CA State Board of
Food and Agriculture
CRAIG McNAMARA, PRESIDENT

Resolution On
Access to Safe, Healthy Food for All Californians

WHEREAS, almost 14 percent of Californians are "food insecure," according to the United States Department of Agriculture;

WHEREAS, a positive linkage exists between improving the health of low-income communities and increased consumption of healthful foods;

WHEREAS, California farmers and ranchers produce a remarkable abundance of safe and healthy food;

WHEREAS, California ranks next to last in state participation within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

WHEREAS, federal food nutrition assistance funding generates as much as $9 of economic activity for every for $5 in new benefits;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 700 certified farmers markets in California providing a wide diversity of agricultural products and implementing innovative programs to increase food access to low-income individuals;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the California State Board of Food and Agriculture has determined that California's farmers and ranchers are a vital partner in expanding access to safe and healthy food for all Californians;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board has also found and encourages a variety of market outlets – farmer's markets, community sponsored agriculture (CSAs), farm stands, and others venues to provide increased consumer access to statewide food production;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board encourages and advocates federal and state grant eligibility for use of nutrition incentive programs at farmers' markets and other venues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board further encourages expanded market venue access for participants in state and federal nutrition assistance programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board recognizes California's farmers and ranchers for their ongoing commitment to social sustainability and stewardship initiatives and encourages other sectors of the food delivery systems to partner in addressing food access barriers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board calls upon the Governor, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Health and Human Services Agency, and concerned stakeholders to resolve the burden of bureaucratic delivery that impedes the full implementation of nutrition assistance programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the State Board declares accordingly that it is the object of this body as it relates to the California Agricultural Vision to:

- Reduce hunger and malnutrition, chronic diseases and health care costs associated with poor diets;
- Expand statewide participation in food assistance programs and increase their efficiency;
- Expand markets for California grown fruit, vegetables, grains, dairy and meat;
- Assure that food safety practices result in the highest level of food safety without compromising environmental quality; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, CRAIG MCNAMARA, President of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, do hereby authorize and approve this resolution on this 25 day of May 2011.

Craig McNamara

CRAIG MCNAMARA
President
California State Board of Food and Agriculture

ATTEST:

JOSHUA EDDY
Executive Director
California State Board of Food and Agriculture