

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MARCH 03, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 16

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COUNTYWIDE FOOD CONTRACT
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On March 12, 2024 (9), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to issue a competitive solicitation for a Countywide food contract; track progress on Board Policy B-75 County of San Diego Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing (Board Policy B-75) values; return to the Board; and develop an action plan to support local businesses. The resulting Countywide food contract with Sysco, effective September 2024, was among the first to implement Board Policy B-75. Its scale makes it a key tool for advancing policy commitments and expanding local procurement in the agriculturally diverse region. Sysco's reach and infrastructure as a large food distributor ensures institutional needs are met while creating pathways for local farms to access larger markets. Focusing on the County of San Diego's (County) most frequently purchased produce items, some of which are already grown locally, provides a practical entry point and lays the foundation for systemic change.

On December 9, 2025 (31), the Board directed the CAO to set ambitious and achievable goals aligned with Board Policy B-75, address barriers, reach out to the Farm Bureau, and provide an update on progress to stakeholder engagement and technical assistance. Action has been taken to accelerate the progress of County-administered food programs by setting outcome commitments that increase incrementally over the next five years and will demonstrate increased momentum and progress in the six value categories. These goals, integrated into our operations as lasting commitments, will be achievable through reimagining requirements for our County-administered food programs to reduce challenges in making values-aligned purchases, such as evaluating ways to mitigate packaging requirements. Additionally, we have enhanced our outreach and engagement with technical assistance in partnership with the San Diego County Farm Bureau, Sysco, and other stakeholders by launching Supporting Producers through Resources, Opportunities, United partnerships and Technical assistance (SPROUT), a coordinated strategy focused on engagement, training, and resource development. Sysco will be a key partner in SPROUT, working alongside the Department of Purchasing and Contracting, the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs, and Agriculture, Weights and Measures. The initiative will also engage internal stakeholders, including the Food System Initiative, to ensure broad collaboration and impact.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Receive the progress report on Countywide food contract.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) serves millions of meals annually to some of the region's most vulnerable residents. The Countywide food contract advances Board Policy B-75 by ensuring procurement benefits local producers, workers, and businesses owned and/or operated by underserved communities through the Sheriff's Office (SDSO) and Edgemoor Distinct Part Skilled Nursing Facility (Edgemoor DPSNF) food service operations which are both County-administered. Sysco, the County's

food distributor for Edgemoor DPSNF and SDSO operations, incorporated equity informed sourcing and elevated labor standards into its supplier engagement, while County staff develop systems to track their progress. Partnerships with local organizations such as the San Diego Food Hub, a cooperative supporting over 36 local farms committed to sustainable practices are helping connect equity-focused growers and food businesses to the County's procurement pipeline.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This action supports the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals by strengthening local economies, reducing the carbon footprint of food purchases, and increasing access to nutritious and sustainable food. Recent shifts toward more poultry and less red meat improved nutritional and environmental outcomes. Increased sourcing of certified organic and regenerative products further supports the County's goals to reduce pollution, promote environmental justice, and protect community health. For example, Sysco, in collaboration with the San Diego Food Hub, expanded access to local farms using regenerative and organic farming practices.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for today's recommendation to receive the progress report. There may be future costs associated with achieving the commitments identified to advance progress in each of the Board Policy B-75 value categories. These costs would be included in future Operational Plans or staff would return to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The six value categories include locally grown and produced food. The Countywide Food Contract requires Sysco to include local suppliers in its catalog and meet commitments to increase data about local suppliers to support purchasing decisions by County food service operations. County purchases from local growers and producers have a positive impact on local businesses. Engagements with the San Diego Food Hub and FreshPoint, Sysco's specialty produce subsidiary, continue to expand the pipeline of small, local growers. Sysco is actively connecting with local farms and producers, offering new market opportunities for businesses historically excluded from contracts of this scale.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors received the progress report on Countywide food contract.

AYES: Aguirre, 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