

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

<b>Subject</b>  County of San Diego Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy	<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>Page</b>
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**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to support a sustainable, equitable, and local food system through County of San Diego food service programs and operations by directing public funds to food and beverage purchases that align with Board of Supervisor identified value categories. The value categories include local sourcing, equity-informed sourcing, elevated labor standards, organic or regenerative certification, low-carbon intensity, and nutritional co-benefit. See Appendix X.1 for value category definitions.

**Background**

The County of San Diego (County) serves millions of meals each year to vulnerable populations including youth and adults residing in public hospitals and detention facilities, older adults, and foster youth. As a result, the County purchases large quantities of food and beverages daily. By centering equity and sustainability in the County’s food procurement process, the County has the potential to direct public funds to positively impact the food system for local food producers, workers, and businesses owned, operated, and/or run by underserved communities. Additionally, equity and sustainability-focused institutional food and beverage purchasing can be an immediate and long-term strategy to reduce health disparities through improving quality of food and beverages served to vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

Values-based food sourcing prioritizes principles in addition to cost when deciding which food and beverage items to purchase. Large institutions, such as the County, have the opportunity to support farmers and producers who operate with values such as those outlined in this policy. Implementing a comprehensive, values-based food program ensures that institutional food practices, including food and beverage purchasing, advances an equitable, healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food system.

Within the County, there are two types of food service programs and operations that utilize public funds: self-operated and contracted. This policy provides the ability for food and beverage purchasing data transparency and guides goals to increase purchasing in the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program (Program) value categories determined by individual food service operations’ annual action plans.

Support will be provided by the County for action plan development and associated implementation strategies. Contractors and vendors are not required to provide data analysis but will be requested to share purchasing data, in the form of a usage report (see Appendix X.4 for specific data components). Progress for County food service operations will be made available publicly as an aggregate.

**Alignment of Values with Other County Goals**

<b>Value Category</b>	<b>County Plan or Policy Alignment</b>
Local Sourcing	<a href="#">Live Well San Diego Thriving; Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones; Agriculture, Weights, and Measures certification for local Farmers’ Markets</a>
Equity-Informed Sourcing	<a href="#">Framework to Establish Budget Equity Principles to Guide the Development of the SD County Annual Budget, County's Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, Framework for our Future: Realigning Policies that Govern County Resources and Contracting</a>

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Elevated Labor Standards	<a href="#">Live Well San Diego Thriving</a> , <a href="#">Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement</a>
Organic or Regenerative Certification	<a href="#">Departmental Sustainability Plans</a> , <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a> , <a href="#">Senate Bill 1383</a> , <a href="#">Food Donation Action Plan</a>
Low-Carbon Intensity	<a href="#">Regional Decarbonization Framework</a> , <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a> , <a href="#">Senate Bill 1383</a>
Nutritional Co-Benefit	<a href="#">Eat Well Practices</a> , <a href="#">Live Well San Diego Food System Initiative</a> , <a href="#">Chronic Disease and Health Equity Unit food system work</a>

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

**Program Requirements**

All County of San Diego administered food service programs and operations shall:

- Participate in the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program (Program).
  - Work with Program staff to develop, maintain, and progress towards annual values-based procurement action plans, which are collaboratively created by food service operators and Program team.
  - Attend periodic County of San Diego Food Service Leadership Committee Meetings for program support, peer learning opportunities, and progress reporting.
  - Collect and share annually, and upon request, food and beverage purchasing data related to food service operations with Program staff (see Appendix X.4 for purchasing data components).

Exemptions indicated in Appendix X.3.

**Food Service Operations**

In addition to the Program requirements, all County of San Diego departments with self-operated and contracted food service operations should consider:

- Including the following requirements in food and beverage related contracts:
  - Reference to the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and include the following value categories:
    - Local sourcing, equity-informed sourcing, elevated labor standards, organic or regenerative certification, low-carbon intensity, and nutritional co-benefit.
  - Reference to food and beverage purchasing data components. See Appendix X.4 for specific data components.
- Existing contracts are encouraged to include policy language in amendments when feasible.

Policy requirements shall not supersede federal or State meal program requirements subject to respective meal service operations (e.g., Title 15, Older Americans Act, Federal Child Nutrition Programs, Title 22 Skilled Nursing Facilities, etc.). See Appendix X.2 for details on federal and State meal programs.

