

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Courtney Vail

**Date Submitted:** 09/19/2022 03:18 PM

**Council File No:** 22-0002-S118

**Comments for Public Posting:** September 19, 2022 To the Los Angeles City Council, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Council's upcoming vote to adopt the Plant Based Treaty. In targeting the devastating repercussions of animal agriculture, this resolution is critical to combatting carbon emissions and biodiversity loss, with the power to transform L.A.'s sustainability and protect California's ecosystems for decades to come. I am writing on behalf of the Oceanic Preservation Society (OPS), an organization that produces award-winning documentaries and works to address the most important environmental issues of our time. We believe that the Plant Based Treaty is key to creating a sustainable future, encouraging us to step away from the rampant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and environmental degradation perpetrated by the animal agriculture industry, and towards revitalizing the farmlands and ecosystems we depend upon. Scientific studies have long proven that adopting a plant-based diet significantly reduces emissions, advancing us closer to our net-zero emission goals. In 2021, researchers found that animal agriculture was responsible for 57% of all food production GHG emissions and 14.5% of anthropogenic GHG emissions, with almost half in the form of methane – a GHG that traps heat at 25 times the rate of CO2. By endorsing a plant-based diet, Los Angeles would dramatically reduce its carbon footprint, advancing the city towards its climate targets. Animal agriculture also drains precious natural resources. According to a research report by The Pacific Institute, the average Californian has a water footprint of 1,500 gallons per day, close to half of which is tied to beef and dairy products. A single beef burger alone requires an estimated 660 gallons of water to produce, untenable in the context of California's critical drought. Equally, animal agriculture is a leading cause of pollution, marine dead zones, ocean acidification, and environmental degradation, accelerating biodiversity loss and magnifying our current mass extinction. Reversing these crises requires a seismic shift in our diets – the Plant Based Treaty is the first stride towards this future of sustainable food. Finally, plant-based diets offer a humane, healthy path forward for society. Too often, meat and dairy farms are synonymous with the mistreatment and commodification of animals – by shifting our food to plant-based alternatives, we can better protect animal

welfare moving forward. Yet the benefits of a plant-based diet aren't limited to animals alone. Studies strongly suggest that reducing meat consumption improves human health and lowers rates of deadly chronic diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and cancer. Thus, a humane future for animals reflects a healthier future for us, reducing medical costs and realizing a more ethical society. Our choice is clear: to protect our planet's precious resources and biodiversity, we must transition towards a plant-based future. We urge the Council to adopt the Plant Based Treaty, to make L.A. a world leader in sustainability, setting an example that could change the tide of the climate crisis. Thank you for considering our comments. Sincerely, The OPS Team



September 19, 2022

To the Los Angeles City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Council's upcoming vote to adopt the Plant Based Treaty. In targeting the devastating repercussions of animal agriculture, **this resolution is critical to combatting carbon emissions and biodiversity loss**, with the power to **transform L.A.'s sustainability** and protect California's ecosystems for decades to come.

I am writing on behalf of the Oceanic Preservation Society (OPS), an organization that produces award-winning documentaries and works to address the most important environmental issues of our time. **We believe that the Plant Based Treaty is key to creating a sustainable future**, encouraging us to step away from the rampant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and environmental degradation perpetrated by the animal agriculture industry, and towards revitalizing the farmlands and ecosystems we depend upon.

Scientific studies have long proven that **adopting a plant-based diet significantly reduces emissions**, advancing us closer to our net-zero emission goals. In 2021, researchers found that animal agriculture was responsible for 57% of all food production GHG emissions and 14.5% of anthropogenic GHG emissions, with almost half in the form of methane – a GHG that traps heat at 25 times the rate of CO<sub>2</sub>. **By endorsing a plant-based diet, Los Angeles would dramatically reduce its carbon footprint, advancing the city towards its climate targets.**

**Animal agriculture also drains precious natural resources.** According to a research report by The Pacific Institute, the average Californian has a water footprint of 1,500 gallons per day, close to half of which is tied to beef and dairy products. A single beef burger alone requires an estimated 660 gallons of water to produce, untenable in the context of California's critical drought. Equally, animal agriculture is a leading cause of pollution, marine dead zones, ocean acidification, and environmental degradation, accelerating biodiversity loss and magnifying our current mass extinction. Reversing these crises requires a seismic shift in our diets – the Plant Based Treaty is the first stride towards this future of sustainable food.

Finally, **plant-based diets offer a humane, healthy path forward for society.** Too often, meat and dairy farms are synonymous with the mistreatment and commodification of animals – by shifting our food to plant-based alternatives, we can



better protect animal welfare moving forward. Yet the benefits of a plant-based diet aren't limited to animals alone. **Studies strongly suggest that reducing meat consumption improves human health and lowers rates of deadly chronic diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and cancer.** Thus, a humane future for animals reflects a healthier future for us, reducing medical costs and realizing a more ethical society.

**Our choice is clear: to protect our planet's precious resources and biodiversity, we must transition towards a plant-based future. We urge the Council to adopt the Plant Based Treaty, to make L.A. a world leader in sustainability, setting an example that could change the tide of the climate crisis.**

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Courtney Vail  
Campaign Director

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Matthew Morozov

**Date Submitted:** 09/19/2022 10:21 AM

**Council File No:** 22-0002-S118

**Comments for Public Posting:** I received an email from Direct Action Everywhere and I must say it is so important for the planet, for public health, and for our morality that we move towards a plant-based cruelty-free lifestyle. Please let Los Angeles be the guide for the rest of California, and the rest of the world, to follow.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dean Wyrzykowski

**Date Submitted:** 09/19/2022 11:54 AM

**Council File No:** 22-0002-S118

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, thank you for considering this measure. Our food sustains us. It is a massive part of who we are. And that's why we cannot ignore it as part of our discussions on protecting a world that sustains us and our grandchildren. Plant-based food is better than animal-based foods in virtually every domain, and we should recognize this in forming public policy. All the best, Dean Wyrzykowski

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Joey  
**Date Submitted:** 09/19/2022 11:49 AM  
**Council File No:** 22-0002-S118  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please make this world equal for all!! Living harmoniously through compassion and empathy go a long way to decrease suffering and entitlement !! Thank you for your time!!