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## A Season of Giving & Receiving

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Dear Doris,

### Please Think of Us in this Season of Giving

*Blog post by Michael Dimock, Executive Director:*

I recently reviewed my Facebook posts from the beginning of the Trump era in late 2016. I was struck by two things. First, the movement to create a just, healthy and resilient food system had momentum. We had begun to win important investments from government because advocates were working together as never before to educate and hold policy makers accountable. Second, the warnings about Trump's threat to democracy were very clear and have proven to be accurate. Despite the challenges he brought, now coming to an end, the movement to fix the food system rapidly progressed. Governor Newsom, President Biden, local, state and federal legislators and administrators have heard our collective call. They are investing billions in programs that increase food justice and regional food supplies and improve ecological resilience and health. ROC is a central actor in creating that change. Your support is critical to our success. With gratitude for what you have done for us, I once again ask you to make a year-end contribution to our work.

I do this because as [you will see from our history](#), ROC is a catalyst, a committed ally, and innovator, always extending our reach and impact. [READ MORE](#)



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**Healthy Soil Week is  
Back!**

**Healthy Soil at the Heart of  
all Health**

## The COMPOST-CARBON-CLIMATE Connection

Compost, made from a mixture of food and yard wastes that have been fully decomposed, is used for fertilizing and conditioning soil. Compost contains carbon, microorganisms, and nutrients. Carbon in the soil feeds underground microbial life, which helps grow healthy, resilient plants and crops. High-carbon soil is rich and black. It holds more water in dry times and allows less to run off during storms. By putting more carbon in the soil, we can pull more carbon out of the atmosphere and help stabilize the climate.

### 6 MILLION

Estimated amount of yard waste, food waste, biosolids, and agricultural materials handled by California's composting facilities in 2017. Food waste is about 5% of that throughput.

### 1.3 MILLION

Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) of landfill methane that were avoided by composting in 2017. That's the equivalent to removing 280,000 average passenger cars from the road for a year.

### 3.8 MILLION

Reduction in MTCO<sub>2</sub>e from avoided landfill methane if California's composting infrastructure expands enough to meet California's SB 1363 climate goals. Equivalent to removing 813,000 average passenger cars from the road for a year.

### 15 MILLION

Estimated amount of these same materials needed to be handled by California's composting infrastructure in 2025 to meet California's climate goals (SB 1363). Food waste would be about 25% of that throughput.

#### Photosynthesis:

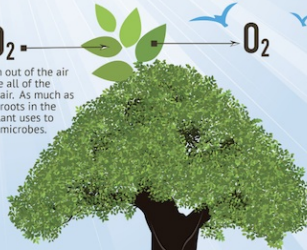
is nature's way of taking carbon out of the air and storing it. Plants do not use all of the carbon they consume from the air. As much as half is pushed out through the roots in the form of "exudates", which the plant uses to attract and feed beneficial soil microbes.

#### Compost:

delivers fresh carbon and new microbes, jump-starting the process of building healthy soil.

#### Mulch:

is a layer of material spread over the surface of soil that protects the soil and its microbial life from sun, wind, and erosion. Organic mulches ultimately break down into, you guessed it, more soil carbon! Mulched soils help save water by reducing soil temperatures and slowing evaporation, so water stays in the plant zone longer.



#### Soil microorganisms:

(bacteria, protozoa, fungi etc.) feed on root exudates and deliver nutrients to plants. They also help leach minerals out of bedrock for use by plants, and they help protect plants from disease-causing organisms.



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The concept of healthy soil and its role in a sustainable or regenerative ecosystem is still elusive to many. The California Department of Food & Ag is doing its part to continue to educate the public on the topic and ROC is joining with state government agencies, businesses and nonprofits to celebrate the California Soils Week **December 5 - 9, 2022**

The schedule will include in-person as well as online events. Check this [CDFA link](#) for the official schedule which will be posted soon.

Image source: CDFa

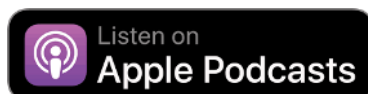
## Latest Podcast Episode

### Update on the Achieving Resilient Communities Project and More with Maureen McGuire, CEO of Ventura County Farm Bureau

After talking about the day's farm tour on the Oxnard plain of Ventura County to educate CalPolySLO engineering students working to keep drinking water cool for farmworkers in hot fields, Maureen and Michael explore how to solve the many complex challenges faced by farmers in a time of intense political polarization, climate change and escalating prices. Click below to hear the episode.



Please also check out Maureen's guest blog on "[Bias and Rationality](#)" on complex cognitive biases, which she mentioned in the podcast.



# CalCAN Summit 2022

The **7th California Climate & Agriculture Summit** was a two-day event this week featuring tours of three Yolo County farms and a conference with presentations and speakers. ROC was a sponsor of the event and members of our team attended the conference featuring important agriculture and climate researchers covering a slew of topics ranging from soil and water to healthy, just and climate-resilient food and farms to farmworker health and wellbeing.

Image: Renata Brillinger, Executive Director, CalCAN, delivering opening remarks.



**ROC** team members: Michael, Doris & Lesley.



Our wonderful collation partners Andy Naja-Riese and Neda Ibrahim from **AIM**...



...Tessa Salzman, **CalCAN**, Arohi Sharma, **NRDC**...



... Margaret Reeves, **PANNA**, and Nayamin Martinez, **CCEJN**, enjoying lunch in the sun.



Leadership awardees and panelists (from l to r): Sacha Lozano, Tim Bowles, Ellee Igoe, and panel moderator Judith Redmond.



A very interactive session led by Ellee Igoe on ideas generated by applicants to the [USDA's Partnerships for climate-smart commodities programs](#).



Michael Dimock moderating the panel on Building a Healthy, Just & Climate-Resilient Food & Farm Future.



Group shot with members of the [Food & Farm Resilience Coalition](#).

## Invitation to Online Event: How your Diet Affects the Planet

We came across this article - "[Here is How your Diet affects the Planet](#)" - in the Washington Post a couple of weeks ago and decided to invite one of the authors, **Dr. Benjamin Halpern, Director of the UC Santa Barbara National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS)** to a Zoom meeting to present his report on the [Environmental Impact of Global Food Production](#).

**The Zoom meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2022, 12pm to 1pm with a Q&A session. If you are interested in joining the call please click below to provide your name and email address so we can send you a Zoom invite.**



*Image source: UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management*

**Email us for an invitation to the online event "How Diet Affects the Planet", Dec 12, 12pm - 1pm**



## California Climate Change Indicators

The [Indicators of Climate Change in California report](#) documents observed changes in the state's climate and its impacts in the state. Indicators are scientific measurements that track trends and conditions relating to climate change. Collectively, the indicators portray a statewide picture of how climate change has been impacting the environment and people of California. Through these indicators, the report tells the state's climate change story, starting with the human influences on climate, or "drivers," followed by the changes in

climate Californians have been experiencing, and then their consequences on the physical environment, on plant and animal species, and on human health. The fourth edition of the report contains a new section highlighting how California Tribes have witnessed climate change. Eight Tribes provide accounts of their unique experiences. Information about OEHHA's ongoing work with Tribes to document the impacts of climate change can be found here: [Indicators of Climate Change: Impacts on California Tribes](#)

*Image source: report*



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*Thank you for your interest and support of our work and happy Thanksgiving!*

*Doris Meier  
Editor of the PULSE  
Roots of Change*

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

Roots of Change | 555 12th Street, 16th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607

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