Santa Barbara plastic bag ban starts Wednesday



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By RANDOL WHITE

Don't forget your reusable shopping bag, if you're headed into a Santa Barbara grocery store or pharmacy later this week.

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Single-use plastic carryout bags will no longer be available and paper bags can be purchased for 10 cents each at all large stores as of Wednesday. Small stores have until mid-November to comply.

Lorraine Cruz Carpenter is an environmental specialist with the City of Santa Barbara and says she's heard very little push-back regarding the ban.



A pile of plastic shopping bags. Credit Flickr member Taber Andrew Bain

Santa Barbara now joins its neighbor to the

south, Carpinteria, as well as all of San Luis Obispo County to the north, both of which have had similar laws in place for more than a year-and-a-half.