

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
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Good Food Purchasing Policy

With rising rates of overweight and obesity among both children and adults, it is critical that Los Angeles County continues to identify and implement innovative strategies to increase access to healthier foods. The County serves nearly 37 million meals per year through various programs offered by its departments, such as the Senior Meal Program and Afterschool Snack Program, in addition to serving individuals in the County’s jails, probation camps and hospitals.

Since 2011, the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been working to improve the nutritional quality of food offered and sold in the Probation Department, Chief Executive Office, Department of Beaches and Harbors, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Health Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Public Works. Under the Healthy Food Promotion in County Food Service Contracts motion adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2011, DPH reviewed all new and/or renewing food service Request for Proposals (RFPs) to ensure dietary requirements integrated into the final contracts promote healthy nutrition. Over the past

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7 years DPH has successfully developed partnerships with multiple County departments and have integrated venue-specific nutrition standards (e.g., sodium limits) into more than 16 County food service RFPs and/or final contracts.

The Good Food Purchasing Policy (Policy) is a commitment by food serving institutions to improve the regional food system by implementing meaningful purchasing standards in five “key value” categories: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition. Locally, both the Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Los Angeles adopted the Policy in 2012 and have been successful with implementation.

Similar to the LEED rating system for capital projects, the Policy outlines standards that major institutions can use to procure local, sustainable and humanely produced foods, while improving access to healthy, high-quality food for all communities.

To support these efforts, new and promising strategies should be identified and considered so that the County of Los Angeles can continue to benefit from and foster healthy food environments across its facilities.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer and the Internal Services Department, to:

1. Report back to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days on the feasibility of implementing a Good Food Purchasing Policy, consistent with the program goals and objectives outlined by the Good Food Purchasing Center, including potential additional costs, if any;
2. Develop an inventory of contracts that would be impacted by this program, a schedule for potential program implementation and any recommended

program modifications; and

3. Establish and convene an ongoing County-wide working group to engage with relevant departments and other content experts (such as Los Angeles Food Policy Council, Policy Link, the Good Food Purchasing Center and others as deemed appropriate) to report back to the Board in 90 days with further opportunities to leverage healthier food procurement efforts across County departments, including a recommendation for a pilot or demonstration project of the Good Food Purchasing Policy with at least one County department.

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