

October 26, 2023

Subject: Approve California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Member

Reporting Period: April 2023 – October 2023

Staff Lead: Sean Kennedy, Special Projects Analyst, SGC

Recommended Action

SGC staff recommend that Council appoint the nominee recommended by SGC staff, James Nakahara, to serve on the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force.

Summary

At the April 26, 2023, SGC Council Meeting, the Council appointed twelve individuals to the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force. One Task Force member, Lorena Iniguez, subsequently advised SGC staff that she can no longer serve on the Task Force. Following a review of the initial pool of nominations and consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) CDFA Farm Equity Advisor, SGC staff recommend James Nakahara, Farm Business Advisor with Kitchen Table Advisors, to assume the vacant Task Force position.

Background

The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) was established in the 2022 California Budget to develop recommendations to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. On or before January 1, 2026, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Legislature and Governor that includes policy recommendations on addressing the agricultural land equity crisis.

Per the Budget, the Task Force shall consist of a regionally diverse group of individuals of up to 13 members to be appointed by the Strategic Growth Council in consultation with the CDFA Farm Equity Advisor and the California Truth and Healing Council. The task force shall consist of native and tribal liaisons, a land trust representative, individuals with expertise in issues affecting socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, an individual with expertise in agricultural land acquisition and finance, State Board of Food and Agriculture member, a farmworker representative, a beginning farmer, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Farm Equity Advisor, and an individual from the CDFA BIPOC Farmer Advisory Committee that is currently being established.

In November 2022, SGC staff initiated a two-month public nomination process. Following the review, SGC staff identified seven individuals to serve on the Task Force. An additional six members have been identified through State and State-affiliated entities, per the guidance in the authorizing budget bill language. During the April 26, 2023 SGC Council Meeting, the Council appointed [twelve members](#) to the Task Force. One Task Force member, Lorena Iniguez, subsequently advised SGC staff that she can no longer serve on the Task Force. SGC staff, in consultation with the CDFA Farm Equity Advisor, reviewed the initial pool of nominations and

have recommended James Nakahara, Farm Business Advisor with Kitchen Table Advisors, to assume the vacant Task Force position.

Next Steps

In addition to the twelve appointed positions, SGC staff are working in consultation with the CDFA Farm Equity Advisor to identify a member of the recently-established CDFA BIPOC Farmer Advisory Committee to serve as that body's representative on the Task Force. Once identified, the member's nomination will be brought to Council for approval.

The first California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Meeting will take place on October 30, 2023 at the Sacramento State Downtown Campus. The meeting agenda and associated materials will be posted on the SGC website prior to the meeting.

Council Recommendation

Should the Council agree with Staff's recommendation, the following motion language is suggested:

"I move that the Council pass the consent calendar."

Attachments

Attachment A: Bio - James Nakahara

