



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PARTIES AGREE TO FMCS GROUND RULES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUPERMARKET TALKS**

**LOS ANGELES, CA**—All parties involved in Southern California supermarket collective bargaining talks agreed today to a request by federal mediators to 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.

The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), which is assisting the parties in their negotiations, said the mutually agreed-upon restrictions are intended to help keep negotiators focused on issues under discussion at the bargaining table instead of responding to media coverage. The parties have agreed to work with the mediators in developing a mutually agreeable meeting schedule.

Previously, at FMCS request, the parties agreed to continue negotiations and extend their contracts to midnight, March 19, 2007. Separate contract negotiations involve seven UFCW local unions, including 135, 324, 770, 1036, 1167, 1428 and 1442 and Albertsons and Ralphs and Vons locations throughout 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.