

**KATHY WARD**

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**From:** Josh Haskins <josh@21strat.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** SCOTT SCHOEFFEL; LARA ANDERSON; LISA BARTLETT; BILL BROUGH; STEVEN WEINBERG; jlitter@danapoint.org; KATHY WARD  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ordinance  
**Attachments:** SOCRCC-SOCEC - Opposition Letter to Dana Point Plastic Bag and Polystyrene Bans.pdf

Dear Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the South Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the South Orange County Economic Coalition, I have attached a letter of opposition to the proposed plastic bag ban ordinance as well as the proposed ban on polystyrene food service containers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Haskins  
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Agenda Item No. 11 912  
2/7/12

February 7, 2012

The Honorable Lara Anderson, Mayor  
City Council Members  
City of Dana Point  
33282 Golden Lantern  
Dana Point, CA 92865

Dear Mayor Anderson and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the South Orange County Economic Coalition, we are writing to urge you and your council colleagues to vote “NO” tonight on the **proposed plastic bag ban ordinance** as well as the **proposed ban on polystyrene food service containers**.

Our organization, led by the South Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce, exists to provide a strong voice for business throughout the region, from Lake Forest to San Clemente and everywhere in between. Members include the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce, the Orange County Business Council, the Orange County Association of Realtors and several other organizations representing thousands of employees in your city and the surrounding region.

All of us want a clean environment. However, heavy-handed, punitive regulations are the wrong ways to go about it. California is plagued with well-intended ordinances such as these that are severely retarding economic growth. These particular ordinances would negatively impact Dana Point business owners, their employees as well as consumers during difficult economic times.

What’s more, while these ordinances would impose unnecessary costs on merchants within Dana Point city limits, they would have no jurisdiction over retailers at county-owned properties such as Dana Point Harbor or the snack shop at Salt Creek Beach. Similarly, they will have no effect on concessionaires at Doheny State Beach. In other words, the points-of-sale closest to the coast will be beyond the reach of these ordinances and are likely not subject to this proposed ordinance. Furthermore, there is nothing to prevent visitors and residents from bringing plastic bags or polystyrene containers purchased outside of Dana Point.

Prohibiting local businesses from providing their customers with the option of using plastic bags or polystyrene containers is intrusive and anti-free enterprise. They will impose very real costs with little tangible benefits. Local business owners should be free to make their own choices about using only plastic bags or polystyrene containers – or perhaps incentivized to do so – and not have that choice made for them by the government.

Reducing the number of plastic bags being used near a marine environment is a noble effort. But the real issue here is littering, and the most effective approach to reducing that very real problem is through education and voluntarism, not slamming new regulations and costs on local business owners.

On behalf of the South Orange County business community, we urge you to vote "NO" on these proposed ordinances.

Sincerely,



Jim Leach  
Chair  
South Orange County Economic Coalition



Wendy Bucknum  
Governmental Affairs Committee Chair  
South Orange County Regional Chamber of  
Commerce