

Contact: Steven Maviglio, 916-607-8340  
Dan Jacobson, 916-743-5356

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INLAND VALLEY EMPIRE LEADERS BACK PROP 67, STATEWIDE PLASTIC BAG BAN**  
*Cite Benefits for Environment, Business, Consumers*

RIVERSIDE — Flanked by a “Plastic Bag Monster” and a huge inflatable sea turtle, Inland Empire environmental, business, and government leaders today announced their support for Proposition 67, the referendum to protect California’s plastic bag ban.

Signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014, the ban is being challenged by the plastic bag companies from Texas, South Carolina and China. Backers of the ban, which already is in place in 151 communities in the state, say the statewide ban will protect marine wildlife, reduce litter, promote the use of reusable bags, and save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“After nearly a decade of local grassroots efforts in our states to stop these flimsy bags from polluting our ocean and harming sea turtles, birds, and other marine wildlife Proposition 67 will end their use in California in grocery and retail stores for once and for all,” said Dan Jacobson of Environment California. “ Voters know these bags didn’t exist 40 years ago and our state can live without them, as almost half of our citizens already do.”

“Across the board, cities and counties are documenting significant reductions in plastic bag litter and waste,” notes Assemblymember Jose Medina (D-Riverside). “In fact, a recent study found a 59% drop in park and roadside plastic bag litter, a 60 percent reduction in creek and river litter, and an 89 percent reduction in plastic bag litter in storm drains.”

“Single-use plastic bags are urban blight that create an eyesore for the community and wreak havoc on the environment,” said Surfrider Foundation Legal Director Angela Howe. “The state legislature passed a law in 2014 to take care of this problem and now each Californian has an opportunity to affirm it by voting Yes on 67 to reduce watershed pollution, protect wildlife and keep our landscapes bag litter-free.”

"Countless plastic bags litter our waterways and clog our storm drains," said Megan Brousseau, Associate Director of Inland Empire Waterkeeper. "They not only degrade our water quality, they harm our precious wildlife. Those of us involved in cleaning and restoring these local waters have long fought to ban these unnecessary bags and breathed a sigh of relief when Prop 67 was passed. The future looked bright for our treasured creeks and rivers. Unfortunately, bag companies from China, Texas and South Carolina do not care about the health and beauty of California's environment. They care only about their profits at our expense. With the Inland Empire waters being home to two endangered species, we must uphold this important law and be stewards of this great land."

"Let's take action now so that future generations will not spend years cleaning up the plastic mess left behind by past generations," added Yozima Escobar of CalPIRG. "For students and young people in California the answer is easy - Yes on 67."

More than 400 business, environmental, and local government organizations and leaders statewide are supporting Yes on 67. For more information, visit [www.CAYeson67.com](http://www.CAYeson67.com) or follow us on Twitter: @CAYeson67.

# # #