



# 2013 REPORT on California Legislation Related to Food and Farming

Produced by the California Food Policy Council



The California Food Policy Council is funded and staffed  
by Roots of Change, a program of the Public Health Institute

## WITH THIS REPORT, THE CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (CAFPC) AIMS TO

1. Highlight legislation that is in alignment with the CAFPC's [founding principles and vision](#) for a sustainable food system.
2. Inform constituents about food system-related bills and how their legislators voted on these priorities.
3. Create a historical record of food system votes by California's legislators.

## WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL?

Eighteen local food policy bodies comprising diverse food system stakeholders came together as the California Food Policy Council (CAFPC) to develop and promote policies and practices that produce healthy, safe, humane and abundant food in ways that protect our environment and ensure the prosperity of our workers, farms and food businesses.

As the CAFPC, we provide broadly supported guidance and assistance to decision makers as they develop new policies, regulations, programs, funding, technical support and research priorities affecting food and agriculture in our state. [Roots of Change](#), a program of the [Public Health Institute](#), provides financial and staff support for the CAFPC.

The CAFPC formed a working group to create the report in March 2013. It included CAFPC members and an advisory committee of experienced policy experts. Of the 79 bills introduced in 2013 that related to CAFPC food system priorities,

the working group identified 27 of critical importance and in need of analysis. The working group's analysis rendered ten of highest priority because they had potential to create systemic change aligned with CAFPC principles, would aid in unifying the state's food movement and had a good chance of reaching floor votes in both houses. This document does not endorse or critique the positions taken by legislators. Rather, we seek to provide a tool to assist local food policy councils in making informed decisions related to their food policy advocacy efforts.

# TEN BILLS TRACKED BY THE CAFPC

**1 AB 60 (Alejo, Salinas):** Allows California residents, including undocumented immigrants, to receive a driver's license so long as they provide other proof of identification and residency. Tracked by CAFPC because it could positively impact the lives of food system workers and because it aligns with a California Ag Vision recommendation that emerged from that process in 2009. **Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.**

**2 SB 168 (Monning, Carmel):** Requires that any successor business of a previous farm labor contractor will be liable for the predecessor's owed wages or penalties to former employees. Tracked by CAFPC because it could positively affect the finances of food system workers. **Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.**

**3 AB 191 (Bocanegra, Pacoima):** Makes it possible for Californians who receive Medi-Cal benefits to also receive CalFresh food assistance benefits by changing the criteria of "categorical eligibility." Tracked by CAFPC because it improves food access. **Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.**

**4 AB 224 (Gordon, Menlo Park):** Requires single and multi-farm community supported agriculture programs (CSA's) to register with the state Department of Food and Agriculture and creates various regulations regarding food safety and marketing for CSA's. Also directs the Department to support this model of direct marketing of farm products. Tracked by the CAFPC because it contributes to safe, diverse regional food system development and small farm viability. **Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.**

**5 AB 551 (Ting, San Francisco):** Allows cities and counties to establish Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones, within which landowners can receive a property tax reduction in exchange for committing their land to urban agriculture use for at least 5 years. Tracked by the CAFPC because it contributes to diverse regional food system development, small farm viability and healthy food access. **Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.**

**6 SB 283 (Hancock, Berkeley):** Allows CalFresh benefits to be paid to an individual who is convicted in state or federal court after December 31, 1997, of any offense classified as a felony that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance and who has successfully completed their period of incarceration to be eligible for CalFresh benefits. Tracked by the CAFPC because it would increase food access. **Held in Suspension by the Senator Appropriations Committee.**

**7 AB 38 (Perez, Los Angeles):** Creates the Office of Farm to Fork and the Farm to Fork Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund to support programs and projects that bring California's agriculture and food products into institutions and communities that would benefit from greater availability of California grown produce, meats and dairy products. Tracked by the CAFPC because it would support CDFA's critical roll in development of diverse regional food systems, small farm viability and healthy food access. **Held in Suspension by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.**

**8 AB 459 (Mitchell, Los Angeles):** Requires that at least 50% of the food offered by a vendor in a vending machine on state property meet accepted nutritional guidelines by January 1, 2015. The bill would then require 75% compliance with accepted nutritional guidelines by January 1, 2016, and 100% compliance by January 1, 2017. On and after January 1, 2016, the bill would also require that 100% of beverages offered by a vendor in a vending machine on state property also meet the accepted nutritional guidelines. The bill would revise the definition of accepted nutritional guidelines for this purpose. Tracked by the CAFPC because it would increase healthy food access. **Held in Suspension by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.**

