



A New Year and a New Agenda for Positive Change

Dear Doris,

The ROC team is wishing everyone a prosperous and happy New Year!

California's Budget Cuts Will Be Especially Painful for Some

Roots of Change is deeply concerned over Governor Newsom's proposed cuts to small farm and food justice programs and regional food system infrastructure due to the economic downturn and resulting reduction in the California General Fund. The most worrisome cuts include the Healthy Refrigeration, Urban Agriculture, Farm to Community Food Hubs, Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training grant programs. All of these aid communities and producers that have been historically underserved. And at the same time, given the magnitude of the revenue crash, we appreciate the careful approach taken by the Newsom Administration and key departments in many areas. Although lamentable, we do appreciate that only one aforementioned program, Farm to Community Food Hubs, was completely zeroed out. Actions to address the climate crises, the largest threat to public health we will face in this century, remain funded at levels unprecedented for a state. By any measure California continues to lead. We are committed to monitoring the cuts impacting efforts to build an equitable and resilient food system and to defend against further cuts if the state's revenue situation worsens. We are also working with allies to establish more funding whether or not the economic situation improves. We believe the public health and economic security of the state depend upon a just and resilient food and agriculture system that fairly invests in every scale of food producer and provides healthy food access for every family regardless of income level. We will continue to deliver that message to our friends in large-scale agriculture, local policymakers, Governor Newsom, the Legislature and our federal government.

[Budget Summary](#) | [Budget Details](#)

Join us at Ecofarm!



Town Hall with Policy Makers on the 2023 Farm Bill

Friday, January 20, 3:30pm at EcoFarm Conference

Come learn about what is at stake in the 2023 farm bill, ask your questions of policy makers, and learn how to get involved. Reception to follow.

Policy is on the plate in 2023 and the Farm Bill is the main course. With the Farm Bill's estimated budget of \$1,295 trillion over 10 years, ensuring those resources are used to build safe, healthy, just, and ecologically sustainable farms and communities is more critical than ever.

Join us for a discussion with Federal and State legislators and agency officials about the Farm Bill and other key federal and state policy issues being served in the coming months.

Confirmed speakers include:

Rep Jimmy Panetta

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross

USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Jenny Lester Moffitt

**Online registration is now closed. ONSITE
REGISTRATION at the Asilomar Conference Grounds is
open as of Tuesday, January 17, 9:00am**

The town hall session is hosted by:



10th Anniversary: Annual Food Champion Award Event



Please join us for this
annual event at
**Mulvaney's B&L in
Sacramento**

**Wed, February 22
5:30pm to 7:30pm**

Roots of Change, in collaboration with the California Food & Farming Network, along with more than 50 organizations working across the food & farming system, are excited to celebrate our past and new Food and Farm Policy Champions, along with the release of the 2022 Food & Farm Scorecard.

The scorecard annually tracks the voting records of California state legislators on key food and farming policies and honors a select few legislators that have stood out. **As we celebrate the 10th year of the scorecard, we'll also be re-honoring our Alumni Food and Farm Policy Champions. Please join us in celebration!**

2022 award recipients are:

- **Assemblymember Buffy Wicks**
- **Assemblymember Steve Bennett**

We also wish to thank Mulvaney's B&L for their continuing support of this important event.



Please **RSVP by February 18**. Food & drinks will be served. Doors open at 5:30pm. The event is free and begins at 6pm.

[**Click here to RSVP**](#)

Latest Flipping The Table Podcast Episode

**Food Recovery at Scale:
Rick Nahmias on the Birth and Growth
of Food Forward**



Food justice and climate change demand an end to good waste. Food Forward in Los Angeles is the most impressive food recovery program we've ever seen. Founder Rick Nahmias shares the story of how he and his team have delivered over 1 billion servings of food to 150,000 people per day.



In case you missed it:

A Look Back Over the Years - A Short Visual Journey of ROC's 20 Year History



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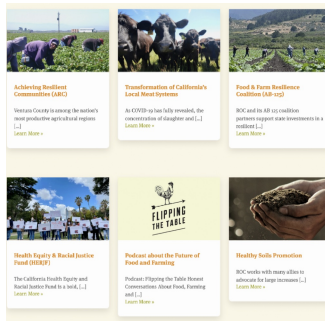
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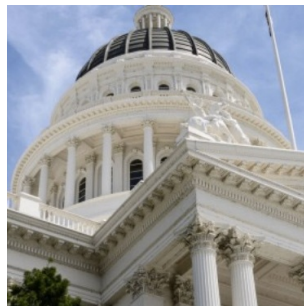
Doris Meier
Editor of the PULSE
Roots of Change

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Current Projects



2022 Policy Work



Podcast



Roots of Change is a program of the [Public Health Institute](#)

Roots of Change



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