Good Food Purchasing Pledge Endorsements
(as of 10/23/12)

Organizations
1. American Diabetes Association
2. American Heart Association
3. Border Grill Restaurants & Truck
4. California Food Policy Advocates
5. California Produce Wholesalers
6. Center for Food Safety
7. Change to Win
8. Coosemans Los Angeles/Coosemans Shipping of LA
9. Environmental Working Group
10. Food Chain Workers Alliance
11. Fresco Community Market
12. Gold Star Produce
13. Joan’s on 3rd
14. LA Specialty
15. Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
16. McGrath Family Farms
17. Natural Resources Defense Council
18. Organic Consumers Association
19. Physicians for Social Responsibility
20. Restaurant Opportunities Center – Los Angeles
21. Roots of Change
22. Swanton Berry Farm
23. UNITE HERE Local 11
24. Urban & Environmental Policy Institute
25. Warehouse Workers United
26. West Central Produce

Individuals
27. Larry Yee, Food Commons
28. Elizabeth Epstein, Esq.
October 1, 2012

The Honorable Paul Koretz
200 North Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Koretz:

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) applauds your efforts to improve the guidelines City departments follow to ensure good nutrition is offered in food and meals served. Providing generous portions of vegetables, fruits and whole grains and reducing salt, added sugars, fats and oils are all in keeping with the ADA’s guidelines.

California has the greatest number of new cases of diabetes annually in the United States, with an estimated 3.9 million Californians with the disease. Another 11.4 million Californians have prediabetes and will develop the disease without significant intervention.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), being overweight is a leading modifiable risk factor for diabetes, and nearly 80 percent of people with type 2 diabetes are overweight. Eating a healthy diet is essential to curbing obesity and preventing type 2 diabetes. Research has demonstrated that individuals with prediabetes who achieved modest weight loss of 5-7% through dietary changes and increased physical activity reduced their risk of developing diabetes by 58% over a three-year period.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the nutrition and quality of food and meals served by City departments.

Sincerely,

Peter Braun
Executive Director

cc: Laura McLennan, Advocacy Chair, American Diabetes Association
Lisa Murdock, Director, State Government Affairs, American Diabetes Association
October 18, 2012

Herb J. Wesson
Los Angeles City Council President
200 N. Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Local Food Procurement Motion

Dear Council President Wesson:

California Food Policy Advocates is writing to communicate our support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678).

California Food Policy Advocates is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and well being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. During the last fifteen years, CFPA has participated in numerous local processes to strengthen the federal nutrition programs, such as the LAUSD Cafeteria Committee, the City of Los Angeles Child Nutrition Task Force and currently, the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

Governments and other large institutions both locally and nationally are adopting procurement practices that prioritize healthy, sustainably-produced food purchases. In Los Angeles, the County has developed and is in the process of implementing standards which promote nutritious food procurement for county facilities, while Los Angeles Unified School District implemented high standards for cafeteria meals and set and exceeded a goal of 50% local sourcing for produce. The policy proposed in the Local Food Procurement Goals motion would encourage the City to meet and exceed the standards practiced in other large institutions, and the City should seize upon this opportunity.

The City of Los Angeles administers summer lunch, child care and afterschool nutrition programs, providing policymakers an important opportunity to encourage young children to develop appropriate dietary habits. Adopting the Local Food Procurement Goals will encourage contracting staff to pursue improvements in these and other important food purchasing contacts. If I can provide further information, please contact me at 213.482.8200.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sharp
Senior Advocate
October 19th 2012

Dear City Council,

On behalf of California Produce Wholesalers, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

Governments and other large institutions both locally and nationally are adopting procurement practices which prioritize healthy, sustainably produced food purchases. For instance, in New York City, all city agencies are required to request sourcing information from contractors to assist them in procuring food grown in New York State. Mayor Bloomberg also issued an executive order establishing nutritional standards for food (2008) and beverage (2009) sales at all city-owned agencies. In Los Angeles, the County has developed and is in the process of implementing standards which promote nutritious food procurement for county facilities, while Los Angeles Unified School District implemented school meal nutrition recommendations from the October 2009 Institute of Medicine report, School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children. LAUSD also set and exceeded a goal of 50% local sourcing for produce. The policy proposed in the Local Food Procurement Goals motion would allow Los Angeles to meet and exceed the standards practiced in other large institutions, and the City should seize upon this opportunity.

