



City of Twentynine Palms
6136 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-6799 – FAX 760-367-4890
www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us

NEWS RELEASE – FEBRUARY 3, 2009

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 87 WHICH WILL ESTABLISH A PLASTIC BAG FEE

On the agenda for its meeting Feb. 10, the City Council will consider adopting a resolution in support of California Assembly Bill 87 requiring supermarkets and retail stores to impose a 25-cent charge for single-use carryout bags by July 2010.

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of nearly 19 billion plastic bags consumed each year in California, which end up in landfills, litter the communities, and harm the environment and wildlife, the State Legislature is seeking to strengthen its existing law that requires store operators to establish at-store recycling programs and asks manufacturers to provide educational materials to encourage reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic carryout bags.

AB 87 would establish a “Bag Pollution Cleanup Fee” on or after July 1, 2010, and would prohibit large supermarkets, retail stores with over 10,000 square feet and a pharmacy, and chain convenience food stores with more than 10,000 combined square footage within the state, from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer unless the store charges a fee of not less than \$0.25 per bag at the point of sale. A Bag Pollution Fund would be established in the State Treasury, and a majority of the funds collected would be made available to county and city governments for litter reduction, cleanup, recycling, and public education related to single-use bag litter and environmental impacts.

The City of Twentynine Palms has been concerned with the unsightliness of plastic bags littering the desert and has been supportive of the Legislature in its plan to encourage customers to use reusable bags, defined as cloth or durable plastic bags with handles designed to be reused, and to reduce the consumption of single-use bags, such as conventional plastic, paper, and biodegradable or compostable plastic bags.

For more information, contact the City Manager's office at (760)367-6799. The City Council meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Twentynine Palms City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road.

###