



**CALIFORNIA FOOD +  
FARMING NETWORK**



# Food & Farm Scorecard

2018

# Report Partners

The California Food & Farming Network (CFFN) is comprised of over fifty organizations from across the state that are striving to improve the food and farming system. Collectively, CFFN is dedicated to advancing state policies that are rooted in communities, promote fairness and racial equity, secure financial prosperity and advance environmental sustainability. Through this multi-sector network, we are able to share information, build alignment and advance policies.

The California Food Policy Council (CAFPC) is comprised of twenty-seven local councils from across the state. CAFPC seeks to catalyze its members to find common ground across a far-reaching spectrum of food system stakeholders and promote statewide policies and practices that reflect the core values we share (see page 4). We provide broadly supported guidance and assistance to decisionmakers as they develop new policies, regulations, programs, funding, technical support and research priorities affecting food and agriculture in our state. We collaborate to more efficiently enact policy that creates food system change in our home areas, share best practices to improve the operation of our local councils and strengthen the interactions between them.

The following members from these groups have endorsed the report:

- Berkeley Food Policy Council
- CA4Health
- California FarmLink
- California Food Policy Advocates
- California Institute for Rural Studies
- Californians Against Waste
- Californians for Pesticide Reform
- Center for Food Safety
- Central Coast Healthy Food Access Committee
- Community Water Center
- Community Alliance for Agroecology
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council
- Ecology Center
- Environmental Working Group
- Friends of the Earth
- Food, Ag and Nutrition Network of Solano
- Humboldt Food Policy Council
- Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
- Long Beach Fresh
- Los Angeles Food Policy Council
- Marin Food Policy Council
- Mendocino County Food Policy Council
- Nevada County Food Policy Council
- North County Food Policy Council (San Diego)
- Oakland Food Policy Council
- Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
- Orange County Food Access Coalition
- Pajaro Valley Food, Farming & Health Policy Council
- Pesticide Action Network North America
- Plumas-Sierra Community Food Council
- Roots of Change
- Sacramento Food Policy Council
- San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance
- San Mateo County Food System Alliance
- Slow Food California
- Sustainable Economies Law Center



**Acknowledgement:** Thanks to Roots of Change for starting this legislative tracking six years ago with an eye toward holding our legislators accountable to ensuring a healthy and fair food and farming system.

## Analysis 2018

California's good food movement continues to make progress creating policy that will support a healthy, just and resilient agriculture and food system. The seventy organizations linked through the California Food and Farming Network and California Food Policy Council tracked twenty-one bills in 2018. Positions were taken on seventeen of them. Through the legislative or budget process, 70% of these bills were either killed or adopted in accord with our position.

The majority (10) of the wins were in the areas of *improved access to healthy food and beverages, and ecological agriculture and food production*. Most of the ecological gains can be attributed to California's commitment, led by outgoing Governor Jerry Brown, to combat climate change. Sustainable agriculture advocates have successfully shown that farmers and ranchers can be part of the solution to climate change when they are given the right tools and techniques. Successes in the area of healthy food access reflect food justice and public health advocates' demand for actions that lessen hunger and end the epidemic of obesity.

Few bills were introduced in the areas of *food chain worker advancement*. And legislation that supports *economic viability of local food and small-scale agriculture* saw some interest this year, but with limited wins.

This year, we opposed three bills. Two of these bills opposed aimed to create new state-sanctioned agriculture commissions.

The bills seemed more designed to keep agenda-setting power in the hands of those who represent the current system rather than to include those farmers and ranchers who are most often left out.

We invite our Legislators to strive to more comprehensively understand the broad challenges faced by agricultural producers in order to realize the impact of these challenges on the future health and economy of the state. As it stands now, the most transformative policies that address the complex underlying challenges in our food and farming system, and which require significant shifts in policy direction, are blocked.

Fortunately, within the good food movement in the California Food & Farming Network, membership is growing. What were once thought of as siloed sectors—agriculture and food access, food waste and soil health, race and food chain workers—are starting to be seen as one system. More than ever, the organizations in our network are striving to ground their work in the local communities which will be affected most by the policies they propose—building a bridge between local and state policy.

With climate change worsening and protective federal environmental and immigration policies being rolled back, we're glad California's advocates are coming together to ensure our state stands strong on these values. Now we ask that our Legislators do the same.



# Ten Guiding Principles

CFFN & CAFPC promote policies that:



**1.** Ensure access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food as a basic **human right**.



**2.** Reduce health and income disparities and the concentration of resources, while upholding the dignity, security, and self-determination of all the communities it serves with **equity-enhancing** policies and practices.



**3.** Make the healthiest choice the easiest choice with policies and practices that promote **health** and result in food environments that provide access to an abundance of affordable, fresh food choices, incentives to consume healthy, humane, local and California-grown foods.



**4.** Protect and restores our **environment** and vital natural resources, such as air, water, soil, biodiversity, climate, and wildlife and eliminates waste wherever possible.



**5.** Support a vibrant and diverse food and agriculture **economy** comprised of businesses of multiple scales that sell into local, regional, state, national and international markets, while creating strong linkages and benefits for our local and regional economies.



**6.** Recognize that a fair food system requires **functional immigration and labor policies** that uphold the dignity, safety, and quality of life for all who work to feed us.



**7.** Recognize the vital role of **education** in preparing our youth to become the next generation of informed eaters, producers, and food chain workers.



**8.** Value our **farmland and fisheries** and the hard work and commitment of our farmers, fisherfolk, and ranchers.












































**9.** Operate within a **global** food system that generates economic, political, and market realities that impact the choices of California producers, food businesses, policy-makers and consumers.



**10.** Require that all food system stakeholders are engaged in the political process and are in dialogue with each other at the local, regional, state and national level through meaningful and effective **collaboration**.

## Priority Bills for the 2018 Legislative Session

Bill No.	Position	Bill Name	Status	Values
<b>ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE &amp; FOOD PRODUCTION</b>				
AB 1165	Oppose	Agricultural Council: regulatory alignment	Governor Vetoed	 
AB 1981	Support	CAL FIRE participation in compost inter-agency collaboration	Signed into law	
AB 2062	Support	Native plant use in state highway landscaping	Signed into law	
AB 2166	No position	California Farm Bill: agricultural technology	Held in Assembly Appropriations, parts continued as AB 1165	    
AB 2377	Support	Technical assistance grants for climate-smart agriculture programs	Signed into law	  
AB 2411	Support	Use of compost by public entities	Signed into law	
<b>ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF LOCAL FOOD &amp; SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE</b>				
AB 626	No position	Homemade Food Operations Act	Signed into law	 
AB 2909	Support	Small-scale poultry producers	Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee	
SB 965	Oppose	California Cattle Council	Signed into law	 
<b>IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD &amp; BEVERAGES</b>				
AB 1335	Support	Safety warnings on sugar-sweetened beverages	Gutted and amended in Senate. Died in Senate Appropriations	
AB 1871	Support	Charter schools: free and reduced-price meals	Signed into law	 
AB 1894	Support	CalFresh on CSU campuses	Signed into law	 
AB 2178	No position	Limited service charitable feeding operation	Signed into law	
AB 2335	Support	Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program: Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program	Killed in Senate Appropriations, but program was funded in the budget	 
SB 623	Support	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund	Killed in Assembly Rules Committee	  
SB 872 & AB 1838	No position	Pre-emption of local governments' ability to pass soda taxes	Signed into law	  
SB 900	Support	Supplemental nutrition benefits integration with CalFresh EBT system	SB 900's statutory language and \$9 million in funding were included in AB 1811, the Human Services Omnibus Budget Bill, which was signed by the Governor	
SB 1192	Support	Healthy drinks in children's meals	Signed into law	
<b>FOOD CHAIN WORKER ADVANCEMENT</b>				
AB 1885	Oppose	Assessment of agriculture and service industry labor shortages	Held in Assembly Committee for Labor and Employment	 
SB 946	Support	Sidewalk vendors	Signed into law	 
SB 974	Support	Medi-Cal eligibility for undocumented adults over 65	Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee	  

Key= Wins; Losses; No position



# Ecological Agriculture and Food Production

This year brought wins for all of the ecological agriculture bills tracked. Support for composting, pollinators, and climate resilient farming practices shined through. AB 2377 gives the most robust technical assistance program in recent years to help farmers apply for and implement the state's climate smart agriculture programs. The bill includes a 25% carve-out for farmers of color.

Knowing that agriculture has many dimensions to it, the omnibus agriculture bill, AB 2166 was an attempt to bridge some of the growing needs but was unnecessarily focused on agricultural high technology (see Contentious Food & Farm Bills section).

AB 1165, a bill which we opposed, would have created a pathway to suspend regulations affecting farmers, potentially weakening critical safeguards that cross many sectors, including air quality, water quality, food waste, climate adaptation, and more. Unfortunately, AB 1165 was a flawed approach, forming a new council that could dismiss or undermine critical environmental and public health safeguards.



