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Meeting Minutes: Farm to School Taskforce Friday, September 11, 2015, 10:00am-12:00pm	Next Taskforce Meeting: Friday, November 13, 2015, 10:00-11:30 a.m Santee School District 9625 Cuyamaca St., Santee, CA 92071
Attendees: Cathy Abel (Santee School District), Heather Berkoben (Dairy Council), Jamie Cassut-Sanchez (Escondido Union School District), Emily Cena (Poway Unified School District), Lea Garner (Escondido UHSD), Amy Haessly (Vista Unified School District), Charity Johnson (National School District), Deirdre Kleske (County of San Diego), Angela Kin (UCSD Center for Community Health), Kussy MacKenzie (UCSD Center for Community Health), Judi Reynolds (Escondido Union School District), Eric Span (Sweetwater Union High School District), Anna Thompson (Poway USD), Ron Troyano (Alchemy), Al Vandendriess (American Produce), Elizabeth Vaughan (CHIP), Colin Cureton (CHIP), Johnna Jenkins (Valley Center-Pauma Unified), Danny Cavillo (Sunrise Produce), Brenda Marquez-Flores (SUHSD), Alexis Beltran (CVESD), Courtney Crenshaw (OC Food Access), Emily Shea (OC Food Access), Chico Goff (Solutions for Change), Susan Cooper (Guajome Park Academy), Melanie Peterson (SDHC), Paloma Perez (SYSD), Jon Hansen (National School District)	
Recorder: Elizabeth Vaughan (CHIP)	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome & Introductions Johnna Jenkins & Judi Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the F2S Taskforce introduced themselves. Members of the OC Food Access were welcomed and introduced. This meeting is also serving as the California Farm to School Network (CFSN) SoCal regional gathering. 	
Summer developments, goals, and challenges for Farm to School in 2015-2016 (15 min)	<p>Members of the taskforce was asked to share on farm to school activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions for Change/Solutions Farm shared that CHIP helped connect them with a local buyer, Volunteers of America (VOA) for their summer produce. Escondido Union School District expanded Harvest of the Month (HOTM) tastings to all preschools in their district. The two elementary schools conducting HOTM have expanded to all classrooms. 	
Time-sensitive updates (10 min)	<p>CA Thursdays recruiting in San Diego County</p> <p>The Center for Ecoliteracy is expanding their California Thursdays program in San Diego County. Five SDC districts already participate and they may take up to eight more. Participating districts commit to serving a freshly prepared meal once a month on Thursday, incorporating several new recipes, and hosting a CA Thursdays launch event in March. In exchange, participating districts are supplied with high-quality training, educational and marketing materials, and join a network of leaders and innovators in school food. Information on what it means to participate in the program are in your packets. The final day to be considered is 9/11/15 though early next week may still be possible.</p>	<p>Deadline for this year is closing ASAP but contact Adam Kesselman adam@ecoliteracy.org at Center for Ecoliteracy if interested in signing up for CA Thursdays next year.</p>



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	<p>Farm to School success stories are due to California Farm to School Network (CFSN) on 9/15</p> <p>The California Farm to School Network (CFSN) is gathering success stories for their September newsletter. Submitted stories should focus on program promotion, wellness policies, and evaluation as they relate to Farm to School. Stories are due to CFSN by September 15th. Julian submitted a story and a copy was included in the meeting packet.</p>	<p>Contact Elizabeth Vaughan or Colin Cureton if you are interested in submitting a success story for the blog.</p>
<p>Update on Farm-to-School 3-year planning process (10-15 min)</p>	<p>CHIP is part way through the process of supporting Vista and Sweetwater in developing a 3-year Farm to School plan for their district. In July both districts hosted a Farm to School visioning session for key partners throughout their districts. Amy Haessly is the lead at Vista Unified and Eric Span is the lead at Sweetwater Union High District.