



Wilma Chan, SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEES:
Health and ALL IN, Chair
Legislative, Finance
Unincorporated Services

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Alameda County Administration Building
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING POLICY
AND THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PLEDGE**

RECOMMENDATION:

A. Adopt a Resolution to:

- i. Adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy Values, Framework and Program;
- ii. Complete baseline assessments of current food purchasing within a six-month timeframe for the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department based on the Good Food Purchasing standards and then report results to the ALL IN Committee;
- iii. Develop Good Food Purchasing prioritized action plans for the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department, within six months of the completion of the baseline assessments, and report to the ALL IN Committee;
- iv. Encourage county agencies not conducting the baseline assessments to participate in the Good Food Purchasing Pledge;
- v. Develop food waste and food recovery goals to ensure the recirculation of edible and compostable food; and
- vi. Encourage municipalities, schools, hospitals, and other organizations within the County of Alameda to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy Values, Framework and Program; and

B. Approve the use of District 3 Fiscal Management Reward funds (FMR) to the Center for Good Food Purchasing (Principal: Alexa Delwiche; Location: Berkeley) to support conducting a baseline assessment and initial action plan of current county food purchases from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and the Alameda County Probation Department, in the amount of \$10,000; and

C. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to make the related budget adjustments.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

Adopting a Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP) transforms the way public institutions purchase food to create a more transparent and equitable food system that support five core **Values**: local economies, nutrition, valued workforce, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. The Good Food Purchasing **Framework** is the set of criteria used to measure alignment with the five values, and the **Program** is the implementation process for making baseline assessments and tracking improvements.

By increasing market demand for good food through large institutional budgets, the GFPP seeks to shift food production, processing, and distribution to align with these core values. The Center for Good Food Purchasing (CGFP) provides a comprehensive set of tools, technical support, and a verification system to assist institutions in tracking food purchases and meeting goals.

Implementing the Good Food Purchasing Policy is a two-step process:

- Phase 1 Large Purchasers: With the assistance of the CGFP, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and the Probation Department shall complete a baseline assessment of current food purchases. Once the assessment is complete, these agencies will report the findings back to the ALL IN Committee.
- Phase 2 Large Purchasers: With the assistance of the CGFP, the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department shall establish prioritized action plans with benchmarks set by the departments for how to better align their food purchases with the GFPP and improve food purchasing. By completing a baseline assessment, and annual assessments thereafter, the county can measure progress toward identified goals. These plans will be submitted to the ALL IN Committee.
- Phase 2 Other Agencies: Agencies not required to complete the baseline assessment will be encouraged to participate in this initiative by adopting the Good Food Purchasing Pledge and, in so doing, commit to meeting at least one best practice in each value category with a goal of adding an additional best practice from any category per year.

The Good Food Purchasing Policy was developed by the Los Angeles Food Policy Council and adopted by the City and the Los Angeles Unified School District in 2012. Since then, institutions and governmental entities across the country, such as schools, hospitals, and prisons, have adopted the GFPP to transform how they purchase food.

In addition to adopting the GFPP, the County of Alameda can go above and beyond by focusing on three key concepts uplifted by the Good Food Communities Initiative which place community values at the forefront:

- Transparency and Accountability - annual reporting of assessments to the ALL IN Committee allow for community members to review and provide feedback;
- Equity - with the emphasis on local purchasing, small farmers and food vendors will have increased opportunities for contracts. Many of these local businesses are owned by women and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC); and
- Worker Justice - prioritize purchasing from producers that go beyond baseline certification of a "valued workforce."

By adopting the GFPP, the County of Alameda will join a growing network of cities, counties and other public institutions using a widely recognized and expert-vetted purchasing framework. By using the same framework, Alameda County and other GFPP participants are changing the demand from the cheapest possible product to high-quality healthy food that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. By increasing demand, good food purchasers are improving the way food is produced and distributed for the better over the long term.

As a public agency which spends significant public dollars on food, the vast majority of which is purchased by the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department, Alameda County has a responsibility to set a high standard and ensure that public funds are spent in a manner consistent with county values. This Resolution will help the County reach this higher bar.

FINANCING:

A baseline assessment and initial action plan will be conducted by the Center for Good Food Purchasing at a cost of \$10,000, paid for by District 3 Fiscal Management Reward funds. There will be no increase in net county cost.