**Appendix**

1. Value Category Operative Definitions:

- Local Sourcing: The promotion of robust regional economies by sourcing from locally-owned small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations.
- Equity-Informed Sourcing: Sourcing products from businesses owned or operated by members of underserved communities or small to mid-sized farmer-owned business or community owned farms.

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- Elevated Labor Standards: Products from producers who operate safe and healthy working conditions.
- Organic or Regenerative Certification: Products from third party certified organic producers and/or producers that employ production systems that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers while at the same time reducing on-farm energy, water consumption, wasted food, and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, can refer to producers who conserve and regenerate soil and water to support biodiversity and bio sequestration thereby increasing resilience to climate change.
- Low-Carbon Intensity: Products from producers that minimize emissions released from production, packaging, processing, transport, preparation, and waste of food. Food that contributes less carbon emissions and is produced using less water.
- Nutritional Co-Benefit: Foods that support the promotion of health and well-being through offering generous portions of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and minimally processed foods while reducing salt, sugars, and artificial additives, and that are also beneficial to the overall environment (see above definitions of “organic or regenerative certification” and “low-carbon intensity”).

2. Federal or State Meal Program Authorities:

- The Older Californians Nutrition Program is funded through Title III of the Older Americans Act, a federal program administered by State and county governments and operated under rules, policies, and regulations of the California Department of Aging. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Aging & Independence Services, as the designated Area Agency on Aging, oversees this program. Nutrition services assist older individuals to live independently by promoting better health and reduced isolation through a program of coordinated congregate meals, home-delivered meals, to-go meals, transportation and supportive services.
- Title 15 oversees the minimum standards for local detention facilities and includes the following related to food services: The minimum diet provided shall be based upon the nutritional and caloric requirements found in the 2019 Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) of the Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, and the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which are hereby incorporated by reference. Reference: <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Adult-T15-Effective-1.1.2023-Full-Text.pdf>.  
<https://www.sdsheriff.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/6611/638164662108930000>
- Title 22 California Code of Regulations oversees Skilled Nursing Facilities and includes the following related to food services: Dietetic service means providing safe, satisfying and nutritionally adequate food for patients with appropriate staff, space, equipment, and supplies.  
<http://www.nurseallianceca.org/files/2012/06/Title-22-Chapter-5.pdf>
- Health Resources and Services Administration Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Home Delivered Meals Program applies to the Health and Humans Services Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. More information can be found here: [Available Care & Services | Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program \(hrsa.gov\)](#).
- 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D includes the Procurement Standards that apply to all federally funded contracts.

3. Exemptions:

- Aging & Independence Services operates the Older Californians Nutrition Program and seeks contractors to serve the older adult population within all San Diego County Regions. Due to the number of contracts and unique parameters of the program, Aging & Independence Services will determine the threshold of meals for inclusion in the policy.

4. Data Components:

- Food and beverage purchasing data components may include the following in the form of a purchasing usage report:
  - Time period of purchase

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- Farm name and/or processor, shipper, manufacturer, broker, wholesaler (whichever is applicable)
- Brand name (if applicable)
- Production location at the city level
- Vendor code/SKU
- Manufacturer code (if applicable)
- Product description
- Known certifications (if applicable and available)
- Pack size
- Quantity purchased and unit of measurement
- Unit price
- Total spend on item
- Weight, in pounds, per item
- Total weight, in pounds

**5. Contract Language Considerations:**

- Food and beverage contracts, where feasible, may include the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program requirements.

**Responsible Departments**

1. Health and Human Services Agency: Behavioral Health Services Department (Psychiatric Hospital and Edgemoor Hospital), Child and Family Well-Being Department (A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center and San Pasqual Academy), Aging & Independence Services, (Older Californians Nutrition Program), and Public Health Services (Office of AIDS Coordination)
2. Public Safety Group: Sheriff's Department and Probation Department
3. Finance and General Government Group: Department of Purchasing and Contracting
4. Land Use and Environment Group: Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by December 31, 2030.

**References**

Board Actions  
12/5/2023  
6/14/2022 (5)  
1/25/2022 (5)  
6/8/2021 (3)