</p> <p>Vista: Visioning session recap and draft F2S vision statement</p> <p>On July 22, 2015 over 25 farm-to-school (F2S) stakeholders attended a ‘Farm to School Visioning Session’ facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) as part of a 6-month technical assistance process to help Vista Unified develop a 3-year F2S plan. The session included teachers, food service staff, curriculum developers, local farmers, farmers’ market managers, marketing partners, the district’s produce distributor, the district Superintendent, and more. An interactive visioning session was conducted with those in attendance to get their input on a draft vision statement for Vista Unified School District’s farm-to-school program. This will be the guiding statement that clearly defines the end goal of F2S at Vista Unified School District.</p> <p>Amy Haessly reviewed pictures from the visioning session with the taskforce and shared the vision statement, “By engaging in farm-to-school activities, students at Vista will make healthier food choices, advance their educational and professional goals, and use F2S as a platform for engaging with the local community, environment, economy, and food system.”</p> <p>Sweetwater Update</p> <p>Eric Span shared that the visioning session was well attended from members of the community, staff, administration and Sweetwater’s planning department. Sweetwater’s Farm to School Team was well in sync with the overarching goals of farm to school efforts. The vision statement has not been finalized yet.</p> <p>Questions on the 3 year farm to school plan</p>	



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	<p>Judi Reynolds asked if the plan can be shared with interested districts. Eric offered for any district to visit and meet with him to discuss the process. Amy encouraged districts to hold their own visioning session and invite all players to the table to address their concerns, ideas, etc. CHIP applied for another round of USDA funding and technical support for developing a three year farm to school plan was included for five additional districts. Funding award will be announced in November.</p>	
<p>CHIP grower engagement results and 2015-2016 Crop Availability Chart (20-30 min)</p>	<p>CHIP spent a large part of the summer reaching out to engage local farmers about their crop availability for the coming year, their basic characteristics, and their interest in selling to San Diego County institutions. This information was compiled for the annual Grower Engagement and Crop Availability report that CHIP releases every year to help facilitate institutions local food procurement. Copies of the full report were provided to attending members. Colin reviewed the report with the group (see attached powerpoint).</p> <p>The full report can be viewed at http://ourcommunityourkids.org/media/140367/2015%20full%20grower%20engagement%20report_final.pdf.</p> <p>It was suggested to review how the information from the report is utilized and to survey its usefulness to institutional food service and growers. It was also recommended to do some kind of follow-up with growers to see how accurate projected crop availability is in the coming year compared to actual crop availability (i.e. partner with American or Sunrise Produce to track local availability throughout the year).</p>	
<p>Harvest of the Month Procurement Check-in (5-10 min)</p>	<p>Harvest of the Month (HOTM) training is taking place in October with the program starting in November. For the cafeteria program, 13 districts are currently participating. Six school in three districts are participating in the full classroom nutrition education along with the cafeteria component. Participating districts were asked if they need any procurement assistance from CHIP and if they have talked to their distributor on produce needs for the HOTM program.</p> <p>A school must have at least a 50% free & reduced meal rate to participate in the program.</p> <p>Escondido has observed that since launching the HOTM program, student cafeteria selection has improved.</p>	<p>Contact Kussy MacKenzie with any questions on the HOTM program, 619-681-0664/ kmackenzie@ucsd.edu.</p>
<p>Discussion & revisions to annual 'State of Farm to</p>	<p>The F2S Taskforce is set to conduct its third annual report "State of Farm to School in San Diego County" in November. Attending members were asked to review last year's questions and make any suggestions or changes. The following changes were suggested:</p>	<p>CHIP staff will take suggestions and make</p>