VISION 2026 GOAL:

The Good Food Purchasing Policy supports the Vision 2026 goal of a **Prosperous and Vibrant Economy**. Additionally, through the purchasing of healthy and environmentally sustainable foods, the Good Food Purchasing Policy will help ensure foods available at facilities run by the County of Alameda support our shared visions of a **Healthy Environment** and a **Thriving & Resilient Population**.

Respectfully,



Wilma Chan

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF
ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 48**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING POLICY VALUES,
FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The County of Alameda strives to improve the health of all its residents through services and policies that promote health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, ALL IN Alameda County conducted community listening sessions throughout the County that nearly 1,000 residents attended and provided testimonials on the need for increased access to affordable, quality, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and fresh produce; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, ALL IN Alameda County convened stakeholders from government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and community members at the *Social Innovation Fair*, which led to the formation of the Food as Medicine and Food Recovery Action Teams; and

WHEREAS, There is a direct correlation between ending poverty and the accessibility of affordable, nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP) was developed in 2012 to help public institutions procure food aligned with values-driven purchasing standards; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Purchasing Policy provides robust standards to evaluate and celebrate an institutional commitment to values-based procurement through third party verification and use of metric-based tools that guide organizations to direct their purchasing power towards suppliers in alignment with the five overarching values: healthy, local, fair, sustainable and just; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Good Food Purchasing provides planning, implementation and evaluation support for institutions using the GFPP Values, Framework and Program; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Purchasing **Values** include supporting local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare and environmental sustainability. The Good Food Purchasing **Framework** is the set of criteria used to measure alignment with the five values. The Good Food Purchasing **Program** is the process of an institution implementing food purchasing assessment based on the values and framework and working towards improvements; and

WHEREAS, Local economies-driven purchases support robust regional economies by sourcing from locally-owned small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations; and

WHEREAS, Nutrition-driven purchases promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruit, whole grains and minimally processed foods, while reducing salt, added sugars, unhealthy fats, and red meat consumption, and eliminating artificial additives; and

WHEREAS, Valued workforce-driven purchases provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation for all food-sector workers and producers from production to consumption; and

WHEREAS, Animal welfare-driven purchases provide healthy living conditions and humane care for farm animals; and

WHEREAS, The Good Food Communities Initiative provides an additional lens to prioritize values such as transparency, accountability, racial and gender equity, and worker justice; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda works to realize the County's Vision 2026 by prioritizing the following actions: hiring from and investing in priority communities including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, formerly incarcerated, CalWORKs recipients, former foster youth, persons experiencing homelessness, and victims of domestic violence; assisting prospective vendors in navigating tax incentives and other financial programs designed to increase investment in disadvantaged communities; tracking and increasing private and public investments in areas of the county considered a "food desert" per the USDA's definition; transitioning publicly-owned vacant properties to local, BIPOC-owned social enterprises and/or community land trusts for urban agriculture and other food-related enterprises; and engaging local universities and local community-based experts to provide technical assistance to emerging and/or disadvantaged businesses; and

WHEREAS, Systems-level strategies for Alameda County food production, distribution, and recycling has led to the development of a 'circular food economy' model that articulates a vision for how to help people access affordable, healthy food; and

WHEREAS, The circular food economy focuses on sourcing food grown regeneratively and locally, making the most of food by preventing waste, preventing and donating surplus food and using by-products more efficiently, and by designing markets for healthier foods; and

WHEREAS, The County of Alameda adopted the Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Preference to create opportunities for businesses by giving them an opportunity to contract with the County of Alameda and promote the economic growth of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Analysis of Sustainability Impacts of Alameda County Supply Chain Expenditures prepared by the General Services Agency in 2019 recommends that Food Services and Community-Directed Services which provide food as part of their service reduce edible surplus food that goes to waste (particularly meat and dairy products); substitute lower-impact, plant-based, nutritionally equivalent foods for meat and dairy, and explore opportunities to specify the sourcing of meat products from facilities that operate using best manure management practices; and

WHEREAS, Purchasing healthy food, reducing waste, and promoting local green jobs is consistent with the County of Alameda's many policy commitments to climate action and sustainability including the Waste Diversion Resolution (R-2008-213), Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations (R-2010-170), Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (R-2011-108), and Climate Emergency Declaration (R-2019-375); and

