



NEWS RELEASE

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PARTIES AGREE TO FMCS REQUEST FOR SECOND CONTRACT EXTENSION IN SUPERMARKET TALKS

LOS ANGELES, CA— The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) announced today that the parties involved in contract negotiations between local unions of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and Southern California supermarket chains have agreed to a second FMCS request to extend their talks beyond the midnight expiration of the current extension.

The parties have agreed to extend their contracts and continue negotiations to April 9, 2007 and day to day thereafter with a 72-hour notice of cancellation. Based on the level of progress achieved in the ongoing discussions, the parties have agreed to continue the mutually agreed upon ground rules which require that they refrain from disclosing the dates and locations of negotiating sessions to the news media and to refrain from commenting to the media about the content of the ongoing contract talks. Those ground rules have succeeded in enabling the negotiators to remain focused on the issues under discussion at the bargaining table instead of responding to media coverage.

Separate contract negotiations involve UFCW Locals, including 135, 324, 770, 1036, 1167, 1428 and 1442 and Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons locations in Southern California.

The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and 69 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.