



FARM BUREAU San Diego County

The Voice of Local Farmers
Serving San Diego agriculture since 1914

December 6, 2024

Dear Ms. Greene,

San Diego County Farm Bureau (SDCFB) supports the access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in sufficient quantity and quality. In order to do so, it is vital that local agriculture remains stable in our county. Over the past decade, San Diego County has seen a 31% decline in its farming acreage, driven by rising water costs, increasing crop input expenses, stricter regulations, and the pressures of a growing global food market.

San Diego County Farm Bureau is in agreement with the recommendations outlined in the Food Justice Community Action Plan:

- Improved access to food through government programs and charitable organizations, along with prioritizing local ingredients in school meals, benefits consumers, local farmers, and the local economy. By linking farms to gleaners, donation centers, and schools, communities can thrive. However, it is essential that farmers receive fair compensation to ensure their economic sustainability.
- Investments in food education should not only highlight the nutritional benefits of fresh produce and meats, but also emphasize the importance of supporting local agriculture and the potential consequences of depending on an imported food supply.
- A thorough analysis of food policies is essential for the sustainability of agriculture. Farms in San Diego County are being driven out of business by restrictive regulations. To halt this decline, policy reforms are necessary to support farmers and ensure they can continue to operate.
- Food security relies on a stable local food supply. When regulations become overly burdensome, food production may be outsourced to countries with lower water costs and weaker employee and food safety standards. This puts our community at the mercy of external sources, making us vulnerable to global uncertainties, as well as potential exposure to food safety issues.
- Farm tours are an excellent way to engage the community with its local food system. To ensure these educational opportunities continue, it's essential to preserve agriculture within our county.
- Community gardens provide agricultural education to teachers and students. San Diego Ag in the Classroom, a 501(c)3 of SDCFB, has a long standing history of fostering the growth of school gardens through their garden grant program.

Local farms benefit the community immensely and we must do everything we can to protect agriculture in San Diego County to ensure the access of safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in sufficient quantity and quality. When the food supply is disrupted, the most vulnerable members of our society are often the hardest hit. It is our responsibility to protect these populations and ensure their well-being, and that starts with protecting our farms.

Sincerely,

Dana Groot
President

From: henkinp@earthlink.net
To: [Desmond, Jim](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Vargas, Nora \(BOS\)](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] FOOD JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (Please Include with documents for Land Use agenda #11)
Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024 7:04:51 PM

Hi Supervisors,

What does food justice have to do with land use?

You want to put Battery Energy Storage (BESS) all over our region, including in food production zones. BESS facilities (and EV's on a smaller scale) poison our water and air, and contribute to fires that can spontaneously reignite for days. These fires also burn two to three times as hot as other fires (translation: forget about your metal rings, heirlooms, or equipment in this kind of fire.) So what is the use of planning for local food if some of us are burned alive, farms are gone, and we can't eat or drink?

I'm sure you've read the recommendations from myself and others. If not, look at the letters printed and in the agenda. I favor putting these facilities underground and in low-risk areas like Borrego or the Salton Sea.

Regards,

Paul Henkin

From: [Kim Andriotakis](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Fw: Food Justice Community Action Plan (FJCAP) Update
Date: Friday, December 6, 2024 2:11:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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From: Kim Andriotakis <PASTpeers@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 2:10:15 PM
To: Greene, Kimberly <Kimberly.Greene@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Food Justice Community Action Plan (FJCAP) Update

****Ms. K A Hoskinson****

****December 5, 2024****

****Ms. Greene****
[sdcounty.ca.gov]

Dear Ms. Greene,

My name is Kimberly Andriotakis Hoskinson, and I am reaching out regarding the upcoming Food Justice Community Action Plan (FJCAP) meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to share my personal experiences with the current system and emphasize the pressing challenges I face.

As a single mother who fled domestic violence, I am currently supported by CalWORKs, receiving \$1,175 in cash assistance and \$600 in SNAP benefits each month. Despite my continuous efforts to attend school and seek employment, my medical condition prevents me from driving, making it nearly impossible to secure job opportunities that pay \$25-\$32 per hour.

Supporting two teenage sons and myself on \$600 per month in SNAP benefits is unsustainable. These benefits barely last the first half of the month, forcing me to forgo meals so my children can eat. This is despite purchasing the lowest quality products and cutting corners wherever possible.

Furthermore, the disbursement schedule exacerbates our struggles. SNAP benefits are issued on the 9th of each month, while CalWORKs benefits are disbursed on the 3rd. This staggered timing forces me to allocate part of our cash assistance to food, leading to an endless cycle of debt and financial juggling. Unlike other regions where benefits are synchronized, San Diego's

approach places additional strain on already vulnerable families, hindering our ability to achieve financial stability and independence.

The current system, rather than providing relief, feels more oppressive. It is crucial that we address these inefficiencies and work towards a more supportive structure that genuinely aids families in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to discussing these issues further at the meeting and hope for meaningful changes that will better support families like mine.

Best regards,

Kimberly Andriotakis Hoskinson

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From: Greene, Kimberly <Kimberly.Greene@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2024 9:37:53 AM

Subject: Food Justice Community Action Plan (FJCAP) Update

Thank you for participating in the development of the Food Justice Community Action Plan (FJCAP). We have a few updates to share:

- **Staff report and Action Plan Now Available:** The staff report (known as the Board Letter) and the action plan (Attachment A) is now available as [item 11 on the Board's agenda](#).
- **Board of Supervisors Presentation:** The FJCAP will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, December 11.
- **Providing comments:** Please consider sharing your feedback at the hearing by attending in-person, calling in, and/or leaving an [e-comment](#). More information is available on the [Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda website](#). In addition, if you/your organization would like to send a letter that is received as part of the public record for this item you may email it to Kimberly.Greene@sdcounty.ca.gov and publiccomment@sdcounty.ca.gov, with "item 11" included in the subject line.

Community participation is central to this effort, and we deeply appreciate your time and attention throughout this process. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Kim

Kimberly Greene (she/her/hers) | County of San Diego | Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice (OSEJ) | Liaison, Group Program Manager

Cell: 858-239-8414 | Kimberly.Greene@sdcounty.ca.gov | [Land Use & Environment Group \(LUEG\) OSEJ Webpage](#)

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