



What an Agenda! This is a Watershed Moment for the U.S. and for ROC

Greetings!

A study of history shows that crises create monumental shifts in societies.

I see change coming. Humanity is supplanting an industrial mindset with an eco-biological one. This will allow our species to improve our treatment of one another and of the natural world. I know this because I see how the COVID pandemic has

transformed ROC, our allies, our supporters and the communities we serve. We all saw how COVID and the multiple streams that make up the progressive movement, particularly Black Lives Matter, ended the Trump Administration and changed the Senate. The racial reckoning; the fires, freezes and hurricanes; the lockdowns; economic destruction and attack on the US Capitol are awakening people to the requirement for pivotal change. The challenges before us simply demand it.

ROC and our many allies are being called into action to share knowledge, vision and to lead projects and programs that point the way to a healthier future. ROC is spawning or participating in projects of larger scale than ever before. We are doing more organizing and policy than ever before and we are allied with more great organizations than ever before. It is daunting and thrilling. Have a look at a few of the things we are doing in this newsletter. There is more to come next month!



A Groundbreaking Bond Proposal to Create the Foundation for a Resilient and Equitable Food and Farming System in California



ROC has launched an advocacy campaign with 16 co-sponsors to support AB 125, authored by [Assemblymember Robert Rivas](#) (D-Hollister). The Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms and Worker Protection

Bond Act. If you missed it live, you can watch the press conference [here](#). This is a major game changer if it makes it to the finish line in 2022.

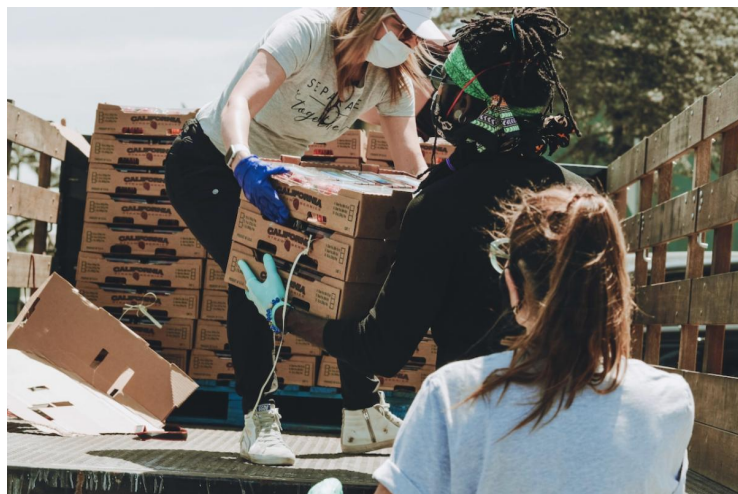
This bond is the right response to the weaknesses in our food system exposed by the coronavirus pandemic. The plague simply exacerbated long-standing inequities. This bond would invest in California's communities in order to address the multiple challenges we face today: recovering from the impacts of the pandemic and fighting the climate crisis while rebuilding our regional food and farming infrastructure so our system is more equitable and resilient in the face of future shocks. [READ MORE](#)

Photo source: voteforyourfood.org

TAKE ACTION! If your organization or business would like to support AB 125, please click this box to sign on to a letter.

Let's Feed LA: Emergency Food Relief Reveals the Power of Collaboration

At about the time the pandemic hit in March 2020, ROC had entered a partnership with [Wholesome Wave](#) to aid them in bringing a new nutrition incentive technology to under-resourced families in Los Angeles and Sacramento counties. But with a request from the Los Angeles County Emergency Food Security Branch, ROC and Wholesome Wave had to think and act much bigger. We brought in PHI colleagues from the [Center for Wellness and Nutrition](#) to undertake a major CARES Act funded



COVID emergency food access program. Titled, Let's Feed LA, our three organizations worked hand-in-glove to support nineteen community-based organizations (CBOs) to deliver \$22.6 million in nutrition benefits to 29,500 families (over 100,000 individuals) in seven weeks. [READ MORE](#)

Photo credit: Joel Muniz, Unsplash

ROC's Current Advocacy Agenda



We are pursuing our largest policy agenda ever. You may have already read above about AB125, the CA food and farm resilience bond. There is much more. Before providing the run down, it is important to understand that our large agenda is possible because we pursue all of it in coalition with many other organizations AND because our former, and

much-loved policy director Justin Rausa, is again on our team as a consultant from the public policy firm, Everyday Impact Consulting. Justin is in the Capitol via Zoom every day of the week. Hit [this link](#) for the rundown.

Please help us today by joining our [sign-on letter](#) for the Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant program. Please email [Justin Rausa](#) confirming your support; if you are representing an organization, please attach your logo for inclusion in the letter. Thank you!

Read the sign-on letter for the Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant program

Flipping the Table Podcast Season 3 Opens with Tom Philpott

[Tom Philpott](#) the incisive Mother Jones correspondent covering food and agriculture has a powerful book out:

[Perilous Bounty](#). I talk

with him about California's immense water challenges. Our conversations sets the stage for our compelling monthly episodes this year that will focus on the action of ROC and its many allies to transform food and farming.





Please Become a Contributor to Our Work

Our change agenda is immense. We simply cannot do it without your contributions. Please donate what you can to keep our momentum up. Thank you!

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Next Month's Highlights to Include

- ROC-UC Davis Food Systems Lab Meat Processing Study: With details on our livestock policy agenda.
- Ventura County's Achieving Resilient Communities Project: see how we seek to improve the lives of farmworkers.

Thank you,

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

 **Roots of Change**



