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June 12, 2025

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RE: Recommendations for the 2025 San Francisco Climate Action Plan

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

As it is the responsibility of the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare to advise the Office of the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the Office of the City Administrator on animal issues, we want to share our recommendations for the upcoming revision of the San Francisco Climate Action Plan. These recommendations are built on the evidence-based connection between animal agriculture and climate change.

According to the San Francisco Environmental Department, the [proposed 2025 San Francisco Climate Action Plan](#) offers “a pathway to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.” However, this revision does not address a critical pillar of emission reduction: animal agriculture.

Evidence shows that the animal agriculture industry is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions:

- Animal agriculture is the leading U.S. source of methane pollution; manure and enteric fermentation (a digestive process in ruminant animals) responsible for 36% of emissions. ([source](#))
- Agricultural expansion drives nearly 90% of global deforestation. ([source](#))
- Rapid phaseout of animal agriculture would freeze increases in the warming potential of the atmosphere for 30 years. ([source](#))
- Livestock accounts for an estimated 12-19.6% of global greenhouse gas emissions. ([source](#))
- According to the UN, about one third of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are linked to food, and animal-



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based foods are generally associated with the highest greenhouse gas emissions. ([source](#))

Based on this evidence, the Commission is asking that the 2025 San Francisco Climate Action Plan incorporates information on the environmental cost of animal agriculture and adds a sector to the plan that promotes plant-based diets. As an example, the city could promote plant-forward meals in school lunches, hospital cafeteria offerings, and city-run events.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and the Commission looks forward to the revised Climate Action Plan. If there are any questions or if there is anything the Commission can do to assist, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael Angelo Torres
Chair, San Francisco Animal Commission – Commission of Animal Control and Welfare

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