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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2011

Local Food Advisory Council is up and running
Group will shepherd sustainable food production in Napa County

(NAPA, Calif. --) At its first meeting in February, the newly established Local Food Advisory Council elected certified nutrition educator and former St. Helena Farmers' Market Manager Karen Schuppert to serve as Council Chair. Joanna Winter was elected Vice Chair. Yesterday, the group reached a full complement when the Board of Supervisors appointed the final two members of the 15-person Council.

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 include in the County's legislative platform.

"I am honored and ecstatic to be working with such a talented group of local food devotees from all areas of Napa County," Schuppert said. "We know there is a lot of community interest in local food issues, and I am hopeful that anyone interested in affecting change will actively participate through our subcommittees, once we have them established."

The Council members appointed by the Board of Supervisors are:

- Diane Dillon, representing the Board of Supervisors

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2-2-2-2

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- Kathy Arizon, City of American Canyon
- Lynn Brown, City of Calistoga
- Juliana Inman, City of Napa
- Annette Shafer, City of St. Helena
- Kara Scoggins, Town of Yountville
- Mark Dommen, agricultural community
- Peter Jacobsen, agricultural community
- Kristina Muelrath, agricultural community
- Karen Schuppert, public health and/or nutrition
- Lisa Bissell Paulson, institutions
- Ted Hall, marketing or distribution of agricultural products
- Michael Cromwell, community at large
- Holli Scheumann, community at large
- Joanna Winter, community at large

In addition, several Napa County department heads will serve as ex officio members of the Council, including Public Health Officer Karen Smith, M.D.; Director of Conservation, Development and Planning Hillary Gitelman; Director of Environmental Management Steve Lederer; Director of the Napa County University of California Cooperative Extension Dr. Monica Cooper; and Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Dave Whitmer.

The Council's charge is to provide recommendations to the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Board of Supervisors 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 on related issues.

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

At the first meeting in February, the members took an Oath of Office; drew lots to determine the length of their respective terms; and shared individual interests, backgrounds, experiences, hopes and dreams for a future sustainable local food system. At its next meeting,

3-3-3-3

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on Friday, March 25, the Council will participate in a facilitated strategic planning exercise to prioritize and coordinate the work ahead.

For more information about the Local Food Advisory Council, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Sommer Woolley at (707) 253-4357, or by email at

Sommer.Woolley@countyofnapa.org.

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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