## Wins

### **AB 1165 (Caballero) Agricultural Sustainability Council: regulatory alignment—Oppose**

The bill would have established the Agricultural Sustainability Council, tasked with making recommendations to state agencies for regulatory alignments that aid grower compliance, reduce costs to the ag industry, and protect the environment. The council would have included the heads of 8 state agencies and departments, the president and two members of the State Board of Food and Agriculture.

*Passed by the Legislature, but Vetoed by the Governor*

### **AB 1981 (Limón) Organic waste: composting—Support**

The bill adds CAL FIRE to the departments that CalEPA must consult with when developing and implementing policies relating to meeting the state's organic waste recycling goals. In addition, the bill encourages the use of compost in projects that reduce fire risk and support postfire recovery efforts.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*

### **AB 2062 (Maienschein) State highways: landscaping—Support**

The bill requires Caltrans, when appropriate, to include California native wildflowers and climate-appropriate vegetation in planting projects, prioritizing species of wildflowers that will help rebuild pollinator populations.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*



### **AB 2377 (Irwin) Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: technical assistance grant program—Support**

This bill requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture to establish a technical assistance grant program to provide funds to technical assistance providers to work with applicants for the Healthy Soils Program, Alternative Manure Management Program, and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. 25% of funds will be used to serve socially disadvantaged farmers.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.*

### **AB 2411 (McCarty) Solid waste: use of compost: planning—Support**

This bill requires CalRecycle to develop and implement a plan to maximize the use of compost for slope stabilization and establishing vegetation following wildfires. Additionally, CalRecycle, in consultation with Caltrans, must plan to implement best practices for Caltrans' cost-effective use of compost along roadways.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*

## No Position

### **AB 2166 (Caballero) - California Farm Bill: agricultural technology—no position**

The bill would have established the Ag Tech Innovation Institute and required other efforts by California Community Colleges and county agricultural commissioners to advance internet access and agricultural training programs. It would have created tax credits for deployment of ag technology, and sought to establish the Agricultural Growth Council, with state agency and public membership.

*Held in Assembly Appropriations, parts continued as AB 1165*

*(See Contentious Food & Farm Bills section)*

# Economic Viability of Local Food & Small Scale Agriculture

There seems to be a growing appetite for bills supporting the state's local economies. With bipartisan support, bills that help home cooks, small poultry producers, and sidewalk food vendors (see Food Chain Worker Advancement section) were given attention this year. While we saw few wins with these bills this year, those introduced set the stage for similar issues in coming legislative sessions.

The Small Poultry Producer Protection Act, AB 2909, would have supported small-scale poultry operations, but failed to pass out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee despite broad support from chefs, local food advocates, small poultry producers and the California Farm Bureau Federation. The Homemade Food Operations Act, AB 626, after weathering a two-year session was signed by the Governor, allowing home cooks to sell their food. There were pros and cons identified for this bill within the food advocate community (see Contentious Food & Farm Bills section).

A bill which we opposed, the California Cattle Council, reappeared this year as SB 965 after having been defeated in 2017 by a combination of food advocates and small cattle ranches. SB 965 addressed several issues from the previous year, but failed to address the most fundamental concern that the council continues to serve the interests of the state's largest ranchers at the expense of smaller operations.

## No Position

### **AB 626 (Eduardo Garcia, Arambula) California Retail Food Code: micro-enterprise home kitchen operations—no position**

This bill allows home cooks to sell food to consumers. Counties must opt-in to this allowance.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor  
(See Contentious Food & Farm Bills section)*

## Losses

### **AB 2909 (Wood) Poultry producers: small-scale producers and California Retail Food Code—Support**

This bill would have created a food safety regulatory framework for small-scale poultry producers slaughtering birds on-farm, rather than trucking birds to industrial slaughterhouses which are few and far between, and which are often less humane than on-farm processing. It would have eased and clarified regulatory requirements for these poultry producers and opened up more local sales channels for them.  
*Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee*

### **SB 965 (McGuire) California Cattle Council—Oppose**

This bill establishes the California Cattle Council within the California Department of Food and Agriculture, made up of 11 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. An assessment of \$1/ head of cattle and calves sold will fund Council activities, including production research, producer and consumer education, and various promotional activities related to cattle in California.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*



# Improved Access to Healthy Food & Beverages

Healthy food access policy took a number of positive steps forward in 2018. Many bills focused on social justice survived the entire legislative cycle, showing a commitment by our legislators to reduce community inequities.

Prior to legislation this year, the lunch environment in K-12 charter schools ranged from non-existent to robust—with the passage of AB 1871, low-income students of K-12 charter schools will be able to access free and reduced priced meals. Hunger on college campuses saw one win, but work is needed to continue increasing access to federal food programs. Outside of schools, an expansion of the existing statewide nutrition incentives program will provide refrigeration grants to corner stores, improving low-income people's access to healthy foods.

On the beverage front, we saw the state legislature give in to pressure from well-funded beverage groups with new legislation that prohibits communities from passing local soda taxes until 2031. Community members no longer have a say in how to best focus on public health impacts caused by sugary beverages. Additionally, the push for a safe and affordable drinking water fund did not pass, even though California passed a statute six years ago that ensures “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.” With that said, important legislation was passed that makes water and milk the default beverage for children's meals.

## Wins

### **AB 1871 (Bonta) Charter schools: free and reduced-price meals—Support**

Ensures that low-income public charter school students have access to free or reduced-price, nutritious school meals, as their peers do in traditional public schools.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*

### **AB 1894 (Weber) Postsecondary education: student hunger—Support**

Authorizes any qualifying food facility located on a CSU campus to participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*

### **AB 2335 (Ting) - Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program: Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program—Support**

Creates the Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program within the California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP) to award grants to certain small businesses and corner stores to purchase refrigeration units to stock California-grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, and minimally-processed foods.

*Killed in Senate Appropriations, but program was funded in the budget (See also Budget Items section)*

### **SB 900 (Wiener) - Electronic benefits transfer system: CalFresh supplemental benefits—Support**

Would have enabled the CalFresh EBT system to integrate supplemental nutrition benefits that incentivize California-grown produce purchases. Currently supplemental benefits are not added to recipients' EBT cards, limiting the expansion of supplemental nutrition benefits via EBT at grocery stores and farmers' markets.

*SB 900's statutory language and \$9 million in funding were included in AB 1811, the Human Services Omnibus Budget Bill, and signed by the Governor. (See also Budget Items section)*

### **SB 1192 (Monning) Children's meals—Support**

Requires restaurants that sell children's meals to make either water, milk, or a non-dairy milk alternative the default beverage that is offered with children's meals.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*

## No Position

### **AB 2178 (Limón) Limited service charitable feeding operation—No position**

Expands the definition of a food facility to include a limited service charitable feeding operation whose purpose is to feed food-insecure individuals and requires limited service charitable feeding operations to register with the local enforcement agency.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor (See Contentious Food & Farm Bills section)*

### **SB 872 & AB 1838 - Local government: taxation: prohibition: groceries—No position**

Creates a moratorium on passage of any taxes on grocery items—aimed specifically at sugar-sweetened beverages—at the local level for 12 years.

*Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor (See Contentious Food & Farm Bills section)*

## Losses

### **AB 1335 (Bonta, Chiu, Wood) Sugar-sweetened beverages: safety warnings—Support**

This bill would have required a safety warning on all sealed sugar-sweetened beverage containers reading: “Drinking beverages with added sugar(s) contributes to obesity, type 2 diabetes, and tooth decay”.

*Gutted and amended in Senate. Died in Senate Appropriations*

### **SB 623 (Monning) Water quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund—Support**

Would have established the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to provide an ongoing source of funding to ensure all Californians have access to safe drinking water. Funding would have come from a fertilizer mill fee, a fertilizer fee, a fee on dairies, and a new small statewide fee assessed on monthly utility bills.

*Killed in Assembly Rules Committee*

# Food Chain Worker Advancement

Low wages and unsafe working conditions continue to be major concerns for the one in seven California workers employed in the food system. With the current U.S. administration's anti-immigrant rhetoric and criminalization of undocumented immigrants, daily life and work for many food chain workers is more precarious now than ever. Employers face labor shortages as deportations and a culture of fear keeps workers from their jobs from field to table.

Three bills highlighted the various ways that California's policymakers are responding to federal immigration policy with respect to food chain workers. The attempt by advocates to expand Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented people over the age of 65 failed. By contrast, a bill to decriminalize sidewalk vending, which mostly applies to immigrant entrepreneurs, succeeded. AB 1885, another bill we opposed this year, would have created an unjust, temporary guest worker status without helping immigrants navigate the permanent immigration process.

## Wins

### **AB 1885 (Eduardo Garcia, Caballero, and Mathis) Undocumented Workers: California Resident Worker Program and Economic Stabilization Act—Oppose**

This bill would have required the Employment Development Department and the Department of Food and Agriculture to determine the extent of labor shortages in the agriculture and service industries for the federal government. Would also have required convening a working group to address issues relating to a work permit program for undocumented people in those industries and to liaise with the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security regarding federal vs. state jurisdiction over immigration issues.

*Held in Assembly Committee for Labor and Employment*

### **SB 946 (Lara) Sidewalk vendors—Support**

This bill decriminalizes sidewalk vending and allows local jurisdictions to regulate sidewalk vending as related to public health, safety, and welfare. Sidewalk food vendors must still meet the requirements of their local health enforcement agency. *Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor*

## Losses

### **SB 974 (Lara) Medi-Cal: immigration status: adults—Support**

This bill would have established full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility for undocumented adults age 65 years of age or older, contingent on annual budget appropriations. (Current law establishes full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility for undocumented children.)

*Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee*



## Budget Items

Where we invest money is the true signal of where there is support for an equitable food system. While the creation of policies and programs could be infinite, state funding is not, so many programs created do not receive guaranteed funding. This year we tracked eight important budget items that emerged from the legislative session.

More than \$300 million dollars were invested in increasing access to healthy food and beverages and incentivizing ecological agriculture practices in 2018. While significant, funding for food and agriculture improvement is often only one-time funding. Ongoing, continuous funding would show a greater commitment to the health of our food and farming system.

### Ecological Agriculture and Food Production

**CalRecycle Grant Programs, \$25 million, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.** Grant programs include the Organics Grant Program, providing funding for new or expanded composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructure and the Food Waste Prevention and Rescue program, providing funding to food banks, local governments, schools, and non-profits to expand their capacity to rescue edible food or prevent food waste. In addition to being highly over-subscribed, CalRecycle's Programs have ranked among the most cost effective programs in terms of dollars spent per ton of greenhouse gas reduced.

**Climate Smart Agriculture Programs, \$5 million, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.** One-time funding for the Healthy Soils Program. The Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEEP) received funding from state ballot Proposition 68 this year (a total of \$30 million), but failed to receive requested funding of \$25 million and \$40 million, respectively, from the state budget. The Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) continues to receive the "leftovers" from \$100M for dairy digesters.

### Improved Access to Healthy Food and Beverages

**Research for health impact of consuming solid sugar (sugary foods), \$5.5 million, General Fund.** Put forward by Senator Pan, this is a one-time allocation to UC Davis Foods for Health Institute to study the health impact of consuming solid sugar (sugary foods). There are ample studies of the health impact of liquid sugar, but none that isolate and quantify the impact of sugary foods. This research will fill that gap and can be then used to develop evidence-based policies for nutrition improvement.

**Reauthorization of CA Nutrition Incentives Act, \$15 million, General Fund.** A program created in 2015, the legislature continues to put forward money that helps combat hunger while also supporting California farmers. Put forward by Assemblymembers Ting and Bonta, this budget item provides \$10 million of additional nutrition incentive money for distribution via Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture, and farm stands. Originating from AB 2335 (Ting), an additional \$5 million provides small retail with refrigerated produce display cases and technical assistance that will support effective produce sales and use of nutrition incentives.

**SSI Cashout, \$230 million, General Fund.** This money will implement the historic end of SSI cash-out that denies CalFresh benefits to those receiving Supplemental Security Income (known as SSI/SSP in California). Crucially, the budget includes initial funding for state-funded Supplemental and Transitional Nutrition Benefit programs to mitigate the losses of those households with SSI and non-SSI members already receiving CalFresh who will lose some or all of their food benefits as a result of ending cash-out. Advocates will seek permanent funding for these 'hold harmless' programs as well as investments to successfully enroll the estimated 370,000 newly eligible households onto CalFresh.

**Supplemental nutrition benefits with CalFresh EBT system, \$9 million, General Fund.** This funding will direct approximately \$5 million in direct incentives for California-grown fruit and vegetable purchases, \$1.5 million for state EBT system upgrades, and \$1.5 million for community partner and retailer support. Originating from SB 900 (Wiener), this funding is the first time CalFresh users can receive supplemental nutrition incentive benefits directly with their EBT card when purchasing California-grown fruits and vegetables in participating grocery stores and farmers markets (pilot project).

**CalFood Program, \$8 million, General Fund.** This budget item enables California food banks to purchase California-grown foods. A critical investment but far short of the \$20.6 million requested.

**Food Bank Capacity Grants, \$5.5 million, General Fund.** One-time funding to support physical infrastructure enhancements like clean-burning trucks, forklifts or other one-time capital investments.

## Contentious Food & Farm Bills

This year, we highlight four bills that left the good food movement unable to take a position.

Food and farming issues cut across many sectors. Issues that may be perceived as separate, such as hunger and soil health, race and farmers, food waste and food insecurity, among others, are in fact closely related. Within this interdependent food system, different groups look at the same issue through different lenses. This is often a strength of our food and farming system. However, there are times when those varying lenses don't see eye to eye.

