

Food Policy & Regional Food Systems
The California Food Policy Council's Experience
Michael Dimock, February 9, 2015



Roots of Change

**A Think & Do Tank, Offering Road Maps to
Victory for the Food Movement**

California Food Policy Council

Ensure that CA's food policy truly represents the needs of our communities by coalescing food movement power.

Increase
Healthy Food
Access

Improve
School Food
Environment

Build Local
Foodsheds &
Regional
Processing
Infrastructure

Better Food
Chain
Worker
Wages &
Opportunity

Increase
Small
Farm
Viability

Fund
Incentives
for
Ecological
Farming
Practices

Accelerate change at local level by
sharing best practices

Build local food systems through
regional collaboration

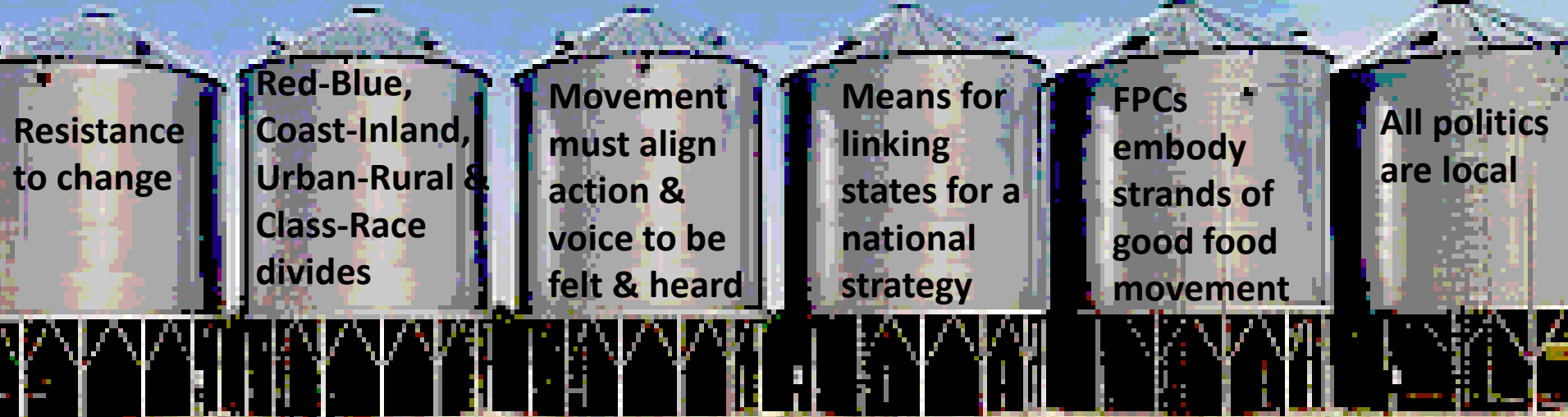
Work collectively to advise on future
focused state & federal law



Context: Why We Formed the CAFPC

Food movement winning in media and markets, but not law

California agriculture is very modern & industrial = powerful



Need to build political consciousness & active food democracy

The Role of Local FPCs Within a Regional Network

To innovate & share their knowledge

To advocate for change within their communities

To join colleagues in other regions when speaking to corporations & policy makers

To grow their networks and inspire people to take a stand



When Is It Beneficial to Connect Across A Region?

When you are stimulating foodshed development

eg. Procurement Policies As A Lever

When Addressing a Governor or Legislature

eg. A Report Card on State policy

Annual Legislative Reports



2013 REPORT on California Legislation Related to Food and Farming

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How the CAFPC Determined Its 3 Regions: SoCal, Great Valley & Mountains, NorCal

Practicality!

Characteristics

Numbers of Leaders

Distances

Budget: Time & Money



Best Practices & Challenges

Annual Products or Results



Regional Meetings & Social Media Platforms



Dialogue & Sharing to Learn & Act



Active Steering Committee



Staff Support & Funding



Vision for 2018

- 5-10 Statewide FPCs aligned
- 10-20 Activist FPCs aligned in 5-10 states
- Shared messaging to State Houses & Governors
- Shared messaging to Congress & the President
- Grass roots funding mechanisms (lobbying) & foundation support for capacity building & campaign organizing



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