

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: *Holding the Bag*

Report Date: May 1, 2013

Public Release Date: May 7, 2013

Response by: August 7, 2013

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3, F4
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R1, R2, R3 require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 3/20/13 Signed: *ay Bi*

Number of pages attached 2



July 15, 2013

The Honorable Judge James Ritchie  
Marin County Superior Court  
P.O. Box 4988  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Richard Treadgold, Foreperson  
Civil Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**SUBJECT:** Grand Jury Report – Holding the Bag

Dear Judge Ritchie and Foreperson Treadgold:

The City of Mill Valley is in receipt of the Grand Jury Report - "*Holding the Bag*" dated May 1, 2013. Guided by its Core Values to preserve health and safety and the community's high quality of life, the Mill Valley City Council established environmental conservation and sustainability as one of its Key Issues. The Council has identified the need to pursue environmental sustainability initiatives such as the single-use plastic bag ban, and Zero Waste policies as one of their 19 Priority Projects for 2012-2014. The City of Mill Valley has a long-standing commitment and track record when it comes to environmental protection and other sustainability related initiatives and has worked with other municipalities to develop a common model for banning the use of single-use plastic bags.

The Grand Jury has requested the City of Mill Valley respond to all of the Findings and Recommendations in the report. These are as follows:

#### **FINDINGS**

The City of Mill Valley is in agreement with the findings.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The City of Mill Valley has determined that Recommendations R1, R2, and R3 require further analysis:

*R1: The Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) prepare the Model Single-Use Bag Ordinance to implement the strictest rules possible and encourage all agencies to adopt the Ordinance with minimal changes. A ban on single-use plastic carry-out bags should be imposed in all grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies and restaurants within the County and apply to all establishments, no matter how large or small.*

The City of Mill Valley overall agrees with this recommendation but intends to move forward with consideration of an ordinance which would initially not regulate restaurants. Additional study and environmental impact analysis must occur in order to include restaurants in a proposed ordinance.

The Marin County Hazardous and Solid Waste JPA is undertaking this more broad analysis. The City of Mill Valley will consider this analysis when it becomes available and may amend our regulations at that time to include restaurants.

Timeline: CEQA completion is expected for October/November 2013 – City of Mill Valley adoption and implementation timeline is To Be Determined.

*R2: Marin County and The Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Members educate the public on the benefits of reusable bags. Marin County and Marin County and The Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Members develop standardized educational guides for all public schools showing the environmental harm done by plastic single-use carry-out bags. Marin County and The Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Members develop educational materials and distribute them at public events such as farmers' markets and street fairs.*

The City of Mill Valley plans to coordinate and cooperate with the JPA and other cities and towns to participate in a well-designed, comprehensive education campaign to schools, stores, farmers markets and other public events to inform the public about a single-use bag ordinance and the benefits of reusable bags.

Timeline: CEQA completion expected October/November 2013 – City of Mill Valley adoption and implementation timeline is To Be Determined.

*R3: Marin Towns and Cities adopt an ordinance to ban all single-use plastic carry-out bags using the Model Single-Use Bag Ordinance with minimal, or no, changes, in order to create a true County-wide ordinance.*

The City of Mill Valley overall agrees with this recommendation and will strive to adhere to a uniform ordinance but reserves the right to make modifications as deemed necessary by City staff and Councilmembers based on best practices and community feedback.

Timeline: CEQA completion expected October/November 2013 – City of Mill Valley adoption and implementation timeline is To Be Determined.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury report and look forward to implementing a single-use bag ban in the near future.

Sincerely,



Andrew Berman  
Mayor, City of Mill Valley

CC: Mill Valley City Council  
City Manager James McCann