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Sacramento Food Policy Council Announces Completion of Comprehensive Food System Assessment

Sacramento, CA — The Sacramento Food Policy Council (SFPC) proudly announces the completion of the Sacramento County Food System Assessment, a groundbreaking report that lays the foundation for a more equitable and resilient local food system. This data-driven assessment, which was initiated in 2020, marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to address food insecurity, promote food justice, and support sustainable agriculture across Sacramento County.

The Sacramento County Food System Assessment was developed with extensive input from diverse stakeholders, including community members, food workers, school food professionals, business owners, nonprofits, policy advocates, farmers, and government agencies. The report presents a vision for a food system that ensures every resident has equitable access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food. These insights will guide the development of a comprehensive Food Action Plan, which is embedded within Sacramento County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Key findings developed the following Food System Assessment goals:

- 1) **Equitable Food Access:** Every individual in Sacramento County will have equitable access to culturally relevant, locally produced, healthy, organic, and affordable food.
- 2) **BIPOC communities have tenure and access to land and third spaces:** BIPOC communities will have access to land and third spaces, ensuring increased food/resource availability, diversified revenue streams, and third spaces for community networking and knowledge transfer.
- 3) **Food and Farm Business support is distributed equitably:** Business support will be distributed fairly and easily accessible for BIPOC food and farming-related enterprises.
- 4) **Strengthened local food purchasing opportunities:** Increase connection points between local food producers and local market opportunities.

- 5) Agriculture to support a thriving, equitable, sustainable local food system: Sacramento County will have an equitable, diverse, and ecologically sustainable agricultural system supporting multiple socio-economic and ecological goals.
- 6) The food and farming industry will be fully educated, staffed, and justly compensated: Sacramento County will support a food and farming industry that justly compensates a diverse pool of workers and ensures opportunities for professional development
- 7) Community education opportunities: Robust, non-traditional education opportunities about food and agriculture that are interactive, impactful, and intergenerational available in all jurisdictions

The report also highlights the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity and the additional challenges faced by BIPOC-owned food businesses and low-income food industry workers.

"The Sacramento County Food System Assessment represents years of dedicated work by advocates who are deeply committed to building a just and sustainable food system," said Adrian Rehn, Vice President of the Sacramento Food Policy Council. "This report is a call to action for all of us to work together to ensure that every community in Sacramento County has the opportunity to thrive."

The Sacramento Food Policy Council encourages residents, community leaders, and organizations to engage with the ongoing work by signing up for the SFPC email newsletter for updates and opportunities to get involved: <http://eepurl.com/cKW7NL>.

To learn more about the Sacramento County Food System Assessment and to view the full report, visit <https://www.sacfoodpolicy.org/sac-food-system-assessment>.

About the Sacramento Food Policy Council:

The Sacramento Food Policy Council is a grassroots group of food justice advocates dedicated to building an equitable food and farming system across Sacramento County. Through community organizing, policy advocacy, and collaborative partnerships, SFPC works to ensure that all residents have access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.