

RESOLUTION NO. 3894

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO PROCLAIMING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
AS A DAY TO
BRING YOUR OWN BAG SAN ANSELMO**

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 500 billion to one trillion single-use disposable plastic bags are used throughout the world. Californians use nineteen billion (19,000,000,000) single-use carryout bags annually and throw away 600 per second, but less than 5% of these bags are recycled; and

WHEREAS, Marin residents throw away 138 million bags annually that end up in Marin's landfill or in the waste stream to be shipped off, in some cases, to far away countries for handling not clearly known; and

WHEREAS, our continued, indiscriminate littering of single-use plastic bags is an increasing environmental blight. Plastic bags create significant litter problems for Marin County and its cities and towns by fouling streets, sidewalks, beaches, and the marine environment and blocking storm drains and culverts; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags don't biodegrade: they photo degrade, breaking into small toxic bits, clogging landfills, contaminating soils and waterways, and entering the food web when animals mistake them for food, causing the death by starvation of many marine creatures and birds; and

WHEREAS, each year, the State of California's public agencies spend \$375 million on litter cleanup activities and approximately \$25 million to dispose of discarded plastic bags in landfills. The County of Marin and other local agencies also spend significant funds cleaning up and disposing of plastic bags at local public expense; and

WHEREAS, the County of Marin's Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Agency, composed of representation from all 11 cities in Marin as well as the County, has set solid waste reduction and recycling goals, and is joining together taking action against the unchecked proliferation of plastics bags by promoting reusable bag giveaways at the rate of 10,000 given away annually at farmers markets, fairs, festivals, shopping centers and malls, meetings and community events; and

WHEREAS, paper bags, while biodegradable, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and water pollution from harvesting and production processes; and

WHEREAS, from an overall environmental and economic perspective, the best alternative to single-use paper and plastic carry-out bags is a shift to reusable bags; and

WHEREAS, Marin County residents and community partners in businesses, environmental organizations, schools, and retail stores are joining together and urging shoppers to forego the use of single-use plastic and paper bags in favor of reusable bags; and

WHEREAS, the San Anselmo Town Council asks the residents and merchants of San Anselmo to recognize "Bring Your Own Bag Marin" on Saturday, December 19th and to adopt the habit of using reusable shopping bags on this day and each and every day; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Economic Development Subcommittee and the five San Anselmo business associations, including the Antique Dealers, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown San Anselmo Merchants Association, Greenfield Merchants and the Red Hill Merchants, have worked together to purchase reusable bags to give to San Anselmo residents at holiday events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Anselmo Town Council does hereby resolve to celebrate, proclaim and recognize Saturday, December 19th, 2009 as "Bring Your Own Bag San Anselmo" Day and asks all residents of San Anselmo to shop with reusable bags this day and every day to do our part to help keep our earth and water safe and clean, now and for the generations to come.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Anselmo Town Council does hereby resolve to encourage the use of reusable bags to shop locally in San Anselmo in support of all San Anselmo merchants, who give back to the community in so many ways.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY proclaim, recognize and celebrate Saturday, December 19th, 2009 as "Bring Your Own Bag San Anselmo" Day and asks all residents of San Anselmo to shop with reusable bags and to shop locally in San Anselmo this day and every day to do our part to help keep our earth and water safe and clean, and our community vibrant and alive, now and for the generations to come.

December 8, 2009

AYES: Coleman, Greene, Kroot, McInerney, Thornton
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Approved: Barbara Thornton
Barbara Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: Barbara Chambers
Barbara Chambers, Town Clerk