The mission of California Produce is to consistently deliver the best quality in seasonal produce purchased from various local farmers to our customers with the same passion they have for their work. Backed by detail managed service, and our honest commitment to better serve our community.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. California Produce Wholesalers asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Athena Pappas
October 16, 2012

Dear Honorable Herb Wesson,

On behalf of the Center for Food Safety’s Cool Foods Campaign, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to improve our food system. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages necessary investment in our regional food system.

A project of the Center for Food Safety, the Cool Foods Campaign is working to educate and empower consumers to make climate-friendly food choices. Part of our work is to engage with municipalities across the country to implement practical, sustainable food procurement policies and educate their citizens about healthful, environmentally friendly foods. Towards this end, adoption of the Local Food Procurement Goals would establish Los Angeles as a leader in the Good Food Movement and position the city as one of the most forward-looking allies of sustainable food in the United States.

According to the report, “Mid-Century Warming in the Los Angeles Region,” commissioned by the City of Los Angeles, conducted by UCLA’s Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and released in June of this year, the region will likely warm by three to four degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century. The report urges “smart investment” in public policy to mitigate the effects of temperature increases. These include profound impacts to public health, water supply, air quality, agriculture, forest fires, and electrical loads. The Good Food procurement policy is exactly the kind of smart and forward thinking strategy needed to bolster the region’s resilience to these daunting impacts. Moreover, several of the procurement guidelines are “climate friendly,” which means adopting the procurement policy now will contribute to mitigating climate change.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. Center for Food Safety asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos and the rest of California.

Sincerely,

Diana Donlon, Director, Cool Foods Campaign
September 20, 2012

Dear Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of Change to Win, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally, and fairly produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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Change to Win is a federation of labor unions founded in September 2005. Our affiliated unions, the United Farmworkers, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the United Food and Commercial Workers, and the Service Employees International Union, represent Angelenos working in all sectors of the food industry, including growing, processing, warehousing and distribution, retail, and service. As workers, consumers, and citizens, therefore, our members have a vital interest in the Council's efforts to ensure that the City's purchases promote responsible, sustainable and just practices throughout the food industry.
By making a commitment to adopt the comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines, which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy — one in which small and mid-sized farmers and food businesses have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. Change to Win asks that you support this policy that encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

G.W. Faraday
Policy Director, Change to Win
October 11, 2012

On behalf of Coosemans Shipping of Los Angeles, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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Coosemans Shipping has made a commitment to supplying the local Farm to WIC and Local School Food line opportunities in partnership with Occidental College, Mother's Nutritional Center, FNP and the El Monte school system. We have strong relationships with local farmers and suppliers and strongly feel that a Good Food procurement policy will underscore the value of these relationships.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power
Coosemans Shipping of Los Angeles  
2820 East 44th Street, Vernon, CA 90058  
Tel. (323) 588-1127 Fax. (323) 588-7723  
www.weshipproduce.com

... Providing the highest quality Specialty and International Produce since 1982.

to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. Coosemans Shipping of Los Angeles asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

M. Jill Overdorf
Director of Business and Culinary Development
Corporate Chef
Coosemans Shipping of L.A.
2820 East 44th Street
Vernon, CA 90058
October 17, 2012

Dear City Council:

I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. I ask that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Epstein
October 10, 2012

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Food Chain Workers Alliance, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally, and fairly produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

Governments and other large institutions both locally and nationally are adopting procurement practices, which prioritize healthy, sustainably, and fairly produced food purchases. In fact, the City already has a Sweatfree Purchasing Ordinance. The policy proposed in the Local Food Procurement Goals motion would allow Los Angeles to meet and exceed the standards practiced in other large institutions, and it is more comprehensive than any other food procurement policy in the country. The City should seize upon this opportunity.

The Food Chain Workers Alliance is a national coalition of unions, workers centers, and workers’ rights advocacy organizations. In Los Angeles County, 1 in 7 jobs is in the food system. Unfortunately, the majority of these jobs are low paid with little to no benefits. The procurement policy in the Local Food Procurement Goals would set standards for the labor conditions of the workers who produce, process, and serve the food, thereby improving conditions for workers in the food supply chain.

