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CONSENT CALENDAR

April 30, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Sophie Hahn, Mayor Jesse Arreguín,  
 and Councilmembers Cheryl Davila and Rigel Robinson  
 Subject: Good Food Purchasing Program Resolution

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution in support of the Good Food Purchasing Program's core values and join San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles and Chicago as one of the first five cities nationwide to become a Good Food Purchasing partner, and refer to the City Manager to incorporate over time the vision and standards of the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) into City of Berkeley food purchasing practices.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

When Berkeley purchases or contracts for food, we have the opportunity to express our health, environmental, labor and other values. The City has purchasing policies to ensure preference for local vendors, fair labor practices, and environmental sustainability (including the newly adopted requirement that foodware purchased by the City be reusable or compostable), but to date we have not adopted a clear set of values to express through the purchase of food. The Good Food Purchasing Program, based out of Berkeley, provides a comprehensive, practical and carefully researched set of progressive food values for Cities to adopt, and workable policies to incorporate over time.<sup>1</sup>

The Good Food Purchasing Program seeks to transform the way public institutions purchase food by creating a transparent and equitable food system built on five core values: local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare and environmental sustainability. In addition, the Center for Good Food Purchasing provides a set of tools, technical support and a verification system to help cities and other entities meet their goals. By becoming a Good Food Purchasing partner the City of Berkeley can ensure that these core values are expressed in the food purchased and served by the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

Food purchasing choices have significant implications for the health and wellbeing of Berkeley residents, the working conditions and wages of food workers, the welfare of animals used in food production and the carbon footprint of our local community. Good Food Purchasing Policy is shifting government and school district purchasing decisions to mainstream better food procurement, combining social and economic food justice into a single framework.

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<sup>1</sup> Good Food Purchasing Program Overview. [Web](#).

GFPP makes recommendations and provides technical assistance to governments and school districts, setting targets and measuring the impact of changes with its professional staff. Since the City of Berkeley's food purchases are relatively limited, GFPP's practice of conducting a formal survey of contracts of partner institutions will not be pursued at this time. But an endorsement of the GFPP's values, partnerships for information sharing, and incremental changes by City departments engaged in food purchasing will improve Berkeley's own practices while strengthening the program's reach with food producers overall.

The City of Berkeley purchases food in a variety of ways, including the North Berkeley Senior Center, South Berkeley Senior Center, the Berkeley Police Department's jail facility, the administration of public events and meetings, and the administration of internal staff and council meetings. While the total expenditure of these food purchases are likely less than \$5 million annually, the threshold at which the GFPP recommends a formal purchasing study, the City can endorse and strive toward the value areas outlined by the program.

Many school districts and several local governments around the country have already created partnerships with GFPP, contributing to a movement that is expected to foster meaningful institutional change among food distributors and manufacturers.

In 2016, the Oakland Unified School District implemented the GFPP to complement their existing California Thursday program, which requires meals to be sourced from within the State, and Meatless Monday, which requires meals to be plant-based once a week. Since implementing the program, the district has moved from a 2-star to a 4 star rating.<sup>2</sup> The San Francisco Unified School District has implemented the GFPP, expanding the district's Buy American provision that requires that school meal resources to maximize benefits to American growers and producers.<sup>3</sup>

As an example of success, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the first government entity to adopt and implement the GFPP, cites the following accomplishments:<sup>4</sup>

- \$12 million redirected toward the purchase of local produce
- 150 new jobs created in Los Angeles County food chains
- Higher wages for local truck drivers and support for the United Farm Workers.
- 15 percent decrease in spending on meat and 19.6 million gallons of water saved each week via the implementation of Meatless Mondays
- Antibiotic-free Chicken
- Lower-sodium bread products without high fructose corn syrup
- Bread rolls from central California, rather than out of state

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<sup>2</sup> GFPP Presentation + District Commitment. Oakland Unified School District Legislative Information Center [Website](#).

<sup>3</sup> Board of Education Resolution 164-26A3, adopted May 24, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Measuring Impact. Good Food Purchasing Program [Website](#).

