



# *A Vision for a Local Food and Farm Bill*

An innovative and collaborative approach to create a robust system to manage resources and shape local food production, distribution and access into a system that is economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially equitable.

The US Farm Bill governs and funds a vast array of agricultural, conservation, fiber, forestry and food programs at the federal, state and local levels.

A local Food and Farm Bill can serve as an important catalyst in driving positive outcomes that benefit local agriculture, the environment, and improve economic and social conditions for San Mateo County residents.

**The San Mateo County Food System Alliance (SMFSA) seeks your input as they work to develop a local “Food and Farm Bill” intended to better meet the unique and changing needs of our local environment, food production and consumer community.**

A locally-focused Food and Farm Bill can help prioritize strategies and the allocation of local resources to:

- **Advance agricultural viability and food production**, identify alternative marketing opportunities, or ways producers may feasibly diversify crops, and optimize value on unique and prime farmland in the County.
- **Support local food and farm operations and enterprises** by developing local facilities and infrastructure for aggregation, processing, packaging, distribution, and transportation and enhance the market for direct sales of locally grown products.
- **Benefit our environment** through practices that boost soil fertility and augment water resources, while protecting watersheds, biodiversity and native species habitat.
- **Enrich the economic vitality of communities** by increasing the ability of the food and farm system workforce to fully participate, prosper and benefit from the food system.
- **Promote the health of all residents** by improving access to locally grown, healthy and affordable foods, especially in high poverty, high risk neighborhoods.



The SMFSA and San Mateo County Health System have acquired funding to support an independent professional to facilitate the vision process. The document we develop together will articulate a shared vision for an ideal food and farm system, and include the key impact areas you help us define as necessary for a robust local food and farm system. The goal of this process is to identify strategies and resources required to achieve this shared vision.

When drafted, this Food and Farm Bill may be one of the first localized policy documents in the Nation. It will reflect and respond to the unique priorities of the San Mateo County community, while helping to set the stage for other jurisdictions to replicate this localized, innovative, and proactive policy intervention.

### Proposed Impact/Focus Areas

- Supply chain and food cycle infrastructure
- Business development and entrepreneurship
- Agricultural viability
- Natural resource management
- Soil conservation
- Environmental quality, sustainability, and resilience
- Food security and access
- Garden-based education, career/technical training and workforce development
- Nutrition, public health and health equity

### Engage, Contribute, Create

- Engage in SMFSA stakeholder interviews, provide insight and feedback to identify the opportunities and concerns of varied stakeholder groups.
- Work with SMFSA to interview community stakeholders to identify impact areas for a local Food and Farm Bill.
- Suggest additional stakeholders whose unique experience will contribute depth and perspective to the findings.
- Stay informed! Join our Facebook page and get on our announcements list

### Timeline

#### Phase 1: Stakeholder Interviews

*Winter-Spring 2016*

#### Phase 2: Consultant work on Vision Document

*April 2016 onwards*