



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# News Release

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**Contact:**

Phil Pitchford  
Communications Officer  
951-826-5975  
[ppitchford@riversideca.gov](mailto:ppitchford@riversideca.gov)

## **GrowRIVERSIDE Local Food Policy Conference March 21-22**

*Speakers at third annual event include Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – GrowRIVERSIDE, the annual conference that ties together Riverside's local food movement, farms and other businesses, and the city's culinary community, returns for a third year on March 21-22, this time on the campus of UC Riverside.

The conference offers an inspiring and thought-provoking discussion regarding how Riverside can further develop its local food system to create jobs and economic activity, increases access to nutritious foods, and strengthen communities for a more resilient and sustainable future.

The GrowRIVERSIDE conference is a great opportunity for consumers, community advocates, policy makers, students and educators, foodies, entrepreneurs, farmers, health care providers and anyone interested in local food systems. Tickets are selling quickly. Register today at [growriverside2016.com](http://growriverside2016.com).

“GrowRIVERSIDE really showcases the progress and potential of our local food scene,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “This event is all about growing and marketing fresh fruits and vegetables by Riversiders and for Riversiders.”

Topics that will be covered at GrowRIVERSIDE include:

- how to create vibrant local food systems.
- how to generate opportunities for economic development and community engagement.
- efforts to advance public policy related to food and agriculture.
- a venue for stakeholders to network.
- undergraduate and graduate research projects in food and agriculture.

Immediately following the conference, a Citrus Circle Farm-to-Fork Dinner from UCR's Dining Services will showcase the campus' Seeds of Change food initiative to serve delicious food that is

healthy, sustainable, and socially responsible. On March 22, an optional one-day Farm Field Trip will highlight Riverside's agricultural assets.

Keynote speakers for GrowRIVERSIDE include:

- Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture.
- Dr. Glenda Humiston, Vice President of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- A.G Kawamura, a third-generation urban farmer and former state Secretary of Agriculture.
- Michael Shuman, author, attorney, and expert on community economics.

"GrowRIVERSIDE offers something for everyone, from family farmers like myself to people interested in buying local food," said City Councilman Chris MacArthur, who represents the Arlington Heights Greenbelt, where local citrus has been grown for generations. "If you have an interest in healthy and delicious food that can boost our local economy, GrowRIVERSIDE is the place to be."

Topics for break-out sessions include: Farming the 21st Century, Securing Capital to Grow Agribusiness, Connecting Local and Health, Resources for Food & Agriculture Production, GIS Mapping to Connect Growers and Landowners, Community Engagement Workshop, Farming on Less than 10 Acres, Ag Land Lease Agreements, Local Food Procurement Policies, Career Opportunities in Food & Agriculture.

The conference is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 21 at UC Riverside's Highlander Union Building. The Citrus Circle Farm-to-Fork Dinner catered by UC Riverside's Dining Services is from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the UC Riverside Alumni & Visitors Center. A separate ticket is required to attend the dinner.

The tour of the Riverside's agricultural assets on March 22 includes: the Arlington Heights Greenbelt and Gage Canal, UCR R'Garden and Agricultural Operations, Fox Farm, Unity Farms, and the Eastside HEAL Zone project.

Ticket prices for the conference range from \$55 to \$90. They can be purchased at <http://growriverside2016.com/growriverside-3rd-annual-conference/>.

The aims of GrowRIVERSIDE are explained in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbI52GBxXms>

More information is available at [questions@growriverside2016.com](mailto:questions@growriverside2016.com) or 951-826-5265.