In other cases, there are bills crafted with good intentions, but the details prevent us from being able to take a stance.

### **AB 626 (Garcia, Eduardo)—California Retail Food Code: microenterprise home kitchen operations.**

Legalizing the homemade food sector is a critical step in improving economic viability of food entrepreneurs contributing to the informal food economy. The Homemade Food Operations Act, signed into law in September 2018, expands the types of homemade foods legally approved for sale. The bill was designed to open up new opportunities for home cooks, while aiming to increase public health protections for consumers. However the legislation, backed in part by tech companies, was criticized for not ensuring that home cooks and consumers are sufficiently protected from food safety issues or other employment concerns. While some food movement organizations supported the bill, others pressed for amendments to limit the type of tech platforms that can facilitate sales of homemade meals to those that are not owned by absentee shareholders. *Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.*

### **AB 2166 (Caballero)—California Farm Bill: agricultural technology**

Assemblymember Anna Caballero introduced AB 2166, the California Farm Bill, in an effort to promote agricultural technology across the state, support workforce development, address the current labor shortage and deal with resource conservation and climate change. While we agree that a California farming omnibus bill is needed, AB 2166 had a narrow focus on high-tech solutions to agricultural sustainability that would ultimately benefit current industrial models of agriculture. It did not propose to invest in agroecology education, training, and implementation which would ensure greater job creation for skilled agricultural workers, environmental sustainability, just economic development, and overall productivity in rural communities.

The ambitious and expensive bill faced challenges on all sides and advocates sought to amend the bill, with modest success. After its failure, the author resurrected pieces of AB 2166 by placing them in AB 1165 (which we opposed). This bill would have established an Agricultural Sustainability Council designed to relieve farmers of regulatory burdens. *Killed in Assembly Appropriations, but some provisions reintroduced in AB 1165, which was passed by the Legislature and vetoed by the Governor.*

### **AB 2178 (Limón)—Limited service charitable feeding operation**

Assemblymember Monique Limón introduced AB 2178, Limited Service Charitable Feeding Operation, to ensure groups that offer free meals comply with health regulations—a 'protection' for the homeless and low-income populations receiving the meals. California food safety laws are quite restrictive and complicated. With original intention to make it easier to feed the hungry safely, some food advocates argued that this bill gives local environmental health departments a regulatory framework designed specifically for anti-hunger community groups. Others understood the bill to make it more challenging and expensive for grassroots organizations to comply with environmental health regulations, arguing that there is no evidence that low-income and homeless people have ever developed a foodborne illness as a result of a charitable feeding operation. *Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.*

### **SB 872 & AB 1838 Local government: taxation: prohibition: groceries**

Governor Brown signed into law SB 872 & AB 1838, preventing any future efforts by cities or counties to pass local taxes on sugary drinks or junk food for the next 12 years. Existing taxes on sugar-sweetened drinks (as in Berkeley) have demonstrated success reducing consumption while also raising funds for local health education programs. The bill was rushed through the legislature and came as a shock to health advocates across the state. Legislators decried that they had little choice but to support this bill in order to prevent a soda-industry-backed November ballot measure that would have restricted cities and counties from raising taxes of any kind without a supermajority vote of local citizens. One in three children are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes and obesity, and the number is greater for children of color. This legislation is in direct conflict with the public health interests of all Californians. The soda industry should not dictate the public health of our state. *Passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.*



# The California Food and Farm Policy Champions

In a Legislature with 120 elected officials, many champions for change to California's agriculture and food system are needed. In 2017, we recognized two champions, one from the Senate and one from the Assembly. This year two more champions were identified, both from the Senate. They have long tenures in the Legislature, and strong records in support of social justice, public health and climate protection.

This year, **Senators William Monning** and **Ricardo Lara** join 2017 and 2016 Champions—**Senators Mike McGuire, Lois Wolk, and Mark Leno** and **Assemblymembers David Chiu, Susan Talamantes Eggman** and **Phil Ting**—on the growing list of honored active legislators aiding our cause.



## Senator William Monning

Former Assemblymember and current Senate Majority Leader, William (Bill) Monning, a former farmworker attorney, came to the Senate in 2012 representing Central Coast communities from Santa Cruz to Santa Maria. No California legislator is a greater advocate of reducing diet-related disease by decreasing the consumption of sugary beverages. He authored legislation meant to establish a sugary drink tax directing its revenues to prevention programs as well as legislation to place warning labels on sugary beverage containers. Introduced by Monning and signed by the Governor this year, SB 1192 requires restaurants that sell children's meals to make either water or milk the default beverage. Monning also authored SB 623, to provide safe and affordable drinking water to Californians who lack it. This bill—addressing a critical public health challenge affecting many Californians—emerged from his skillful negotiation among local political jurisdictions and advocates from agriculture and social justice. He has also created laws protecting farmworkers from sexual harassment and withheld wages. Senator Monning has voted in alignment with the food movement's priorities on all but one bill since 2015.



