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TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, EDUCATION,
NEIGHBORHOODS, PARKS, ARTS, AND RIVER COMMITTEE

ATTN: ERIC VILLANUEVA, Legislative Assistant

FROM: MICHAEL A. SHULL, General Manager
Department of Recreation and Parks

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS REPORT BACK
REGARDING VEGAN PROTEIN OPTIONS (C.F. 11-1678-S3)

SUMMARY

On October 29, 2019, the City Council instructed the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to report back on the vegan protein entrée options available at City concessionaire locations and ways to ensure that these options are available on an ongoing basis (C.F. 11-1678-S3). This report includes a summary of all RAP food and beverage concessions' current vegan menu options and plans to enhance the vegan menu options at RAP food and beverage concession locations.

RAP CONCESSIONS PROGRAM

RAP's concession portfolio consists of approximately fifty contracts, which includes fourteen (14) full service restaurant/cafes. Of the fourteen restaurants/cafes, eight (8) locations provide food and beverage service at City-owned golf courses. The remaining six (6) provide service at some of RAP's most visited parks and attractions: Griffith Park, Echo Park Lake, and Sherman Oaks Castle Park. The highest grossing food and beverage concession is the Greek Theatre, which will be highlighted below. Attached to this report is a list of all RAP food and beverage concessions and the vegan options they offer.

CURRENT VEGAN OPTIONS OFFERINGS

All of the food and beverage concessions operating under agreements with RAP offer at least one vegan protein entrée option. Many include more than one. Vegan protein entrées available at RAP concessions include breakfast burritos, meatless burgers, salads, soups, avocado toast and sandwiches/wraps.

Many existing RAP food and beverage operators already participate in the City's Good Food Purchasing Program. Most notably, the Greek Theatre's operator SMG, RAP's



largest concessionaire, was recognized in 2018 by the Los Angeles Food Policy Council and the Los Angeles City Council for making great strides towards meeting the Good Food Purchasing Policy Standards. The venue scored highly in the Local Economies and Nutrition categories and has expanded its vegetarian menu in recent years. Serving over 300,000 guests each year, the Greek Theatre is a trailblazer in the Good Food Purchasing Program.

RAP has also recently began piloting a healthy snack and beverage vending machine, which provides vegan protein snack options and more nutritious offerings compared with traditional vending machines.

FUTURE PLANS

As RAP continues to improve and upgrade concessions through new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for food and beverage locations, participation in the Good Food Purchasing Program is now required. Additionally, RAP staff has been and will continue to work with existing concessionaires to facilitate training and assistance from the L.A. Food Policy Council. Training includes best practices to ensure that food and menu items are healthy, affordable, sustainable, and fair.

After its review of menu items, RAP staff have identified the smaller snack stands as an area for improvement as it relates to offering a wider variety of vegan protein entrée options, and healthier, more nutritious food in general. Ancillary to RAP's brick and mortar concessions operations, it should also be noted that RAP plans to further encourage and expand vegan food options during festivals and larger events hosted in City parks as part of RAP's green special event policies.

CONCLUSION

RAP is committed to ensuring that all concession partners include vegan protein entrée options on all menus. With the increase in availability of vegan-friendly food from suppliers and a larger demand from customers who follow a plant-based diet, there has never been a more opportune time to advance this issue. Through education, training and monitoring, RAP will continue to lead the way to a healthier, more sustainable future.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The costs associated with the continuation and expansion of RAP's vegan dining options are included as part of the new concessions contracts. As a result, there would be no impact to the General Fund.

MS:MR:RR:ml
attachment