



# SB 270 Intends to Implement Ban on Plastic Bags: Paper or Paper?

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Staff Writer

“Paper or plastic?” This is the frequently asked question in stores nationwide that provide bags at their checkout stations. But what if stores did not supply the bags at the checkout counter, but rather had customers bring their own? After three unsuccessful attempts to ban single-use plastic bags, California lawmakers compromised to make a bill on Jan. 23, which banned single-use plastic bags from grocery stores.

California will be the first state to ban single-use plastic bags. As a result, Californian shoppers will have to bring their own reusable bags or pay 10 cents for a paper bag at the checkout area. The new bill, formally known as Senate Bill 270, will apply to grocery stores and supermarkets starting July 2015, eventually extending to pharmacies and liquor stores by 2016.

“[This bill] is a good idea because it will encourage people to use reusable shopping bags. Single-use plastic bags pollute the environment and use up fossil fuels,” environmental science teacher Daniel Hyke said.

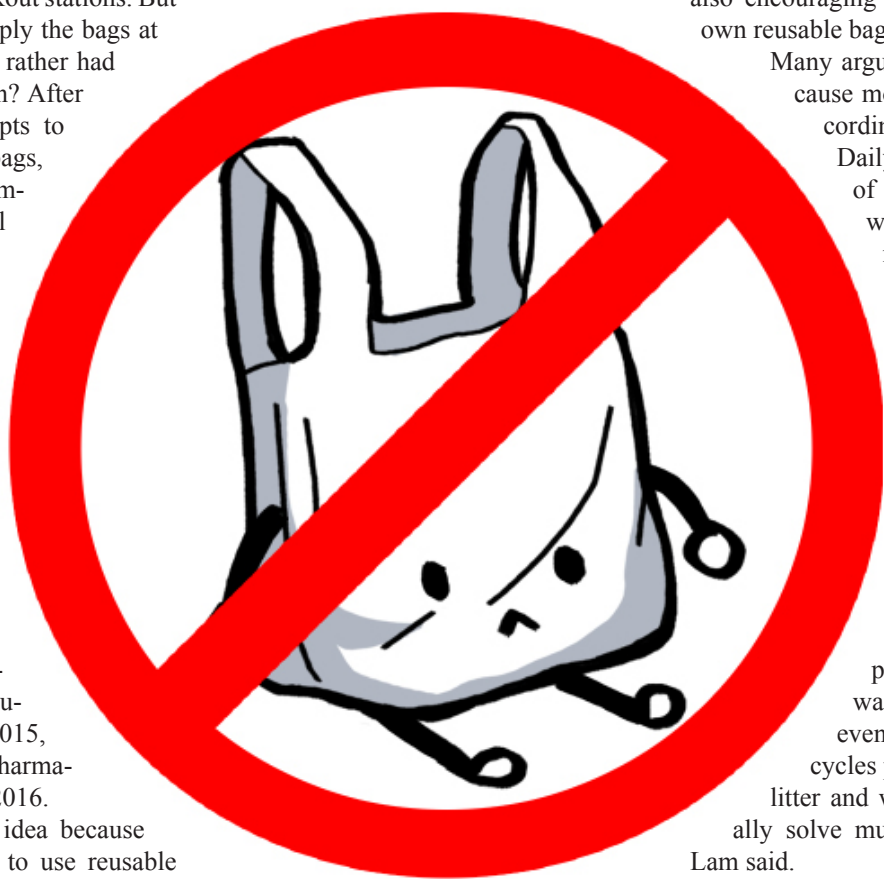
According to a statement by state senator Kevin de Leon in the LA Times, the new proposal will dramatically decrease the number of plastic bags found on beaches. The state will retool manufacturing plants

and strong enough to withhold 100 uses, and will be expected to rise to 40 percent of recycled content by the year 2020. According to the LA Times, the 10 cent fee is intended to reimburse the retailers while also encouraging shoppers to bring their own reusable bags.

Many argue that the new ban will cause more harm than good, according to the Los Angeles Daily News. Manufacturers of single-use plastic bags will be damaged economically by diminishing the need for workers. This also inconveniences shoppers, as most people rely on the grocers to supply them with plastic bags. Some say that if they buy products from a store, they expect a bag to be given to them for free.

