

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force



LAND ACCESS, ACQUISITION, & ANCESTRAL LAND RETURN SUBCOMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 | 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Participation Guidelines



**Share,
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different
Perspectives**



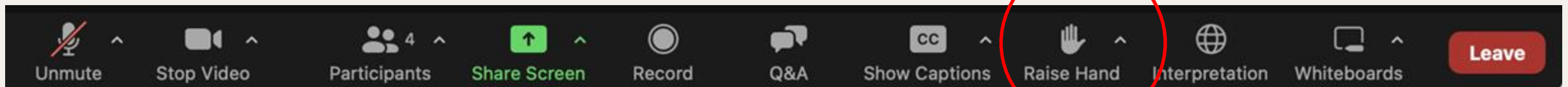
Stay on Point

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**
 - Review Work Plan. Identify and consider topics of priority interest.
 - Discuss next steps to advance priority issues and ideas.
 - Summarize discussions and review action Items.
 - Confirm meeting schedule and timeframe for next meeting.
- **General Public Comment**

Working Session

Working Session

Process:

1. Quick review of work plan excerpt to align on subcommittee scope and priorities
2. Consider and discuss staff proposal for subcommittee
 - a. How can this subcommittee advance/further explore priority topics for recommendations?
 - b. What do we know, what do we need to know, and by when?

Quick Review: Work Plan Excerpt

Description of "land access, acquisition, and ancestral land return" dimension of land equity:

How an individual, entity, organization, or government gains access to land in the first place. "Access" is interpreted broadly to entail a range of experiences and relationships with land.

| Topic | Issues to address | Potential solutions |
|--|---|--|
| Land Back, rematriation --> SNCR; LUGS | Enforcing legal compliance and respect for ancestral lands, sacred sites, human remains, and cultural artifacts, especially on private land Facilitating fee-to-trust acquisitions | Increase government-to-government consultation and provide meaningful outreach to develop partnerships needed Increase public awareness of and support for California Native American tribal nations Provide first rights of refusal to CA Native American tribes Support Land Back as a path to rematriate an environment and culture Prioritize Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in ag practices and land management, provide opportunities to implement TEK |
| Land markets | Land consolidation (big landowners getting bigger) and financialization (institutional investing) make agricultural land prohibitively expensive for land stewards Well-resourced, connected entities have early access to land sales Consolidated land ownership can lead to consolidated water access Urban development pressure on farmland Racism in land sales and leasing | Lot size adjustments Prioritize alternative land arrangement possibilities, e.g., cooperatives, public land Option-to-purchase agreements Rights of first offer or first refusal Platform to connect land seekers with landholders Platform to notify of land availability Multi-benefit land repurposing (MBLR) program |
| Access to and acquisition of public lands -->Land Tenure | How might the “public land for public good” movement apply to agricultural context | Long-term ag leases on public lands and opportunities for purchase Lease holding entities buffer and protect public access for individual farmers Different recommendations for public and private landholders |

| Topic | Issues to address | Potential solutions |
|--|--|---|
| Access to finance --> Grants & Resources | Grant and loan programs exclude or disadvantage certain communities, e.g., eligibility requirements and loan financing Incentives and disincentives impact equitable land access, e.g., tax incentives for owners | New pathways for land acquisition, including subsidies for land purchases, land grants, forgivable loans Mechanisms for timely response to acquisition opportunities Capacity for community-based organizations (CBOs) to coordinate with other organizations/agencies and assist land seekers with the multi-step process of land acquisition, including capital stacking and other creative financing options Public funding that directly supports land stewards Reverse amortization Multi-year start-up loans Beginning farmer loans, e.g. Capital for Beginning Farmer & Rancher Act S. 4441 Increase number and impact of grant programs, especially those in which individuals are eligible applicants |
| Land succession -- > Grants & Resources | Farmers aging out, no clear pathway to ensure an equitable transition | Public resource that connects land sellers with land seekers Support, funding, and technical assistance (TA) for succession planning (non-heir) Mechanisms to bridge the gap of time and money |

Proposed Subcommittee Work Plan

- **September 2024-January 2025**
 - Further consideration of the following via working groups:
 - Succession planning
 - Valuation (land markets)
 - Land Back
 - Drafting ideas and suggestions in interim
- **Deadlines:**
 - **November 2024:** Update to Task Force
 - **January 2024:** Initial ideas and recommendations shared with staff for inclusion in preliminary draft
 - **February 2025:** Discussion of preliminary draft at Task Force meeting

Summarize, Action Items, Next Steps

- Review of Action Items and Follow Up Items
- Decide on next meeting + meeting schedule
- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

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

General Public Comment

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Upcoming Meetings

- **Sustaining Natural & Cultural Resources Subcom.** | Oct. 4, 10:30am – 12pm, Virtual
- **Community Outreach Subcommittee** | Oct. 7, 12am – 2pm, Virtual
- **Regular Task Force Meeting** | Nov. 13/14, Salinas & Virtual

Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to: <https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings/caletf/>

Thank You!