

**ATTACHMENT 7
CORRESPONDENCE FROM PUBLIC**



November 24, 2014

Honorable Jim Fitzpatrick, Chair
Costa Mesa Planning Commission
2600 Costa Mesa Street
Costa Mesa, CA 93721

RE: CRV recycling facilities in Costa Mesa

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick,

On behalf of the California Grocers Association, I am writing to share concerns with the CRV recycling policies in the City of Costa Mesa. CRV recycling redemption is a state mandated activity for which grocery stores carry the responsibility. Restricting CRV recycling centers' ability to locate and operate could result in substantial fines and penalties for grocery stores. We respectfully ask that you take into consideration our industry's responsibilities under state law when making decisions on CRV recycling facilities within the City of Costa Mesa.

The California Grocers Association is a non-profit, statewide trade association representing the food industry since 1898. CGA represents approximately 500 retail member companies operating over 6,000 food stores in California and Nevada. Retail membership includes chain and independent supermarkets, convenience stores and mass merchandisers. CGA members include numerous grocery companies operating in Costa Mesa.

California state law has defined a convenience zone (CZ) as a one-half mile radius around every grocery store. Every CZ is required to have a certified CRV redemption recycling within its boundaries. If a CZ is "unserved," meaning there is no CRV recycling center within the CZ, the grocery store creating the CZ and retailers selling CRV products within the CZ are required to either redeem cans and bottles inside the store, which poses a huge health and safety risk, or pay \$100 per day to the state as a penalty, which equals \$36,500 a year. Local restrictions that limit a grocery store's ability to be served by a CRV recycling center will have devastating impacts.

CGA appreciates your effort to ensure that CRV recycling centers operate in a respectful and appropriate manner. With that in mind, as well as our state mandates, we have concerns with the planning commission's decision to revoke the CUP of one of the last standing CRV recycling facilities in the City of Costa Mesa that has the capacity to appropriately handle customer volume and demand. Again, having an unserved CZ means that numbers of retailers in your city will be negatively impacted. With their hands tied behind their back, they will be forced to pay an exorbitant fine due to their inability to comply with state law.

The Honorable Jim Fitzpatrick
November 21, 2014
Page 2

We look forward to working with the city to ensure community goals are met and grocers are able to fulfill their state mandates. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to further conversation.

Sincerely,



LAURA PERALTA
Director, Southern California Local Government Relations

cc: Members, Costa Mesa Planning Commission
Mr. Tom Hatch, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Costa Mesa
Mr. Gary Armstrong, Deputy CEO, Development Services Department, City of Costa Mesa
Mr. Mel Lee, Senior Planner, Development Services Department, City of Costa Mesa