

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 18**

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE YEAR-TWO UPDATE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE, AND LOCAL FOOD SOURCING PROGRAM AND BOARD POLICY B-75 AND RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNTYWIDE FOOD CONTRACT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved 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 (Program) and to develop an internal County policy. Subsequently, on June 14, 2022 (3), the Board received the Program and Policy Framework and directed staff to return to the Board within 18 months for consideration and adoption of the policy. On December 5, 2023 (26), the Board adopted the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy (Board Policy B-75) and directed implementation of Year-Two of the Program.

Most recently, on March 12, 2024 (9), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- Initiate a competitive solicitation process for food, food preparation supplies, and equipment.
- Require contract supplier(s) to track and report progress on the six value categories outlined in Board Policy B-75.
- Return to the Board with a report of the data resulting from contract suppliers' progress on the six value categories prior to the renewal of the initial one-year period of the contract, or any subsequent options.
- Develop an action plan to identify, support, and cultivate local businesses as potential subcontractors for future large-scale food contracts.

Today's actions request the Board receive an update on year-two implementation with progress and impacts for the Program and Board Policy B-75, covering all eight County food service programs and operations and spanning multiple years, and an update on the progress made under the Countywide Food Contract that was executed September 1, 2024, covering the two self-operated food service operations. It also provides an update on efforts to identify, uplift, and support local businesses to serve as subcontractors for the County's food procurement needs. Finally, today's actions request the Board authorize applications for additional funding opportunity announcements to support the Program.

This item supports the County 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 the 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. Receive an update on year-two of implementation with progress and impacts for the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Board Policy B-75.
2. Receive an update on the Countywide Food Contract.
3. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, 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 a landscape assessment of County of San Diego (County) food service programs and operations, in 2024, 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 an ongoing opportunity to direct public funds through implementation of a values-based food sourcing program and policy that can positively impact the populations served in addition to supporting a more robust sustainable, equitable, and local food system.

Notably, the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program (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 with assessments to determine the County's progress. By centering equity in the County's food procurement, the County has the ongoing potential to focus public funds to positively impact local food producers, workers, and businesses owned and/or operated by underserved communities. Sustainability and equity-focused institutional food purchasing can be an immediate and long-term strategy to reduce health disparities through improving the quality of food served to vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

Related to the Countywide Food Contract, some initiatives that will support the Equity-Informed Sourcing value category are training programs that are being developed, and supplier interest form for interested suppliers to obtain information on Sysco Foods' procurement requirements to pave a pathway for local businesses to become subcontractors with Sysco Foods. County Department of Purchasing and Contracting will continue to collaborate with the County's Food Services Leadership Committee, which is facilitated by County Public Health Services and includes representation from all County food service programs and operations and other key stakeholders, to cultivate local small and diverse businesses. Additionally, County staff have leveraged community partnerships to connect suppliers with information on doing business with the County, as well as procurement technical assistance resources to increase the participation of local, small, and diverse suppliers as subcontractors in the Countywide Food Contract and future food-related contracts.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #2, provide just and equitable access; Sustainability Goal #3, transition to a green, carbon-free economy; Sustainability Goal #4, protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region; and Sustainability Goal #7, reduce pollution and waste and demonstrate reduction in consumption of resources. The Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Board Policy B-75 help direct public funds, contributing to

sustainability through increasing purchasing of organic, regeneratively grown, and low-carbon intense food and beverages. This 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 the County sustainability goals, as well as Departmental Sustainability Commitments, the Regional Decarbonization Framework, and the 2024 Climate Action Plan.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no immediate fiscal impact specific to today's actions. Continued Program implementation 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 and County of San Diego Program staff. However, fiscal impacts could be associated with identified goals with respect 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 budgetary constraints. Any such recommendations requiring additional funding will return to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval, as necessary. Institutions across the country that have implemented a values-based procurement program, similar to this County of San Diego program, and have primarily relied on cost-neutral strategies to improve performance. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego (County) purchases food, food preparation supplies, and equipment on a large scale to provide millions of meals annually. The Countywide Food Contract with Sysco Foods requires local suppliers to be included as subcontractors in Sysco Foods' catalog, positively impacting the local business community. Furthermore, Sysco Foods is collaborating with the County to establish a training program that builds capacity and trains future generations of local, small, and diverse businesses.

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

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Lawson-Remer

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

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

