

Jumping on the “Ban” Wagon

Advocating for Plastic Bag and Styrofoam Bans
Around the Bay

Allison Chan, Policy Associate
Save The Bay

State of the Estuary Conference
September 21, 2011





Clean Bay Project

- Pass pollution prevention ordinances to keep trash out of our waterways
- Work directly with elected officials, city staff
- Provide jurisdictions with resources to pass ordinances
- Mobilize the community to show support

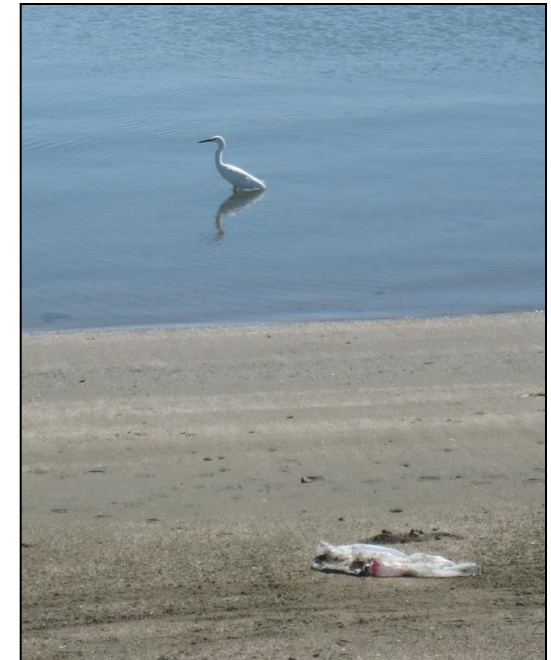
Partial funding for this project comes from the US EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (2009) in collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and ABAG





Why Ban the Bag?

- Each Californian uses over 500 plastic bags every year
 - Average use time = 12 minutes
- **One million bags in the Bay per year**
- Education and outreach efforts need regulatory foundation





Why Ban the Bag?

- Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit
 - Over 200 trash hot spots
 - **Zero trash in stormwater by 2022**
- Plastic bag recycling doesn't solve the problem





Case Study: San Jose

- Outreach to:
 - Businesses
 - Community
 - Surrounding cities
 - City Council
- Strategic partnerships
- Champions on the council





Ban Polluting Polystyrene?

- Second most abundant form of beach litter in California
- **Light-weight & brittle**
= bad actor
- Styrene is a probable carcinogen





Ban Polluting Polystyrene?

- Recycling is an ineffective option
 - Doesn't prevent litter
 - Cost exceeds value
 - No curbside collection
 - Must be clean to be recycled



Over 20 Bay Area Styrofoam bans



The “Ban” Wagon

Marin County plastic bag ban – January 2011

Hayward polystyrene food ware ban – October 2010

San Mateo County polystyrene food ware ban – February 2011

Fremont polystyrene food ware ban – May 2010

Santa Clara County plastic bag ban – April 2011



Best Practices

- Define goal
 - Litter prevention?
 - Waste reduction?
- Early community & business outreach
- Countywide & regional collaboration



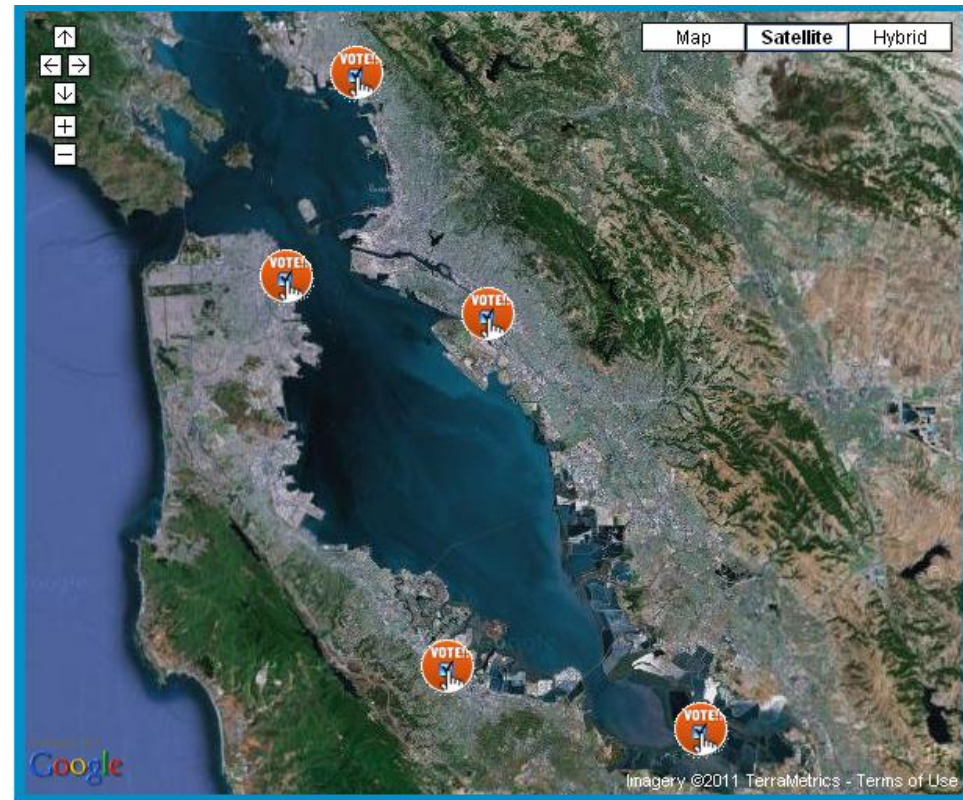


Bay Trash Hot Spots 2011

- Baxter Creek
- Damon Slough
- Guadalupe River
- Mission Creek
- Pulgas Creek

- Highlighting cities pursuing plastic bag and Styrofoam ordinances

- Adopt-a-hot-spot contest





Thank you!



<http://www.savesfbay.org>

Bay Trash Hot Spots 2011

<http://www.savesfbay.org/baytrash>

Allison Chan

allison@savesfbay.org

(510) 463-6818