California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

GRANTS & RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

APRIL 7, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Participation Guidelines

**Share,
Listen, Learn**

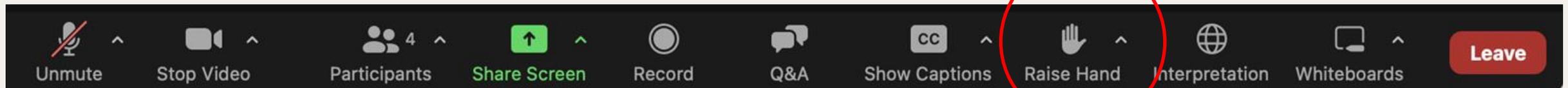**Respect Different
Perspectives**

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
- Approval of Summaries
- Grant Programs Research Results & Discussion
- Working Session
  - Review preliminary recommendations
  - Working group check-ins
  - Review action items and confirm next steps
- General Public Comment

Roll Call

Approval of Summaries

- January 9, 2024

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Grant Programs Research

Overview

- Context

- Purpose
  - Deepen understanding of how existing programs contribute to equitable land access and acquisition

- Methodology
  - Selected 12 programs
  - Metrics developed with Subcommittee
  - Questionnaire for program leads

Grant Programs Research: Results

Responses from 8 programs:

1. Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, Department of Conservation (SALC)
2. California Farmland Conservancy Program, Department of Conservation (CFCP)
3. Agricultural Land Mitigation Program, Department of Conservation & High-Speed Rail Authority (ALMP)
4. Urban Agriculture Grant Program, California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA)
5. Conservancy Grants, California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
6. Strategic Land Conservation Grant Program, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SSNC)
7. Land Acquisition Grants, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)
8. Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

No Response

- Tribal Nations Grant Fund, California Gaming Control Commission (CGCC)
- Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access, Farm Services Agency, USDA
- Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, California Department of Conservation (DOC)

Grant Programs Research: Results

What can the data tell us?

- Data limitations
  - Limited demographic data
  - Level of detail and years reported varied
  - Who benefits when nonprofits are awarded
  - Match funding
- Snapshot of 456 awarded projects, 23 funding cycles

Grant Programs Research: Results

Who is eligible and for which activities?

- Eligible applicants
  - All programs: CA Native American tribes and non-profits
  - 6 programs: government agencies
  - 1 program: for-profit businesses
- Eligible projects
  - 7 programs: Easement acquisitions
  - 5 programs: Fee-title acquisitions
  - 5 programs: Planning, capacity building
  - 1 programs: Urban farming activities

Grant Programs Research: Results

What impacts do current programs have?

- Projects funded: 331 associated with acres impacted

- Dollars awarded: $924 million

- Acres impacted: 559,594

Grant Programs Research: Results

Are these programs adequately meeting demand?

- Awardee to applicant rates
- Remaining programs range: 13-100%
- 2 agriculture-focused programs: >100% overall
- Urban Agriculture: 13% for-profit entities
- 2 programs: 100% rates for Tribal applicants
- Pre-applications skew data

Grant Programs Research: Results

Do the programs prioritize equity?

- 2 programs designed around equity
- 2 clear frameworks and goals
- 4 vary in progress
  - Prop 68 requirements
  - Internal scoring card and 2025 strategic plan
  - Not a primary focus, but listed as one of many priorities
  - Not incorporated

Grant Programs Research: Results

Do the programs prioritize equity?

- Set asides range: 5-35%

  - Internal program goals or guided by funding sources

- Priority communities

  - CARB's California Climate Investments definition of priority populations

  - CalEnviroScreen's classification of disadvantaged communities,

  - Severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) and disadvantaged community (DAC)

  - Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers

Grant Programs Research: Results

How predictable is the funding?

- 3 consistent annual funding
- 3 less consistent with gaps
- 2 completed first round, anticipate additional

Grant Programs Research: Results

How do the programs address scale and land tenure?

