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Grocery union, supermarkets to extend contract through end of March

By P.J. Huffstutter, Los Angeles Times

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The grocery workers union and Southern California's three leading supermarkets agreed to extend their main labor contract through the end of the month. The contract previously had been set to expire Sunday night.

Labor and grocery officials declined to comment Friday on the specific issues being negotiated, saying only that the discussions included employee wages, healthcare benefits and pensions.

A spokeswoman for Ralphs said both sides also agreed to meet several more times over the next few weeks to continue negotiating.

The contract covers about 62,000 Southern California grocery workers at Ralphs, Albertsons and Vons/Pavilions stores.

The workers are covered under a contract reached in 2007 with seven United Food and Commercial Workers locals.

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