

# California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Meeting Summary: October 30, 2023

## Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order around 2:00 PM with an introduction and land acknowledgement from Meagan Wylie, Facilitator. Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Special Projects Analyst, Sean Kennedy, gave welcoming remarks on behalf of SGC.

## Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Meagan Wylie, Facilitator.

### Present:

- Irene de Barraicua
- Nathaniel Brown
- Emily Burgueno
- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard
- Lawrence Harlan
- Nelson Hawkins
- Dorian Payán
- Thea Rittenhouse
- Doria Robinson
- Liya Schwartzman

### Absent:

- Cheyenne Stone

Quorum was established.

## Welcome and Housekeeping

Meagan Wylie provided information on Zoom policies, interpretation services offered for in-person attendees, and the public comment process. She discussed the meeting plan and code of conduct.

Slides presented during the meeting are available on the [SGC website](#).

Task Force members in attendance introduced themselves by providing their name, affiliation, and a brief description of what inspired them to serve on the Task Force. Further details about Task Force members' roles and affiliations are available on the [SGC website](#).

Meagan Wylie presented the role of the Task Force as defined in AB 179 (Ting, Chapter 249, 2022).

No public comment was received on this agenda item.

## Staff Introduction and Roles

Support staff gave brief introductions with their name, position, affiliation, and description of how they support the work of the Task Force.

- Sean Kennedy, Special Projects Manager at SGC
- Lois Kim, Project Analyst at SGC
- Matt Read, Staff Counsel at SGC
- Camille Frazier, Research Analyst at CSU Sacramento
- Sam Magill, Facilitator and Tribal Advisor at CSU Sacramento
- Meagan Wylie, Facilitator at CSU Sacramento

No public comment was received on this agenda item.

## Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Requirements

Matt Read, Staff Counsel at SGC, provided an overview of Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements.

The question and answer session with Task Force members included questions about email addresses, regulations for when less than a majority of Task Force meet and talk about Task Force business, and the definition of quorum.

No public comment was received on this agenda item.

## Governance

### Action: Charter and Bylaws

Meagan Wylie provided an overview of the draft Charter before opening the floor to questions and feedback from Task Force members. She made tracked changes to the document on the screen as discussion occurred.

It was suggested to add language to the objectives concerning reporting back about the Task Force's findings and next steps to those who were consulted during the Task Force's process of developing recommendations to submit to the legislature. Additional members supported this suggestion and recommended finding ways to ensure that it is included in the scope of work and timeline.

The Task Force considered the use of terminology "native and tribal liaisons" and "California Native American tribal members" in the bylaws." Members expressed a concern to ensure that both federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes were included. "Tribal members" was changed to "Tribal Nations" at the recommendation of a Task Force member.

A question was raised about whether the objective of engaging with Tribal Nations during the recommendations development process was targeted toward the tribal representatives on the Task Force. It was clarified that the intent is for all the listed objectives to be shared across the Task Force.

The Task Force agreed that more work is needed to refine the language in the draft Charter before approval. Members will consider revisions discussed and bring suggestions for additional updates to the next meeting.

The Task Force took a 15 minute break around 3:45 PM and reconvened around 4:00 PM.

Meagan Wylie provided a brief overview of the draft Bylaws. She opened the floor for discussion and made and tracked changes on screen during the discussion.

The Task Force discussed the reimbursement of travel expenses for Task Force members. It was clarified that Task Force members cannot receive a stipend as per Gov. Code 11009.

Task Force members asked whether there was funding to reimburse travel and/or provide a per diem to invited speakers or other specialists assisting with the work of the Task Force. The question was also raised about the definition of an allowable expense and whether Task Force members could be reimbursed for travel costs outside of meeting attendance for Task Force related business. Staff will seek answers to these questions in advance of the next meeting.

The Task Force considered the language establishing quorum and decided to leave it as written.

Members agreed to defer an action to approve the Charter and Bylaws until the next meeting. Meagan Wylie will share the revised documents containing on-screen tracked changes edits for review in the interim.

#### Action: Chair and Vice Chair

Meagan Wylie called for nominations and self-nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair.

- Nelson Hawkins self-nominated for the position of Chair.
- James Nakahara self-nominated for the position of Chair or Vice Chair.
- Emily Burgueno nominated Lawrence Harlan for the position of Chair or Vice Chair.
- Lawrence Harlan declined the nomination. He nominated Emily Burgueno for the position of Vice Chair.
- Emily Burgueno accepted the nomination for the position of Vice Chair.

Following the nominations, the Board heard public comment from:

- Dr. Carrie Waterman, University of California Davis (UC Davis)
- Beth Smoker, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)

- Brother Adam X
- Timothy Martin
- Melody Ng, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
- Victoria Davis

Roll call vote for Chair and Vice Chair:

- Dorian Payán: Nelson for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Thea Rittenhouse: Nelson for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Nelson Hawkins: James for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Doria Robinson: Nelson for chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Lawrence Harlan: Nelson for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Nathaniel Brown: James for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- James – James for Chair, Nelson for Vice Chair
- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard: James for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Liya Schwartzman: Nelson for Chair, James for Vice Chair
- Irene de Barraicua: Nelson for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair
- Emily Burgueno: Nelson for Chair, Emily for Vice Chair

Nelson Hawkins was elected Chair. Emily Burgueno was elected Vice Chair.

## Work Plan, Scheduling, and Briefing Materials

Meagan Wylie presented the draft work plan and timeline, which assume quarterly meetings of the Task Force through January 1, 2026, as outlined in the member nomination material. A member suggested that the Task Force hold longer or more frequent meetings. Another member suggested that each meeting include time for

outlining future plans and deciding which topics to consider at subsequent meetings.

Camille Frazier, Research Analyst, introduced the briefing packet and discussed how to make research requests. Task Force members asked about the kinds of research that the research team can conduct and who is involved. Staff clarified that research is conducted by support staff at CSUS and SGC, based on analysis of existing scholarship, government documents, white papers, etc. Sean Kennedy noted that the action-oriented research described in the Task Force budget is a separate process administered by SGC.

## Public Comment

The Task Force heard public comment from:

- Brother Adam X
- Jamie Fanous, CAFF

## Meeting Adjournment

Meagan Wylie confirmed action items for Staff and Task Force members:

- Staff to distribute revised draft Charter and Bylaws for review.
- Staff to respond to questions that arose during the meeting.
- Staff to establish the next meeting date and time in consultation with Chair, Vice Chair, and full Task Force.
- Staff to prepare and distribute the draft meeting summary.

Chair Nelson Hawkins and Vice Chair Emily Burgueno provided closing comments.

The meeting was adjourned around 5:00 PM.