## Senator Ricardo Lara

A former Assemblymember and son of Mexican immigrants, Ricardo Lara came to the Senate in 2012 representing communities from South Los Angeles to Long Beach. He has a long career in lawmaking—working as a staffer to a number of noted Latino legislators, including former Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León. He has authored bills supported by the food movement, with emphasis on increasing investment in underserved communities and protecting undocumented Californians. This year Lara introduced two bills defending immigrants and food chain workers. Signed by the Governor, SB 946 decriminalizes sidewalk vending, protecting people—often immigrants—selling food in their communities. While SB 974 was held in committee, it too would have supported basic needs—access to Medi-Cal—to undocumented adult immigrants. In addition to Lara's work on the rights of undocumented immigrants, his work to meet the challenges of climate destruction and air pollution are also notable. In 2017 he was named, along with Governor Jerry Brown, as the recipient of the Climate and Clean Air Award for Outstanding Policy Work, given at the United Nation's COP23 meeting in Bonn, Germany. Senator Lara has been a consistent supporter of food movement priorities. In the past three years he has not voted against one bill we have supported.



## Special Mention

We also wish to applaud **Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross** for her eight years of supporting critical improvements to California's food system. While we didn't agree on all policies, we praise her work on the nation's strongest commitment to reduction of antibiotic use in livestock, public investments to make fresh and healthy food affordable through nutrition incentives, and embracing agriculture's role as a solution to climate change.

# Record of votes—Senate

		SCORE	AB 1165	AB 1335	AB 1871	AB 1885	AB 1894	AB 1981	AB 2062	AB 2335	AB 2377	AB 2471	AB 2909	SB 623	SB 900	SB 946	SB 965	SB 974	SB 1192
Benjamin Allen	D	100%	NVR		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	NVR	●	●
Joel Anderson	R	54%	●		●		●	●	●		●	NVR		●	●	●	●	●	●
Toni G. Atkins	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Patricia C. Bates	R	54%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Jim Beall	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Tom Berryhill	R	67%	EA		EA		EA	EA	EA		EA	EA		●	●	EA	EA	●	EA
Steven Bradford	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Anthony Cannella	R	69%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	NVR	●	NVR	●
Ling Ling Chang / Vacant SD 29	R	60%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Kevin de León	D	54%	●		NVR		●	●	●		●	●		●	NVR	NVR	●	NVR	●
Vanessa Delgado / Vacant SD 32	D	75%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Bill Dodd	D	77%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Jean Fuller	R	54%	NVR		NVR		●	●	NVR		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Ted Gaines	R	62%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Cathleen Galgiani	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Steven M. Glazer	D	69%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	NVR	●	NVR	●
Ed Hernandez	D	92%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Robert M. Hertzberg	D	77%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		NVR	●	●	●	●	●
Jerry Hill	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Ben Hueso	D	92%	NVR		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Hannah-Beth Jackson	D	92%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	NVR	●	●
Ricardo Lara	D	92%	NVR		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Connie M. Leyva	D	85%	NVR		●		●	●	●		●	NVR		●	●	●	●	●	●
Mike McGuire	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Holly J. Mitchell	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Bill Monning	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
John M. W. Moorlach	R	54%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Mike Morrell	R	62%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Janet Nguyen	R	62%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Jim Nielsen	R	54%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	NVR
Richard Pan	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Anthony J. Portantino	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Richard D. Roth	D	77%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	NVR	●	●	●	●
Nancy Skinner	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Henry I. Stern	D	77%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	NVR	●
Jeff Stone	R	69%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Andy Vidak	R	62%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Bob Wieckowski	D	100%	NVR		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	NVR	●	●
Scott D. Wiener	D	85%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Scott Wilk	R	69%	●		●		●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●

Status VETOED DIED SIGNED HELD SIGNED SIGNED SIGNED HELD SIGNED SIGNED HELD DIED HELD SIGNED SIGNED HELD SIGNED

● Vote in alignment with CFFN & CAFPC position ● Vote contradicted CFFN & CAFPC position ● Seat Vacant NVR=No Vote Recorded  
EA=Excused Absence



