

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

## SUPPORTING MEATLESS MONDAYS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF COUNTY RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is committed to the preservation of the environment and our natural resources and to the well-being and good health of local residents; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz adopted a Climate Action Strategy, which includes the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting clean technology; and

WHEREAS, recent studies and reports have demonstrated that we can lower our carbon footprint simply by reducing the amount of animal-based foods we eat; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 report revealed that farmed animals and their byproducts are responsible for at least 32.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year; and

WHEREAS, scientists estimate that one third of all carbon dioxide produced by human activities is absorbed by the ocean, triggering harmful ocean acidification; and

WHEREAS, the American Dietetic Association recognizes that reduced meat consumption decreases the risk of various health problems, including obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Community Assessment Project revealed that based on Body Mass Index, 57% of Santa Cruz County survey respondents were obese in 2011 and one out of four low-income Santa Cruz County children (ages 5-19) was obese in 2010; and

WHEREAS, numerous schools, colleges, and universities in California and nationwide have implemented Meatless Mondays in their cafeterias.

NOW, THEREFORE, Neal Coonerty, Chairperson of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, and John Leopold, Santa Cruz County First District Supervisor, hereby encourage residents to take part in Meatless Mondays to support comprehensive sustainability efforts as well as to enhance residents' health by eating a more varied plant-based diet, and further encourage restaurants, grocery stores, and schools to offer a greater variety of healthier and more sustainable plant-based options.



*Chairperson, Board of Supervisors*

November 14, 2013

*Date*