

PULSE

OF THE FOOD MOVEMENT

California: a Beacon of Hope!

Dear Friends & Allies,

It is a difficult time, but California is a beacon of hope. The ugly Brexit and presidential campaigns depressed us. Soul-sickness and the unhealed divides of religion, race and privilege shockingly ignited frequent mass and unjustified violence. Global warming sparked record-breaking fires and temperatures. It is hard to experience and our fears grew.



Yet, we also saw some amazingly good developments here in California. The tech and agriculture economies boomed. Education budgets improved. Communities increased their resilience and cohesion. Californians passed local laws to improve mass transit, protect nature, farmland and tax disease-causing sugary beverages. The Legislature & Governor passed laws to improve soil health and ensure low-wage workers earn more and can access healthy food affordably. They also boldly declared that no matter what happens in Washington DC, California will remain a bastion of inclusiveness, climate action, new thinking and humanism. Our state will be a place for innovation, open discussion and continuous action meant to cross the divides in our culture.

ROC's efforts to support passage of good food and agriculture policy bore fruit. We also educated hundreds of thousands of people on the solutions farms and ranches can offer to many of our health and environmental challenges. More allies, donors and policy champions joined [our large and expanding network](#).

Our success comes from you, our supporters! You are the reason we exist and have a legitimate voice with the media and in Sacramento, Washington DC, city and county halls. We are grateful you are with us and we look forward to working even more effectively in 2017 to ensure California's producer communities and families are supported by intelligent policies that deliver health and resilience to all people and keep California at the forefront of food system innovation.

From the ROC team Happy Holidays and best wishes for the coming year!

Michael R. Dimock
President, Roots of Change
Strategic Advisor, California Food Policy Council

PS. Many have been asking how they can become more involved. Of course, one can always [donate](#), but more fun would come from attending our next [great event](#). On January 28th in Healdsburg, California, author and pioneering farmer, Michael Ableman, will be in conversation with media maven and founder of [Civil Eats](#), Naomi Starkman at Shed, a modern grange. The wide-ranging conversation will be followed by a fabulous

seasonal meal and each participant will receive a signed copy of Michael's new book, *Street Farm: Growing Food, Jobs and Hope on the Urban Frontier*. We also hope you'll take a look at our [latest reports](#) on the Governor's and Legislature's performance this year related to good food and farm policy. And please share this email with friends and family so they can link up with us and participate in the food movement's actions. Thank you!

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Roots of Change | 555 12th Street, 10th floor, Oakland, CA 94607

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