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<p>School in San Diego County’ survey (5-10 min)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clarify what “edible school gardens” means. Do gardens that are dormant count? 2) “Garden programming” is vague and can be grouped together with question 8. Garden to cafeteria should also be grouped under that section. 3) Separate out education, programming, etc. 4) Send out a copy of the District profile with the survey. 5) Include previous year’s answers with the survey. 6) Some of the questions were not necessary. Clicking all boxes that apply out of 10 can be very tedious and that method should be avoided. Past survey questions that weren’t answered can be re-evaluated. 7) Include a question that includes any strategies the district may have that addresses reducing food waste and recovery <p>Orange County expressed interest in conducting a similar report for their area and collaborating on a regional report. CHIP and Orange County Food Access will follow up on this idea.</p>	<p>appropriate revisions for this year’s F2S survey.</p> <p>The survey will be disseminated in mid-November. All 42 School Districts will be requested to complete.</p>
<p>Update on Let’s Go Local! Produce Showcase registration (5 min)</p>	<p>A brief update on the annual Let’s Go Local! Produce Showcase was provided by Elizabeth. Attendance is free for buyers and only \$10 for community partners. There will be a reception onsite following the event with food and drink, generously hosted by the Leichtag Foundation. All districts were encouraged to register and to bring the appropriate stakeholders who are interested in learning more about Farm to School.</p>	<p>Members and other stakeholders may register at www.2015letsgolocal.eventzilla.net.</p>
<p>Events, Announcements, and Resources:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Food Recovery Meeting</u>: September 17th from 8:15am-11:30am in San Marcos • <u>“Procurement in the 21st Century”</u> (10 pages dedicated to local purchasing!) The Institute of Child Nutrition just put out a lengthy guide called “Procurement in the 21st Century” that includes over 10 pages on tips, guidelines, and considerations for School Food Authorities interested in buying local. CHIP will distribute a link to the guide early next week. • <u>Nutrition Services Division Management Plan SNP-08-2015</u> Did you know that CDE allows some school garden and Farm to School activity costs to be paid for by a district’s cafeteria fund? See SNP-08-2015 for details Management Bulletin (MB) SNP-08-2015, Farm to School and School Garden Expenses. • <u>Grower’s workshop: Farm to Institution 101</u> (9/23, 2:00-4:00 P.M. at Farm Bureau) CHIP is hosting a Farm-to-Institution 101 for growers on Wednesday, September 23rd at the Farm Bureau Office in Escondido. This workshop is for <u>GROWERS</u> interested in breaking into the institutional market. Please encourage growers in your network to attend. We will also be providing feedback from institutions who buy direct from growers to attendees, so CHIP may be reaching out to some of you about that next week. 	<p>Links to events and resources will be included in the follow up email sent out by Elizabeth.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Food Waste Solutions Summit</u>: October 6th from 12:00pm-5:00pm at the Jacob’s Center. Register at http://www.sdfsa.org/food-waste-solution-summit/. • <u>Save the Date for a Wellness Workshop</u> on December 3rd from 9:00am-12:00pm at the County of Education. Registration is free and wellness leads are encouraged to attend to learn about the local control accountability plan. 	
<p>Questions & Next Steps Johnna Jenkins & Judi Reynolds</p>	<p>Next F2S Taskforce Meeting: Friday, November 13, 2015, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Santee School District, 9625 Cuyamaca St., Santee, CA 92071</p> <p>November’s meeting to include a presentation on AB1826 from the San Diego Food Systems Alliance Food Waste Reduction workgroup.</p>	
<p>Mentioned Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let’s Go Local! Produce Showcase registration: www.2015letsgolocal.eventzilla.net • 2015-2016 Crop Availability Chart and Grower Engagement Report: http://ourcommunityourkids.org/media/140367/2015%20full%20grower%20engagement%20report_final.pdf • Procurement Guide in the 21st Century: http://www.nfsmi.org/ResourceOverview.aspx?ID=475 • Farm to School and School Garden Expenses: Management Bulletin (MB) SNP-08-2015, Farm to School and School Garden Expenses. • Harvest of the Month Calendar: http://ourcommunityourkids.org/media/135927/hotm%202015-2016%20rotation_approved%202.6.15.pdf 	