembers:

NOES, Councilmembers:

ABSENT, Councilmembers:

ABSTAIN, Councilmembers:

FRED LEDESMA, Mayor

ATTEST:

ADELA P. GONZALEZ, City Clerk