



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
5.		Favor	Alex Cerussi	
			Alexander James	As a climate scientist at the University of Southern California, and a resident of Los Angeles, I am strongly in support of the initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement. The food we consume continues to be one of the largest contributors to irreversible climate change. The science on this subject is clear; plant based food is a simple, cost effective means by which we can dramatically reduce our carbon footprint and improve the health of our community. I urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt an approach to improving our food systems that focuses on healthy, climate friendly, plant based nutrition.
			Ana-Alicia Carr	Good morning honorable members of the board, my name is Ana-Alicia Carr, Director of Policy and Coalitions with the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, writing in support of item #5. The Los Food Policy Council is a collective impact organization whose mission centers on ensuring food is healthy, affordable, sustainable, and fair for all. We recognize the reciprocal relationship between our food system and environmental sustainability and would like to recognize Supervisor Horvath for authoring today's motion and the entire board for prioritizing food procurement as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Large institutions such as the County which purchase, sell, and serve hundreds of thousands of meals a year play a necessary role in stimulating and sustaining market demand for good food, including locally sourced, plant-based and plant-forward options. Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Los Angeles have demonstrated the impact of adopting a value-based procurement model such as the Good Food Purchasing Program on increasing locally-sourced food which is grown and produced with respect to people, animals and the planet. As the County investigates opportunities to improve environmental sustainability we encourage a comprehensive assessment not just of the type of food it procures, but how it is grown or produced, how far it travels, the labor associated with it, reducing food waste and the nutritional value. Thank you.



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5.		Favor	Jane McGarvey	<p>As a resident of and an urgent care physician in Los Angeles County, I sincerely urge the Board of Supervisors to pass this motion.</p> <p>Expanding access to healthy, plant-based foods will create a more inclusive environment for food preferences and dietary restrictions.</p> <p>Plant-based food consumption can reduce the likelihood of many diet-related diseases. I have worked in various Los Angeles Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers and can attest to the fact that the majority of illnesses seen have been caused by poor food choices: diabetes, hypertension, high, cholesterol, coronary artery disease, chronic kidney disease.</p> <p>This motion will not only help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it will help improve the health and wellness of residents in Los Angeles County. For these reasons, I encourage the Board to pass the motion. Thank you!</p>
			Jennifer Molidor	
			Katherine Jernigan	<p>The LA County Board of Board of Supervisors should pass this important motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement. As a resident of LA County and someone who works in sustainable agriculture, it is important to me to know that my taxpayer dollars aren't being used to purchase food that harms the environment and contributes to our current public health crisis. This motion is in line with the County's Climate Action Plan and is well-supported in the community. I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to pass the motion.</p>
			Lars Steier	<p>Food procurement has a tremendous impact on our emissions. This is a common-sense way to reduce our environmental impact as a county.</p>
			Leah W Kelly	<p>As a Los Angeles County resident, I urge the Board of Supervisors to support the motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement. The environmental impact of the food sector is enormous. Even if every other sector became completely carbon neutral by 2050 but we left the food system unchanged, the food system alone would take us past the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement. Fortunately, Los Angeles County has set ambitious goals for climate change mitigation. This motion aligns with Action 134 of the County's Sustainability Plan, which states that the County will "Promote plant-based menu options through nutrition and food procurement policies in food service settings such as County facilities, hospitals, higher learning institutions, school districts, jails, and other food settings." For these reasons I ask that you please support this motion. Thank you!</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
5.		Favor	Leslie Shanley	Please pass the motion to address greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement. As a resident of Los Angeles County, it's important to me that the County take action to reduce food-related greenhouse gas emissions. It is widely known that animal agriculture produces significant greenhouse gas emissions, and so it is important to me that institutions transition to more plant-based meals, which have a lower carbon footprint than animal-based foods. I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass this motion. Thank you.
			Morgan M Boutilier	As a resident, attorney, and recent UCLA law school graduate residing in Los Angeles County, I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to pass a motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement. It is imperative that our County takes proactive measures to combat climate change by targeting emissions stemming from the food sector. Recently, the United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution calling for a plant-based approach to address chronic diseases and alleviate environmental and fiscal burdens. By adopting this resolution, Los Angeles County can demonstrate its unwavering commitment to both environmental sustainability and public health. I am deeply invested in my neighbors' health and the resilience of our shared environment. The increasing frequency of storms, floods, heatwaves, and fires in our home state underscores the pressing need for swift and meaningful action. Embracing a plant-based approach to food procurement is a common-sense path forward that aligns with our collective interests in addressing this climate crisis and protecting public health. For these reasons, I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass this motion. Thank you!



