

**San Francisco Food Alliance Meeting**  
**February 2, 2006**  
**New College of California**

Introductions

Ilana Bar-David, James Brock, Thea Carlson (Hayward Nutritional Learning Community Project), Chris Carlsson (Counterpulse), Melanie Cheng (Om Organics), Julie Cummins (CUESA), Park Guthrie (Organic Opportunities/Life Learning Academy), Karen Heisler (Pie Ranch), Susana Hennessey-Lavery (SFDPH Tobacco Free Project), Paula Jones (San Francisco Food Systems), Lynn Lampky, Elizabeth Li, Cheryl Magid (Congregation Emanu-El), Nan McGuire (SFGSA), Sraddha Mehta (SF Department of the Environment), Caron Obstfeld, Fernando Ona (SFDPH), Stacey Parker (Garden for the Environment), Gail Priestley (St. Anthony Foundation), Leah Rimkus (San Francisco Food Systems), Michelle Ross (Global Exchange), Sue Trupin, Zetta Wells (UC Cooperative Extension).

San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance (SFGSA)

- *Nan McGuire first introduced a 9-10 minute video about the SFGSA.* -

- The SFGSA was formed five years ago; currently has 21 members (almost all non-profits) and two endorsers.
- Major accomplishments of the SFGSA
  - Successfully organized a biennial conference for teachers, parents, community members
  - Successfully lobbied for \$2M from the \$295M Prop A school bond (passed in November 2003) to be allocated specifically for the greening of school grounds.
    - Money will be divided to cover 16 elementary schools (~\$100,000/school).
    - Nan McGuire sits on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (committee required by the State of California's Prop 39).
    - All work on the schools is supposed to be completed by 2010.
  - Recently, the Commission on the Environment passed a resolution urging the Mayor's Office to work with SFGSA and the San Francisco Unified School District to create a garden in every school.
- Future plans of SFGSA
  - Nan McGuire and Arden Bucklin-Sporer will do a workshop at the Green Cities Conference on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - With grant funding, SFGSA is hoping to hire a part-time development person to raise money to match funds from the Prop A bond money. San Francisco Beautiful has been most supportive of SFGSA in the past, providing a 20% staff person for coordination.
  - Following up with Maria Shriver's potential interest in a campaign around a "garden in every school."

- SFGSA is starting to partner with the San Francisco Chronic Disease Prevention Consortium for additional support.

### Current city-sponsored food policy actions and other food activities

- Paula Jones first gave a brief overview of the past processes the SF Food Alliance had undertaken in order to develop its recommendations and priorities. -

- Major priorities identified throughout this process include the following:
  - Need for some regular presence in San Francisco's City Hall with a food systems perspective to follow through with implementation and accountability (e.g. food policy council, office of food, food czar).
  - Need for increased general food system awareness throughout San Francisco, among city agencies and contractors, businesses, institutions, and the general public (e.g. awareness campaign, classes, trainings, materials).
  - Need for a consistent source of funding to implement and sustain food policies and programmatic activities (e.g. tax, regulatory fee).
- Recent city-sponsored food policy actions include the following:
  - The Department of the Environment has hosted public sessions to explore the implementation of precautionary principle/green purchasing in San Francisco city purchasing. Right now they are working on assessing different product categories (e.g. construction materials, computers and electronics, cleaning agents) and food is definitely on the table still as a potential category.
  - The Department of the Environment has hired a consultant to explore the implementation of and develop recommendations around the fair trade/organic resolutions passed in July 2005. There are currently no mandates attached to this yet, but the final recommendations will go before the Board of Supervisors and may impact purchasing among City and County departments.
  - The Mayor's Office has directed the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) to work on the implementation of recommendations created by the Board of Supervisors on Childhood Nutrition and Physical Activity Task Force (presented to the Board in January 2005).
    - An advisory group, pulled together by DCYF will meet in February, March and during the Mayor's Nutrition and Fitness Summit in April/May.
    - Several of the recommendations and strategies outlined (e.g. ensuring that healthy/nutrition food is accessible in all sectors of city, creating a revenue stream for implementation) may be of interest to this group, so members might want to contact DCYF and promote specific areas to work on.

- Gail Priestley gave a brief update on the Board of Supervisors Food Security Task Force. -

- The Board of Supervisors Food Security Task Force continues to meet monthly to develop a strategic plan for increasing San Francisco's use of federal food assistance programs.
  - After 12 months, the strategic plan will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of adoption into legislation. Status reports on progress toward implementing the plan and meeting the plan's goals will be reported to the Board of Supervisors biannually. Two years after the passage of the ordinance, the Food Security Task Force shall submit a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on whether the Task Force should continue in operation.
  - The task force includes representatives from city agencies, the San Francisco Unified School District, four community based organizations (including St. Anthony Foundation and the Coalition on Homelessness) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Regional Office.
  - The task force has formed three subcommittees, which will focus on: (1) the Food Stamp Program, (2) programs for children and seniors, and (3) embedding a food czar/specialist in San Francisco government.
  - This third subcommittee would benefit from example models of food policy councils and food czar/specialists in other municipalities.
  - Task force meetings are held on the first Wednesdays of each month from 2:30pm-4:30pm at City Hall, Room 278 and are open to the public.
  - Sustainability issues do not seem to be a big priority of the task force at this time, but members all received copies of and a short presentation on the *SF Collaborative Food System Assessment*.

