



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

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Staff Report

February 13, 2007

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

**Title: Resolution Opposing the Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Battery
Cages**

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: This report is for Council consideration and possible action.

Contact: Yvette Rincon, Legislative Analyst, City Manager's Office, (916) 808-5827

Presenters: Patti Bisharat, Director of Governmental Affairs, (916) 808-8197

Department: City Manager's Office

Division: Governmental Affairs

Organization No: 0310

Description/Analysis

Issue: At the request of Councilmember Sheedy, staff has prepared a report for Council consideration and possible action on a proposed resolution that would oppose the confinement of egg-laying hens in battery cages and encourage Sacramento consumers of eggs not to purchase eggs produced by caged hens. There are no egg-laying hen businesses in the City or County of Sacramento.

Policy Considerations: The resolution opposes battery cage egg production, based on the inherent cruelty of confining egg-laying hens in battery cages and encourages Sacramento consumers of eggs not to purchase eggs produced by caged hens.

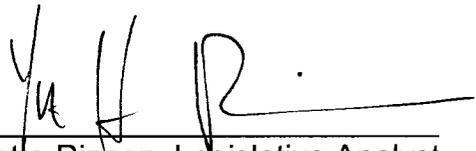
Environmental Considerations: n/a

Rationale for Recommendation: Councilmember Sheedy requested staff to bring forward this resolution for Council consideration and possible action.

Resolution Opposing Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Battery Cages

Financial Considerations: n/a

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): n/a

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Yvette Rincon, Legislative Analyst

Approved by: 
Patti Bisharat
Director of Governmental Affairs

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

OPPOSING THE CONFINEMENT OF EGG-LAYING HENS IN BATTERY CAGES

BACKGROUND

- A. Animal welfare organizations, led by the Humane Society of the United States and its 22,300 supporters in Sacramento, and the media have illuminated the cruel and inhumane treatment of egg-laying hens caged in battery cages in California and throughout the country.
- B. More than 90% of the roughly 300 million egg-laying hens in the United States are confined in barren, wire battery cages so restrictive the birds don't even have enough space to spread their wings. With no opportunity to engage in many of their natural behaviors—including nesting, dust bathing, perching, and foraging—these birds endure lives wrought with suffering. In fact, each hen is allotted less space than a single sheet of paper in which to live out her entire life.
- C. Many countries, including Austria, Germany, and Switzerland have banned the confinement of egg-laying hens in battery cages.
- D. California retailers Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace refuse to sell battery cage eggs, while Monrovia-based Trader Joe's has the same policy for its brand of eggs. Andronico's Market, a Bay Area-based grocery chain, has discontinued its sale of cage eggs. Ben & Jerry's is also phasing in the exclusive use of cage-free eggs. California-based Bon Appétit Management Company is phasing out its use of battery eggs for all 200 of its clients, including the corporate cafeterias of Adidas, Best Buy, Yahoo!, and Nordstrom. Neither AOL nor Google allow eggs from caged hens in their company cafeterias.
- E. Scores of universities in the United States have enacted policies to eliminate or dramatically reduce their use of eggs from caged hens. California schools such as Claremont McKenna, Concordia, the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford, the University of San Francisco, and Woodbury have joined more than 100 others across the country in enacting policies to either completely eliminate—or decrease their use of battery cage eggs.
- F. Cage-free egg farms generally provide egg-laying hens with a higher level of welfare than battery cage facilities.
- G. The City of Sacramento and its residents have demonstrated a consistent and high regard for the humane treatment of animals, including participation in the annual Spay Day USA and Safe Cats programs, among many other examples.

Resolution Opposing Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Battery Cages

City humane leaders have been active in promoting State legislation to improve the welfare of animals and the City's Animal Care Services division has made significant improvements toward fulfilling its mission "to advance the welfare of animals and the safety of our community by promoting a healthy co-existence."

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City Council opposes battery cage egg production, based on the inherent cruelty of confining egg-laying hens in battery cages; and
- Section 2. The City Council encourages Sacramento consumers of eggs not to purchase eggs produced by caged hens.

