California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

GRANTS & RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

JULY 10, 2024 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Participation Guidelines

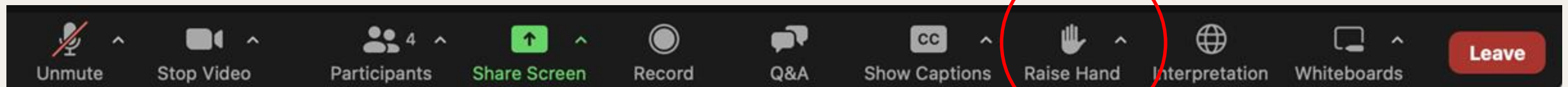**Share, Listen, Learn**

Respect Different Perspectives

Stay on Point

Public Comment Process

- Complete form at **sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events**

- Separate form for each item

- Listen for your name and "raise your hand" on Zoom

- Staff will unmute your microphone

- Please adhere to 2-minute time limit

Zoom Tips

- All participants are **muted** upon entry.
  - You will be unmuted when it is your time to speak.
  - Please remember to mute yourself after speaking.
- Cameras are optional.
- Use "Raise Hand" feature during public comment periods.

Agenda Review

- **Welcome**
- **Working Session and Next Steps**
  o Discuss and clarify short- and long-term goals.
  o Discuss compiled information on existing resources and recommendations on best practices for equitable access to resources.
    o Part 1: Examine existing resources
    o Part 2: Review recommendations in *Better Funding* report
  o Identify topics for future discussion.
  o Summarize discussions and review action items.
  o Confirm meeting schedule and timeframe for next meeting.
- **General Public Comment**

Working Session

Reminder: Task Force Objectives

✓ Develop recommendations on **how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses** (Ting, Chapter 249, 2022).

✓ On or before **January 1, 2026**, the Task Force **shall submit a report** to the Legislature and Governor that includes a set of policy recommendations on how to address the agricultural land equity crisis.

Ideas and Topics from Prior Meetings:

1. Grant application and award processes:
   a. More immediate access to funds after funds awarded to recipient
   b. Misalignment between grant expectations and deliverables
   c. Language barriers

2. Funding needs:
   a. Public funding that directly supports land stewards
   b. Funding for downpayments and taxes and maintenance
   c. Mechanisms for timely response to acquisition opportunities and financial stability after acquisition

3. New pathways for land acquisition, including subsidies for land purchases, forgivable loans

4. *Others?*

Subcommittee Goals

Proposed Goals:

- Examine existing resources

- Provide an overview of resource gaps, challenges, and best practices to inform final Task Force Recommendations

- *Others?*

Discussion PART 1: Existing Resources

Process:

- Discuss May 9th Task Force meeting <u>briefing materials</u> and <u>Agricultural Land Equity Resource List</u>

- Consider how this list can inform the development of Task Force recommendations

Discussion PART 1: Existing Resources

Questions:

Based on the briefing materials and/or your own experiences,

a. What are the gaps in the existing set of resources?

b. What barriers prevent equitable access?

- What could lessen or solve these barriers?

c. Are there any programs that you'd like to highlight as particularly effective?

- What makes them successful and how might those factors be adapted to other programs?

Discussion PART 2: Existing Recommendations

Process:

- Discuss _Better Funding_ report by Angie Hacker, CEO of Prosper Sustainably

- Consider how these recommendations may be adapted to the work of the Task Force.

Quick Overview: *Better Funding*

- Challenges with current system → application burden

- Report provides tables with "better," "better yet," and "better still" recommendations and examples for 3 areas:
    - Pre-application engagement
    - Applications
    - Post Award Processes

- Concludes with "the big idea:" Investible Climate Communities
    - Combine funds from one or more agencies to incrementally fund local and Tribal government energy and climate projects on a rolling basis

Examples: Program Eligibility

Better

- Idea 33: Include governments, NGO, CBO core staffing, administrative and indirect costs as allowable costs

Better Yet...

- Idea 42: Offer phased grants that can help communities ramp up from the concept stage and prepare technical details needed for scopes of work for implementation funding. Small concept design grants can be a good fit for "startup" programs without much resource to work with

Better Still...

- Idea 45: Develop a program specifically designed for local and tribal government energy and climate projects with flexible project activities

Discussion PART 2: Existing Recommendations

Questions:

a. How do the *Better Funding* recommendations apply to the agricultural land equity context?

b. Are some recommendations higher priority than others?

c. How might these (and other) recommendations be adapted to the work of this Subcommittee and the Task Force?

Work Planning

What are the next steps for the Grants & Resources Subcommittee?

Review ideas and priorities from prior meetings and identify topics for future discussion or action.

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Summarize, Action Items, Next Steps

- Review of Action Items and Follow Up Items

- Decide on next meeting and meeting schedule

- Report-back to Task Force on August 14/15

- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

  https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings/caletf/

General Public Comment

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Thank You!