



Connections

October 2010

Nominate the Best Rural-Urban Connectors

SACOG's annual *Salutes!* awards are focusing on projects and people that are the best examples of rural-urban connections. This includes activities in support of rural areas and the economic and environmental value they bring to our entire region. The awards will be presented as part of the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy forum on December 10 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

Submit your SACOG *Salutes!* nominations at www.sacog.org

SACOG *Salutes!* Award Categories

- Bill Hughes Elected Official
- Blueprint Excellence
- Regional Organization of the Year
- Regional Project of the Year
- Regional Business of the Year
- Employee of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Mary Brill Youth Excellence

Nominations are due by October 22 at 5 p.m. Nominations must be submitted online at www.sacog.org, but supporting materials may be mailed, faxed or delivered to SACOG.

For more information, please contact Monica Hernández at mhernandez@sacog.org or (916) 340-6237.

Healthy Foods in District Cafeterias, and Curriculum

Valley Vision's Sacramento Region Food System Collaborative, a RUCS partner, is working to increase the regional food system by facilitating marketing opportunities for locally grown products. Currently, only 2 percent of all food consumed in the region is locally grown. One strategy of the Food System Collaborative is to reach out to institutions able to purchase in volume from local farmers. Last year, the Food System Collaborative approached the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), which feeds 46,000 students.



Beet cubes on a stick!
Photo courtesy of SCUSD

The SCUSD's Board of Education knew that a large percentage of their students get most of their daily nutrition from school meals and vending machines, and needed healthier fare than the district's food service offers. School board Vice President Patrick Kennedy met with Valley Vision board directors and Food System Collaborative members, including Shawn Harrison of Soil Born Farms, and Patrick Mulvaney, a Sacramento restaurant owner and caterer who highlights local sources on his menus.

The SCUSD board subsequently formed the Healthy Foods Task Force, and was the first institution to officially endorse Valley Vision's Regional Food Charter. The district's Healthy Foods

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Attend a Workshop on Our Transportation Future

SACOG is updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the 24-year plan for how to meet the needs of our residents. Workshops are being held in every county. For locations and more details contact Monica Hernandez at mhernandez@sacog.org or call (916) 321-9000, or visit: www.sacog.org/mtp2035

El Dorado County
Wednesday, October 13, 6 p.m.
Department of Education, Placerville

Yolo County
Thursday, October 14, 6 p.m.
UC Davis ARC Ballroom, Davis

Placer County
Monday, October 18, 6 p.m.
Rocklin Sunset Center

Sacramento County South
Wednesday, October 20, 6 p.m.
Elk Grove High School

Sacramento County North
Thursday, October 21, 6 p.m.
Citrus Heights Community Center

Yuba County
Monday, October 25, 6 p.m.
County Government Services Building, Marysville

Sacramento County Central
Wednesday, October 27, 11 a.m. or 6 p.m.
Sacramento Convention Center

Sutter County
Thursday, October 28, 6 p.m.
Feather River Academy

Save the Date

Rural-Urban Connections Forum

December 10

Sacramento Convention Center

**Find out more and register at:
www.sacog.org**

Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Davis Farmers' Market Fall Festival

Saturday, October 30
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fall family fun at the Davis Festival includes Avenue of Scarecrows, pet the baby pigs, pie-by-the-slice, live music by the Peter Franklin Band and Music Matt, plus arts and crafts. The Pumpkin Patch, hosted by Soroptomist/Venture Clubs of Davis, is back by popular demand. Admission is free. The festival is sponsored by the Davis Farmers Market Association.



Looking for local?

To locate a California Certified farmers' market near you go to www.cafarmersmarkets.com.

To learn about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) or to subscribe go to www.localharvest.org.

Project Information

David Shabazian
Project Manager
(916) 340-6231
dshabazian@sacog.org

Stay current on rural-urban issues at www.sacog.org/ruc

Healthy Foods (continued)

Task Force now includes 17 individuals from diverse constituencies, including parents, faculty, district foodservice staff, students, Harrison, Mulvaney, Robyn Krock of Valley Vision, and Bill Maynard, the city of Sacramento's community garden expert.

Shortly after the creation of Sacramento's Healthy Foods Task Force, First Lady Michelle Obama kicked off a national initiative to end obesity, coinciding with the appointment of a federal task force, billions in proposed child-nutrition legislation, and a White House vegetable garden.

Kennedy has already seen results, and expects healthy returns from the program.

"On the first day of school this year I visited 14 different schools," said Kennedy recently.

"For the first time, I saw fresh fruit and vegetables at every lunch counter. This should be a small thing but it is a big deal. By offering healthier foods in school, the district's 46,000 kids will benefit."

For more information on the district's task force, contact Gabe Ross at Gabe-Ross@sac-city.k12.ca.us or (916) 643-9145. For more information on the Food System Collaborative, contact Robyn Krock at robyn.krock@valleyvision.org or (916) 325-1630 or visit www.foodsystemcollaborative.org.

More about the Healthy Foods Task Force

Goals

1. Provide healthier, more sustainable food in cafeterias
2. Incorporate nutrition and health into curriculum
3. Create a school district site that is dedicated to healthy foods, demonstration gardens, chef appearances, and nutrition education for students and their families
4. Create online resources and tools to provide information and encourage parent participation

Current Activities

- Identifying potential roadblocks in regulatory environments
- Identifying policies that will help make district food service more uniform and consistently nutritious
- Pursuing opportunities to contract with regional suppliers

USDA Seeking Public Input on Biofuels

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold nine public meetings throughout California to solicit comments on the subject of biofuels, particularly on ways to help the agriculture industry decrease its dependency on fossil fuels. The USDA wants to hear from the public as to how state and federal agencies can partner with the private sector to increase demand for biofuels.

Among the topics to be discussed are sources of feedstock, the current local infrastructure to support biofuels, and the estimated amount of land needed in California for biofuels. The input from the meetings will be used in the USDA's upcoming *Biofuels Strategic Production Report*.

Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council
October 14, 3 p.m.
Feather River Tribal Health Center
Oroville



High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council

October 15, 11 a.m.
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Chambers, Auburn.

Comments may be also be submitted by Oct. 24 to Val Dolcini, state director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, at val.dolcini@ca.usda.gov.