- None state an explicit preference for large scale
- Average range: 211 – 2,388 acres
- Individual project range: 5 – 10,000+ acres
- Priority for landless applicants
- Securely held or commitment from landowner needed

Grant Programs Research: Results

Additional highlights:

- Application structure:
    - Pre-application, rolling funding, one application for all programs
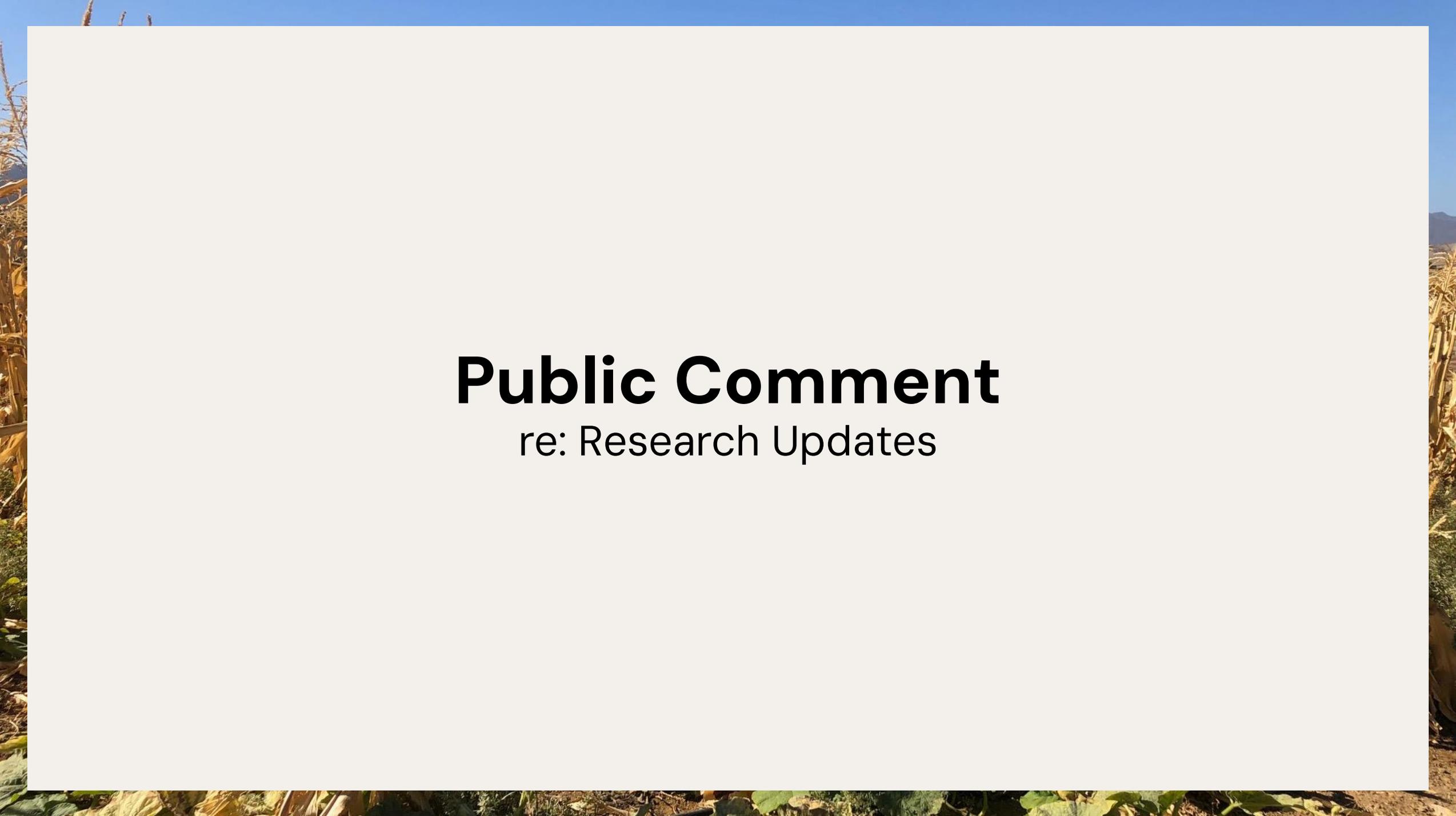- Accountability: Strategic plan guides funding distributed

Grant Programs Research: Results

Considerations

- Program design
  - New programs vs. modify existing
  - Block grant to non-profits vs. directly fund farm businesses
  - Easements, other mechanisms
- Application structure
- Prioritizing applicants
- Funding sources

Discussion

- Questions
- Gaps in data / information
- Key takeaways
  - Subcommittee recommendations

Public Comment
re: Research Updates

Public Comment Process

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Working Session

Working Session

Recommendations

- What topics from today or otherwise should be incorporated into the draft recommendations?

- Are there recommendations in the current draft of the report you wish to discuss as a Subcommittee?

- What topics are important to discuss at next Subcommittee meeting?
  - What kind of expertise from AC would be valuable?
  - What questions should be addressed?

