

**San Francisco Food Alliance Meeting**  
**April 15, 2004**  
**Ferry Building, Port Commission Hearing Room**

Introductions

Larry Bain (Jardinière, Acme Chophouse, Mijita, Nextcourse), Maribeth Goldstein, Simon Harris (Californians for GE Free Agriculture), Karen Heisler, Eric Hendy (SF Community School), Susana Hennessey-Lavery (SFDPH Tobacco Free Project), Jake Jelonek, Paula Jones (San Francisco Food Systems), Cheryl Magid (Children's Council), Tyler Marcus (Public Citizen), Sraddha Mehta (SF Department of the Environment), Bu Nygrens (Veritable Vegetable), Jessica Prentice (CUESA), Gail Priestley (St. Anthony Foundation), Leah Rimkus (San Francisco Food Systems), Zoë Rossing (San Francisco Food Bank), Olivia Sargeant (Nextcourse) Janet Su (Greener Earth Marketing), Sue Trupin, Sharon Williams (United Council of Human Services), Ryan Zinn (Organic Consumers Association)

Updates from active Working Groups of the SF Food Alliance

- (Sraddha) Update on Access to Healthy Food in District 10
  - Department of the Environment submitted a letter of intent to the Salton Fund to support a collaborative group (DoE, LEJ, Girls2000, UCHS) that will implement a produce market in the Bayview. The Salton Fund received 600 letters and requested 14 proposals, including one from this group.
  - Potential site for the market is on Third St. (All Night Market at Third and Thomas)
  - DoE will also fund the Peacekeepers, Girls2000, and Young Community Developers to revamp the garden at Double Rock.
- (Leah) Update on Organizational Working Group
  - This group is writing the organizational document for the SF Food Alliance that outlines the mission, vision, goals, and membership structure. The group did not meet since the last Alliance meeting when it presented the first draft.
  - Leah is working on editing the membership and voting structure so that it is more inclusive for groups that cannot attend meetings but wish to be involved with the SF Food Alliance. Based on feedback from the last meeting, we're trying to make the group and its decisions more accessible to a wider variety of people.
  - Leah proposed that the SF Food Alliance finalize and approve the organizational document at the next Alliance meeting and everyone was in agreement.
  - Susana volunteered to draft the membership agreement for the SF Food Alliance.
- (Leah) Update on other Working Groups
  - Conference Planning does not have an active working group. We decided to hold off on this option until there is more interest and support.
  - Educational Working Group has not been activated.
  - Policy Working Group has not been activated.

### Presentation from Public Citizen on state bill banning irradiated meat

- SB1988 (Loni Hancock) prevents the California Department of Education from purchasing irradiated ground beef for use in the National School Lunch Program and requires schools serving irradiated foods to label them and provide a non-irradiated alternative.
- Bill will be going to the Health Committee next Tuesday.
- Please write an organizational letter or individual letter of support and fax to Rebecca Cohn, chair of the Health Committee.
- You can access an email blast from the Public Citizen website. [www.publiccitizen.org](http://www.publiccitizen.org)

### Presentation on GE Free Agriculture

- (Simon) Genetic engineering is the transferring of a gene from a bacteria, virus, plant, or animal into food crops to capture a desired trait. The main crops currently on the market in the U.S. are GE corn, soy, canola, and cotton – making GE ingredients very abundant in processed foods.
- Californians for GE Free Agriculture is a coalition of about nine organizations that came together a year ago to work on educational campaigns for consumers and producers around the state regarding the impact (health, environmental, economic) of genetic engineering in agriculture. [www.calgefree.org](http://www.calgefree.org)
- Coalition was successful in stopping pharmaceutical rice with human genes from being planted in California. The Department of Food and Agriculture did not approve the product.
- There will be a “Reclaim the Commons” mobilization June 3-9 during the biotech industry’s conference in San Francisco that will include teach-ins, direct action, protests.
- (Karen) A group of people is organizing a public event “Biotech World Café” on Monday evening (June 7<sup>th</sup>) to compliment the direct action and to structure a public dialogue welcoming folks who are not fully aware of or decided on biotech issues. This group is looking for co-sponsors, supporters, and participants. They plan to structure the discussion around the following:
  - SF Precautionary Principle
  - SF boom/bust cycle with the high-tech industry (What do SF citizens want in terms of protecting the local economy?)
- (Ryan) Organic Consumers Association is working in an advisory role with community initiatives around GE, engaging local activists and building community support, depending on the local context and needs.
- Mendocino County successfully banned the raising and keeping of genetically engineered crops or animals in March of this year.

- There are 12-14 other counties looking to ban cultivation and planting of GE food, including Humboldt, Sonoma, Alameda, and Marin.
- In San Francisco, OCA has met with Supervisors Peskin and Gonzalez, but this is not a priority issue right now.

### Group Discussion

- (Sraddha) Resolutions are non-binding and thus ordinances are stronger. To pass an ordinance, you can take a resolution to the Commission on the Environment and a City Attorney will draft it into an ordinance. The SF Food Alliance or another group can also draft language to make it stronger. The mayor can also sponsor an ordinance or resolution.
- Gavin Newsom introduced a resolution on GE food in 2000 as a Supervisor. This non-binding resolution urged federal agencies to regulate, clearly label, and consider a temporary moratorium on GE food and took about 4-5 months to pass.
- (Sraddha) Summary of the Precautionary Principle – An environmental code was adopted by the city and the precautionary principle was an overarching policy statement in the code. The code requires the Dept. of the Environment to implement alternative purchasing assessments so that the city always purchases the least harmful product. Debbie Rafael (DoE) is responsible for its implementation.
- (Leah) Leah asked whether the SF Food Alliance would like to activate the Policy Working Group and if anyone was interested in being a chair or a co-chair. A discussion followed on what this group would look like and whether it would make more sense to organize by issue/topic or by strategy (e.g. education, policy).
- (Gail) Part of the task of the SF Food Alliance is to educate the people in this circle. We could bring in California Food Policy Advocates, for example, to talk about how San Franciscans access or don't access federal food assistance programs. Then we could bring together a policy working group.
- (Karen) We should think about combining the goals of policy and educating the public and consider for each issue whether it is something that we keep inside this circle or something we want to approach in a more public scope with a larger event.
- (Olivia) Although policy work should always have an educational component, it is still important to have two separate working groups.
- (Eric) In considering who this group is providing information to and how it might be received, it is important that there is a forum for discussion representing both sides of an issue and not just the progressive, anti-establishment voice.
- (Jessica) We should be conscious of the use of technical terms (e.g. genetic engineering) and define these as much as possible, both in this group and among the public.
- (Bu) SF Food Alliance is still in organizational development phase. The lack of clarity about membership hinders the ability of the Alliance to rally around a political cause.
- (Karen) We need to develop a policy for endorsement of a campaign or piece of legislation.

- (Larry) Policy working group would assess all policies relevant to the San Francisco food system and bring them to the Full Alliance for review.
- (Zoë) We could contact the people on the list-serve to see what they are interested in.
- (Jessica) The direction we take depends on what is our vision. With that explicitly written, it will be easier to see how a proposed policy fits into our vision.

### Next Steps

- Susana will draft a membership agreement for the SF Food Alliance.
- Leah will send out the revised organizational document and draft membership agreement to the list serve at least a week before the next SF Food Alliance meeting.
- Paula and Gail will discuss organizing a citywide forum on the topic of food assistance programs (education and policy) and bring this idea back to the group.
- Karen will keep the group posted on the public discussion around biotechnology happening in June. Please contact Karen to get involved with this event.
- Leah will email the list serve about the next meeting date. We are considering a rotating schedule between afternoon and evening meetings to be more accommodating. Based on feedback from the group at this meeting, it looks like the preferred times are on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in the afternoon (3:30-6:00) or evening (5:30-8:00).

### Announcements

- (Jessica) CUESA is hosting an all-day farm tour on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and a spring breakfast by the bay on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, which benefits CUESA education programs and market outreach. [www.cuesa.org](http://www.cuesa.org)
- (Leah) KQED is showing a documentary on salmon farming Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.
- (Karen) There will be a permaculture design course on Green Oaks Creek Farm and Pie Ranch in Santa Cruz July 17<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>. [www.santacruzpermacultureguild.com](http://www.santacruzpermacultureguild.com)
- (Gail) California Hunger Action Coalition is hosting its annual Hunger Action Day of legislative lobbying in Sacramento on May 12<sup>th</sup>. [www.hungeraction.net](http://www.hungeraction.net)
- (Zoë) There is going to be an informational hearing on childhood obesity and diabetes on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Everett Middle School (450 Church Street @ 16<sup>th</sup> Street). For more information call 415-557-3013.
- (Leah/Paula) The California Food Security Summit will be held on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at USC. The last summit was held in Oakland two years ago. See [www.foodsecurity.org/california/](http://www.foodsecurity.org/california/) for more details. Those who plan to attend and would be interested in having a meeting between the SF Food Alliance and the Los Angeles Food and Justice Network, please let Leah know.

Feedback on Meeting Times:

	Yes (Green)	No (Red)
Monday	1	8
Tuesday	2	2
Wednesday	0	1
Thursday	8	5
Friday	0	13
9:30-12:00	3	6
3:30-6:00	17	2
5:30-8:00	10	1