



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supervisors establish Local Food Advisory Council

Group will advise Board on sustainable food production

(NAPA, Calif. --) In an effort to capitalize on community interest and momentum surround the topic of local food production and distribution, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday established the Local Food Advisory Council, adopted bylaws for the group and directed staff to solicit members for the 15-person Council.

“We’re at the place where a local advisory council is needed to set priorities and make recommendations about creating a more sustainable local food system,” County Agricultural Commissioner Dave Whitmer told the Board. “The Local Food Forum in April attracted hundreds of interested people, and we’ve had a few follow-up events over the summer. The time is right to make the effort more formal.”

According to the resolution that established the Council, the group’s charge will be to provide recommendations to the Agricultural Commissioner and the Board regarding prioritization, planning and implementation of programs to improve the environmental, economic and social sustainability of food production in Napa County, and to provide a forum for public input regarding related issues.

Local food movements are gaining popularity nationwide. Proponents say that when

- more -

Brad Wagenknecht
District 1

Mark Luce
District 2

Diane Dillon
District 3

Bill Dodd
District 4

Keith Caldwell
District 5

2-2-2-2

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food is grown, produced, distributed and consumed in the same geographic area, everyone benefits: Farmers are guaranteed a market; consumers get fresh meat, produce and dairy, which can help with obesity and other issues; the environment benefits from decreased truck traffic and the ability to rotate crops; and the local economy is strengthened by keeping the dollars local and by expanding and diversifying the agricultural base.

In some areas, institutions such as schools, hospitals, jails and retirement facilities are major consumers of local food.

The first meeting of the Council, which will meet quarterly, is tentatively set for January. The group's initial tasks are to help the County promote local food production and consumption; review County regulations to identify and address barriers and opportunities associated with local food production, distribution and access; and recommend to the Board of Supervisors' Legislative Subcommittee possible changes in State law to incorporation into the County's legislative platform.

"I am impressed with the amount of energy and momentum this effort has, both within the County staff and within the community," said Board Chair and District 3 Supervisor Diane Dillon. "The potential rewards are enormous."

The Council members will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and will include:

- One member of the Board of Supervisors;
- Five members chosen by the five municipalities
- Three members from the agricultural community
- One member representing public health and/or nutrition
- One members representing institutions such as schools, hospitals, etc.
- One member representing marketing or distribution of agricultural products
- Three representatives from the community at large

Those who are interested in serving a four-year term on the Council should complete an application, which can be downloaded at www.countyofnapa.org; click on the Committees and Commissions link on the Home page, or call (707) 253-4421 to have the application sent through the mail.

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**3-3-3-3
Supervisors establish Local Food Advisory Council**

The Board of Supervisors and staff of Napa County are dedicated to preserving and sustaining Napa County for present and future generations as a community with generous open space, a thriving agricultural industry and a quality human and natural environment. Visit us on the Web at www.countyofnapa.org.

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