



ROC's Off to a Big Start in 2020

Greetings!

Two Important Team Announcements

We are pleased to announce that ROC has retained our esteemed former policy director, **Justin Rausa**, as our Sacramento lobbyist. Justin is now working with social justice firm [Everyday Impact Consulting](#) and is in collaborative partnership with Kathleen Mossburg of [MVM Strategy](#). Kathleen remains on our vigilant behalf for sugary beverage policy. More on Justin's focus below.



Image: L-R: Michael R. Dimock, Doris Meier & Justin Rausa

At the same time, we are very sad to announce that after nearly seven years on the team, our beloved **Doris Meier** is moving on to join a startup company called [Look Into](#) where she will be in charge of building their Customer Success division. Look Into is a very cool new consumer engagement platform offering sustainable and regenerative brands to share their mission and sourcing stories in highly visual, blockchain-verified micro-narratives. ROC hopes to use the technology in the near future. We wish Doris great success in her new role. You can remain in contact with Doris via dorismeier@yahoo.com.

Policy Work Begins



We have a robust agenda this year with three goals that will be managed by Justin. First, we are working to reintroduce the [Small Poultry Producer Protection Act](#) (formerly AB 2909), which we attempted in 2018 and was held in Assembly Appropriations. We are working with [Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry](#) (Winters) and her chief of staff who are committed to advancing the issue forward through legislation this year or next, depending on the speed with which we engage the California Department of Food and Agriculture to improve bill language. We are heartened by the Aguiar-Curry's team commitment and will announce a start date of our campaign to relieve small farmers of overburdensome regulations next month.

Second, Justin will be working with his former boss, [Assemblymember Rob Bonta](#) (Oakland), on his [California Green New Deal \(AB 1839\)](#) to ensure that it will advance our goals around climate smart agriculture, healthy food access and small-farm economic viability.

Third, ROC is working with a group of NGOs, led by our ally [CalCAN](#), to ensure the proposed \$4.75 billion Climate Resilience Bond, slated for the November ballot, provides sufficient funding to grow the [Healthy Soils Program](#), the [State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program](#) and California's composting capacity. We also remain in full support of CalCAN's [Agriculture Resilience Bill \(AB 1071\)](#), which will provide our farmers with much needed climate adaptation tools.

Finally, we remain committed to the long and difficult campaign to pass a tax on harmful sugary beverages. The tax is needed to reduce consumption and to provide sustained and robust funding for [California's Nutrition Incentive Program](#), spawned by ROC, and community food projects that make California's bounty affordable and accessible for every family. Our focus this year is on aiding front line allies to build power in key districts from which we need political support to achieve our goal.

Look for updates on this and all our work by [subscribing to our newsletter](#).

2019 Legislator Scorecard Available from the California Food & Farming Network

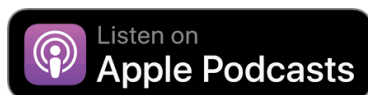


Last year saw important policy outcomes at the state level. Please check out the following report from our close allies at the [California Food and Farming Network](#).

[Click here to read the CFFN Legislator Scorecard](#)

Latest Flipping the Table Episode: Compelling Conversation with Dr. Britt Wray

[Dr. Britt Wray](#) was cohost of the BBC podcast [Tomorrow's World](#) as well as Canada's legendary national science TV show [The Nature of Things](#). The New Yorker named her first book, [Rise of the Necrofauna: The Science, Ethics, and Risks of De-Extinction](#), one of the books they loved in 2017 and the Sunday Times called it a "must-read." Dr. Wray joins me in a far-ranging conversation about the need for a humbler approach to science, the prospects for that occurring and the psychological impacts of climate change, the subject of her next book, due in 2021. The links to food system challenges are discussed throughout our conversation.



Please support or work by making a contribution to Roots of Change.
Please become a contributor to our work.

Click here to
DONATE NOW

Spotlighted Ally: Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Since the early 1990s, I have been a fan of the [Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#). This pioneering nonprofit has been a driving force for policy and public awareness about the need for Californians to become allies and protectors of our family farmers.



We work with CAFF's team in myriad ways. Judith Redmond, a founder of Fully Belly Farm, who will be featured in a future podcast, ran the organization when I was a board member for a period. Today, they are led by CFFN founder and Sacramento Slow Food member, Paul Towers. Beth Smoker and Beth Spitler, who run CFFN, are now part of the [talented CAFF team](#), along with their able policy director David Runsten, with whom we frequently advocate in Sacramento. I am not sure any organization in the state comes close to CAFF in achievements related to improving the economic and cultural value of our smaller family farms. ROC supports CAFF's work however we are able, including [financial contributions](#), and we invite you to join us.

Thank you for your interest and support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Reid Dimock'.

Michael Reid Dimock
President
Roots of Change
A Program of the Public Health Institute

The logo for 'Roots of Change' features the word 'Roots' in green and 'of Change' in orange. A stylized carrot with green leaves is positioned above the letter 'o' in 'Roots'.



mail@rootsofchange.org | www.rootsofchange.org