

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
Supervisorial District Four  
Supervisor Ken Yeager



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BOS4-040709-08

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DATE: April 7, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Yeager".

Ken Yeager  
Supervisor, District 4

SUBJECT: Inclusion of county cafeterias and other county services and departments, as appropriate, in solicitation for fresh produce

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Hold Item 22 to such time as Administration and County Counsel can report back to the Board of Supervisors with all proposed recommendations regarding including the county cafeterias and other county services and departments, as appropriate, in addition to the Departments of Correction and Probation, the Children's Shelter, and Valley Medical Center, in the solicitation related to providing fresh produce, vegetables, and related items. The report back should also include a discussion of efforts to procure more produce from local farmers through this solicitation.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Recently, it has come to the attention of the Board that the County's cafeterias have not been taking advantage of economies of scale to secure the most advantageous price for biodegradable forks, knives, spoons, cups, and food containers. At a time when the future of the County's cafeterias is in doubt due to their bleak financial forecast, it would seem prudent to leverage this contract for fresh fruits and vegetables to maximize cost efficiencies. Earlier this year, the Administration advised the Board that the cafeterias' dire fiscal circumstances were an impediment to the operator's ability to purchase fresh instead of canned and/or frozen fruits and vegetables.

This recommendation asks the Administration to explore including in this solicitation all county services and departments that provide food service operations. In addition, this analysis should also consider options related to purchasing more fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers, in an effort to buy locally, support local agriculture, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation of produce over long distances.