Entities that have implemented the GFPP include Washington D.C., Cook County (IL), Chicago Public Schools, Austin (TX), Austin Independent School District (TX), and the Land Stewardship Project of Twin Cities (MN).

In the context of Berkeley, the program has strong synergy with existing City efforts like Green Monday, which aims to reduce institutional meat consumption and promote plant-based food options. Conservative estimates put livestock emissions at 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than the entire transportation sector combined.<sup>5</sup> And meat consumption continues to grow globally, as the United Nations predicts that consumption will double by 2050 without major changes in consumer choices.<sup>6</sup> This underscores how a program that reduces meat consumption and reduces supply chain emissions through local purchasing can help the City achieve important climate goals.

#### REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES & LAWS

The GFPP has strong synergies with Berkeley's Green Monday initiative, adopted by the City Council in September of 2018 to combat animal agriculture's role in climate change. The item referred to the City Manager to serve plant-based foods on Mondays or another day of the week to reduce GHG and other impacts and raise awareness of the substantial environmental footprint of food choices.<sup>7</sup> Green Monday strengthened a 2015 resolution establishing Meatless Monday, which called for restaurants, grocery stores, and schools to offer a greater variety of plant-based options.

Additionally, the GFPP supports the City of Berkeley's 2009 Climate Action Plan and its 2018 Climate Emergency Declaration. The Climate Action Plan highlights how sustainable food systems "reduce the distances food must travel to get to our tables," "prioritize the consumption of organic food over conventional food, and the consumption of vegetables rather than meat... globally farm animals generate 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, according to estimates by the United Nations."<sup>8</sup> The Climate Emergency Declaration states that our community must mobilize "to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at wartime speed," mitigating and averting irreversible damage to our society and Earth's ecosystems.<sup>9</sup>

In terms of local purchases, partnering with the GFPP could strengthen the City's local vendor preferences, which extend a five percent preference to local business enterprises for supplies, equipment and nonprofessional services from \$100 to \$25,000.<sup>10</sup> Unlike GFPP, this policy does not define "localness" by miles of transport, but rather a business's physical presence within City limits.

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<sup>5</sup> Bailey, Rob; Froggatt, Antony; and Wellesley, Laura. Livestock – Climate Change's Forgotten Sector Global Public Opinion on Meat and Dairy Consumption. December 2014. [Web](#).

<sup>6</sup> Meat & Meat Products. United Nations; Food and Agriculture Organization. [Web](#).

<sup>7</sup> Resolution Establishing Green Monday. Berkeley City Council [Website](#).

<sup>8</sup> City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan. Chapter 3. p. 33. [Web](#).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution No. 68,486 Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency. [Web](#).

<sup>10</sup> Local Vendor Preferences. Berkeley City Finance Department [Website](#).

In terms of labor standards, the City of Berkeley requires that companies, nonprofits, and other entities with significant city contracts not discriminate in the provision of bereavement leave, family medical leave, or health benefits between its employees with domestic partners and employees with spouses.<sup>11</sup> In addition, the City's Living Wage ordinance requires that significant vendors pay employees living wages as defined by the City.<sup>12</sup>

These existing laws demonstrate the City's commitment to express residents' values through purchasing decisions.

#### ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

An alternative considered was to partner with the GFPP to do a baseline assessment of Berkeley's food purchasing practices, at an approximate cost of \$15,000, and then referring to the City Manager to implement purchasing requirements aligned with the survey's results. However, since this review would require time and funds and the City's spending on food is estimated to be below \$5 million, a resolution endorsing GFPP's purchasing values and incremental changes by individual City departments appears to be a more effective approach.

#### CONSULTATION/OUTREACH OVERVIEW & RESULTS

Adoption of the Good Food Purchasing Policy has minimal direct impact on community members, since it only applies to food purchased by the City.

