



**SIERRA
CLUB**



Angeles Chapter
3250 Wilshire Blvd. #1106
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1513

July 29, 2019

Dear Councilmember Koretz:

The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter welcomes and supports your Vegan Protein Options Motion. This motion will require vegan protein options to be sold at all L.A. City concessionaires, including LAX, Meals on Wheels and the Zoo, as well as all large-scale entertainment venues and movie theaters.

“Personal dietary choices that minimize or eliminate meat and animal products should be encouraged, due to their many benefits including reducing greenhouse gas impacts, water pollution and inhumane treatment of animals,” states the Sierra Club policy on agriculture and food adopted February 28, 2015. “There should,” the policy explains, “be a reduction in excessive food consumption and waste patterns to allow maintenance of diet quality at lower environmental cost. An important first step would be to develop a greater reliance on vegetable protein.”

An example of the excessive use of one precious resource is provided by the Angeles Chapter Water Committee. It takes 698.5 gallons of water to make a single cheeseburger. Of the components of this All-American entrée—buns, lettuce, tomato slice, cheese and meat patty—the ones that require, by far, the most water to produce are the cheese slice (56 gallons) and the meat patty (616 gallons).

Livestock for meat and dairy products worldwide is responsible for almost 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Meat and dairy production also uses about 70 percent of all agricultural land across the world. It is one of the principal causes of biodiversity loss, water pollution and deforestation.

There is another choice. As the Vegan Protein Options Motion observes, “Vegan eating is an effective lifestyle change which the University of Oxford found would have the greatest possible impact on the environment.” It would also have a positive impact on human health and certainly on the lives of animals. It would benefit all of us to have vegan protein food options more widely available. Thank you for facilitating this with your Motion.

Sincerely,

Sharon Koch
Chapter Chair, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter