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## Fruitful Lobby Week for Food & Farm Resilience Coalition & Updates on Other ROC Projects

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Greetings!

These past few weeks have been filled with advocating with legislators to support our budget asks on behalf of the Food & Farm Resilience Coalition, and organizing with non-profit partner organizations to mobilize advocates for rallies around the state in support of the Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund. Stay tuned for details.

### Food & Farm Resilience Coalition - Meetings with Legislators

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to all the folks from the [Food and Farm Resilience Coalition](#) who joined us in our three Zoom meetings with legislators this past week. We discussed how the fund would invest in food and farm related infrastructure, affordable housing, improved health and safety measures for farm workers (i.e. emergency notification system for farmworkers on high heat and smoke days), farm land conservation and assistance with transition to organic farming. All three offices seemed genuinely very interested and expressed support for our issues.



Meeting with **Senator Sydney Kamlager's office** (with legislative aid Howard Quan, pictured above, lower left)

- Alana Williams, Zero Food Print
- Christine Tran, LA Food Policy Council
- Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action, LA



Meeting with **Assemblymember Jim Wood:**

- Duskie Estes, Farm to Pantry
- Evan Wiig, Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Kara Heckert, American Farmland Trust
- Rocio Rodriguez, COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster)



Meeting with **Senator Mike McGuire's office** (with legislative aid Adriana Gomez):

- Patricia Hickey, Carbon Cycle Institute
- Rocio Rodriguez, COAD
- Michael Evenson, Lost Coast Ranch & CA Grange




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## Updates on ROC Projects

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**Health Equity & Racial**

## Justice Fund

The rally in Sacramento has been set for

**Friday, April 22, at the State Capitol, West Steps, 11am - 12pm.**

**Please join us!**

Other rallies are also being organized in San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Francisco, and Oakland. Stay tuned for more information and/or visit the [Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund website](#) for more information.



**JOIN US**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND**

California State Capitol  
1315 10th St, Sacramento, CA 95814  
\*West Steps  
11AM-12PM

**#HERJFUND**



**Post on social media and send an email to the Governor today; together we can make funding for equity and justice a reality!**

Flyer for Sacramento Rally

Email Governor Newsom



## Introducing one of our Fantastic Health Equity & Racial Justice Fund Partners!

We would like to introduce you to our partner in the Central Valley, [Cultiva La Salud](#), who are helping us educate their base on the Health Equity and Racial Justice fund and mobilizing their constituents to support the cause by taking concrete action and taking part in our rallies in the Central Valley and Sacramento.

Cultiva La Salud is dedicated to creating health equity in the San Joaquin Valley by fostering changes in communities that support healthy eating and active living. Cultiva La Salud is among a growing number of programs in the nation who use a policy and environmental change approach to help community members gain access to healthy food, beverages and safe places to be physically active.

**Genoveva Islas**, pictured here, is the **Executive Director of Cultiva la Salud**. (Image source: Fresno State College website)



## Local Regenerative Meat Project

ROC and the [UC Davis Food Systems Lab](#) team and our nine partners have launched our USDA-funded Regional Food System Partnership project to improve marketing opportunities for small and medium-scale meat producers in



northern California. Here is the [project overview video](#) that explains our goals and process. Our project partners include the [American Grassfed Association](#); [California Cattlemen's Association](#); [CA Department of Food & Agriculture Meat Poultry Safety Branch](#); [Grounded Capital Partners](#); [Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative](#); [Mulvaney's B & L](#); [Niche Meat Processing Assistance Network](#), [UC Davis Medical Center Farm to Fork Program](#) and [Zero FoodPrint](#). Together we will establish two high value meat supply chains serving small and mid-scale producers and processors seeking to feed the farm to fork Capital of Sacramento and the Bay Area. Watch for developments. *Image: Doris Meier*



## Achieving Resilient Communities (ARC) Project

Building synergy between statewide and local efforts, ROC's statewide work on the Food and Farm Resilience Coalition (FFRC) budget request links directly to our work with the ARC project in

Ventura and Kern county: the goal of the ARC project is protect farm workers from heat stress and illness. *Image: davispigeon0, Pixabay*

Our budget ask on behalf of the FFRC would provide critical investments in affordable housing for our farmworker families and improving air-conditioning and energy efficiency for existing farmworker housing, and fund an emergency notification system for farmworkers on high heat and smoke days. These critical investments in providing the health and safety protections our essential workers need and deserve are missing in the Governor's January budget.

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## Flipping the Table Podcast Season 4, Episode 4

### Three Social Justice Leaders Share Their Views on The Struggle for the Health Equity & Racial Justice Fund

Community food projects and much more would be funded if we can place the Health Equity and Social Justice Fund in the California Budget. Mar Velez, Rod Lew and Ron Coleman, three veteran policy campaigners leading the charge, describe the fund, its uses and how we plan to win the Governor's support.



**Mar Velez, M.P.H.**  
Mar is the State Policy Senior Manager at the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC).



**Rod Lew, M.P. H.**  
Rod is the Founder and Executive Director of Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL).



**Ron Coleman, J.D.**  
Ron is the Managing Director of Policy at the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN).



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## Future Podcast Topics

Below is the podcast line-up for the first half of 2022. We hope you enjoy listening and learning about what's going on in the frontlines of our food system work with partners from across the state and country.

- 3/29/22: California's Meat Processing Challenges & Solutions
- 4/18/22: Food as Medicine: Produce Rx & Medically Tailored Meals
- 5/17/22: Undoing the Knot Halting Needed Federal Agriculture Policy
- 5/31/22: The Budget Battle for a Just & Regenerative CA Food System
- 6/21/22: Lobbyists Weigh-in: How is the Movement Doing Politically
- 7/19/22: From the Frontline: Are We Making Progress on Food Justice

**DONATE**

We work for a just and healthy agriculture and food economy that is a solution to the many challenges of our time: the climate crisis, health disparities, racial injustices, the wealth gap, rural degradation due to food chain worker's low wages, and outdated policies that favor industrial food corporations over small and mid-scale farms and ranches. We cannot do this work without your support. Please think of us as you make your donations to those seeking to improve our world.

Thank you for your support!

*Doris Meier*  
*Editor of the PULSE*  
*Roots of Change*  
*A Program of the Public Health Institute*

 **Roots of Change**



[mail@rootsofchange.org](mailto:mail@rootsofchange.org) | [www.rootsofchange.org](http://www.rootsofchange.org)