



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.

Public Meeting			
Subject:	Resilience and Response to COVID-19		
Facilitator:	SLO FSC, Ellen Burke	Meeting Date:	2020-11-10
Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom	Time:	9:00a-10:30a
Attendees:	Claire Mote, Ellen Burke, Jeff Wade, Andrea Keisler, Christine Nelson, Jessica Devereaux, Joel Diring, Julia Armanino, Lynette Sonne, Marilyn Tseng, Kim Chartrand, Harlee Clarke, Kylie Hensley, Patti Toews, Steven Marx, Brent Burchett, Celeste Geary, Jeff Nielsen, Jen Miller, Melanie Wong, Melissa Hanson, Reni Boncheva, Dylan Jones, Emily Wilson, Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, Erin Primer, Felipe Gonzalez, Fernanda Lucas, Ian Moore, Shannon Klisch, Simone Horst, Stephanie Teaford, Wes Carlson		

Agenda

- 9:00- 9:20 Introductions and Announcements
- 9:20- 10:00 Panel Discussion: Resilience and Response to COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County
- 10:00-10:20 Q&A with Panel
- 10:20-10:30 Discussion/ networking opportunities

Announcements

SFSC:

- Working Groups- CalFresh Alliance, EBT at Farmer's Market

Christine Nelson:

- Cal Poly Local Food System/Policy Development

Melissa Hanson:

- California Seaweed Festival next week

Lynette Stone:

- Pop-up events at farms to promote local foods, 20/21 Farm Trail Drive

Jen Miller:

- CalFresh: Market Match- use of benefits at participating Famer's Markets; Pandemic EBT also avail.

Speakers

- Brent Burchett SLO County Farm Bureau
- Bob Roos North County Farmers Markets
- Andrea Keisler Food Bank Coalition
- Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia Promotores
- Felipe Gonzalez County of San Luis Obispo
- Erin Primer San Luis Coastal USD

Panel Discussion

Brent Burchett:

- Essential workers lack access to resources, no food production w/o Ag workers
- COVID has allowed community to renew appreciation for food and food production, empty grocery store shelves= wake-up call for community
- SLO produces more food than we can eat, so we're able to help share resources
- Learning which crops to rotate to meet food needs
- CA top producer but not receiving aid like we should, typically aid supports big crops like corn, soy, etc.

Andrea Keisler:

- Pre-COVID19: 30,000 ind/month, 170lbs food delivered/month; During pandemic: delivering food 300% more, 50,000 ind/month; increased community need during pandemic



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- SLO Food Bank partnered with County to serve people who are home-bound; 50 led to 1,000 households served
- Very dynamic situation, each month brings something new
- Food donations increased at first then dropped dramatically when stories were out of the news
- Food donations have dropped with lack of events or food-drives- 650,000lbs reduction= new focus on food procurement (w/ Federal Funding but wanting to purchase locally)
- Seeking more grants to keep programs going

Erica Ruvalcaba:

- Serves Latino community to ensure resources are known and used
- Many have lost jobs or face reduced working hours
- Collaborate with other agencies to support Latino community that did not receive stimulus package, \$300-\$500
- Partnering with County to educate Latino community on COVID19: masks, food banks, emotional support- want to ensure the community is receiving the right information
- Use infographics to help educate how to eat to prevent chronic diseases

Felipe Gonzalez:

- Information and resources to all communities on Central Coast
- Focus on pertinent information in relation to COVID19 for communities of color, high instances of COVID among these communities, disproportionate impact of COVID19
- Confidentiality is a big importance for farm workers (Erica mentioned this as well with FoodBank pickups)
- Encouraging testing, social distancing, limiting social gatherings, personal hygiene, etc.
- Partnering with Dignity Health for medical consults
- Resources to support home-quarantine

Bob Roos:

- Smaller markets (participants) are easier to social distance
- Some markets have to limit people to ensure social distancing
- Public Works has allowed some markets to expand
- County employees acting as volunteers to encourage social distancing and masks
- Mask compliance seem to be the biggest challenge, using signs to enforce compliance

Erin Primer:

- Almost 25,000 meals a week during pandemic, typically what you see in a month in schools (pre-COVID19)
- Local Procurement and Plant-Forward Options: climate friendly foods focus
- 35% of orders for Plant-forward Meal Kit
- Shifting to virtual promotions with Bitmoji classrooms for nutrition/cooking education
- Can have a “rebirth” of school food; our choices matter

Next Meeting

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PREPARED BY: Harlee Clarke

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