

Shoe, Bill

From: Eli Zigas <ezigas@spur.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:47 PM
To: Shoe, Bill
Subject: Comments on draft Health Element

Dear Mr. Shoe,

I wanted to offer some informal comments on the draft Health Element of the Santa Clara County General Plan. Specifically I had a few thoughts in regard to Section F - Healthy Eating, Food Access, and Sustainable Food Systems. I apologize that I'm submitting these comments a day late and hope it's not too late for your consideration.

Generally, I think the proposed strategies and policies will provide helpful guidance to policymakers on the issues of agricultural land preservation, urban agriculture, and healthy food access in the coming years. It's quite a comprehensive compilation of ideas!

In terms of specific feedback:

Page F-1: I was honored to see that draft incorporates the graphic from SPUR's Locally Nourished report to illustrate the concept of the food system. For the citation, we have a smaller URL that can be used:
www.spur.org/locallynourished

Page F-2: The text mentions that reducing food miles can reduce environmental impact. Our research found that there was not a consistent correlation between food miles and environmental impacts - either lifecycle carbon footprint or otherwise ([Locally Nourished](#), page 34). I suggest removing this from the list of benefits of local food systems.

Pages F-6 and F-7: Policies HE-F.13 (Promote Healthy Food Retail Establishments) and HE-F.18 (Healthy food for low-income shoppers) seem very similar in scope and could potentially be combined into one single policy.

Also, is there a list I can sign up for to receive alerts about the progress of the draft as it moves toward approval?

Please let me know if I can provide any clarification or additional information on any of these comments. Thank you for considering them.

Sincerely,
--Eli

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