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California **vs** Big Plastic

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Local Plastic Bag Bans Spreading Despite Referendum; Santa Barbara County, Hermosa Beach Votes Tomorrow

SANTA BARBARA – Cities and counties throughout California are moving to ban single-use plastic bags after the statewide ban scheduled to take effect July 1, 2015 was delayed by plastic bag companies from Texas and South Carolina, which spent more than \$3 million to qualify a referendum for the November 2016 ballot. American Canyon passed a ban last week and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Hermosa Beach City Council are expected to give final approval for their bans tomorrow, bringing the total number of cities and counties banning plastic bags to 141.

“Despite the referendum, California cities and counties continue to move to ban plastic bags,” said Mark Murray, spokesperson for California vs. Big Plastic. “With more cities and counties jumping on the bag ban bandwagon, it’s increasingly likely that plastic bags will be permanently banned for the majority of the State’s population ahead of the November 2016 election.”

“This is a policy that protects and improves our environment,” said Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal. “There have been numerous studies on the positive effects of limiting the use of plastic bags, such as the reduction of litter in our watersheds and ocean; and I believe that we, as a coastal community, have a responsibility to promote these types of benefits.”

“These bags are a real nuisance,” said Hermosa Beach City Councilmember Nanette Barragan. “They’re not biodegradable, they contribute to local pollution, and they inevitably end up in our streets, oceans, and parks. Eliminating them is a simple fix and it will benefit our community, the people who live here, and the environment we all share for years to come.”

WHAT: Santa Barbara County Supervisors Vote on Plastic Bag Ban (no public comment)
WHEN: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
WHERE: Joseph Centeno Betteravia Building, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria

WHAT: Hermosa Beach City Councilmembers Vote on Plastic Bag Ban
WHEN: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Hermosa Beach City Hall, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach

The cities of Sacramento and Cathedral City passed bans earlier this year after the Secretary of State announced that the referendum had qualified, while San Diego’s Mayor and City Councilmembers are preparing a bag ban ordinance for California’s second largest city. The total number of ordinances expected to pass this year would cover an additional 2 million Californians with local bans. Lightweight single-use plastic grocery bags blow long distances into oceans and pastures and harm animals that eat them. A [LA Times/USC poll](#) shows almost two-thirds of Californians support a statewide ban.

California vs. Big Plastic: www.cavsbigplastic.com

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