



## **Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program**

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February 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is prepared in response to a City of San Jose staff request to clarify a recently identified concern related to the preliminary estimate of single use plastic bags observed in storm drain inlets in the City of San Jose prior to and after the City's bag ban ordinance went into effect. This preliminary information was provided to San Jose in October 2012 and relies on limited data collected as part of the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) regional trash generation rate study that was conducted in compliance with the Municipal Regional Permit.

The original preliminary estimate of 89% effectiveness has been re-estimated because of a formulation problem indentified in a spreadsheet cell and is now estimated to be 62%. The correction has been made and an additional study of the storm drain system to provide more specific data is planned for this year.

As we have discussed with the City staff, it is important to utilize several metrics as part of a weight-of-evidence approach to evaluate trends and effectiveness of programs such as the bag ban ordinance. It is our understanding that San Jose utilizes a combination of metrics to evaluate the overall effectiveness and trends of the plastic bag ordinance including such factors as performance of retailer compliance, consumer behavior change, and the amount of trash removed from local waterways.

Please understand that the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program maintains the highest level of quality assurance review of data collected and made available to the public. We apologize for any confusion that has occurred due to the use of this preliminary estimate.

Sincerely,

Adam W. Olivieri, Dr.PH, P.E.  
SCVURPPP  
Program Manager