

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND SHEILA KUEHL

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Support for the Restaurant Workforce and Vulnerable Communities

The recently announced restrictions on dining establishments are of great concern to Los Angeles County given that restaurants are the backbone of our economy. Although COVID-19 cases are increasing and safeguards are necessary, it is incumbent on government to provide support to those industries and their employees severely impacted. The CARES Act funding offers opportunities to support restaurants and provide healthy, cultural-competent meals to vulnerable populations, especially those who are under health orders to self-quarantine as a result of testing positive for COVID-19 or having been exposed to someone who has. The County's Food Security Branch is in the process of preparing a response to the Board motion of August 4 seeking development of a program to provide food delivery to this very population and food support for this population, but there is urgency to continue identifying possible programs.

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| KUEHL | _____ |
| HAHN | _____ |
| BARGER | _____ |
| SOLIS | _____ |

The CARES Act funding has been fully allocated, but it is possible that some funding may be unspent or more may be made available before the end of the year. There is also an urgent and growing need to identify additional funding to meet the food insecurity needs of our communities. If that is the case, the nonprofit organization World's Central Kitchen (WCK) offers a unique opportunity to activate restaurants and kitchens in California to feed those who are vulnerable, including those who are home and lack financial resources and the ability to prepare their own meals. With philanthropic support, WCK has already provided over 20 million nutritional meals in its effort to feed Californians through its "Restaurants for the People" program. Restaurants for the People aims to keep the devastated restaurant industry afloat by getting restaurant and food workers re-hired and able to provide for their families, and by reinvigorating our agricultural communities hit hard by shuttering restaurants. Besides getting critically needed meals to those experiencing food insecurity, the program resonates widely throughout the economy, including continued employment for restaurant industry workers, support for the farms and producers that serve the restaurants, the shipping and distribution companies that transport the food, as well as bolstering a fast-depleting tax base to help keep the County's economy as strong as possible during the crisis.

There are many more residents in Los Angeles County than WCK can serve. By taking advantage of the "on the ground" success and expertise of nonprofit organizations like WCK, Los Angeles County has the opportunity to not only reinvigorate the County's restaurant and agricultural industries but also to get thousands of its workers rehired and once again providing for their families –thereby substantially

reducing local government COVID-19 mitigation costs, and helping to ensure as quick an economic recovery as possible.

WE ,THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to explore the availability up to \$10 million of any unspent or future CARES Act funding or any other available funds to enter into a sole source contract with World Central Kitchen that would fund restaurants across Los Angeles County to provide meals to vulnerable communities, including those who are under health orders to self-quarantine and who lack the financial resources and ability to prepare their own meals.

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