

**2<sup>nd</sup> California Community Food Security Summit**  
**Organizing Committee Notes**  
**Statewide Food Policy Council**

**Facilitator:** Mark Winne and Paula Jones

**Note Taker:** Laura Ridenour, Paula Jones, Thomas Forster

---

Look for common ground, and look for uncommon connections

**Existing State Organizing Groups with Connections to State Food Policy**

1. California Nutrition Network Food Security Task Force
2. Nutrition Network Joint Steering Committee
3. California Food and Justice Coalition
4. Community Food Assessment Project
5. Sustainable Agriculture Task Force (not yet formed)
6. Various Local Food Policy Councils
7. California Nutrition Council
8. Roots of Change
9. State Legislative Task Force on Youth and Workplace Welfare
10. UC Activists/ Researcher Consortium
11. CA Hunger Action
12. CHAC
13. Cal-Neva
14. CFPA
15. California Council of Churches
16. Strategic Alliance
17. Western Growers Association (SB 1518)
18. Rural Coalition

**Benefits of a FPC in California**

If you can imagine what the benefits are in engaging state government?

- more resources
- raise awareness
- more power behind a unified message
- providing the stimulus for integration
- making the food system visible
- integrating food system, increase efficiency
- getting state to buy from small CA farmers at the governmental level
- influence what is bought, who it is bought from
- listserv
- coordinated goals and action plans
- leverage existing sustainable program
- educating and developing leaders in the food system
- gets commitment from cities for food policy resolutions (link to local level and state)

## **Other benefits**

1. The state already has a food policy, and it isn't codified. A benefit would be to unify what is there already, and identify what is the state food policy now?
2. The FPC idea allows you to work at multiple levels. We need to learn the lessons and how to reconstruct those kinds of approaches. ... At the state level it is difficult to see how we would approach this without the structure at the regional levels. We need to put in place the policies that can connect the kinds of campaigns we need to develop for state and national level. We need to facilitate lobbying efforts at the state capital.

## **Discussion**

Jonathan Kaplan: we tend to spend a lot of time thinking about “the council” and we need to do a better job of thinking of exactly what it is going to achieve at the outset. What is it going to achieve specifically, and why do we need to have all these people at the table....CAFF and NRDC sat down with the Sec of Ag and proposed the idea of a multi level taskforce. ... but two months later, it is very hard to get some action. ...

Tom Forster: I think we need to have the table setting discussion at the same time as you float the idea and benefits. Related to that, the regional and substate structure. In Washington state, regional and state FPCs are co-evolving.

Sharron Thornberry: in Oregon, a hunger relief taskforce was created in the late 1980s. We've put together a statewide plan for ending hunger... when you are just talking about the issues of hunger and poverty, people can say it is not about us, and when you take an integrated approach and everyone can understand how the food system affects them. There are real advantages that there are region food policy councils to feed into the process. It is really important that people feel like they are participating in a real way in the democratization of food.

Unknown: What is missing is the needs of rural California. The rural areas have worse food insecurity issues [than urban areas]. They are going to need some help from the state level, and it is hard to imagine those rural areas getting traction without the statewide level.

## **Needs/Next Steps**

1. Develop fpc models for others to emulate
2. A potential big picture work plan (get notes from Mark Winne)
3. Further define how we sell a FPC – what would it do?
4. Take advantage of opportunity of visionary state leaders (Dept Ed, DHS, CDFA, Cal EPA)
5. Interim step – bring together stakeholders – organizing effort
6. Identify who's missing from the table? Identify people resources we need to do this
7. Work with ROC
8. Leadership from Legislation a problem
9. Need discovery process
  - o “engineer” a state mandate

- Administrative rather than legislative
10. Need resources to start (CNN committees)

**Report back to the Conference:**

- The committee reviewed different models of state food policy councils (structure and accomplishments, how they were sanctioned, were they grassroots or state sponsored, etc.), then brainstormed the benefits of forming a statewide FPC in California, and discussed what this council would do.

**Proposal**

1. The committee proposes that CFJC go to the Sec. of Ag. and ask him to convene the Sec. of Ed, and Sec. of Health to sanction CFJC to convene food, nutrition and agriculture working group to identify comprehensive, long-term food system policy.
2. There is strong existing activity at the state level with state agencies who are convening to address obesity and chronic diseases – The committee proposes that CFJC work to interject food system concepts and planning to this summit.

26 people signed up to continue on a working group around this issue.

For more information & to join this Committee contact: Heather Fenney at 310-822-5410