









- Significant reduction in the use of single use bags,
- Considerable increase in the use of reusable bags,
- Positive environmental impacts including:
  - Greenhouse Gas reduction,
  - Waste reduction, and
  - Resource conservation.

As a result, staff concludes that the minimum ten cent price is sufficient to substantially change behavior without any adverse consequences (e.g., an increase in paper bag use that leads to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions), and therefore should not increase to twenty-five cents on January 1, 2015.

When our ordinance was adopted, the WMA Board decided to consider possible expansion or modifications of the ordinance at around the same time as the minimum price decision. At the October committee meetings, staff will discuss the possibility of expanding the types of affected stores. We've separated this status report and minimum price finding memo from the larger discussion about possible changes to the ordinance because SB270 will be adopted or not by the end of September, and that decision by the State will affect what changes the WMA Board can even consider. Attachment E includes articles regarding pending SB 270 and by Save the Bay encouraging the expansion of our ordinance to all retail stores.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Authority Board make a finding that the ordinance has substantially reduced the environmental impacts of single use bags. Under the terms of the ordinance, making this finding means that the minimum price per compliant bag will not increase from 10 cents to 25 cents.

Attachments: (links)

- A: [Stormwater Study](#)
- B: [Visual Observation Study](#)
- C: [Bag Purchasing Data](#)
- D: [Proposed Legislation](#) (summary)
- E: Articles ([Save the Bay Blog](#) and [SB 270 recent article](#))