Working Group Check-ins

- Tax laws and incentives (Liya and James)

    - Tommy Irvine scheduled

- Financing (James and Doria)

    - Takeaways from Zach Ducheneaux's presentation, farmer pension fund, philanthropy

    - Loan considerations: California Ibank

- Grant program outcomes (Doria and Thea)

    - Follow up on grant programs research

Summarize, Action Items, Next Steps

- Review of Action Items and Follow Up Items

- Decide on next meeting and meeting schedule

- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

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

Public Comment
re: Working Session

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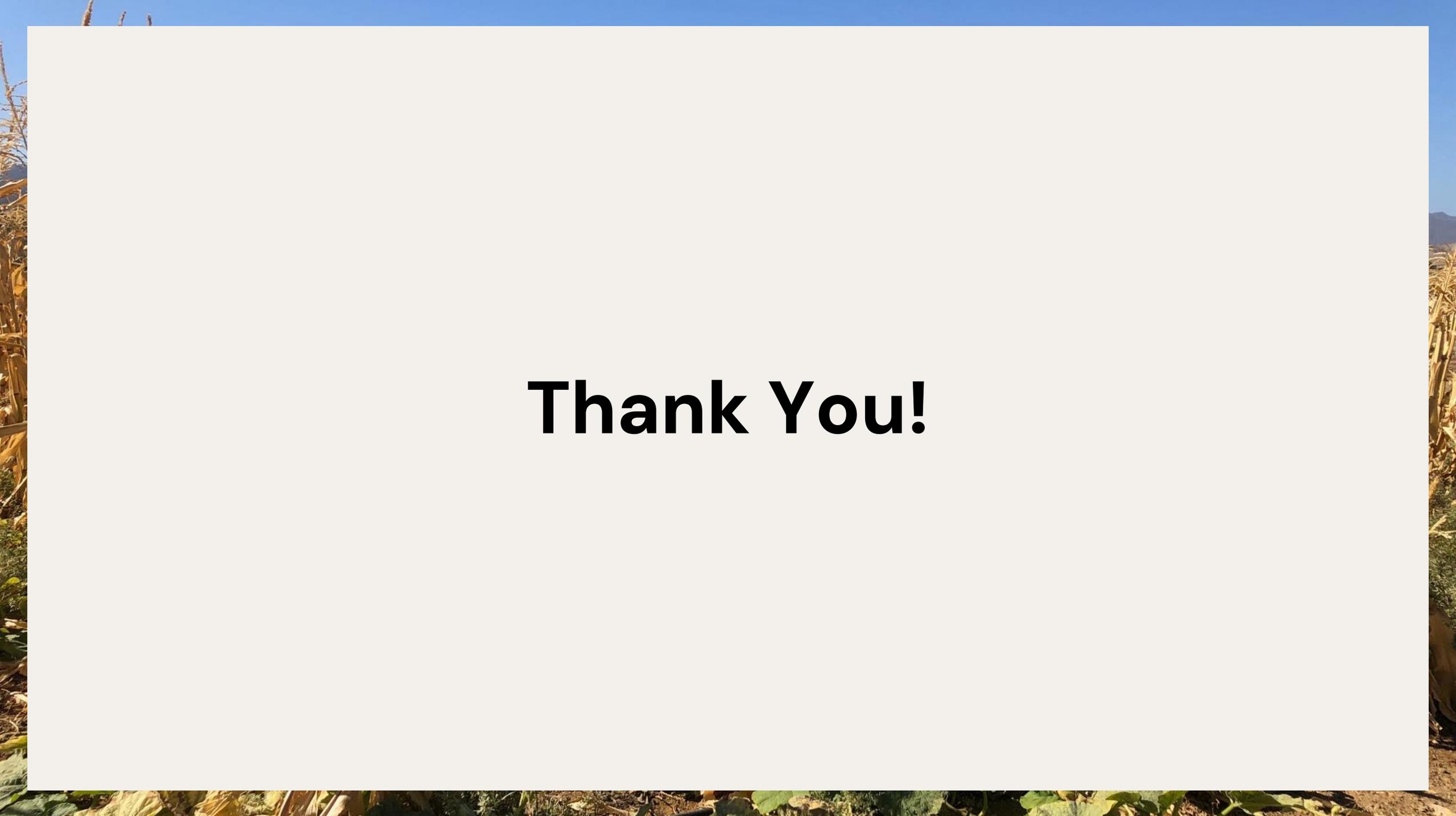- Please adhere to 2-minute time limit

General Public Comment

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Upcoming Meetings

- May 14 & 15 | Full Task Force Meeting, Susanville & Virtual

- Subcommittee meetings in June

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

Thank You!