



Fall Report

Californians unite behind bag ban

Support pours in, but opposition stalls ban in Senate

Throughout the summer, Environment California helped build support for a common-sense step: switching from single-use plastic to reusable grocery bags. The 19 billion single-use plastic bags California uses every year pollute our ocean and litter our streets like urban tumbleweed, taking a huge toll on the environment.

Because they look like jellyfish, turtles mistake the bags for food. And since plastic takes 500 years or more to biodegrade, it continues to accumulate in the ocean, contributing to the mass of garbage now twice the size of the United States, swirling 1,000 miles off our coast.

Unfortunately, industry lobbyists from the American Chemistry Council swarmed the Capitol and succeeded in blocking the ban. Moving forward, we will use the grassroots support we've built to expand local bans in cities across the state.

Groundswell of support

To build support for the ban on single-use plastic bags (AB 1998, Brownley), we organized members and businesses, and helped get the word out to the media. With only a few days left for the bill to pass in the Assembly, we helped generate more than 10,000 e-mails into lawmakers. We brought in celebrities Amy Smart, Rosario Dawson and Rachel LaFevre to meet with lawmakers in Sacramento and held five simultaneous press conferences up and down the state. Our press conferences generated news stories in the LA



Photos taken by staff

▲ To build support, we took a 25-foot inflatable turtle on tour, gathered photos of members holding their reusable bags, turned in tens of thousands of signatures, and even had celebrities such as Amy Smart (right) volunteer to bag groceries in reusable bags.

Times, San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times, USA Today and more. With only two days left, lawmakers passed the bill through the Assembly with 41 votes.

To help show support to state senators, we organized over 350 Californians to send pictures of themselves holding a reusable bag. To counter arguments that a ban is anti-business, we collected almost

500 signatures from small businesses across the state in favor of the ban. And we continued to collect thousands of petition signatures. Finally, in the last week before the bill went to the Senate floor, we toured the state with a giant, 25-foot inflatable turtle prop. We stopped in San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and San Jose, holding press conferences in each city.



Helko Kiera, Shutterstock.com

more online

◀ Visit our website to get the latest on our work to curb the flow of plastic into the ocean.

Learn more online:
www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org/newsletters/fall10



To our members

We need more clean energy, not less. That's why I'm working to make sure California votes for clean energy by voting "No" on 23. For years California has invested in clean energy, and it is paying off. Our commitment to clean energy has attracted more than \$3 billion in venture capital for our state, creating new jobs, revenue and a glimpse of what the future can hold for California.

High schools, trade schools, tech schools, universities, and community colleges are training the next wave of solar installers and clean energy engineers. Start-up solar companies and clean tech innovators are gearing up to be on the front lines of a new energy economy.

Of course, it is no surprise that out-of-state oil companies want to take that away.

We've got a choice to make. I'm casting my vote for a clean energy future and voting "No" on Prop 23.

Dan Jacobson
Legislative Director

Recent action

Greening industry with new solar incentives

California's manufacturers and industries should be as green as our homes and office buildings. To further this vision, Environment California is sponsoring AB 228, authored by Assemblymember Jared Huffman (Marin) and co-sponsored by the California Large Energy Users Association.

AB 228 would allow large manufacturers, such as Anheuser-Busch, to go green by installing wind and solar panels at their Fairfield brewery. Without the proper incentives and rights, large energy users like manufacturers and industries can't invest in renewable energy.

To pass this bill, Environment California and allies will need to educate legislators and rally support for our vision of ultimately powering all of California with clean, renewable energy and to start by passing AB 228.

Vote "Yes" on Prop. 21 to protect state parks

California's state parks, the crown jewel of our natural beauty, need help. After years of neglect and underfunding, the parks have fallen into disrepair and face threats of closing.

Twice in the past two years, hundreds of state parks were nearly shuttered due to budget infighting. Only last-minute budget reprieves (and our organizing) kept them open. We simply cannot allow our parks to be put on the chopping block.

This fall, California voters can save state parks by approving Prop. 21, which would create the "State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010." The measure would provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system with an \$18 vehicle license fee, that would also let California cars with California license plates into our state parks for free.



How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment California.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or e-mail PlannedGiving@EnvironmentCalifornia.org.



Pierre Lascott

▲ Monte de Oro State Park, after years of neglect, would be protected under Prop 21. Learn more at <http://www.yesforstateparks.com>.



