HEALTHY CAFETERIA (HALL OF ADMINISTRATION)

With the County’s emphasis on helping County employees get healthy and tackling the obesity problem that is prevalent throughout the County of Los Angeles, providing healthy eating options for County employees is important.

In this regard, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) provides wellness programs to all County employees to promote healthy lifestyles and weight management. Wellness fairs, health risk assessments, disease management programs, walking programs, exercise classes, webinars, and educational luncheons are all part of DHR’s Countywide Wellness programs. DHR has partnered with national organizations, American Cancer Society and American Diabetes Associations, to provide nutritional programs and diabetes prevention and awareness campaigns.

Further, the Board of Supervisors recently declared June as “Wellness Month” in 2011 for the second year; and, DHR launched the “2011 Countywide Fitness Challenge” and “Biggest Loser” contest. The Fitness Challenge is aimed at getting employees

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active and includes weekend activities, such as hiking, fitness power walks, bicycle fun rides, healthy cooking demonstrations, and farmers’ market tours.

The time is right to review nutritional and healthy alternatives of food and beverages offered in the cafeteria at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration since the current food vendor’s contract has been on a month to month holdover status since September 2009. One way to expand the current wellness program is to expand healthy eating options at County cafeterias for employees at work.

This Board continues to provide leadership in Countywide employee wellness by promoting healthy lifestyles for employees. In light of this growing trend in employee obesity and chronic disease, this type of progressive response is required in order to continue to stand as a model for other organizations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. assess and report on the advantages of providing food service by multiple food vendors, instead of a single operator;
2. perform a feasibility study to determine the cost to re-design and build-out the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for multiple food vendors; and
3. report back to the Board with the findings within 60 days.

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MDA:lgh