



Mission: Promote a sustainable food system that is equitable, profitable, resilient, and health-promoting in the County of San Luis Obispo.

Vision Statement: San Luis Obispo has a thriving, sustainable, and local food economy, and every resident has access to fresh, nutritious food without compromising the ability of the system to meet the needs of future generations.

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2020

3:30pm – 5:00pm

CA Food Policy Councils Quarterly Meeting

Trends during COVID

- Food bank - increased demand, increased food and need for more storage space
- Disruption in food supply chain
- Spikes in COVID of farm workers
- Increases in CSA's, more farms starting CSA programs

Roles of Food Policy Councils

- Food system connectors
 - Space for collaboration
 - gathering/sharing resources
 - Food distribution
 - Supporting farmers & farmers markets
 - Advocacy, letter support campaigns, political leaders connections, CALFRESH sign ups

Food Policy Council Impacts

- Access to new finances

- Marin Community Foundation gave \$ to Marin Council
- Del Norte: famine to feast
 - Community development block grant
 - FEMA emergency food and CARES act
 - PPP diverted \$ for food
- Humboldt: regional \$
- Pajaro Valley: use small local grants to pivot funds to general operating costs
- Funds coming in need projects ready to go
 - Take advantage of leniencies during recovery to move quickly on goals
 - CAFF emergency funds - overwhelming requests, especially farmers of color
 - LAFPC - more conversations on food equity & justice
 - Implementation and framing their work in terms of COVID in order to garner more support, funding

Farmers Markets

- LA: S. LA markets had closed before COVID
 - Permitting
 - Public vs private space
 - Security and management
 - COVID exacerbated
- Many FM closed during COVID
 - Need to look ahead to what will be needed
 - Disparity to where markets are closed
 - Economic disadvantaged &/or community of color
 - Capacity challenges in rural areas
 - Struggle to advocate for themselves
- Market managers training documents and tools
 - FPC's can advocate to city's to get use of public space because of social distancing requirements
 - Helping markets get PPE
 - Some PR challenges as to whether farmers markets should be open because of perception that they are special events rather than food access
 - Push back on mask weaving
- How to tell new story about farmers markets - they are essential, not just for elite
 - New videos for FM Alliance on FM
- Some organizations that run markets have had big financial loss
 - Beginning to track CALFRESH & market match trends due to COVID
 - Market match funds may dissipate quicker because of increased use

Food Banks

- CA association of FB's
 - Before COVID 8% food insecurity
 - 73% increase emergency food request across CA
 - Volunteers are mainly of vulnerable age
 - Reached out to state for funding and volunteer staffing
 - Partner organizations help out (National Guard), county employees furloughed and reassigned to FB's
 - Increased funding for emergency food boxes
 - COVID impact survey
 - Wrap around services impacted by COVID
 - Disaster funding (wildfires, PG&E shut offs)
 - SNAP - pandemic ebt, waivers for sign ups, SNAP sign up help have better acceptance

Food Chain Disruptions

- Capay Valley Farm Shop
 - Pivoted corp CSA's to other hubs that service individuals
 - Pie Ranch - emergency food hub
 - Slow Food East Bay ramped up food hub in response to COVID
 - Idea for several counties to work together to form viable food hub
- CAFF: matchmaking farmers with buyers
 - Accountability - push local restaurants to purchase locally (Great Plates)