

Town, county consider outlawing plastic bags

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Town and county governments are considering a ban on plastic bags.

County Commissioner Candyce O'Donnell and Town Councilor Darien Fernandez brought the proposals to their respective boards this week.

Town officials suggested the two governments pass matching bans to make the process as simple as possible.

"This is an opportunity where I feel we can work together," Fernandez said.

Fernandez told the council the ban would reduce pollution and improve the look of the county.

A similar ban went into effect in Santa Fe in 2014. Town Manager Rick Bellis said the town intended to use the Santa Fe ordinance as a model.

Fernandez and fellow councilors Judi Cantu and Nathaniel Evans voiced support for the proposal. Councilor Fritz Hahn cautioned the town shouldn't rush into a decision.

"I think we need to give this study," Hahn said.

In 2015, Santa Fe went a step further and passed an ordinance charging most shoppers 10 cents for paper bags. The ordinance was meant to incentivize the use of reusable bags.

