

RESOLUTION NO. 11-031

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MENDOCINO COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, one in eight Americans sought food assistance at food banks last year, representing an increase of 46% since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the number of U.S. seniors living alone who seek help from food pantries and soup kitchens increased 81% from 2006 to 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 18.5% of California's children age 0 to 17 lived in families that struggled to put food on the table; and

WHEREAS, 38% of low-income Mendocino County residents were unable to afford enough food in 2007; and

WHEREAS, food-assistance organizations in Mendocino County are experiencing unprecedented levels of demand for their services; and

WHEREAS poverty and lack of access to nutritious food has been shown to result in poor health among children as evidenced by high rates of nutrition-related diseases including diabetes and obesity; and

WHEREAS, 63% of Mendocino County adults reported being overweight or obese in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County farmers sell an average of \$110 million of crops and livestock while spending an average of \$128 million to raise them, creating an average loss of \$18 million per year; and

WHEREAS, \$65 million of farmers' expenses are going to sources outside the County for farm inputs, such as fertilizer and lime, petroleum products, seed, feed and livestock; and

WHEREAS, \$210 million of the \$233 million that Mendocino County consumers spend on food each year goes to producers outside the County, resulting in a total potential wealth of \$293 million lost each year from the way food is produced and purchased; and ; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that when healthy foods are affordable and accessible people eat more of them, resulting in improved health and fewer chronic illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County has a rich history of growing its own food, a favorable climate, arable land, and hardworking, knowledgeable farmers; and

WHEREAS, if every Mendocino resident buys just 15% of his or her food directly from local farms, it will result in \$20 million of new farm revenue each year; and

WHEREAS, promoting healthy local foods may be the best path toward economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, over 210 people attended four "Local Healthy Food" Summits in Mendocino County in May 2010 and made commitments to grow and purchase more food locally;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes and supports the establishment of an independent Mendocino County Food Policy Council, which will advise the Board on food and farming matters at least twice yearly. The Food Policy Council's mission is to collaborate with institutions, businesses and the public at large to create a sustainable local food system that reduces hunger, increases health and expands economic vitality. The Food Policy Council will increase food security for all current and future generations, especially the least served, by ensuring the availability and accessibility of a wide variety of local, safe, sustainably-grown and nutritious foods.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor McCowen, seconded by Supervisor Brown, and carried this 1st day of March, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen, Pinches, Smith, and Hamburg
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

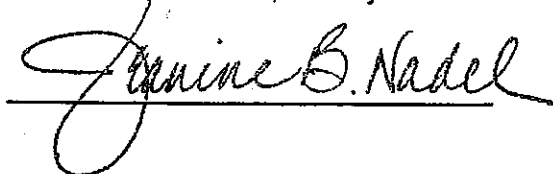
ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board


Deputy

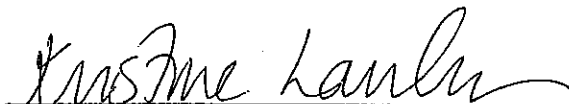

KENDALL SMITH, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JEANINE B. NADEL, County Counsel


Deputy

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board


Deputy