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
5.		Oppose	Monisha Parker	REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH FOOD PROCUREMENT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement in Los Angeles County can be multifaceted. Firstly, prioritizing locally sourced and seasonal produce to decrease carbon emissions associated with transportation. Secondly, promoting plant-based meal options to lessen the environmental impact of meat production. Additionally, implementing sustainable food waste management practices to minimize methane emissions from landfills. Moreover, collaborating with food suppliers that adhere to eco-friendly production methods and packaging. Furthermore, educating consumers about the importance of sustainable food choices and their impact on greenhouse gas reduction. By integrating these strategies into food procurement practices in Los Angeles County, significant strides can be made towards mitigating the effects of climate change and fostering a more environmentally conscious food system.
			V Citizen	
		Other	ray hsu	what does food procurement entail? will this be on a macro or micro scale?
		Item Total	13	

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles, California
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

**SUPPORT: REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH FOOD
PROCUREMENT**

Dear Chair Horvath, Chair Pro Tem Barger, Supervisor Solis, Supervisor Mitchell, and
Supervisor Hahn,

On behalf of Mercy For Animals and our Los Angeles-based supporters and staff, thank you for considering a motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement, which we support. Mercy For Animals is a non-profit organization dedicated to constructing a more just and sustainable food system for all.

The Environment

Los Angeles County must address the significant environmental impacts of the food sector in order to successfully address climate change. Animal agriculture accounts for nearly half (44%) of anthropogenic emissions of methane,¹ a greenhouse gas with 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.² Notably, a 2014 study illustrated that through our diets alone—largely because they are characterized by high levels of animal products—we will exceed the Paris Agreement target to limit the global rise in temperature to “well below 2°C.”³ This is why it is important for governments and institutions that procure food to transition to more plant-based meals, which have on average, a 63% smaller carbon footprint than animal-based ones.⁴

Public Health

Purchasing more plant-based meals is imperative to cutting healthcare costs and preventing chronic diseases. Chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer make up the vast majority of healthcare expenditures in the United States, and preventing them could save billions of dollars per year in both healthcare costs and lost job productivity.⁵ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, six in 10 adults in the United States have a chronic disease, and four in 10 have two or more.⁶ Research has established that higher intake of green leafy vegetables and fruit reduces risk of type 2 diabetes.⁷ Increased intake of fruit, vegetables, whole

¹ P. J. Gerber et al., *Tackling Climate Change Through Livestock: A Global Assessment of Emissions and Mitigation Opportunities* (Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2013), 15.

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change*, ed. J. T. Houghton et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 22.

³ Bojana Bajželj et al., “Importance of Food-Demand Management for Climate Mitigation,” *Nature Climate Change* 4 (2014): 924–929.

⁴ “Greener by Default at the University of Victoria,” University of Victoria, accessed July 11, 2023,

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/defaultveg/environment/>.

⁵ “Health and Economic Costs of Chronic Diseases,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified March 23, 2023,

<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/costs/index.htm>.

⁶ “About Chronic Diseases,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified July 21, 2022,

<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/index.htm#:~:text=Chronic%20diseases%20such%20as%20heart,in%20annual%20health%20care%20costs>.

⁷ Winston J. Craig et al., “The Safe and Effective Use of Plant-Based Diets with Guidelines for Health Professionals,” *Nutrients* 13, no. 11 (November 2021): 4144.

grains, and legumes (beans, lentils) has been shown to decrease overall risk of cancer, while daily consumption of red or processed meats has been shown to increase cancer risk.⁸ Eating more plant-based foods also promotes a healthy immune system, a healthy gut, and reduced inflammation and can help people maintain a healthy weight, all of which are important for lowering risk of chronic diseases.⁹

Alignment with Existing Policy

This motion supports Action 134 of the County's Sustainability Plan, which states that the County will "Promote plant-based menu options through nutrition and food procurement policies in food service settings such as County facilities, hospitals, higher learning institutions, school districts, jails, and other food settings."¹⁰ By increasing its procurement of plant-based foods and decreasing its procurement of animal-based foods, the County can align its food purchasing with its own GHG reduction goals, improve the health of its residents, and position itself as a leader in food and climate policy.

On behalf of Mercy For Animals, I'd like to thank Chair Horvath and Supervisor Solis for introducing this motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement and **urge the Board to support.**

Sincerely,

Alex Cerussi, Esq.
Senior State Policy Manager
Mercy For Animals

⁸ Craig et al., "Safe and Effective Use of Plant-Based Diets."

⁹ Heather Alexander, "5 Benefits of a Plant-Based Diet," MD Anderson Center, November 2019, <https://www.mdanderson.org/publications/focused-on-health/5-benefits-of-a-plant-based-diet.h20-1592991.html>.