By making a commitment to adopt the comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines, which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers and food businesses have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. The Food Chain Workers Alliance asks that you support this policy that encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Joann Lo
Executive Director

Members: Brandworkers International * Center for New Community * Coalition of Immokalee Workers* Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas * Farmworker Association of Florida * International Labor Rights Forum * Just Harvest USA * Northwest Arkansas Workers’ Justice Center * Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York * Restaurant Opportunities Centers United * Rural & Migrant Ministry * UE Research and Education Fund: Warehouse Workers for Justice & Vermont Fair Food * UNITE HERE Food Services Division * United Food & Commercial Workers Locals 770 & 1500 * Warehouse Workers United
October 15, 2012

Los Angeles City Council

200 North Main Street, Room 410

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of Fresco Community Markets, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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Your adoption of Good Food Procurement Policy will help our market to improve our ability to provide healthy and locally produced food to our customers. We are a community market that
serves in an underserved community of Highland Park, and our customers have consistently express to us their desire to have the ability to purchase healthy food from local businesses in a local market.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. Fresco Community Markets asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Helena Jubany, Owner
Fresco Community Markets LLC.
October 16, 2012

Dear Alexa Delwiche

On behalf of LA Specialty, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion *Local Food Procurement Goals* (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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As a large Food Service distributor based in Los Angeles county, we feel that this is a very important initiative that will be good for all of our customers in their effort in local/sustainable food purchasing practices.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy—one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. LA Specialty asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Jesse Warnken
Director of Corporate Programs

Los Angeles • San Francisco • San Diego • Las Vegas • Phoenix • Hawaii
19527 Cisco Drive, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • (949) 662.741.2200 • (949) 662.741.2907

OCT 24 2012
September 21, 2012

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally, and fairly produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. LAANE asks that you support this policy that encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Aiha Nguyen
Director, Grocery & Retail Project
LAANE
October 16, 2012

Dear LA City Council Members,

On behalf of McGrath Family Farm, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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We strongly endorse this and feel it will be greatly benefit and create strong ties within the local community encouraging healthy eating. By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. McGrath Family Farm asks that you support this policy, which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Philip McGrath
Owner / McGrath Family Farm
October 19, 2012

Dear Members of Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities and on the environment.

Governments and other large institutions both locally and nationally are adopting procurement practices which prioritize healthy, sustainably produced food purchases. For instance, in New York City, all city agencies are required to request sourcing information from contractors to assist them in procuring food grown in New York State. Mayor Bloomberg also issued an executive order establishing nutritional standards for food (2008) and beverage (2009) sales at all city-owned agencies. In Los Angeles, the County has developed and is in the process of implementing standards which promote nutritious food procurement for county facilities, while Los Angeles Unified School District implemented school meal nutrition recommendations from the October 2009 Institute of Medicine report, School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children. LAUSD also set and exceeded a goal of 50% local sourcing for produce. The policy proposed in the Local Food Procurement Goals motion would allow Los Angeles to meet and exceed the standards practiced in other large institutions, and the City should seize upon this opportunity.

Though there are many efforts to create more “sustainable” food procurement, few have gone as far in defining what that actually means as the proposed Good Food procurement policy. The criteria in the Good Food procurement policy are specific and actionable in a way that businesses can actually use. They are also meaningful, and truly support methods of food production that are less taxing on our resources and cause less pollution in our communities. NRDC is often asked to review similar policies, and this is one of the boldest, most forward thinking, and most effective ones we have seen.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income
consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. NRDC asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Dana Gunders  
Project Scientist, Food and Agriculture
September 19, 2012

On behalf of the Organic Consumers Association (OCA), I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally, and fairly produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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The Organic Consumers Association’s core goal is to ensure that all people have access to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate food. By making a commitment to adopt the comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines, which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy—one in which small and mid-sized farmers and food businesses have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. Organic Consumers Association asks that you support this policy that encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Ryan Zinn
Campaign Director
Organic Consumers Association

Organic Consumers Association
6771 S. Silver Hill Drive - Finland, MN 55603 USA - 218-226-4164
www.organicconsumers.org - email: office@organicconsumers.org - 218-353-7662 fax
September 28, 2012

Dear City Council:

On behalf of Restaurant Opportunities of Los Angeles (ROC-LA), I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally, and fairly produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

Governments and other large institutions both locally and nationally are adopting procurement practices which prioritize healthy, sustainably produced food purchases. For instance, in New York City, all city agencies are required to request sourcing information from contractors to assist them in procuring food grown in New York State. Mayor Bloomberg also issued an executive order establishing nutritional standards for food (2008) and beverage (2009) sales at all city-owned agencies. In Los Angeles, the County has developed and is in the process of implementing standards which promote nutritious food procurement for county facilities, while Los Angeles Unified School District implemented school meal nutrition recommendations from the October 2009 Institute of Medicine report, School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children. LAUSD also set and exceeded a goal of 50% local sourcing for produce. The policy proposed in the Local Food Procurement Goals motion would allow Los Angeles to meet and exceed the standards practiced in other large institutions, and the City should seize upon this opportunity.

