



Meeting Date: April 9, 2025

Subject: SB 1046 – Pre-Checkout Bags

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Background

[SB 1046](#) (Eggman, Chapter 991, Statutes of 2022) restricts the types of bags that many retail establishments can offer customers at checkout. Affected businesses include most grocery stores, retail stores with pharmacies, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores.

Pre-checkout bags are provided to a customer before checkout to:

- Contain unwrapped items like bulk foods or loose produce
- Protect a purchased item from damage or contamination

As of January 1, 2025, stores may only provide customers with pre-checkout bags that are:

- Recycled paper bags or
- Compostable bags

Compostable pre-checkout bags must comply with specific requirements.

Analysis

The City of Los Altos (“City”) has confirmed with Mission Trail Waste Systems and Newby Island that compostable bags are not accepted because they do not break down in their composting system. This lack of decomposition leads to contamination, which puts the facility's OMRI organic certification at risk, thereby impacting their ability to sell compost.

Discussion

- Should Los Altos amend SB 1046 locally, to ban compostable pre-checkout bags and require recycled paper only?