

M-1

**Hayes, Kathy**

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**From:** Sundberg, Ryan  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 20, 2014 10:00 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Kathy  
**Subject:** FW: July 22, 2014 Board Meeting Agenda Item M (1) - Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban//  
FINANCIAL IMPACT - COST SAVINGS

Public comment for Tues.

Ryan Sundberg  
HC 5th District Supervisor  
707-476-2395

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jud Ellinwood [[jud@humboldt1.com](mailto:jud@humboldt1.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2014 07:02 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**To:** Lovelace, Mark; Bass, Virginia; Sundberg, Ryan; Fennell, Estelle; Bohn, Rex; County Administrative Office  
**Subject:** July 22, 2014 Board Meeting Agenda Item M (1) - Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban// FINANCIAL IMPACT - COST SAVINGS

Dear Board members and Mr. Smith-Hanes:

The Financial Impact section of the report you will be receiving this Tuesday titled "Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban" contains a very significant omission, namely an estimate of annual cost savings. Zero Waste Humboldt has provided the Board and CAO with an estimate of annual savings in costs associated with abatement and processing of plastic bag waste in several emails in the past several months. These savings will vastly exceed the cost of developing and implementing an ordinance and in fact will likely provide an additional revenue stream of existing funds that can fund most or one of the currently unfilled public safety positions that are at the center of current budget discussions.

From our email to you dated January 1, 2014:

"To give you a sense of the what savings may be possible for Humboldt County's government, the City of San Jose - pop. 946,000 - has calculated they are saving at least \$1 million and perhaps as much as 3 million a year by keeping single-use plastic bags out of their city's environment. That is equivalent to \$1.06 per capita on the low end and \$3.17 on the high end. Using the same per capita figures, you get estimated savings for unincorporated Humboldt Co. (pop. 67,700) of \$71,800 to \$214,600."

This is information that should be incorporated into the CAO's report to you, and certainly should figure prominently in your discussion Tuesday of this matter.

We also wish to point out that the HWMA model ordinance referenced in the report is a "catch all" document conveniently providing each local government a full range of language options - based on existing local

ordinances throughout the state - from which to assemble their own ordinance. As the report suggests, a single-use plastic bag ban ordinance can be easily constructed from the HWMA model and the Arcata ordinance that is tailored to meet the County's specifications.

Zero Waste Humboldt looks forward to assisting County staff develop a single-use plastic bag ban (reusable bag) ordinance consistent with your Board's directions.

In closing, we urge the Board to give development and adoption of this proposed ordinance in order to begin capturing the cost savings as soon as possible and reallocating them to your public safety budgetary needs.

Respectfully yours,

Jud Ellinwood  
Policy Coordinator  
Zero Waste Humboldt