**9 AB 996 (Dickinson, Sacramento):** Updates and amends multiple provisions regarding farmers' market regulations, fees and governance to meet quality control needs identified by the farmers market industry in an extended stakeholder input process. Tracked by the CAFPC because it could contribute to development of diverse regional food systems and support small farm viability. **Held in Suspension by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.**

**10 SB 622 (Monning, Carmel):** Creates a tax on every distributor of a defined set of bottled sweetened beverages, either as concentrate or as sweetened beverages derived from that concentrate, at a rate of \$0.01 per fluid ounce. Revenue to be used for a fund dedicated to projects and programs to protect and improve the health of California's children. Tracked by CAFPC because an amended version could contribute to development of diverse, equitable regional food systems, small farm viability and availability of healthy foods access for all of California's communities. **Held in Suspension by the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

# THE CAFPC'S ANALYSIS OF THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

We identified five important points to share with the public from this year's legislative activity, which are described in detail below:

1. We were gratified to see that five of the ten bills we tracked did make it through both houses of the Legislature and were signed by the Governor.
2. The Legislators will better serve our residents and the future of the state with an increased generation of and support for bills that promote a healthy food system based on a deeper analysis of root causes to present challenges.
3. There is a shortage of policy proposals that would help agriculture and food producers accelerate their move toward sustainable production systems.
4. It is time to devise a revenue stream that will support an under-resourced sector of the California economy. Revenue would be needed by the Legislature to support new or improved food and agriculture laws that will make us healthier.
5. We hope to see the Legislature introduce and pass more bills related to food systems and for the Governor to take a more active role in food system issues.

First, we were gratified to see that five of the ten bills tracked did make it through both houses of the Legislature and were signed by the Governor.

The array of bills was encouraging. Improvements were made in California law related to farm and food worker prosperity, small farm viability, regional food system development and healthy food access. We applaud the Legislature for debating and voting on these bills. Although we did not track AB 10, which will become law in January and increase the minimum wage to \$10 per hour in increments over the next two years, some members do see this as a positive step. Food chain workers remain among the lowest paid and most isolated in the US economy. Access to fresh, sustainable and healthy food, which can be more expensive, is often hardest for those who feed us.

Second, the Legislators will better serve our residents and the future of the state with an increased generation of and support for bills that promote a healthy food system based on a deeper analysis of root causes to present challenges. Of the 27 bills analyzed, only 11 (40%) made it to a vote and were passed by both chambers. Of the 10 bills tracked over the year, only 5 (50%) made it to floor votes. All 5 were passed. Many legislators had concerns over the economic impacts of some of the bills when the state is still in recovery from the Great Recession. Some of the bills would have added costs to consumers. But, it seems many legislators do not recognize the fundamental importance of food and agriculture systems. Most do not yet recognize that agriculture and food businesses can be critical partners in meeting the challenges of climate change, environmental quality, economic development and public health if given the right signals and incentives.

Third, there are fewer policy proposals that would help agriculture and food producers accelerate their move toward sustainable production systems than we would like to see.

Despite some of the strictest pesticide and pollution laws in the world, California's soil, water and air quality is still degraded in many areas of the state. We believe that conservation incentives are important tools, but few incentives are in place for the thousands of growers and ranchers on millions of acres in California. Moreover, the state has not considered how it might support the multitude of innovative farmers and ranchers, natural food companies, and farm to table restaurants emerging in communities up and down the state to aid in solving health and economic challenges. California's agriculture and food entrepreneurs are among the most creative and conscientious in the world. If provided sensible incentives, these food providers would be a powerful force in meeting current challenges facing California's food system and the environment. Similarly, with the notable exception of AB 823, the [California Farmland Protection Act](#), sponsored by [California Climate and Agriculture Network](#), [American Farmland Trust](#) and [Community Alliance with Family Farmers](#), there is little new work being done to improve the long-term availability of the land upon which farming and ranching depend and little focus on how these lands can be used to mitigate climate change. Some of us are hopeful AB 823 will be reintroduced in 2014.

