

**San Francisco Food Alliance Meeting**  
**July 24, 2003**  
**Healthy Children's Organizing Project**

Introductions:

Michelle Mascarenhas (Kellogg Foundation Food and Society Fellow), May Woo (San Francisco Head Start), Zoe Rossing (Healthy Children's Organizing Project), Clara Wu (Wu Yee Children's Services), Melissa Tang (Department of the Environment), Maribeth Goldstein (Parents for Public Schools), Karen Heisler (Environmental Protection Agency, CSAs), Sraddha Mehta (Department of the Environment), Cheryl Magid (San Francisco Children's Council), Rajiv Bhatia (Department of Public Health), Fernando Ona (Department of Public Health), Dyeshia Sampson (Department of Public Health), Paula Jones (San Francisco Food Systems Council), Leah Rimkus (San Francisco Food Systems Council), Earl Hampton (San Francisco Food Systems Council)

Updates on projects of the San Francisco Food Systems Council:

- For more information on these projects, please consult our website or project staff
  - Origins of the San Francisco Food Systems Council (Fernando)
  - Farm-to-school feasibility/School Food Environment Survey (Leah)
  - Harvesting Health Art Contest (Leah)
  - West Point Food Security Research (Spunk)
  - Food Assistance at Farmers' Markets (Dyeshia)
  - Child Care Provider survey (Cheryl)
  - California Food and Justice Coalition (Paula)
  - Strategic Plan/Technical Advisory Board (Fernando)

Discussion:

- Structure of the San Francisco Food Systems Council – The Council was formed a year and a half ago as a hybrid – part government agency and part community based organization. It is composed of four entities working together - a Technical Advisory Board, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the Food Alliance, and staff members. The Food Alliance is the branch that brings together food advocates working in or interested in one or more of the sectors of the food system (production, distribution, consumption, recycling).
- Structure of other food policy councils, with a specific case study of the different models used in Los Angeles given by Michelle Mascarenhas. The benefits and constraints of different forms and structures were discussed.
  - We need a body of food advocates that isn't tied to a structure that prevents them from speaking out.
  - It is hard to get consensus and momentum if there is inconsistency and different people showing up to each meeting
  - It is helpful to have a similar vision among the group of what is desired and where the group is going.
  - We could recruit individuals for the Food Alliance that will represent each City District to link with each Supervisor and to host smaller neighborhood meetings.

- The issue of food assistance utilization at farmers' markets sparked a lot of discussion amongst the group since essentially none of the SF markets are accepting EBT (the modern food stamp mechanism), and Alemany (a City-run market) does not accept WIC or Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupons. Something to potentially explore and organize around in future meetings.
- We went around the room to highlight why each person had come to the meeting and identify what were some of their main concerns around the San Francisco food system.

#### Next Steps:

- The next meeting will be in early September beginning around 5:30pm.
  - Goal of the next meeting is to come to a consensus on the functional organization and structure of the Food Alliance (leadership, subcommittees, priority projects, etc.)
  - Specific location to be determined but possible sites are the Healthy Children Organizing Project/Consumer Action (717 Market Street) or Children's Council (445 Church Street)
- SFFSC staff will distribute the San Francisco Food Systems Council's Strategic Plan to the group before the next meeting.
- SFFSC staff will post to the list serve any updates regarding the San Francisco Unified School District's new nutrition policy.
- SFFSC staff will contact Berkeley Food Policy Council and possibly other coalitions to consider having a speaker at future meetings.
- SFFSC staff will sketch out the various sectors represented by the current membership of the Food Alliance and SFFSC list serve (schools, farms, faith-based organizations, anti-hunger organizations, recycling advocates, etc.) in order to feel out who is and is not represented and who we may want to recruit.
- SFFSC staff will bring a map to the next meeting which outlines the ten districts of San Francisco.
- SFFSC staff will research and distribute different coalition models to the group.
- Members of the Food Alliance will think about different models and decision-making structures for food policy advocacy groups and bring any thoughts and comments to the next meeting.

#### Announcements:

- Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) is having a Good Neighbor Programming meeting which is open to the public on August 14. Contact LEJ for more info.

- The California Food and Justice Coalition (a new statewide collaborative of food policy advocates) will be having three listening sessions throughout the state to discuss priorities for a statewide policy platform and campaign. One will be in Sacramento on September 16.
- A new farmers' market just started up in the Fillmore through collaboration between Mo' Better Food Market and Pacific Coast Farmers Market. It will be open every Saturday from 8:30 – 1:00 at Fillmore and Eddy streets.