# Record of votes—Assembly

		SCORE	AB 1165	AB 1335	AB 1871	AB 1885	AB 1894	AB 1981	AB 2062	AB 2335	AB 2377	AB 2471	AB 2909	SB 623	SB 900	SB 946	SB 965	SB 974	SB 1192
Dante Acosta	R	55%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Travis Allen	R	27%	●	●		NVR	●	●	●	●	NVR	●			●	●		●	
Dr. Joaquin Arambula	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Catharine B. Baker	R	64%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Marc Berman	D	91%	NVR	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Frank Bigelow	R	45%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Richard Bloom	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Rob Bonta	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
William P. Brough	R	55%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Autumn R. Burke	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Anna M. Caballero	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Ian C. Calderon	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Wendy Carrillo	D	73%	●	●		●	●	NVR	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Sabrina Cervantes	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Ed Chau	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Rocky J. Chavez	R	55%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Phillip Chen	R	36%	●	●		●	NVR	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
David Chiu	D	91%	NVR	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Steven S. Choi	R	64%	NVR	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Kansen Chu	D	91%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Ken Cooley	D	64%	●	●		NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		NVR	
Jim Cooper	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Jordan Cunningham	R	55%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Brian Dahle	R	36%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	NVR	●			●	●		●	
Tom Daly	D	73%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		NVR	
Susan Talamantes Eggman	D	73%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	NVR			●	●		●	
Heath Flora	R	55%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	●		NVR	
Vince Fong	R	55%	●	NVR		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	NVR		●	
Jim Frazier	D	64%	NVR	NVR		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	●		NVR	
Laura Friedman	D	82%	NVR	●		NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Jesse Gabriel /Vacant AD 45	D	88%	NVR	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
James Gallagher	R	45%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Cristina Garcia	D	64%	●	●		NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		NVR	
Eduardo Garcia	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Mike A. Gipson	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Todd Gloria	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Adam C Gray	D	73%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	
Timothy S. Grayson	D	73%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		NVR	
Mathew Harper	R	64%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	NVR		●	
Chris R. Holden	D	82%	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●	

● Vote in alignment with CFFN & CAFPC position ● Vote contradicted CFFN & CAFPC position ● Seat Vacant NVR=No Vote Recorded

		SCORE	AB 1165	AB 1335	AB 1871	AB 1885	AB 1894	AB 1981	AB 2062	AB 2335	AB 2377	AB 2471	AB 2909	SB 623	SB 900	SB 946	SB 965	SB 974	SB 1192
Jacqui Irwin	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Ash Kalra	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Sydney Kamlager-Dove	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Kevin Kiley	R	45%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	●	●	●	●
Tom Lackey	R	55%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Marc Levine	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Monique Limón	D	91%	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Evan Low	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Brian Maienschein	R	73%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Devon J. Mathis	R	64%	●	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Chad Mayes	R	73%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Kevin McCarty	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Jose Medina	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Melissa A. Melendez	R	45%	●	●	●	●	●	NVR	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Kevin Mullin	D	91%	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Al Muratsuchi	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	●	●	●	●
Adrin Nazarian	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Jay Obernolte	R	36%	●	●	●	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Patrick O'Donnell	D	64%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	●	●	●	●
Jim Patterson	R	45%	●	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Bill Quirk	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Sharon Quirk-Silva	D	73%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	NVR
Anthony Rendon	D	91%	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Eloise Gómez Reyes	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Luz M. Rivas / Vacant AD 39	D	50%	●	●	●	●	●	NVR	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	NVR
Freddie Rodriguez	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Blanca E. Rubio	D	73%	●	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Rudy Salas, Jr.	D	73%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Miguel Santiago	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Marc Steinorth	R	55%	●	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			NVR	●	●	●	●
Mark Stone	D	91%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Tony Thurmond	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Philip Y. Ting	D	91%	NVR	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Randy Voepel	R	36%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	NVR			●	●	●	●	●
Marie Waldron	R	55%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Shirley N. Weber	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Jim Wood	D	82%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●

Governor Brown	90%	●	NO DESK	●	NO DESK	●	●	●	NO DESK	●	●	NO DESK	NO DESK	NO DESK	●	●	NO DESK	●
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Status	VETOED	DIED	SIGNED	HELD	SIGNED	SIGNED	SIGNED	HELD	SIGNED	SIGNED	HELD	DIED	HELD	SIGNED	SIGNED	HELD	SIGNED
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● Vote in alignment with CFFN & CAFPC position ● Vote contradicted CFFN & CAFPC position ● Seat Vacant NVR=No Vote Recorded  
 No Desk=Did not cross Governor's desk





**CFFN**

## Contact information

[www.foodfarmnetwork.org](http://www.foodfarmnetwork.org)

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