¹⁰



Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County
Meeting: 2/27/24

SUPPORT: REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH FOOD PROCUREMENT

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and our California members, thank you for considering climate-friendly food procurement and **reducing greenhouse gas emissions through food purchases**, which we **support**. The Center for Biological Diversity is a national conservation nonprofit with nearly 2 million members and supporters. Our expertise is grounded in science in tackling effective strategies for mitigating climate change.

Agriculture accounts for 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions.¹ We cannot meet climate mitigation targets without tackling emissions from the food sector by shifting diets toward lower emissions foods. Food procurement is an opportunity to reduce consumption-driven emissions. The proposed policy would align with Los Angeles' efforts in the C-40 cities initiative.²

Shifting toward climate-friendly food has big payoffs in advancing sustainability goals and meeting emissions targets. Most agricultural emissions come from only a few foods. By purchasing less high-emissions and more sustainable foods, a county can reduce its climate impact significantly.

For example, half of all food-related emissions (and most of the agricultural water use) come from meat and dairy products,³ which are also responsible for at least 16% of global greenhouse gases.^{4 5} The United States substantially overproduces and overconsumes these items, beyond

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2019). Special Report on Climate Change and Land Use.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>.

² C-40.Org. (2019). 14 Cities Commit to Sustainable Food Policies That Will Address the Global Climate Emergency. <https://www.c40.org/news/good-food-cities/>.

³ Our World in Data (2020). Environmental Impacts of Food Production. <https://ourworldindata.org/food-choice-vs-eating-local>.

⁴ Calculated using the 2017 online update to the FAO 2013 GLEAM assessment that estimates the livestock sector emitted 8.1 GT CO₂eq in 2010 (using 298 and 34 as global warming potentials for N₂O and CH₄, based on the IPCC 2014 report). The IPCC 2014 report estimates total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2010 of 49 GT CO₂eq. See: FAO, Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) [online], Rome, www.fao.org/gleam/en/ and IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri & L.A. Meyer (eds.)], IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland (2014), http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full_wcover.pdf.

⁵ Gerber, P. J., Steinfeld, H., Henderson, B., Mottet, A., Opio, C., Dijkman, J., ... & Tempio, G. (2013). Tackling climate change through livestock: a global assessment of emissions and mitigation opportunities. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). <http://www.fao.org/3/i3437e/i3437e.pdf>.



what is healthy for individuals or the planet, and this comes with a high cost for the climate,⁶ clean and available water,⁷ thriving land use,⁸ and healthy biodiversity.⁹

Food procurement has [a significant impact on the environment](#).¹⁰ This can be addressed with smart policy guiding government food purchases. Sustainable food policies can increase climate resilience,¹¹ help eradicate poverty, improve public health, and protect biodiversity.¹² The urgency of these issues and the health of the planet demand action in food policy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has affirmed we have limited time to avoid irreversible climate damage.¹³ Los Angeles County has an opportunity to provide real leadership. Too many sustainability initiatives overlook the overproduction of high-emissions foods in their commitments. The initiatives recommended for Los Angeles County can help drive us in the right direction and provide an ideal model for other county food policies.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Molitor, Ph.D.

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Center for Biological Diversity
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⁶ University of Michigan. Center for Sustainable Systems (2017). Carbon Footprint Factsheet.

http://css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/Carbon%20Footprint_CSS09-05_e2020_0.pdf.

⁷ Water Footprint Network (2021). Water Footprint of Crop and Animal Products: A Comparison.

<https://waterfootprint.org/en/water-footprint/product-water-footprint/water-footprint-crop-and-animal-products/>.

⁸ Carbon Brief (2021). Interactive: What is the Climate Footprint of Eating Meat and Dairy? CarbonBrief.org.

<https://interactive.carbonbrief.org/what-is-the-climate-impact-of-eating-meat-and-dairy/>.

⁹ Center for Biological Diversity (2021). Extinction Facts. TakeExtinctionOffYourPlate.com.

¹⁰ United Nation System Standing Committee on Nutrition (2017). Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet. <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/document/Climate-Nutrition-Paper-EN-WEB.pdf>.

¹¹ Smith, P. (2012). "Climate Change and Sustainable Food Production." Cambridge University Press.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/proceedings-of-the-nutrition-society/article/climate-change-and-sustainable-foodproduction/DE02043AE462DF7F91D88FD4349D38E7>.

¹² Food and Agriculture Organization (2010). Sustainable Diets and Biodiversity.

<http://www.fao.org/3/i3004e/i3004e.pdf>.

¹³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2018). Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5c.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>.