WHEREAS, The County's Worksite Wellness Policy (2019) and its antecedent Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy (2009), developed through a collaboration among the County Administrator's Office, Health Care Services Agency, Public Health Department, Human Resource Services, and General Services Agency, recommend the use of local and regional foods at County meetings or events

whenever possible and require that whenever County funds are used to purchase food for County meetings and events that those foods provide nutritional benefit and choice; and

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 1383 requires a reduction of the statewide disposal of organic waste through edible food generators participating in food recovery and providing organic waste collection/recycling containers and services for organic waste; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Public Health Department's Nutrition Services Program promotes healthy eating through committed partnership with communities to reduce chronic disease and improve long-term health, and Nutrition Services has deep ties with community members and resident Champions who co-teach and co-advocate for cultural norm changes and policies, systems, and environmental changes; and

WHEREAS, ALL IN Alameda County's Food as Medicine program calls for the use of Medically Supportive Foods – defined as any nutrient rich whole food, including any fruit, vegetable, legume, nut, seed, whole grain, low mercury/high omega 3 fatty acid fish, animal protein certified to be humanely raised - to prevent, reverse, or manage certain chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Community Development Agency and Public Health Department's Ashland and Cherryland Community Health and Wellness Element of the Alameda County General Plan sets Goal B: Improve the Safety of Neighborhoods and Public Spheres by, in part, improving neighborhood involvement in crime prevention and beautification and promoting the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and quality food; and

WHEREAS, The Alameda County Community Development Agency's Economic & Civic Development Department has a primary focus on nurturing and sustaining a robust local food economy through its initiatives and programs, including the award-winning Food Entrepreneurial Training Academy offering free business training to start-up and grow food businesses, assisting food businesses with site selection, permitting, and tailored referrals, and partnering with local developers and community-based organizations to launch new commercial opportunities, including the Ashland Market & Café, the Castro Valley Marketplace, the Ashland Commons Park, and Cherryland Place; which aligns well with the Good Food Purchasing Policy local economies value; and

WHEREAS, There is a long history of inequitable land ownership and control within the food industry and of disinvestment of land in many low income communities as detailed in the 2019 California Young Farmers Report and the California Department of Food & Agriculture 2020 Report to the California Legislature on the Farm Equity Act; and

WHEREAS, There are a number of tax credits available at the federal, state, county and city levels to incentivize investment in distressed communities and to hire very low-income employees, employees with past criminal records, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Investing in a local food economy can strengthen the county's resilience to climate emergencies or disruptions that affect supply chains or transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, In adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy, the County of Alameda will join eleven other jurisdictions across the United States - including Oakland Unified School District, City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Chicago - in supporting this nationwide movement; and

WHEREAS, In adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy, the County of Alameda will help support a regional food system that is ecologically sound, economically viable and socially responsible, and will have an impact on the availability of local, sustainable food; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that the significant program investments and buying power of public institutions across the country can reform the food system, create opportunities for smaller farmers and low-income entrepreneurs of color to thrive, provide just compensation and fair treatment for food chain workers, support sustainable farming practices, reward good environmental stewardship including reducing waste food through prevention, donation, food to animals and increasing composting, and increase access to fresh and healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, Two County departments have significant buying power within the local food economy: the Sheriff's Office spends approximately \$20 million annually on food and the Probation Department spends approximately \$1-2 million annually on food; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the County of Alameda embraces the Good Food Purchasing Policy Values, Framework and Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the largest food purchasers in the County of Alameda, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and the Alameda County Probation Department, shall complete a baseline assessment of the food purchases made in the prior year, within six months of the passage of this resolution, based on the GFPP Values, Framework and Program as a strategy to achieve the county's Vision 2026 goals and then report the results to the ALL IN Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon completion of the baseline assessments, the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department shall develop prioritized action plans for meeting and/or exceeding baseline targets within each of the five value categories of the Good Food Purchasing Program, within six months of the completion of the baseline assessments and on an annual basis thereafter, and then report the results to the ALL IN Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, County of Alameda agencies not required to complete baseline assessments as well as other entities within the County's jurisdiction will be encouraged to participate in the Good Food Purchasing Pledge for their direct food purchases and/or allocations of funds for third-party food purchases. Through the Pledge, these agencies will commit to meeting at least one best practice in each value category with a goal of adding an additional best practice from any category per year with external verification of compliance and annual reports to the ALL IN Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County of Alameda will develop food waste recovery and composting goals in partnership with the Alameda County Waste Management Authority/StopWaste to ensure the recirculation of edible and compostable food within the circular food economy to support the food insecure, sustainable farming, and achieve compliance with state law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the County will encourage municipalities, schools, hospitals, and other entities within the County of Alameda to implement the Good Food Purchasing Policy Values across its food programming and purchasing.

The foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda on January 26 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: Supervisors Chan, Haubert, Valle & President Carson - 4

Noes: None

Excused: Supervisor Miley - 1

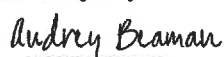


KEITH CARSON
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
ANIKA CAMPBELL-BELTON
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DONNA R. ZIEGLER, COUNTY COUNSEL

By: 
Designated by
84008DA3620048E...
Audrey Beaman, Deputy County Counsel

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATION FORM

#140100-35 Rev 5/21/14

AGENDA DATE: 1/26/2021

BOARD LETTER SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING POLICY AND THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PLEDGE

BUDGET YEAR: 2021

FUND: 10000

The use of Designations, as follows:

NAME OF DESIGNATION	ORG	AMOUNT
FMR		\$6,000

The increase (decrease) in anticipated revenue, as follows:

Informational

GRAND TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE \$0

The increase (decrease) in appropriations, as follows:

Informational

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
100300	631000			\$2,000
ORG TOTAL				\$2,000

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
100200	631000			\$2,000
ORG TOTAL				\$2,000

Informational

ORG	ACCT	PROG	PROJ/GR	AMOUNT
100500	631000			\$2,000
ORG TOTAL				\$2,000

GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$6,000

1/26/21 Agenda
Item 7.4



January 26th, 2021

Board of Supervisors
Alameda County
1221 Oak Street
Fifth Floor, Room 512
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of HOPE Collaborative, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the resolution adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy and the Good Food Purchasing Pledge, introduced by Supervisor Wilma Chan.¹ This resolution calls on the County's Sheriff's Office and Probation Department to perform a baseline analysis of their current food purchases and develop a plan to improve those food purchases over time, using the Good food Purchasing standards. It also encourages smaller county departments to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Pledge and, in so doing, commit to implementing at least one Good Food Purchasing best practice in each value category every year. As a County which spends significant public dollars on food through its correctional facilities, the County has a responsibility to ensure that public funds maximize public benefits. This resolution will help the County reach this higher bar.

The Good Food Purchasing Program is a commitment by major public institutions to use their purchasing power to source healthy, high-quality food that supports a strong local economy, fair treatment for food system workers, humane treatment of animals, and environmental sustainability. GFPP has found widespread support among municipal governments and school districts across the country, including San Francisco Unified, Oakland Unified, Los Angeles Unified, and Chicago Public Schools, as well as the cities of Chicago and Boston.

A broad and diverse coalition is behind this effort. HOPE Collaborative is a supporter of procurement policies at all levels within Oakland, from School District to City, that aim to

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[http://www.acgov.org/board/bos_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg_01_26_21/GENERAL%20ADMINISTRATI
ON/Regular%20Calendar/Supervisor%20Chan_307374.pdf](http://www.acgov.org/board/bos_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg_01_26_21/GENERAL%20ADMINISTRATI
ON/Regular%20Calendar/Supervisor%20Chan_307374.pdf)



create a more equitable food system for all Oakland residents. The County has time and again been a leader for the implementation of good policy in the Bay Area and we are excited that Alameda County can set that precedent again in the arena of food policy. A county-wide policy could catalyze our local partners and will serve as a living model for us to facilitate our food justice centered youth programming around.

The County can demonstrate its ongoing leadership in the nationwide effort to address the disproportionate impacts of the food system on low-income communities and workers of color in the food chain. If the County adopts the Good Food Purchasing Program, it will be among the first counties in the nation to leverage its purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and communities with the greatest need can access healthy, high-quality food that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced.