## BILLS ANALYZED

40%

PASSED

11 BILLS

27 BILLS

## BILLS TRACKED

50%

PASSED

5 BILLS

10 BILLS





Fourth, the state's fiscal crisis is receding and now is the time to devise a revenue stream that will allow the Legislature's support of important new laws that will make us healthier. This is particularly true given the Congressional struggle to pass farm and food legislation upon which the state has long depended to improve food and agriculture systems. In line with states across the country, the Legislature could consider how targeted fees or taxes could be assessed to help cover the public health costs associated with sugar consumption, overuse of nitrogen fertilizers and the controversial use of sub-therapeutic antibiotics in livestock production. Revenues from new assessments could also be used to support the numerous community-based organizations hard at work to improve the health of our kids and the economic welfare and resilience of our most vulnerable communities. Currently there are insufficient resources for community-based solutions. Such solutions might include nutrition and cooking education, nutrition incentives for use of [CalFresh](#) for healthy food purchases at farmers markets, urban agriculture and garden projects, school food, and regional food processing infrastructure that serve the small and medium sized farms and ranches that serve communities. Use of revenue from California's cap and trade system is another appropriate source for food system improvement. Some portion of funds generated must be used to supplement the federal research and conservation programs that provide inadequate support for California's farmers and ranchers who are currently playing or wish to play a role in carbon sequestration. The legislature could also offer sensible tax breaks for food and agriculture companies doing good things to provide people healthier food, particularly in historically under-resourced communities.

Looking forward, we hope to see the Legislature introduce and pass more bills related to the food system and for the Governor to take a more active role in food system issues. We have a particular interest in seeing more legislation related to incentives for ecological stewardship, regional food system development, small farm viability, food chain worker prosperity and healthy food access. We also support the reinstatement of select committees or new subcommittees related to local, sustainable food production under the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committees. We think these additional committees could become excellent conduits for increasing legislators' understanding of the myriad opportunities to advance the state's health through improved food and agriculture systems.

# RECORD OF VOTES - ASSEMBLY

		Driver's licenses: eligibility	Labor Farm Contractors	CalFresh: categorical eligibility	CSAs & Agricultural Products	Urban Ag Zones
		AB 60	SB 168	AB 191	AB 224	AB 551
SPONSOR		Luis Al. Alejo	Bill Monning	Raul Bocanegra	Richard S. Gordon	Philip Y. Ting
Elected Rep	Party					
Katcho Achadjian	R	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Luis A. Alejo	D	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Travis Allen	R	nvr	no	yes	yes	yes
Tom Ammiano	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Toni Atkins	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Frank Bigelow	R	no	no	no	yes	no
Richard Bloom	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bob Blumenfield	D	no votes, took office 6/30/13				
Raul Bocanegra	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Susan Bonilla	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Rob Bonta	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Steven Bradford	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cheryl R. Brown	D	yes	nvr	yes	yes	yes
Joan Buchanan	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ian C. Calderon	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Nora Campos	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ed Chau	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Rocky Chavez	R	no	no	yes	yes	no
Wesley Chesbro	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Connie Conway	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Ken Cooley	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Brian Dahle	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Tom Daly	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Roger Dickinson	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tim Donnelly	R	no	no	no	yes	no
Susan Eggman	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

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		AB 60	SB 168	AB 191	AB 224	AB 551
SPONSOR		Luis Al. Alejo	Bill Monning	Raul Bocanegra	Richard S. Gordon	Philip Y. Ting
Elected Rep	Party					
Paul Fong	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Steve Fox	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	nvr
Jim Frazier	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Beth Gaines	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Cristina Garcia	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mike Gatto	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Jimmy Gomez	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lorena Gonzalez	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Richard S. Gordon	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	nvr
Jeff Gorrell	R	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Adam Gray	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Shannon Grove	R	no	no	no	yes	no
Curt Hagman	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Isadore Hall, III	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Diane L. Harkey	R	no	no	no	yes	no
Roger Hernandez	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Chris Holden	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Brian W. Jones	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Reggie Jones-Sawyer	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Marc Levine	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Eric Linder	R	nvr	no	no	yes	yes
Dan Logue	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Bonnie Lowenthal	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Brian Maienschein	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Allan R. Mansoor	R	no	no	no	yes	nvr
Jose Medina	D	yes	nvr	yes	yes	yes
Melissa Melendez	R	no	no	no	yes	yes



