



**Food System Collaborative  
April 5, 2011  
Sacramento Food Bank**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Participants: (see below)**

**Outcomes:**

The meeting agenda included four sections: presentation from **Craig McNamara, president of the California Board of Food and Agriculture**, a presentation of the **Hunger and Homelessness Report from Bob Erlenbusch**, small group discussions of **the mission, vision, and values of the FSC**, and **FSC member announcements**.

**Craig McNamara, president of the California Board of Food and Agriculture and owner of Sierra Orchards, gave a presentation on the state of agriculture in California and specifically in our region.** He also discussed the work of the Center for Land-Based Learning (CLBL). The full presentation can be accessed on our website by clicking [here](#). The post-presentation discussion covered:

- Challenges: University of California budget cuts that affect our ability to do research; having enough funding for operations and programs; lack of cohesion at the state level; and showing the community that the work being done towards a more regional food system is important.
- CLBL is making the connection to healthy eating and childhood obesity by working to raise consciousness about these issues. This will help raise awareness of the need to support farmers since they provide us with healthy food.
- CLBL will look into partnering with Los Rios Community College system for some of its educational programs.
- UC-Davis tracked SLEWS graduates for two years and saw that they were making better choices in their education and careers, and their nutrition choices were better as well.
- New farmers are moving toward urban agriculture (rooftop, urban plots, etc.) and smaller pieces of land. We need to continue to be creative in finding ways for new farmers to obtain land.
- Many people want to farm but can't because it's not economically viable. We don't have a ready answer for that, but we know it will come from the nonprofit or private sectors, or from individuals, rather than from the government. Consumer awareness is higher now (e.g. there are more farmers' markets and CSAs) and this helps bring more money to farmers.
- There is a Troops to Teachers program for returning veterans; perhaps there is potential for a Troops to Farmers program.
- The STRIPE program at Los Rios provides training in other life/job skills so a person can have a career that doesn't require a two- or four-year degree.
- Our new farmer training program at CLBL will make small partner-farming operations scalable, but it takes partnerships like ours. For example, the farmer involved in our pilot partnership has no

equipment, so he uses Sierra Orchard's equipment. This partnership saves the small farmer a lot of money and allows him to invest in other areas of his operation.

- CLBL will investigate at sharemilking models, i.e. formalized contract between old and new farmer with a mentoring process.

After Craig's presentation, **Bob Erlenbusch from the Sacramento Housing Alliance presented the 2010 Hunger and Food Insecurity Report done by the Sacramento Hunger Coalition.** The full presentation can be accessed on our website by clicking [here](#). The post-presentation discussion covered:

- In Sacramento, ability to use CalFresh (food stamps) in restaurants is very limited. Subway and a few other restaurants accept CalFresh, but there are only about 12 restaurants total in the county that accept CalFresh.
- While this report discusses food insecurity, the word "hungry" was used during data gathering as an easier translation for those who were interviewed.
- The Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op offers 10% discount to those who use EBT. It seems that if a small operation like the Co-op can offer such a discount, then other grocery stores could as well.
- Significant outreach is needed for the CalFresh program: over 50% of eligible residents are not receiving it. The Sacramento Hunger Coalition should encourage or try to connect with CalFresh to do outreach at any events that they have that may be relevant to the program. Also, there is confusion around the new name, so all organizations with clients who use it or would be eligible for it should promote as much as they can.
- If you are having problems with your clients accessing CalWin benefits, please let Bob know, as they are working on an initiative to address these issues.
- Update on CalFresh acceptance at Sacramento farmers markets: Dan Best, manager of most of the farmer's markets in Sacramento County, is now considering opening his markets to CalFresh usage. It might not happen before all markets open for the season, but it is expected to happen this year.

**Outcomes of the first Food System Collaborative Governance Workgroup meeting.** The vision and mission statement created in that first meeting are:

#### **Vision Statement (Draft)**

We envision a regional food system that embraces our diverse cultural heritage and unique agricultural assets to provide healthful food for all in a secure, economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially equitable manner.

#### **Mission Statement (Very Draft)**

The Food System Collaborative is a forum that gives a voice to the diverse efforts working on food access, education, and agricultural sustainability in the six-county region. We are a regional clearinghouse and hub, facilitating network opportunities by convening, advocating, building consensus, and leveraging efforts to promote and advance an inclusive regional food system.

These drafts will be further refined at the next Governance Workgroup meeting.