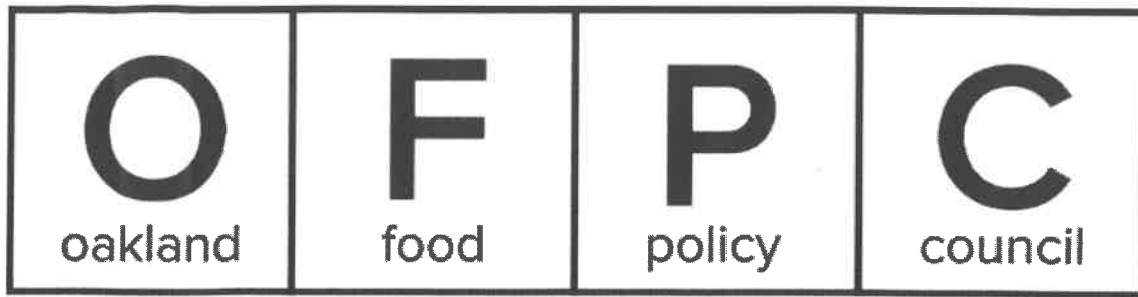
HOPE Collaborative respectfully requests your support for the Good Food Purchasing resolution so that Alameda County can begin the steps toward improving its food procurement using this comprehensive framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nakia Woods".

Nakia Woods

Project Director, HOPE Collaborative



January 25, 2020

Board of Supervisors
Alameda County
1221 Oak Street
Fifth Floor, Room 512
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Supervisors:

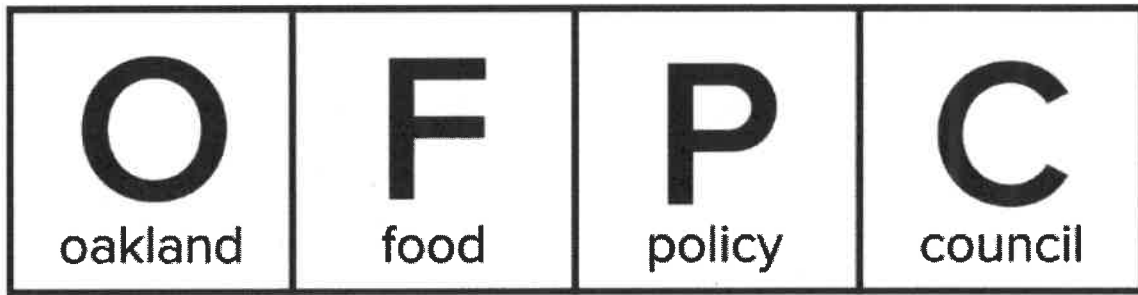
On behalf of the Oakland Food Policy Council, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the resolution adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy and the Good Food Purchasing Pledge, introduced by Supervisor Wilma Chan.¹ This resolution calls on the County's Sheriff's Office and Probation Department to perform a baseline analysis of their current food purchases and develop a plan to improve those food purchases over time, using the Good food Purchasing standards. It also encourages smaller county departments to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Pledge and, in so doing, commit to implementing at least one Good Food Purchasing best practice in each value category every year. As a County which spends significant public dollars on food through its correctional facilities, the County has a responsibility to ensure that public funds maximize public benefits. This resolution will help the County reach this higher bar.

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is a commitment by major public institutions to use their purchasing power to source healthy, high-quality food that supports a strong local economy, fair treatment for food system workers, humane treatment of animals, and environmental sustainability. GFPP has found widespread support among municipal governments and school districts across the country, including San Francisco Unified, Oakland Unified, Los Angeles Unified, and Chicago Public Schools, as well as the cities of Chicago and Boston.

A broad and diverse coalition is behind this effort. The Oakland Food Policy Council advances equity and justice in Oakland's food system by centering the needs and voices of people of color and low-income communities. For this reason, we are especially excited to see the inclusion of the Good Food Communities values. By emphasizing transparency and accountability, equity

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and worker justice Alameda County can uplift those most harmed by racism and ensure this is a community driven process. The County can demonstrate its ongoing leadership in the nationwide effort to address the disproportionate impacts of the food system on low-income communities and workers of color in the food chain.

If the County adopts the Good Food Purchasing Program, it will be among the first counties in the nation to leverage its purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and communities with the greatest need can access healthy, high-quality food that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced.

The Oakland Food Policy Council respectfully requests your support for the Good Food Purchasing and Pledge resolution so that Alameda County can begin the steps toward improving its food procurement using this comprehensive framework.

Sincerely,

Tiffani K. Patton

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffani K. Patton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Oakland Food Policy Council
Real Food Media, Co-Director



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

January 25, 2021

Board of Supervisors
Alameda County
1221 Oak Street
Fifth Floor, Room 512
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the resolution adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy and the Good Food Purchasing Pledge, introduced by Supervisor Wilma Chan.¹ This resolution calls on the County's Sheriff's Office and Probation Department to perform a baseline analysis of their current food purchases and develop a plan to improve those food purchases over time, using the Good food Purchasing standards. It also encourages smaller county departments to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Pledge and, in so doing, commit to implementing at least one Good Food Purchasing best practice in each value category every year. As a County which spends significant public dollars on food through its correctional facilities, the County has a responsibility to ensure that public funds maximize public benefits. This resolution will help the County reach this higher bar.