Kaitlin Marie

"Green" nail polish comes in all shades

As California gears up for its new Green Chemistry regulations passed in 2008 to take effect, Environment California continues to expose and fight to ban dangerous chemicals in our everyday lives.

Just as California leads the way with solar energy, cleaner cars and other green initiatives, we can continue to be at the forefront of the movement away from toxic substances in the products we use around the house.

Free of charge, free of poison

In partnership with the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and the Asian Law Caucus, Environment California is helping to encourage nail salons to stop using nail polish that includes the so-called "toxic trio" of formaldehyde (a carcinogen), toluene (reproductive toxicant) and dibutyl phthalate (an endocrine disruptor).

In July, Advocate Pam Palitz organized a nail polish party at a cosmetology college in San Francisco offering toxic-free manicures, free of charge. The event helped call attention to a safer nail salon ordinance introduced that day to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors by Board President David Chiu.

There are lots of nail polish brands that have removed the toxic trio; the products are just as pretty and long-lasting, and they are no more expensive than the more toxic ones.

"Toxic chemicals don't belong in nail polish. Green Chemistry should take care of problems like this, but until the state has a program that can take strong, quick action on toxic chemicals, then it's up to cities such as San Francisco to step forward to protect their citizens," said Advocate Pam Palitz.

Nail salon workers, who often have limited English skills and are women of child-bearing age, are most at risk of adverse health effects from inhaling nail

polish fumes during long hours of work. The San Francisco supervisors will vote on this ordinance in early autumn.

The goal: Green Chemistry

We know that "Green Chemistry" can sound a little intimidating, but the concept is really not complicated: Don't use toxic chemicals in the products you market.

For a common-sense look at how leading California companies are incorporating Green Chemistry into their products and processes, check out our report, "Green Chemistry at Work," available on our website.

From the Kaiser Permanente hospital in Modesto, to Klean Kanteen in Chico, to Method Products in San Francisco, California companies are finding that Green Chemistry is good for the environment—and their bottom line.

Moving forward, Environment California will continue to push to improve the state's Green Chemistry process to limit our exposure to dangerous chemicals. We will also continue to identify the worst offenders, expose the dangers and push decision-makers to take action to get these products off the shelf.



Staff in action

Environmental Health Advocate Pam Palitz speaks to the media at the toxic-free manicure event in San Francisco.



Mike Norton, Shutterstock.com

From Joshua Tree to Yosemite, protecting our national parks

From Joshua Tree to Yosemite, from the redwoods to the desert, California has some of the best outdoor recreation areas in the world. Every year millions of people come from around the globe to hike, swim, climb, ride and camp in our lands.

But despite our best efforts, we are losing many of our beloved places. Oil drilling, logging, mining and overdevelopment are destroying the places we love best.

This year President Obama ordered a new policy called the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The initiative sessions were planned to gather public opinion about what's needed to reconnect Americans with the Great Outdoors.

On July 8, the president's listening tour came to Occidental College. Environment California teamed up with other environmental groups to turn out more than 800 people to show support for strong protections in California.

Moving forward, Environment California will work with the Great Outdoors initiative to make sure that we take advantage of any opportunity to expand and protect our parks. We will also stand up to any threats to the health of our parks, such as developers, and drilling and mining companies that put parks at risk.



To learn how we can protect and expand our national parks, visit our website.

3435 Wilshire Blvd. #385
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: (213) 251-3688

Environment California

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430

Fall Report

VOLUME 8 | NO. 2 | 2010



Environment California

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment California. We focus exclusively on protecting California's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Spread the word: "No on Prop. 23"

"No" to an additional 169 million tons of global warming pollution; "No" to allowing polluters like the oil industry to disrupt our climate with impunity; "No" to moving California backward in our drive toward clean energy.

The deceptive oil company-funded ballot measure, Prop. 23, will be on the ballot this November, and Environment California is gearing up to defeat it. As of Aug. 6, oil companies had supplied 88 percent of the millions of dollars being spent to deceive voters into voting "Yes" on Prop. 23. The majority of these dollars are coming from the Texas-based oil company, Valero. We are launching a statewide field campaign to directly educate hundreds of thousands of voters about, mobilize volunteers to help get out the vote on election day, and generate media coverage throughout the state.

With your help, we'll not only soundly defeat Prop. 23, but we will also educate more Californians and build stronger public support for clean energy solutions.



Environment California is working to tell as many people as we can to vote "No" on Prop. 23.

For more information about Prop. 23 and our campaign to stop it, go to www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org