

# Reusable Bag Ordinance



Plastic carryout bags are lightweight aerodynamic, easily windblown, and end up as problematic litter, clogging Mountain View's storm drains, flood control equipment, and flowing out to creeks, the bay and the ocean. The ordinance bans the single-use "thin" plastic carryout bags less than 2.25 mil thick, but allows thicker or heavier plastic reusable bags defined as greater than 2.25 mil.



These bags are difficult to extract from creek and river vegetation, shred into small pieces, and are harmful to wildlife that ingest them or get entangled in them. Plastic bags persist in the environment for many years, and are among the debris observed in the Bay and open ocean. Bags in water float like jellyfish and attract marine life looking for food.



Mandatory regional water quality permits issued to municipalities by the Regional Water Board require a 40% reduction in litter escaping into waterways by 2014. One strategy identified by the Board to meet requirements is to prohibit disposable, thin plastic carryout bags from the checkout stand. Ordinances work--San Jose's ordinance resulted in an 89% decrease in bags found in storm drains.

*As a result, this Ordinance is part of a regional effort to adopt similar requirements to make it easier for retailers to implement, and less confusing for customers no matter where they shop.*

The Reusable Bag Ordinance was adopted by the City of Mountain View to reduce litter and waste, prevent damage to water quality equipment, and improve water quality in our local creeks. Visit [www.MVrecycle.org](http://www.MVrecycle.org) or call 650.903.6311 for more