

LETTER OF AGREEMENT CHECKOUT BAG USAGE AND RECYCLING

This Letter of Agreement (Agreement) is entered into between the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the City), as represented by the San Francisco Department of the Environment (DOE), and San Francisco supermarkets operated by Albertsons, Andronicos, CalMart, Cala Foods, Foods Co, Molly Stone's, Bell Markets, and Safeway.

In 2003, City government adopted goals of 75 percent landfill diversion by 2010 and zero waste by 2020. These diversion goals intend to achieve a cleaner, healthier local environment and minimize the negative impacts of solid waste. In order to achieve these diversion goals, the City aims to reduce the amount of checkout bags that enter the local waste stream, through controlling usage of bags and increasing their recycling.

The waste reduction and recycling efforts of local supermarkets contribute to helping the City meet its waste reduction goals. The local supermarkets each have internal waste reduction goals and work to ensure that they do their part to protect against harmful environmental impacts.

The City and local supermarkets have come together in a historic partnership to control bag usage and increase bag recycling. This partnership is made possible by local stores' willingness to pursue innovative measures to reduce consumption and disposal of checkout bags, as well as the City's willingness to work with local stores in a cooperative measure rather than unilaterally imposing regulations and/or fees on stores.

This agreement is entered in to voluntarily by all parties and is evidence of their interest in working together to achieve the goals herein.

The parties of this Agreement commit to the following:

- 1) Parties to this agreement will work to reduce the total number of checkout bags distributed in San Francisco by 10,000,000 by December 31, 2006. Reaching this goal likely requires full participation by local supermarkets and participation by other local retail stores.

Stores that are party to this agreement may each use different strategies to reach bag reduction goals, and these strategies may include but are not limited to: bagger retraining, selling reusable bags, and internal employee education.

- 2) The DOE will monitor implementation of this reduction target by collecting information from local supermarkets and reporting aggregate bag reduction by December 31, 2006. All information provided to the City will be kept confidential per legal guarantees of confidentiality by the City Attorney's office that are routinely provided to City contractors regarding proprietary trade secrets.

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- 3) By December 31, 2006, the DOE will review the overall performance of local stores toward meeting this primary bag reduction target. While parties to this Agreement have established a goal of reducing the distribution of bags in San Francisco by 10 million, the DOE shall determine progress made toward this goal by determining the portion attributable to the major grocery stores participating in this Agreement that are eligible to create a recycling convenience zone as determined by AB2020. The DOE will apprise the Mayor at the end of this period whether reduction targets were met and advise whether any modification of reduction targets up or down are merited.
- 4) Parties to this agreement will immediately take actions listed below to increase the amount of plastic bags that are recycled through on-site checkout bag recycling programs. Specific actions are set forth in this agreement rather than establishing a percentage-based recycling target recognizing that stores have less control encouraging customers to recycle bags than they do limiting distribution of checkout bags. By December 31, 2006, The DOE will apprise the Mayor of the effectiveness of the actions listed below and determine whether additional actions and goals are merited.

Specific actions that will be taken by stores to increase at-store bag recycling include: 1) maximizing the visibility and accessibility of recycling kiosks at each store location; 2) providing clearly displayed information regarding at-store recycling programs that is visible to customers in the normal course of their visit; 3) pursuing additional publicity or incentive programs to encourage at-store recycling. Parties to this agreement and other interested stakeholders shall pursue partnerships with local community-based organizations to increase bag recycling in the community at-large.

- 5) The City shall attempt to establish curbside recycling of plastic checkout bags throughout the city by December 31, 2006. If and when this program is established, the DOE will establish percentage-based targets for the increased recycling of plastic checkout bags through curbside programs.
- 6) Local stores party to this Agreement and DOE shall together initiate a broad public education campaign to encourage local residents to manage usage of checkout bags and increase recycling of bags. The City shall contribute personnel, financial and other resources to this campaign. Local supermarkets party to this Agreement via their checkout bag suppliers shall commit \$100,000 in private funds or in-kind contributions to underwrite DOE's participation in the joint education campaign, including the use of advertising professionals.
- 7) The Mayor and DOE agree not to pursue a fee on checkout bags while this Agreement is in effect and while parties to this Agreement continue to demonstrate meaningful progress toward increased reduction in consumption of checkout bags and recycling of these bags.

- 8) The Mayor and other parties to this agreement shall commit to work with other retailers, particularly those who have a high volume of sales, to become a party to this agreement.
- 9) Nothing contained in this Agreement shall grant to either party the right to make commitments of any kind for or on behalf of any other party without the prior written consent of that party.

The Agreement will begin November 2, 2005 and will continue until December 31, 2006.

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SF Environment

For Immediate Release: November 2, 2005

Press Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications 415-554-6131

San Francisco to reduce 10 million grocery store bags to reduce litter and improve local and global environment

San Francisco, CA - Mayor Gavin Newsom and Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi joined together to announce a unique public-private waste reduction agreement, the first of its kind in the nation, which calls for significant reduction of grocery checkout bag use. Working in conjunction with city government, supermarkets operated by Albertsons, Andronicos, Bell Markets, CalMart, Cala Foods, Foods Co, Mollie Stone's, and Safeway have set a reduction target of 10,000,000 by the end of 2006.

"San Francisco is a global recycling leader. We now recycle more than two-thirds of all our waste," said Mayor Newsom. "Today, our city is taking a historic step to reduce the use of disposable items such as grocery store bags," Newsom continued, "This is just the beginning if we are to become a truly sustainable city."

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"This is a first step whose merit shall be judged in due time, in making certain that this is not an industry driven remedy," said Supervisor Mirkarimi.

The target reduction of 10 million bags may represent up to twenty percent of the total bags distributed in San Francisco on an annual basis—the exact figure of bags used annually will be captured through monitoring by the city. A reduction of 10 million bags will keep 95 tons of material plastic out of San Francisco's waste stream, and will reduce San Francisco's contribution of greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 1 million pounds of CO₂. This is equivalent to 44,000 gallons of oil or taking more than 14,000 automobiles off the road for a day.

Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco
 11 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
 Telephone: (415) 355-3700 • Fax: (415) 554-6393
 Email: environment@sfgov.org • www.sfenvironment.com

SF Environment • City & County of San Francisco • 415-355-3700 • environment@sfgov.org • 11 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