ROC-LA's mission is to improve the lives of restaurant workers by lifting up the standards, not only the workers, but for the entire restaurant industry. In LA, we have worked to build a Restaurant Industry Roundtable consisting of restaurant employers who believe in healthy sustainable workplace practices - locally sourced food, ethical treatment of all workers along the food chain especially restaurant workers. We are encouraging the ROC-LA Industry Roundtable restaurants partners - Border Grill, LOCAL, Red Hill and Tender Greens to support policies that will help all workers and restaurants bring healthy and sustainable food to our tables.

By making a commitment to adopt the comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines, which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy - one in which small and mid-sized farmers and food businesses have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. ROC-LA asks that you support this policy that encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Cho
ROC-LA - Lead Coordinator
October 22, 2012

Dear Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of Swanton Berry Farm, we write to express our strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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Swanton Berry Farm has a long-standing commitment to promoting environmentally sustainable and socially just food systems. As a pioneer in the organic strawberry industry and as one of the only organic farms whose workers are represented by the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, we have worked to develop a business model that operates in harmony
with the land and with respect for the workers who produce our fruit and vegetable crops. We have also worked on a variety of collaborative efforts beyond the farm gate to promote healthy and sustainable food economies. Leadership by the City of Los Angeles on this issue would serve as an important model for other local governments to follow and would support the efforts of activists and practitioners in other regions, such as our own, to implement similar programs.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. Swanton Berry Farm asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

James Cochran
President

Sandy Brown
Corporate Secretary
September 28, 2012

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 11, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food Purchasing Guidelines within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally, and fairly produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

UNITE HERE Local 11 represents the men and women who work diligently behind the scenes of Los Angeles area food service and hospitality venues—corporate cafeterias, airports, universities, sports stadiums and event centers, amusement parks, cultural institutions, national parks, and hotel and casino restaurants.

We are working to transform the traditionally low-wage food service industry to an Industry that provides affordable family health care, retirement security, and respect on the job. Food workers are also working to change our food system by advocating for policies and practices that promote real, sustainable, and fair food. The proposed Good Food Purchasing Guidelines will be an important step in changing our regional food system.

UNITE HERE Local 11 asks that you support this policy that encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Thomas Walsh
President
UNITE HERE Local 11
letter of support for good food procurement motion

October 21, 2012

Dear Council members:

On behalf of The Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College (UEPI), I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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UEPI is a social change organization that strives for a more just, livable, and democratic society through research, education, community partnerships, organizing, and policy analysis and advocacy. We are committed to an inclusive approach to food justice that involves local agriculture, worker rights and environmental sustainability. Over the past 15 years, UEPI has helped pioneer a local and national farm to institution model that links local farmers to schools and other food providers. Through this work we have advised schools from the Pre-K to University level, hospitals and other institutions on policies to commit to procuring local, sustainable, and fair food, meals. UEPI is also closely involved in efforts to create and strengthen local food distribution infrastructure for the Los Angeles Region so that agencies, cities, and institutions can more easily procure good food. UEPI staff have helped advise Los Angeles County on their healthy food procurement efforts and looks forward to partnering with the Food Policy Council.
and the City to implement good food procurement policy standards that reflect the values of Los Angeles.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy — one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. UEPI asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
October 18, 2012

Dear City Council of Los Angeles:

On behalf of West Central Produce, I write to express my strong support for the City Council motion Local Food Procurement Goals (Council File 11-1678). As a leading consumer and provider of food for residents with limited incomes, the City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that city funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values. By implementing comprehensive Good Food procurement standards within City departments, the City of Los Angeles can exhibit strong leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in struggling communities. Purchasing healthy, locally produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

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West Central Produce wholeheartedly pledges its support for Good Food. The adoption of a Good Food procurement policy improves community health and welfare, environmental sustainability and local economies. All aid in ensuring the long term success of our regional food system.

By making a commitment to adopt a comprehensive Good Food procurement policy which expands upon established best practices across the country, Los Angeles has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products and limited-income consumers can access healthy food in their communities that is sustainably, fairly, and humanely produced. West Central Produce asks that you support this policy which encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Joey Grosso for Steve Goodman