- Following these updates, meeting attendees briefly discussed some of the SF Food Alliance priority items again, including the idea of a consistent food policy presence in city government. It is not yet clear what this would look like, exactly, but several models have been explored and summarized. Meeting attendees questioned the effectiveness of different models, but overall there was support for a structure where there is both a community element and a more clear/direct link to the Mayor's Office. -

- The idea of a regulatory fee or other funding mechanism seemed supported by the group. Ashland, OR (Treasurer's Office) was offered as a model city where this is working well. It was suggested that this revenue stream could fund community groups doing food system work/projects. -

- Another update on recent food activities was on the Bayview Farmers' Market
  - The Bayview Farmers' Market closed for the season on November 19<sup>th</sup>, after 26 weeks of operating (Saturdays).

- In total, the market served 3,000 people and redeemed over \$8,000 of carrot cash (coupons for free market produce).
- The Department of the Environment is looking for funding to subsidize operations of the market in the next year. DoE is planning to apply for a USDA Community Food Project grant with Girls2000, weaving their garden education projects in with the farmers' market.
- Through the previous Salton Fund grant, DoE was able to subsidize participating farmers \$50/week, purchasing their product and donating to local pantries. Doe also paid stall fees for farmers to the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association.
- Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association will not be managing the market in 2006. However, the previous market manager, who founded an organization called Farms to Grow, is interested in continuing on with the Bayview market. (See <http://www.farmstogrow.com/>)

*- Meeting attendees discussed the possibility of the Bayview Farmers' Market partnering with neighboring businesses to guarantee sales for farmers and contracts with local stores and restaurants, sort of like a commercial-level CSA. -*

#### Statewide hunger legislation initiatives

- The California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) is a broad-based membership organization which advocates for freedom from hunger for all Californians. This year Gail Priestly is the Co-Chair.
- The State of California is last in terms of utilization of the Food Stamp Program. Our state loses \$1.5 billion in food stamps each year due to under enrollment.
- Two specific bills are being presented by San Francisco legislators
  - Mark Leno is potentially introducing legislation to create a healthy purchase pilot program. This would increase fresh fruits and vegetables in small grocery stores by, for example, providing grants to corner stores in low income areas or doubling the value of food stamps when participants purchase fruits and vegetables.
  - Carol Migden is introducing legislation to simplify the food stamp reporting process. California requires quarterly reporting, but this bill proposes a change to reporting every six months. Many states require food stamp participants to report income/demographic info only once per year.
- Hunger Action Day will be held again in May this year. CHAC would like everyone to come and participate, but especially those who are affected by these programs and this legislation. CHAC asks that people donate to the bus fee to help get these program participants to Sacramento.
- St. Anthony Foundation will be sponsoring free advocacy trainings before Hunger Action Day again this year.

## Announcements

- (Chris) Shaping San Francisco (with City Lights Foundation and Counterpulse) will be hosting a series of spring talks, with two specifically focusing on food issues. On May 10<sup>th</sup> “San Francisco’s Food Revolt” will look at the history of food and gardening movements and May 31<sup>st</sup> “Can San Francisco Feed Itself” will focus on urban food production. For more info, see [www.counterpulse.org](http://www.counterpulse.org)
- (Julie) This week, CUESA will be starting up its free farmer talk/chef demo at the Saturday Ferry Plaza Farmers’ Market. This week the farmers will be from Mariquita Farm and the cooking demo will be by Laxmi Hiremath. More info at [www.cuesa.org](http://www.cuesa.org)
- (Michelle) There is currently a State-level lawsuit happening in Los Angeles against Nestle due to documented unfair child labor practices in Ivory Coast. Actions are currently planned in Los Angeles, with support from the Organic Consumers Association and Global Exchange. Spread the word to anyone who might be interested in Los Angeles.
- (Michelle) A new documentary out might be of interest to the group – “The Real Dirt on Farmer John.” It’s currently playing at the Presidio Theater in SF. More info can be found at [www.therealdirt.net](http://www.therealdirt.net)
- (James) There is a permaculture seminar planned for SF in March. There will be an opportunity on Sunday to go see farms where these permaculture practices are going on.
- (Leah) I will send out a summary of different food policy councils to the sffoodsystems email list and welcomes feedback on what kind of structure is envisioned for San Francisco. The date/time for the next SF Food Alliance meeting will be arranged via email.