

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2023**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 26**

**SUBJECT: ADOPT THE SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE, AND LOCAL FOOD SOURCING POLICY AND DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION OF YEAR-TWO OF THE SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE, AND LOCAL FOOD SOURCING PROGRAM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), took critical action in advancing support for San Diego County residents by approving the framework for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Under the ARPA Food Assistance component, \$1 million was allocated to initiate a County of San Diego (County) values-based food procurement program. Then on January 25, 2022 (5), the Board directed staff to commence implementation of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and to develop an internal County policy. Subsequently, on June 14, 2022 (3), the Board received the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy Framework and directed staff to return to the Board within 18 months for consideration and adoption of the policy. Today's actions request the Board adopt the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy; direct staff to implement year-two of the program and return to the Board with update on progress and impacts by Spring of 2025; and authorize applications for additional funding opportunity announcements to support the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program.

This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by supporting San Diego County's most vulnerable communities, addressing issues of food insecurity, improving nutrition, and supporting local agricultural businesses in San Diego County.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Adopt Board Policy B-75, Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy with a sunset review date of December 31, 2030.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to implement year-two of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and return to the Board with progress and impacts by Spring of 2025.
3. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, to support the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, as of March 2023, nearly one in four San Diegans experience food insecurity. In addition, according to a landscape assessment of County of San Diego (County) food service programs and operations, in 2022 the County served approximately eight million meals to vulnerable populations including youth and adults residing in public hospitals and detention facilities, older adults, foster youth, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. As such, the County has the opportunity to direct public funds through implementing a values-based food sourcing program and policy that can positively impact populations served in addition to supporting a more robust sustainable, equitable, and local food system.

The development of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program was guided by San Diego County Food Vision 2030 (Food Vision 2030). Food Vision 2030 was developed by the San Diego Food System Alliance, which is comprised of diverse San Diego County food system stakeholders and is a 10-year strategic plan that guides collective action toward a healthy, sustainable, and just food system for the San Diego region. Food Vision 2030 builds on and complements the efforts initiated by the County's 2019 State of the Food System Report which works toward a robust and resilient local food system that builds healthy communities, supports the economy, and enhances the environment. The overall goal for Food Vision 2030 is to inform planning, policy, program, and investment opportunities to improve the food system in San Diego County. The Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy align with the priorities of Food Vision 2030.

Notably, the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program includes a value category focused specifically on equity: Equity-Informed Sourcing. The Program measures purchases within this value category and supports food service programs and operations in identifying food and beverage purchasing opportunities in this value category. Program staff collect data in the form of usage reports and conduct assessments to determine the County's progress in the Equity-Informed Sourcing value category. By centering equity in the County's food procurement, the County has the potential to focus public funds to positively impact the food system for local food producers, workers, and businesses owned and/or operated by underserved communities. In addition, implementing a comprehensive, values-based food procurement program ensures that institutional food purchasing advances an equitable, healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food system. Sustainability and equity-focused institutional food purchasing can be an immediate and long-term strategy to reduce health disparities through improving quality of food served to vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2, to provide just and equitable access to County services, policy decision-making, and resource allocation in support of sustainable communities; Sustainability Goal # 3, to transition to a green, carbon-free economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support green job creation and workforce development, and prepare for impacts of climate change. In addition, today's actions support the County Sustainability Goal # 4, to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region, with a focus on collaborating with community partners and advocating for environmental justice for communities that have been disproportionately impacted; and Sustainability Goal #7, to reduce pollution and waste and demonstrate reduction in consumption of resources. This will be accomplished through adopting the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy, which standardizes a food sourcing program that measures and encourages food and beverage purchasing in alignment with value categories as directed by the San

Diego County Board of Supervisors. These include Local Sourcing, Equity-Informed Sourcing, Elevated Labor Standards, Organic or Regenerative Certification, Low-Carbon Intensity, and Nutritional Co-Benefit. The Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy help direct public funds contributing to sustainability through increasing purchasing of organic, regeneratively grown and low-carbon intense food and beverages. The Program measures purchases within these value categories and supports food service programs and operations by identifying food and beverage procurement opportunities within the value categories, collectively contributing to County sustainability goals, as well as Departmental Sustainability Plans, the Regional Decarbonization Framework, and the Climate Action Plan.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-25 Operational Plan in Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of \$353,472 in FY 2023-24 and \$204,660 in FY 2024-25 to implement year-two of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program. These costs were previously approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) on January 25, 2022 (5), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework, to provide technical assistance to support the Food System Sustainability and Equity Procurement Guidelines through April 30, 2025. The technical assistance provider supports data analysis, action plan implementation, and monitoring of progress. The funding source is ARPA. There is no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

There is no immediate fiscal impact specific to today's actions to adopt the policy and implement year- two of the program outside of costs tied to the technical assistance provider noted above. Adoption of the policy is not anticipated to result in new costs for departments in the near term. The action plans focus on cost neutral strategies with support from the contracted technical assistance provider. The technical assistance provider will continue to support with program implementation in year-two including with action plan implementation, technical analysis, and monitoring. However, fiscal impacts could be associated with identified goals respective to each food service operation, such as diverting or increasing purchases in specific value categories. Those goals are to be determined by leadership for each food service operation based on respective operational and budget constraints. Any such recommendations requiring additional funding would return to the Board for consideration and approval as necessary. Institutions across the country that have implemented a values-based procurement program similar to this County program have primarily relied on cost-neutral strategies to improve performance.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

If approved, today's actions have the potential to positively impact the regional food system by increasing market opportunities for businesses in the food chain including producers, manufactures, and distributors who align operations with the Board-directed values categories.

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed by** Andrew Potter

