



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

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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