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		AB 60	SB 168	AB 191	AB 224	AB 551
SPONSOR		Luis Al. Alejo	Bill Monning	Raul Bocanegra	Richard S. Gordon	Philip Y. Ting
Elected Rep	Party					
Holly Mitchell	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mike Morrell	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Kevin Mullin	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Al Muratsuchi	D	yes	nvr	yes	yes	yes
Adrin Nazarian	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Brian Nestande	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Kristin Olsen	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Richard Pan	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Jim Patterson	R	no	no	no	yes	no
Henry T. Perea	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
John A. Perez	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
V. Manuel Perez	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bill Quirk	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sharon Quirk-Silva	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Anthony Rendon	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Rudy Salas	D	yes	nvr	yes	yes	yes
Nancy Skinner	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mark Stone	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Philip Y. Ting	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Donald P. Wagner	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Marie Waldron	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Shirley N. Weber	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bob Wieckowski	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Scott Wilk	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Das Williams	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mariko Yamada	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

# RECORD OF VOTES - SENATE

		Driver's licenses: eligibility	Labor Farm Contractors	CalFresh: categorical eligibility	CSAs & Agricultural Products	Urban Ag Zones
		AB 60	SB 168	AB 191	AB 224	AB 551
SPONSOR		Luis Al. Alejo	Bill Monning	Raul Bocanegra	Richard S. Gordon	Philip Y. Ting
Elected Rep	Party					
Joel Anderson	R	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Jim Beall	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tom Berryhill	R	nvr	no	no	yes	yes
Marty Block	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ron Calderon	D	yes	yes	nvr	yes	yes
Anthony Cannella	R	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Ellen M. Corbett	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lou Correa	D	yes	nvr	yes	nvr	yes
Kevin de León	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mark DeSaulnier	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bill Emmerson	R	nvr	no	no	yes	yes
Noreen Evans	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Jean Fuller	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Ted Gaines	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Cathleen Galgiani	D	yes	nvr	yes	yes	yes
Loni Hancock	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ed Hernandez	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Jerry Hill	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ben Hueso	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bob Huff	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Hannah-Beth Jackson	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Steve Knight	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Ricardo Lara	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mark Leno	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ted W. Lieu	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Carol Liu	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

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		AB 60	SB 168	AB 191	AB 224	AB 551
SPONSOR		Luis Al. Alejo	Bill Monning	Raul Bocanegra	Richard S. Gordon	Philip Y. Ting
Elected Rep	Party					
Bill Monning	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Jim Nielsen	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Alex Padilla	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Fran Pavely	D	nvr	yes	yes	yes	yes
Curren D. Price Jr.	D	no votes, left office 7/1/2013 replaced by Holly Mitchell on 9/17/13				
Richard D. Roth	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Darrell Steinberg	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Norma J. Torres	D	yes	yes	yes	nvr	yes
Andy Vidak	D	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Mimi Walters	R	no	no	no	nvr	yes
Lois Wolk	D	yes	nvr	yes	yes	yes
Roderick D. Wright	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mark Wyland	R	no	no	no	yes	yes
Leland Y. Yee	D	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

## CAFPC POLICY WORKING GROUP

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**Y. Armando Nieto**

Executive Director  
Community Food & Justice Coalition &  
Member CAFPC

## LIST OF RATIFIED MEMBERS OF THE CAFPC & THEIR POSITION ON THIS REPORT:

Berkeley Food Policy Council: affirmed

Central Coast Healthy Food Access  
Committee: affirmed

Los Angeles Food Policy Council:  
affirmed

Marin Food Policy Council: affirmed

Mendocino Food Policy Council:  
abstained

Napa County Local Food Council:  
abstained

Oakland Food Policy Council: affirmed

Orange County Food Access Coalition:  
affirmed

Plumas County Community Food  
Council: abstained

Richmond Food Policy Council:  
affirmed

Sacramento Region Food System  
Collaborative: affirmed

San Francisco Food Security Task  
Force: affirmed

San Francisco Urban Ag Alliance:  
affirmed

San Diego Food Systems Alliance: vote  
taken prior to their ratification

San Luis Obispo Food System  
Coalition: affirmed

San Mateo Food System Alliance:  
affirmed

Santa Barbara Food Policy Council:  
affirmed

Shasta Go Local: affirmed

Yolo Ag and Food Alliance: abstained



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The California Food Policy Council is funded and staffed by Roots of Change, a program of the Public Health Institute