

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

2005 DEC 29 AM 10:33

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly  
FROM: *Mayor's Office of Sustainability*  
DATE: January 10, 2006

RE: **Report and resolution authorizing the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to develop an Oakland Food Policy and Plan for thirty percent local area food production, by undertaking an initial food systems assessment study, conducted by a research team from the Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California at Berkeley, at no cost to the City.**

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**SUMMARY**

This resolution would authorize the Director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to undertake a study to explore how the City of Oakland can integrate food policy into its existing initiatives, and how doing so could enhance the city's health, economy, environment, and overall quality of life. The study will stimulate thought and action about the Oakland food system, contribute to dialogue and creative collaboration, and could ultimately lead to adoptable policies and program implementation. The purpose of the study is to provide an overview of issues relevant to Oakland along with a brief discussion of the City's existing strengths, opportunities, and challenges with regard to existing food system activities. Of particular interest to the study are ways in which the City can eliminate food insecurity (malnutrition and hunger) and ways in which the City can achieve a higher level of self sufficiency within its food system. With regard to the latter, the study will assess the feasibility of how at least 30 percent of the City's food could be provided from within the city and immediate region.

The study would be conducted at no cost to the City. The results would be presented to Council in June 2006.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the study other than minimal City staff time, to ensure the study reflects city policies and procedures, which will be accomplished within current budget appropriations.

**BACKGROUND**

Food is a basic human need on par with water, housing, transportation, and other essential urban infrastructure, and food systems are an integral and significant part of metropolitan systems. Cities are increasingly concerned with how food relates to the urban environment and are encouraging sustainable food systems which contribute to quality and livable neighborhoods, meet the basic needs of residents, and promote economic vitality, healthy citizens, a clean environment, and local self-reliance.

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Enrichment Committee  
January 10, 2006

## KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

A good food policy requires municipal planning and policymaking that engages community groups and businesses from all aspects of the food system. It should consider how the production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, and waste management of food impacts the quality of our lives and of our neighborhoods.

The Mayor's Office of Sustainability recognizes that the Oakland's food systems should be a vital component of the City's Sustainability Plan with the following goals:

**Goal 1: Food Security**

Ensure no Oakland resident experiences hunger. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food is not limited by economic status, location, or other factors beyond residents' control.

**Goal 2: Urban Agriculture**

Maximize Oakland's self reliance and capacity to grow and provide healthy local food for its citizens through community and rooftop gardens, farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSAs), and other urban agricultural activities; and simultaneously promote a "closed-loop" system that makes use of food waste recovery while reducing energy use.

**Goal 3: Economic Development**

Promote economic development opportunities in the food sector that create jobs and re-circulate financial capital within the community. Encourage marketing and processing practices that create more direct links between local producers and consumers.

**Goal 4: Agricultural Preservation**

Support the preservation of the region's foodshed by encouraging consumption of regionally grown food and by promoting Smart Growth policies that direct growth away from prime agricultural land.

**Goal 5: Public Education and Capacity Building**

Increase public education and build capacity within communities to make food-related choices that positively influence public health and long-term sustainability.

Each of the aforementioned goals will be examined in order to assess their viability and potential impact on social, economic, and environmental concerns in Oakland.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The study will be conducted by Serena Unger and Heather Wooten, both UC Berkeley Masters of City and Regional Planning candidates, as part of their Professional Report coursework. Currently in her second year of study, Serena Unger is concentrating on economic development and land use planning. She has a background in community and economic development and most recently worked for an agricultural land trust, assisting family and community farms throughout the United States. She was a summer intern with the Oakland Redevelopment Agency in 2005.

Heather Wooten is also completing her second year of studies, focusing on sustainable economic development and land use planning, as well as citizen participation in planning processes. Before moving to the Bay Area, she lived in Minneapolis, MN, where she attended the University of Minnesota and worked with the Sierra Club North Star Chapter to create a "Citizen's Guide to Local Land Use Planning."

The process of the study will involve the formation of an advisory team of five to ten local stakeholders associated with the Oakland food system, e.g. health professionals, school officials, waste management companies, food retailers and processors, farmers, community- and faith-based organizations, and various City and County staff. The advisory team will provide key information and feedback throughout the process, as well as contribute recommendations on how to engage City representatives, the private sector, and community leaders in development of future policies and programs that contribute to the five goals listed above.

Randy Hayes, Director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, will supervise the study along with input from his colleague, Carol Misseldine. A final report will be completed by May 2006 and presented to Council in June 2006.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

The purpose of the study is to reveal opportunities for sustainability within Oakland's current food system. The study will take a comprehensive and holistic approach by looking at how existing strengths, opportunities, and challenges within the City's current food system have the ability to impact the economic, environmental and social well-being of the city. The following areas will be reviewed:

- Health and Access to Food for Oakland Residents
- Oakland's Food Sector
- Regional and Urban Agriculture, and Community Gardening
- Food Waste Recovery
- Public Education and Capacity Building

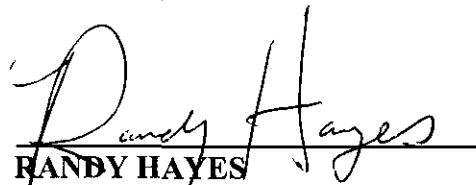
**DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

Not applicable.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Mayor's Office of Sustainability recommends that the Council adopt the resolution authorizing a food systems assessment study.

Respectfully submitted,



*Randy Hayes*

**RANDY HAYES**

Director of Sustainability, Office of the Mayor

Prepared by:

Serena Unger, Masters Candidate

UC Berkeley, City and Regional Planning

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE



*Deborah Edgerly*

**OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
*[Signature]*  
Oakland City Attorney's Office  
2005 DEC 29 AM 10:33

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

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**REPORT AND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY TO DEVELOP AN OAKLAND FOOD POLICY AND PLAN FOR THIRTY PERCENT LOCAL AREA FOOD PRODUCTION, BY UNDERTAKING AN INITIAL FOOD SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT STUDY, CONDUCTED BY A RESEARCH TEAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, AT NO COST TO THE CITY.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland is committed to policies that promote the health and well-being of our community and of our environment; and

**WHEREAS** 34% of the low-income adult population of Alameda County are food insecure, meaning they lack reliable access to healthy foods, which can cause malnutrition and hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland can eliminate these conditions through policies and programs that promote community food security, such that all residents are able to obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet while maximizing community self-reliance and social justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the schools our children attend should serve fresh, locally produced foods that are organic or sustainably produced using least-toxic means wherever possible; and

**WHEREAS**, community and school gardens provide hands-on entrepreneur opportunities by fostering business, academic, and life skills that can help Oakland's youth become more self sufficient and productive adults; and

**WHEREAS**, jobs in Oakland's food distribution and processing sector number approximately 4,000, and given the potential strength of the sector in Oakland, increasing value-added production of local foods could create a major competitive advantage for Oakland and significantly contribute to the City's job growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland can take the lead in supporting the preservation of the region's foodshed by supporting Smart Growth policies that direct urban growth away from prime agricultural land; and

**WHEREAS**, local food production for local consumption reduces the need for transportation and thus the rate of atmospheric carbon dioxide accumulation; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no fiscal impacts associated with the study other than minimal City staff time which will be sought to ensure the study reflects city policies and procedures and will be supported by current budget appropriations, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Oakland undertakes a study to examine current trends in Oakland's food system and recommend programs and policies to promote a sustainability food system for Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 2006

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT DE LA FUNETE.

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of  
the City of Oakland, California