

City of Orinda
 Municipal Clerk
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355 Dalewood Dr.
 Orinda, CA, 94563
 March 8, 2010

City of Orinda Mayor
 22 Orinda Way
 Orinda, CA, 94563

Dear Mr. McCormick:

My partner and I are seventh grade students at Orinda intermediate School and are doing our science "Take Action Project" on ocean pollution. After becoming inspired by Save the Bay, we have decided to help our cause by reducing the amount of plastic bags given from stores. We are writing to ask you to enact legislation to reduce the overwhelming amount of plastic bag litter in San Francisco Bay. Though many people know of the damages that plastic and paper bags cause, most of them don't take action and switch to reusable carriers. Single-use plastic and paper bags are a waste of materials, pollute the earth, and kill animals. Switching to reusable bags is better for the environment. Also, Plastic bags choke wetlands, kill animals, clog storm drains, and jam recycling equipment, costing cities millions

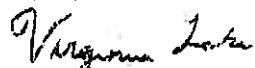
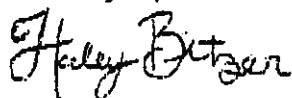
We can't afford to ignore the costs of plastic and paper bags to our environment and communities. Instead, we must make the switch to reusable bags. Unfortunately, public education alone is not enough to change ingrained habits. Please prioritize legislation to restrict the distribution of free single-use bags at retailers to protect the Bay and its wildlife. Bag litter lowers property values and degrades recreational areas. All of this cost is unnecessary for a product that is only used for an average of 12

minutes! In the Bay Area alone, we use 3.8 billion plastic bags per year – Save the Bay estimates that over a million end up in the Bay each year!

We understand that trying to reduce the amount of plastic bags is a difficult task, but it is important to our environment. All over the world, people are taking action on this important issue. In Ireland, they tax 22 cents on every plastic or paper bag in order to try to reduce the amount of bags used. Since 2002, they have reduced the amount of plastic bags used by 90%. Even local stores and cities are trying to help out. San Francisco is trying to reduce the amount of bags issued out each year, and IKEA has a 5 cent charge on its plastic bags.

Plastic bags are a large waste of materials and a contributor to pollution. Just changing to reusable bags can help. We appreciate your time and hope that you can act on this important issue! Please write to us to help us with our cause.

Thank you,



Haley Bitzer and Virginia Loke