In our reports *Locally Nourished* and *Healthy Food Within Reach* we highlighted how public agencies can support a regional food economy, environmentally-friendly agricultural practices, and healthier diets through the terms of their procurement contracts. The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is a commitment by major public institutions to use their purchasing power to do just that. GFPP has found widespread support among municipal governments and school districts across the country, including San Francisco Unified, Oakland Unified, Los Angeles Unified, and Chicago Public Schools, as well as the cities of Boston and Chicago. By joining pioneering school districts, cities and counties across the country, the County has an opportunity to deepen its commitment to a more just and equitable food system.

The County can demonstrate its ongoing leadership in the nationwide effort to address the disproportionate impacts of the food system on low-income communities and workers of color in the food chain. If the County adopts the Good Food Purchasing Program, it will be among the first counties in the nation to leverage its purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and

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SAN FRANCISCO
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SAN JOSE
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San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 638-0083

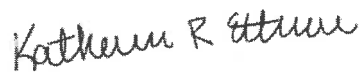
OAKLAND
1544 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 827-1900

spur.org

communities with the greatest need can access healthy, high-quality food that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced.

SPUR respectfully requests your support for the Good Food Purchasing resolution so that Alameda County can begin improving its food procurement using this comprehensive framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie R. Ettman".

Katie Ettman
Food and Agriculture Senior Policy Associate



January 25, 2020

Board of Supervisors
Alameda County
1221 Oak Street
Fifth Floor, Room 512
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of Friends of the Earth, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the resolution adopting the Good Food Purchasing Policy and the Good Food Purchasing Pledge, introduced by Supervisor Wilma Chan.¹ This resolution calls on the County's Sheriff's Office and Probation Department to perform a baseline analysis of their current food purchases and develop a plan to improve those food purchases over time, using the Good food Purchasing standards. It also encourages smaller county departments to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Pledge and, in so doing, commit to implementing at least one Good Food Purchasing best practice in each value category every year. As a County which spends significant public dollars on food through its correctional facilities, the County has a responsibility to ensure that public funds maximize public benefits. This resolution will help the County reach this higher bar.

The Good Food Purchasing Program is a commitment by major public institutions to use their purchasing power to source healthy, high-quality food that supports a strong local economy, fair treatment for food system workers, humane treatment of animals, and environmental sustainability. GFPP has found widespread support among municipal governments and school districts across the country, including San Francisco Unified, Oakland Unified, Los Angeles Unified, and Chicago Public Schools, as well as the cities of Chicago and Boston.

A broad and diverse coalition is behind this effort. Friends of the Earth, an environmental organization with offices in Berkeley and Washington D.C., has been a long time supporter of the Good Food Purchasing Program. We are especially excited about the environmental sustainability category which encourages large-scale purchasers to shift purchasing patterns toward foods that generate fewer greenhouse gas emissions. Shifting institutional food purchasing can in fact be a relatively simple, cost-effective way to fight climate change. A Friends of the Earth report documented how Oakland Unified School District was able to cut its carbon footprint 14 percent by buying less meat and dairy and offering more plant-based proteins, fruits, and vegetables. This not only saved the carbon emissions equivalent to driving 1.5 million fewer

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miles annually or planting 15,000 trees, it also saved \$42,000 and allowed the school to buy more local and organic food.

In addition, the County can demonstrate its ongoing leadership in the nationwide effort to address the disproportionate impacts of the food system on low-income communities and workers of color in the food chain. If the County adopts the Good Food Purchasing Program, it will be among the first counties in the nation to leverage its purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and communities with the greatest need can access healthy, high-quality food that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced.

Friends of the Earth respectfully requests your support for the Good Food Purchasing resolution so that Alameda County can begin the steps toward improving its food procurement using this comprehensive framework.

Sincerely,

Kari Hamerschlag
Deputy Director, Food and Agriculture

Friends of the Earth
2150 Allston Way, Suite 360
Berkeley, Ca 94705
510-207-7257