



Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative

Summary of Meetings of the Food Access, Ag Sustainability, and Education Workgroups of the Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative

Valley Vision

November 30, December 7 & 9, 2009

Participants: See below

The three workgroups of the Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative—food access, education, and ag sustainability—met in November and December. Below are key outcomes from each meeting, followed by next steps.

Food Access Workgroup

November 30, 2009

Key Outcomes/Decisions:

- Shawn Harrison of Soil Born Farms and Dave Runsten of CAFF gave an update on the planning of the food aggregation and distribution hub. Partners are currently working on developing a business plan. In the process of developing the business plan, the nature and structure of the facility will be defined. A brief white paper is being developed that will offer the basic ideas about the food hub.
- After brainstorming all possible points of access to healthy foods, the group narrowed the list to focus on priorities for mapping. Priorities include: grocery stores, farmer's markets, farm stands, institutional points, and community/school gardens. Additionally, the group felt that corner stores should be included since they can be easily converted to carrying fresh produce, and are often the main source of groceries for many families.
- A robust discussion took place about what the group means in focusing on "healthy" foods—whether we focus on local only or fresh produce in general. The arguments can be summarized as: a) Locally-grown produce is healthier because it's riper and fresher, and if we're going to help people shift to healthier foods, we should give them the most nutritious food possible; and b) Sourcing that much local food requires a shift in production for many growers. We should create the demand for the food before making that shift. The group decided to pick this conversation up again at a future meeting.

Education Workgroup

December 7, 2009

Key Outcomes/Decisions

- The group considered its role in the Collaborative, discussing the merits of being a) in a supportive role (only) to the other two working groups, or b) a separate topic/issue area. Rather than choose just one, the group has adopted goals in both areas. The nature of the goals and actions taken moving forward will help define the group.
- The group has interest in supporting a program to increase access to healthy foods in school lunches and agreed there should be both urban and rural pilot programs. (Potential pilots: schools in Sacramento City Unified School District and in Yuba City Unified School District)
- The group is also interested in developing a goal that supports community/consumer local/healthy food education. In particular, developing educational materials to go with the new access points created by the food access group was discussed.
- Consideration was given to including youth organizing as part of the school lunch pilot programs. There are existing programs at area schools with which the group could connect.
- We need to do an assessment of the status of current discussions about these issues in the districts being considered for pilot programs.

Ag Sustainability Workgroup

December 9, 2009

Key Outcomes/Decisions

- After discussing the current status of the Williamson Act and other actions being taken throughout the region, the group agreed to consider two strategies to address the lack of subventions due to budget cuts: 1) send a letter to the Governor outlining how and why we are in support of re-investing in the Act, and 2) consider local strategies for addressing the economic concerns to farmers and counties resulting from the budget cuts.
- David Shabazian of SACOG presented current actions SACOG is taking through the RUCS project to uncover regulatory impediments to farmers, including farmer interviews and surveys. The group discussed several different ways that the Collaborative could support technical assistance for farmers:
 1. Support creation of a state level ombudsman. This person would create protocols for meeting state level regulations.
 2. Encourage creation of Ag Resource Centers. Sutter County is creating a model that can be duplicated elsewhere. The Ag Resource Center being created in Sutter County will house technical assistance representatives from all relevant agencies and departments, provide educational resources, and offer office space to farmers and ranchers starting incubator businesses.
 3. Create an ombudsman to work with farmers and ranchers on local regulatory and policy issues.
 4. Create uniform codes and ordinances across the region.

5. Work on developing markets for small growers; in particular, growers with language barriers. Look at what barriers exist to accessing current markets.

Next Steps:

- With further direction from these meetings, Valley Vision will continue conducting research to fill in the gaps in information/knowledge needed to move forward with the workgroups' goals.
- A meeting of the full Food System Collaborative will take place Tuesday, January 12, 2010 from 8:30am-noon at Sierra Health Foundation.

Food Access Workgroup Participants:

Nicholas Barry, Office of Senator Steinberg
Kelly Bennett Wofford, Kaiser Permanente
Paul Cultrera, Sacramento Natural Foods Coop
Mary Helen Doherty, Alchemist, CDC
Shawn Harrison, Soil Born Farms
Charles Mason, Ubuntu Green
Bill Maynard, Sacramento Community Garden Coalition
Andrew McLeod, Cooperative specialist
Bill Mueller, Valley Vision
Libby O'Sullivan, UC Davis, SAREP
Paul Philley, SMAQMD
Dave Runsten, CAFF
David Shabazian, SACOG
Joany Titherington, Oak Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Paul Towers, Pesticide Watch
Rabbi David Wechsler-Azen, Fresh Producers
Facilitator: Robyn Krock, Valley Vision

Education Workgroup Participants:

Dawn Dunlap, Health Education Council
Nadene Hayes, Yuba City Unified School District
Mary Kimball, Center for Land-Based Learning
Charles Mason, Jr., Ubuntu Green
Bill Maynard, Sacramento Community Gardens
Andrew McLeod, Cooperative specialist
Bill Mueller, Valley Vision
Constance Slider, CORE
Brian Price, CORE
Julia Thomas, Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op
Janet Zeller, Soil Born Farms, Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op
Facilitator: Robyn Krock, Valley Vision

Ag Sustainability Workgroup Participants:

Maxine Clark, Soil Born Farms

Paul Cultrera, Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op

Mary Helen Doherty, Alchemist CDC

Josh Cadjie, Alchemist CDC

Allen Gunderson, Community member

Shawn Harrison, Soil Born Farms

Andrew McLeod, Cooperative specialist

Libby O'Sullivan, UC Davis, SAREP

Kat Ortiz, Valley Vision

Nate Palmer, Yolo County Supervisor Duane Chamberlain's Office

Dave Pegos, CA Food & Ag Secretary Kawamura's Office

Sarah Her, CA Food & Ag Secretary Kawamura's Office

Larry Rolston, FreeHeart Farms, Capay Valley Vision

David Shabazian, SACOG

Randy Stannard, Soil Born Farms

Paul Tower, Pesticide Watch

Robyn Krock, Valley Vision

Facilitator: Bill Mueller, Valley Vision