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***San Jose Mercury News, East Bay Times Urge "Yes" on Prop 67***

**SACRAMENTO** -- Both the San Jose Mercury News and East Bay Times today urged a Yes vote on Proposition 67, urging its readers to protect the state's plastic bag ban.

"The industry argues that plastic bags can be recycled. We tried that. Californians only recycled 3 percent of them. More than 10 billion a year ended up in landfills or, worse, scattered all across highways, streams, beaches and neighborhoods, clogging storm drain and killing wildlife. Ultimately they reach the ocean, wreaking havoc for eons....

"Taxpayers spend an estimated \$400 million trying to keep litter from polluting our waterways, and plastic bags are one of the worst culprits. And bag bans work: San Jose conducted a study before and after its citywide ban and found that trash was reduced by an eye-popping 59 percent on city streets, 89 percent in storm drains and 60 percent in creeks....

"More than 115 cities and counties, including San Jose, San Francisco and Los Angeles already have plastic bag ban ordinances. San Diego joined the list just this month...

"These cities are our heroes, having had the courage to lead the way. But a statewide law is better, setting uniform rules and more broadly reducing the number of bags that wind up in our streams and oceans...

"California's Legislature and governor set out to serve as a role model for the nation with the statewide ban. Voters need to back this money-saving environmentally sound law. That means voting yes on Proposition 67."

Read the entire editorial here: [http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci\\_30155588/mercury-news-editorial-make-california-bag-ban-permanent](http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_30155588/mercury-news-editorial-make-california-bag-ban-permanent)

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