CITY OF OCEANSIDE

# NEWS RELEASE

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## DAY WITHOUT A BAG ON DECEMBER 20, 2012

On December 20, 2012, the City of Oceanside is joining cities throughout San Diego County to participate in the Annual San Diego Regional "Day Without a Bag" event. The purpose of the event is to educate and raise awareness for the need to keep communities, waterways, and beaches clean via litter prevention, and to promote a "greener" holiday season through reuse. In the City's 4th year of celebrating this campaign for the environment, Oceanside is encouraging everyone to be a part of the zero waste movement by participating in Day Without a Bag, and by using reusable instead of disposable bags. To encourage and support participation in the day's events, the City, with the support of local business and community organizations, will be distributing reusable bags at several locations throughout the day. Details about the day's events are summarized as follows:

- The following stores will be holding free bag giveaway offers and/or incentives to use a reusable bag in celebration of the day's event: Target, Wal-Mart, World Market, Stater Brothers, Ralphs, Albertsons, Walgreens, and Trader Joes. Please check the www.nobagdaysd.org website for specific information on store locations, giveaway details and incentives. Giveaway times and incentives vary per store.
- "Bagless" Sunset Market: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Daytime Farmer's Market: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Downtown Oceanside; visit the Green Oceanside booth for your free Reusable bag and learn more about zero waste efforts in the local community.
- Reusable bags will be handed out at the El Corazon Senior Center and Country Club Senior Center during operating hours while supplies last.
- San Diego Regional Day Without A Bag is giving away contest prizes such as gift cards, baseball, and theme park tickets.

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- For complete details on participating retailers, giveaway times and contests, visit www.nobagdaysd.org.

Each year, the greater San Diego region uses more than 1.7 billion plastic bags, which equates to about 500 bags per person annually. According to the U.S. EPA, less than 5 percent of plastic bags are actually recycled, and they are made from non-renewable fossil fuels. Plastic bags make up the greatest amount of litter debris in our streets, our waterways, and on our beaches, taking approximately 1,000 years to fully biodegrade. Participating in Day Without a Bag is a responsible start to combating this serious environmental issue.

Day Without a Bag is an integral part of the City of Oceanside's zero waste goals, which call for diversion of 75 percent of our waste materials out of landfills by 2020. Waste reduction strategies such as using reusable bags over single-use plastic or paper bags are needed in order meet these goals. Colleen Foster, the City's Solid Waste and Recycling Management Analyst, noted that during the stakeholder solicitation phase for the development of the City's recently adopted Zero Waste Strategic Plan, the public cited that "the reduction of plastic bags was a top priority for the community".

For additional information about Day Without a Bag activities in Oceanside please contact Colleen Foster, Solid Waste and Recycling at (760) 435-5021 or by email at cfoster@ci.oceanside.ca.us

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