“They’re making us pay for paper bags, it wastes our money and not even half the population recycles paper. There will still be litter and waste so it [doesn’t] really solve much,” sophomore Jackie Lam said.

*MOOR* graphic by GENEVIEVE THIPATIMA



by tapping into the recycling funds and extract \$2 million. The bill will require reusable bags to be at least 20 percent recyclable material

## South First Street Reverts to Two-Way

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Staff Writer

In December 2013, the Alhambra City Council held a meeting in which members approved the decision to revert South First Street back into a two-way street. The change also affected North First Street, which became a one-way street between Main Street and Woodward Avenue. The street was briefly closed for sandblasting, pavement preservation and striping before it returned back to two-way.

“I think the two-way [street] is great because it’s easier for drivers to get to places faster and the multileveled parking lot is probably going to be used more,” sophomore Simon Voong said.

The changes are meant to help the construction of a multilevel parking structure on North First Street and Main Street, resulting in an increase in traffic, according to the Alhambra Source. Parking will increase in the downtown area during construction of the Mosaic Parking Structure, which is scheduled to be completed by late November, as said during the Alhambra City Council meeting.

“I don’t really like the change. Now it is more difficult to get to the other side of the street with all the busy cars,” sophomore Keona Chau said.

Angled parking has been removed from South First Street to allow cars more space to drive through. Despite the change to First Street, Second Street will remain a one-way street to divert more cars from Main and increase pedestrians’ safety while crossing the street, according to the Alhambra Source.

# Kristie Sham to Represent AHS at 2014 Girls State

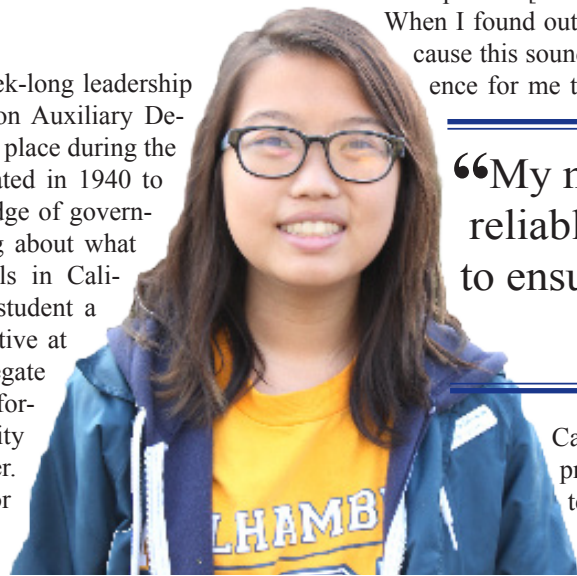
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Staff Writer

California Girls State is a week-long leadership program of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California that takes place during the summer. The program was created in 1940 to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while learning about what comes with citizenship. Schools in California are to send one female student a year to become their representative at California Girls State. The delegate is selected by her academic performance, dedication to community service and potential as a leader. This year, AHS’ delegate is junior Kristie Sham.

“I am so honored to be able to

be able to represent [AHS] as the Girls State delegate!

When I found out, I was incredibly excited because this sounds like a great, unique experience for me to meet students from all [of]



“My main goal as a leader is to be reliable and continue working hard to ensure success for those after me.”

- Kristie Sham

California. It sounds like a great program and I can’t wait to attend,” AHS’ 2014 Girls State representative Kristie Sham said.

Girls State is “where the young women leaders of today learn to be the leaders of tomorrow,” according to the Girls State Alumnae Foundation. Their goal is to provide an educational opportunity that establishes the ideals and principles of American government for the delegates that attend. In addition, to show the vision that ordinary people are the people working for the betterment of society.

“My main goal as a leader is to be reliable and continue working hard to ensure success for those after me. I want to lay the foundation to ensure others in the future will have the opportunities I have had to grow as a youth leader. In the future, I hope to find myself in a community of determined, ambitious and focused learners,” Sham said.

*MOOR* photo by YIBEI LIU

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