**To help develop a values statement, small groups broke off to brainstorm on words or phrases that represented the values of the Food System Collaborative.** The whole group reconvened and shared the results. Concerns were raised that many of the words could be applied to our vision of the food

system, but not necessarily to the role of the Collaborative. The values considered to be included in the values statement need to be about the outcomes of the Collaborative and the role of the Collaborative - how we work together to reach those outcomes and other values that we are striving for. Based on those comments, the values were reviewed and the group chose which applied specifically to the work of the Food System Collaborative (highlighted):

### Values

- Vibrant and productive farmland
- Inclusive
- Affordable
- Integrity
- Participatory
- Social equity/justice
- Systemic
- Fair & reasonable
- Accessibility
- Interdependent
- Responsible
- Culturally sensitive
- Transparent
- Holistic
- Changing behavior
- Healthy food as a human right
- Capacity building
- Incentivizing
- Diverse
- Youth-inclusion
- Land-use priority
- Champion
- Educational
- Radical
- Empowering
- Bridging
- Community-building
- Collaborative
- Inspiration
- Fun
- Competitive
- Consistent
- Connecting
- Healing
- Growth
- Sustainability
- Opportunity
- Cooperative
- Democratic

- Mentoring/Encouraging
- Cultural Preservation
- Indigenous
- Self-sufficiency

The meeting ended with **member announcements**, all of which are posted on the [FSC Calendar](#):

- Next meeting of the Governance Workgroup is April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30am at Valley Vision. If you are interested in participating, contact Adriane at [adriane.lepage@valleyvision.org](mailto:adriane.lepage@valleyvision.org).
- The next meeting of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture is April 27<sup>th</sup> and will be focused on food access. The meeting will be at the CFDA office at 1220 N Street in Sacramento. An agenda will be posted at [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/State\\_Board/Agendas-2011.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/State_Board/Agendas-2011.html).
- Ag Sustainability Committee will be meeting Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1-3pm at Valley Vision to discuss policy issues related to the work of the FSC as well as an advocacy role for the FSC.
- The Food Charter Sub-Committee Meeting is immediately after this meeting.
- Day on the Farm at Soil Born is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in having a table or sponsoring, contact Melanie Troy ([mtroy@soilborn.org](mailto:mtroy@soilborn.org)).
- Sunday Suppers at Soil Born: April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 29<sup>th</sup>, and June 26<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.soilborn.org](http://www.soilborn.org) for more information.
- Farm stand hosted by SLUG at American Legion High School, 35<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, every Thursday from 12-6.
- Pesticide Watch Education Fund – Our annual conference is April 16th in Salinas. If you are interested in attending, visit [www.pesticidewatch.org](http://www.pesticidewatch.org).
- Food Fighters is having a “foodie” event. \$100 per seat. It will be a competition by four well-known local chefs. June 6<sup>th</sup> is the first event. Location is pending. Contact [tina@uptownstudios.net](mailto:tina@uptownstudios.net) for more information.
- Co-op having a Farm to Table Spring Feast on May 10th. For more information and to reserve your spot, visit [www.sacfoodcoop.com](http://www.sacfoodcoop.com).
- ECOS: April 23<sup>rd</sup> Southside Park Earth Day celebration. If your organization would like to have a booth, contact ECOS for more information.
- April 13<sup>th</sup> Earth Day event at Theodore Judah. Contact [thinkverde@yahoo.com](mailto:thinkverde@yahoo.com) if you would like to attend.
- Alchemist CDC is having their annual fundraiser, Food, Fun(ds) and Farm-stands, on June 9th at 40 Acres Art Gallery. Cost is \$20. Visit [www.alchemistcdc.org](http://www.alchemistcdc.org) for more information.
- Homeless Connect is on May 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, visit <http://sacramentostepsforward.com/events.php>.
- Next meeting of Food System Collaborative is June 7<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-12PM, location TBD. Focus will be on school gardens and school nutrition.
- Broadway Business Association can assist/sponsor community events, so please contact Bill Harrell at [bill@haparchitects.com](mailto:bill@haparchitects.com) if interested.

If your organization is having an event that you would like posted on the website, please email [adriane.lepage@valleyvision.org](mailto:adriane.lepage@valleyvision.org).

#### **Participants:**

Danielle Boule – Alchemist/UC-Davis

Josh Cadji – Sacramento League of Urban Gardeners  
Scott Clark – Local Government Commission  
Paul Cultrera – Sacramento Natural Foods Cooperative  
Frances Di Cristina – Food Bank of Yolo County  
Mary Helen Doherty – Alchemist  
Dawn Dunlap – Health Education Council  
Bob Erlenbusch – Sacramento Housing Alliance  
Melissa Guajardo – Soil Born Farms  
Allen Gunderson – Alchemist  
Bill Harrell – Harrell Architectural Partnerships/Broadway Business Association  
Adriana Jones – Sacramento Natural Foods Cooperative  
Trish Kelly – Applied Development Economics  
Kamaljeet Khaira – California Department of Public Health  
Lisa Kresge – California Institute for Rural Studies  
Robyn Krock – Valley Vision  
Molly Lawrence – Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services  
Adriane Lepage – Valley Vision  
Cathy LeBlanc – Camptonville Community Partnership  
Brandon Louie – Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs  
Bill Maynard – Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition  
Helen Magnuson – Community Member  
Craig McNamara – California State Board of Food and Agriculture  
Tish Norris – Health Education Council  
Paul Philley – SMAQMD  
Carolyn Ramirez – Office of Congresswoman Matsui  
Tina Reynolds – Uptown Studios  
Asael Sala – Pesticide Watch  
Paul Towers – Pesticide Watch  
Jeff VonKaenel – Sacramento News & Review  
Rabbi David Wechsler-Azen – Fresh Producers