

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Meeting Date: March 3, 2026**  
**Agenda Item No. 16**  
**Distribution Date: March 2, 2026**  
**Batch No. 02**

Re: Meeting Agenda Item #16 on the Countywide Food Contract (March 3, 2026)

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the University of California Cooperative Extension San Diego County (UCCE), I write to express our strong support for the County of San Diego's Local Food Procurement Program. This program is an essential initiative stemming from the B-75 Policy that advances sustainable, equitable, and locally-rooted food systems and sourcing. This County program represents a meaningful step toward increasing equity-informed local sourcing, supporting organic or regenerative certification, reducing carbon intensity, strengthening labor standards, and improving nutritional outcomes for our region.

UCCE maintains long-standing partnerships with the County of San Diego and collaborates closely with local leaders, community organizations, and producers to address critical issues in agriculture, natural resource management, youth development, nutrition, climate resilience, and public health. The goals of the Local Food Procurement Program directly align with several County priorities, including the Climate Action Plan, the Regional Decarbonization Framework, the Healthy Food Access Initiative, and the County's equity commitments, while also complementing UCCE's mission-driven programs in sustainable food systems, small-farm support, nutrition education, climate-smart agriculture, and community resilience.

We commend the County's proactive efforts to expand training, provide resources, and reduce compliance-related burdens for local producers as they navigate food safety, operational, and procurement requirements. These actions reflect a shared commitment to increasing the viability of regional agriculture while ensuring that

County departments and institutions can confidently source high-quality, locally grown foods.

UCCE is dedicated to continuing our community-driven support for the County of San Diego as we collectively uplift a diversity of producers, especially those who are historically underrepresented or underserved. This partnership remains a cornerstone of our shared vision for a thriving, healthy, and resilient region. We also hope that this letter serves as an invitation for continued dialogue and deeper collaboration as the County advances the B-75 Policy related initiatives. UCCE welcomes the opportunity to provide additional context, technical support, and community-based insights to help strengthen the impact of this important policy moving forward.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to the wellbeing of San Diego County.

Sincerely,

*Chandra Richards*

Dr. Chandra Richards

UC Cooperative Extension Area County Director for San Diego & Imperial Counties

**From:** [rich maclean](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] March 3, 2026 – Item 16 – Commit to Reducing Animal Protein in County Facilities  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2026 10:27:25 AM

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Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am a San Diego County resident writing regarding the Countywide Food Contract and the County's carbon reduction goals.

The County currently tracks carbon intensity per meal served. If reducing climate impact is a priority, reducing reliance on animal protein is one of the most effective and measurable strategies available.

Substituting beef with poultry lowers emissions modestly, but meaningful climate progress requires reducing overall animal protein per meal.

I respectfully urge the Board to commit to tracking animal protein per meal served and to adopt a measurable reduction target of at least 10% over the next five years.

This approach aligns directly with the County's sustainability framework while maintaining flexibility in procurement and menu planning.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,  
[NAME] Richard MacLean  
San Diego

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Re: Meeting Agenda Item #16 on the Countywide Food Contract (March 3, 2026)

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

As food systems consultants with a specialization in values-driven institutional food procurement, we at KK&P are writing to express our strong support for the County of San Diego's continued commitment to the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local food procurement policy and program. Having worked closely with the County to design and operationalize this program, we believe that a continued focus on its implementation has the potential to create meaningful and measurable impact at the local and regional scales.

Institutional food procurement is a powerful but complex lever for change; it requires balancing high-volume operational needs with the long-term goal of building a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system. Based on our experience with similar programs across the country, we would like to highlight three key points for why the Board should support this program:

- **Ambitious but Achievable Goals:** The yearly progress goals identified for Sysco, Edgemoor, and the Sheriff's Department strike an appropriate balance between ambition and feasibility. The County is taking a measured, data-driven approach, with incremental targets that can motivate shifts in how the County's food dollars are spent.
- **Transforming the Supply Chain:** Leveraging an existing contract with a national broadline distributor like Sysco is a high-impact strategy. By embedding values-based goals into this contract, the County is changing its own purchasing habits while also using its buying power to compel an anchor vendor to prioritize data transparency and values-based sourcing. This can create a "ripple effect" with benefits for the entire regional food economy.
- **A Roadmap for Local Growth:** While the Sysco contract provides the necessary scale, the County's parallel commitment to working with local food hubs and producers—including within and through the Sysco supply chain—ensures that San Diego's community of farmers and smaller vendors has a pathway into the institutional market.



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The County of San Diego is currently a leader in the movement toward a more values-driven food economy. The progress goals outlined in this Board Letter provide a framework that can help the County stay at the forefront of public health, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunity.

We commend the Board's leadership on this initiative and look forward to seeing the continued success of this program.

All the best,

Ben Kerrick  
Managing Partner, KK&P



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Re: Meeting Agenda Item #16 on the Countywide Food Contract (March 3, 2026)

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Center for Good Food Purchasing, I write to express our support for the County of San Diego's implementation of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy. For fifteen years, the Center has been the leading organization nationally for monitoring and technical assistance of holistic values-based purchasing policies through the Good Food Purchasing Program. The Center was honored to offer our expertise in support of the County of San Diego, as a subcontractor to the County, in its initial work to set baselines for County agencies' sustainable, local and equitable food procurement.

Between 2022-2025, we provided eleven food service operations within the county with individualized reporting and technical assistance to set ambitious but achievable targets for meeting the goals of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy. In further support of the County's policy implementation, we provided the national performance metrics, included in the board report, against which the County measures its progress toward its values-based food procurement goals. These benchmarks demonstrate that the goals the County has committed to are achievable, as they have been met or exceeded in other public food purchasing settings across the US.

We also commend the County for utilizing its contracts, including the one with Sysco for Edgemoor and Sheriff's Office, to require transparency in reporting and collaboration in meeting purchasing goals. Large-scale distributors like Sysco, which have significant market influence in San Diego and nationally, have a responsibility to invest in the small and mid-scale businesses that are owned by and employ people in the local region, as well as an imperative to ensure ethical treatment of people, animals, and the environment in their own operations and the companies in their supply chains. Sysco's relationships with the



San Diego Food Hub and responsive, timely reporting on food purchases made for County facilities, are important demonstrations of this. The County should continue to use its contracts with Sysco and other food service management companies, distributors, and food businesses to maintain accountability for goals of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy with its contractors.

The Center for Good Food Purchasing continues to be available as a collaborator and supporter of the County of San Diego's values-based purchasing goals should our expertise be of value throughout the implementation process. We know from our experience working in 39 cities and counties with nearly 100 food purchasing operations, that implementation of values-based food procurement policies is a journey and a long-term effort to institutionalize sustainable change. We thank you for your commitment to building an equitable, transparent food system through the use of your food purchasing power.

Sincerely,

Colleen McKinney  
Chief Ecosystem Strategy Officer, Center for Good Food Purchasing