Councilmember Hahn's office conducted outreach with staff members at the Good Food Purchasing Program, including Anna Lappé, a coordinator for the Good Food Purchasing network, to discuss how the program can be feasibly implemented and the program's implications for labor standards and environmental impact. The Councilmember's office also consulted Alexa Delwiche, the Executive Director and Co-founder of the Center for Good Food Purchasing, to understand formal requirements to enroll in the program, potential costs to the city, and how the GFPP's values could be adopted and implemented over time. Boston's recent endorsement and resolution language were also discussed.

Finally, staff in the City of Berkeley's Office of Energy & Sustainable Development were also consulted to discuss implementation and feasibility.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley is committed to expressing its values through its purchasing decisions, and this resolution will raise awareness of GFPP's five core values: local economies, health, valued workforce, animal welfare and environmental sustainability.

By establishing a formal relationship with GFPP through an endorsement of its principles, Berkeley will join a host of Cities helping transition local, state and national entities to more ethical, humane and environmentally sound food production.

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<sup>11</sup> Equal Benefits to Employees of City Contractors. Chapter 13.29. [Web](#).

<sup>12</sup> City of Berkeley Living Wage Ordinance.

#### IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT

This resolution will not require enforcement, but staff will be provided with information on how future contracts can effectively implement GFPP values and how GFPP staff can provide guidance in future decision making. It is hoped that staff involved in food purchasing for the City of Berkeley will review and incorporate components of the GFPP as possible.

The principles of the Good Food Purchasing Program can be found at <https://goodfoodpurchasing.org/program-overview/#values>

#### FISCAL IMPACTS

This recommendation could reduce or increase food purchasing costs as parts of the GFPP are implemented, but as this recommendation is not a specific mandate, there are no “imposed” costs or savings. It is expected that any possible savings that could help achieve the goals of the GFPP would be implemented, and some added costs could be incurred to support these objectives as well.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The item is consistent with Berkeley policies and vision on environmental sustainability, including Green Monday, the Climate Action Plan, the Resilience Plan and the Climate Emergency Declaration. Reducing meat and sourcing food locally results in significant reductions in GHGs, helping the City achieve its Climate Action Goals.

#### OUTCOMES & EVALUATION

The expected outcome of this item is that the City will receive guidance from GFPP on how to improve its purchasing decisions, setting an example for other cities, districts, and states around the country. Over time, it is hoped that the City will incorporate purchasing practices recommended by the GFPP. Information about implementation and outcomes should be included in the City’s biannual climate action report, since measures to implement GFPP food purchasing standards will support the plan’s goals.

#### CONTACT

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ENDORING THE VALUES OF THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM (GFPP)

WHEREAS, the food system has substantial implications for the health of our communities, the resilience of our local economy, nutrition, the labor conditions of transportation and farm workers, the sustainability and climate goals of our cities, and animal welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is leading efforts by cities and school districts to bring purchasing standards in line with these values; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Unified School District, San Francisco Unified School District, Oakland Unified School District, Austin Independent School District (TX), Chicago Public Schools, Boston (MA), Washington D.C., Cook County (IL), Austin (TX), and the Land Stewardship Project of Twin Cities (MN) have partnered with GFPP; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships are forging a coalition that can encourage better food production standards by leveraging collective purchasing power; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley already supports similar initiatives like Green Monday, a program encouraging institutions to incrementally replace animal products with plant-based food options with notable benefits for animal welfare, nutrition, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the technical support and network of GFPP helped the Los Angeles Unified School District redirect \$12 million toward the purchase of local produce, create 150 new jobs in Los Angeles County food chains, achieved higher wages for local truck drivers and support for the United Farm Workers, achieved a 15 percent decrease in spending on meat, reduced water-use by 19.6 million gallons each week; and

WHEREAS, an endorsement of GFPP's values can help the city achieve progress in food purchasing standards and encourage institutions with larger food budgets to adopt the program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley endorses the Good Food Purchasing Program's five core values of localness, nutrition, labor rights, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare, and seeks to implement these values over time through its own food purchasing practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley endorses efforts by other institutions to formally adopt the review processes and implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Program.