

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Land Tenure Subcommittee Meeting Summary: September 19, 2024

Meeting Called to Order

SGC Staff started the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Welcome and Housekeeping

SGC Staff provided housekeeping information for all meeting participants. Slides and materials presented during the meeting are available on the Strategic Growth Council ([SGC](#)) [website](#).

Roll Call

Members present:

- Emily Burgueno, Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Vice Chair
- Liya Schwartzman

Work Plan Discussion

Staff reviewed the definition of the Land Tenure dimension and associated sections of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) Work Plan, noting that revisions are underway based on feedback from the August Task Force meeting. Staff invited feedback from Subcommittee members to ensure alignment with the Subcommittee members' priorities.

Members suggested to distinguish their focus from the Land Access, Acquisition, and Ancestral Land Return Subcommittee, to ensure that this Subcommittee focuses on the maintenance of relationships with land that facilitate consistent land access. It was noted that while ownership is a component of land tenure, the complexities surrounding ownership and land equity are more appropriately addressed in the Land Access, Acquisition, and Ancestral Land Return Subcommittee.

Regarding land improvement, members emphasized the importance of considering housing for both farmworkers and land. They further highlighted the need for the Task Force

to underscore the connection between land tenure, conservation, and climate mitigation. Additionally, members indicated a desire to evaluate the impact of insurance on land tenure.

Member Schwartzman indicated her interest to evaluate the Subdivision Map Act as part of her contribution to this Subcommittee. She is willing to do so individually, with help from staff to identify an expert with whom to discuss this piece of legislation.

Members expect there is potential to develop recommendations regarding the leasing of public land, noting that many leasing opportunities are insecure and rely on complex mechanisms like licenses and contracts. They discussed the challenges of understanding these contracts and the potential need for intermediary organizations to hold leases and grant subleases to individual farmers. Members proposed to look at models from other states for public land tenure avenues. Members also suggested to increase access to legal resources and funding for technical assistance providers.

Staff next shared a proposal and timeline for advancing the Subcommittee's work in between public Subcommittee and Task Force meetings which included formation of a working group focused on land tenure issues. Members supported this approach with members Burgueno and Schwartzman participating as working group members. Staff will develop a collaborative working document for the group to exchange ideas. Clarifying questions regarding Bagley-Keene requirements for working groups were addressed.

Members inquired about inviting speakers to meetings and provided guest speaker recommendations. Staff will work on administering these requests.

Public Comment

- None

Staff shared upcoming meeting dates pertaining to the work of the Task Force and ended the meeting at 11:56 a.m.