

Summary of Revisions: February-March 2025

Prepared by California Strategic Growth Council staff for the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

March 17, 2025

Revisions Process

On Feb. 12 and 13, 2025, members of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) directed staff to revise the February draft for further discussion in March. For a full list of recommended revisions shared in the meeting, please see the Draft Meeting Summary.

Staff consolidated feedback provided in the February meeting with additional notes from recent subcommittee meetings and comments sent by individual Task Force members. Staff tracked these comments in a detailed feedback tracker that is available for review by Task Force members upon request.

Below is a summary of key revisions that are incorporated into the March draft. Task Force members wishing to review changes within the draft can request from staff a document identifying all revisions.

Summary of Key Revisions

Structural Revisions

Task Force members requested a concise summary explaining and justifying the work, and to more quickly get to the recommendations. In response, staff made the following key revisions:

- Added additional detail to the Executive Summary, including a placeholder box to indicate priority recommendations
- Added a brief synopsis of the Task Force and its work as the first section of the body of the report
- Consolidated language and removed repetition in the narrative and recommendations
- Shortened the discussion of barriers and embedded these points within other areas of the report, including as brief contextual paragraphs in the recommendations section
- Adjusted section and subsection headers to clarify the order of ideas and key points
- Removed the division of recommendations by land access versus land tenure to reduce repetitive ideas and focus on the overarching goals
- Removed the “structure of this report” section and embedded the key ideas elsewhere
- Shortened the key terms section and moved more extensive discussion to the Glossary
- Added placeholder “success story” and “case study” boxes as a demonstration of the kinds of examples and stories that the Task Force may wish to include
- Added numbers to the recommendations to aid in ease of review and discussion
- Created a new “Ideas to Track and Consider Further” document that will allow Task Force members to maintain a longer list of proposed ideas while aligning on priorities for inclusion

in the draft report. This also includes ideas for how to restructure the recommendations that can be further developed in the March discussion.

Conceptual Revisions

Task Force members requested that the report include both the 2017 Farmer Equity Act's definition of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and the USDA's definition of historically underserved farmers and ranchers to describe the communities prioritized by the Task Force.

In addition, Task Force members requested that the term "priority communities" be revised to avoid confusion with existing terms and definitions.

To this end, staff:

- Used "priority producers and land stewards" to refer to socially disadvantaged and historically underserved farmer, ranchers, and Tribal land stewards
- Provided full definitions for these terms in the glossary

The Task Force requested clarification on the benefits of supporting diverse producers and land stewards. In response, staff:

- Created a "What can agricultural land equity achieve?" section and revised language to reflect feedback received in February

Language Revisions

In response to the request to simplify language and add additional context about historical and contemporary injustices, staff:

- Used plain language terms to describe land theft and ongoing discrimination
- Added additional historical context and case studies as directed and noted where this can be further built out

Task Force members requested that the report emphasize the unique experiences and perspectives of Tribal Nations. In response, staff:

- Revised "farmers and ranchers" to "producers and land stewards"
- Adjusted section headers organization to better consolidate recommendations and justifications related to California Tribal Nations
- Used "California Tribal Nations" consistently throughout

As requested by Task Force members, staff made the following additions and modifications to the recommendations:

- Added additional specificity and nuance on a range of existing recommendations and added additional context and detail as specified on a line-by-line basis
- Added a new section titled "Monitor, evaluate, and implement this work into the future" that includes recommendations discussed at the February meeting and submitted by Task Force members in writing, including but not limited to establishing a Land Observatory, Tribal State Lands Committee, and a land bank

- Combined and modified recommendations to avoid repetition
- Moved a few recommendations and ideas that need more Task Force discussion to the “Ideas to Track and Consider Further” document