

Attachment A: California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force – Overview of Nominees

Native and Tribal Liaisons (4)

Nominee: Cheyenne Stone, Big Pine Paiute Tribe

Geographic Representation: Big Pine Paiute Tribe / Statewide

Bio: Cheyenne Stone serves as the Co-Chair for the California Alliance of Family Farmers Policy Committee. Cheyenne has experience voicing advocacy for sustainable agriculture in California and is an advocate for state and national policies to create more resilient family farms, communities, and ecosystems. Cheyenne is a registered tribal member of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe and currently runs a small farming operation on the Big Pine Paiute Tribe reservation. Cheyenne has worked with non-profits, tribal governments, and county governments regarding equity-centered community concepts, development, and implementation of various federal and state programs. Cheyenne also serves on the Big Pine Paiute Tribe's land assignment committee.

Nominee: Emily Burgueno, Head Seed Keeper, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

Geographic Representation: Kumeyaay Land/San Diego County/Imperial County/Northern Baja CA Mexico

Bio: Emily Burgueno is Head Seed Keeper of the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel. Previously, Emily has worked as a Cultural Resource Manager, where she was a liaison for the Kumeyaay Nation and several agencies and institutions throughout San Diego. Emily is also active within three of the four Kumeyaay subcommittees, which specialize in the repatriation of Kumeyaay ancestors, Land conservation and stewardship, and Heritage preservation. Emily is an active advocate for revitalizing cultural burning by actions (facilitating burns on my Reservation and providing consultation with federal agencies to support their understanding of cultural burning) and actively consults with federal agencies on plant restoration, land conservation, and cultural competency.

Nominee: Lawrence Harlan, Treasurer, Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council

Geographic Representation: Fort Bidwell Reservation

Bio: Lawrence Harlan is the former Chairman of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Paiute Indian Reservation, a federally recognized tribe. Lawrence currently serves as a Councilman on the Fort Bidwell Indian Community Council and was recently appointed the Tribe's Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council Delegate. Lawrence has over twenty years of work experience in the field of finance and serves as Associate Director of Finance at a Federally Qualified Health Center in San Jose, California. Lawrence holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics with a minor in policy studies from Syracuse University and a certificate in financial planning for UC Davis Extension.

Farmworker Representative

Nominee: Irene de Barraicua, Director of Operations, Lideres Campesinas

Geographic Representation: Statewide

Bio: Irene de Barraicua is Director of Operations at Lideres Campesinas, a statewide advocacy organization that supports and coordinates *campesinas* (women farmworkers) to become agents of

change and be a more effective unified voice. Irene also serves on the advisory board for a land access study in Sonoma County, which works to assess the needs and desires of farmworkers regarding workforce development. Irene has contributed to various research studies regarding farmworkers and documented firsthand testimonies to better understand farmworker needs. Irene's work focuses on representing and advocating for policies that address inequities and gaps such as food insecurity, low-quality foods, food deserts, and lack of access to various resources, including funding.

Beginning Farmer

Nominee: Nathaniel Brown, Owner/operator, Brown Sugar Farm

Geographic Representation: Sacramento / Bay Area

Bio: Nathaniel Brown is a beginner farmer in the Sacramento area with extensive personal experience with unstable land tenure and ways to overcome challenges accessing land. Nathaniel is the founder of Brown Sugar Farms, which offers veggie boxes, eggs, bouquets, classes on natural farming and agroforestry (food forests), and volunteer and work-trade opportunities in the greater Sacramento area.

Land Trust Representative

Nominee: Dorian Payan, Radical Real Estate Law School at the Sustainable Economies Law Center

Geographic Representation: Central Coast, Bay Area, North Bay, Central Valley

Bio: Dorian Payan serves as the Director of Holistic Land Relations and Co-Director of the Radical Real Estate Law School at the Sustainable Economies Law Center (SELC) in Oakland, California. The organization offers pro-bono and low-bono support to community-based organizations dealing with - among many other things - legal issues related to land acquisition. All SELC clients are Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Before SELC, Dorian was a full-time farmer and land steward, managing a 35-acre organic vegetable farm affiliated with the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at UC Santa Cruz.

Agricultural Land Acquisition and Finance

Nominee: Liya Schwartzman, Senior Program Manager, California FarmLink

Geographic Representation: Sacramento, Central Valley, Central Coast, Bay Area

Bio: Liya Schwartzman has been working in partnership with farmers on behalf of California FarmLink since 2010. She has supported hundreds of farmers and ranchers accessing land, securing strong tenure agreements, exploring financing, and facilitating farmland and business succession plans. Liya also directs farmers to a variety of resources from FarmLink, its partners, and service providers nationwide. She is a frequent speaker at workshops and conferences on topics of importance to beginning and retiring farmers and ranchers.

Issues Affecting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers

Nominee: Lorena Iniguez, Ebby's Organic Farm

Geographic Representation: Central Coast

Bio: Mike and Lorena Iniguez have been farmers in Santa Barbara County for more than 40 years. Despite growing food ethically, efficiently, and profitably for their community, Mike and Lorena – like many small and micro-scale farmers – have been unable to access permanent land or a farm loan. Mike

and Lorena bring valuable perspectives based on their lived experience with the extra challenges and disadvantages of being an organic and natural micro-scale family farm – bad weather, fires, drought, and low commodity prices – that make it too risky to take on a big mortgage to buy land.

Issues Affecting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers

Nominee: Nelson Hawkins, Founder, We Grow Urban Farm

Geographic Representation: Greater Sacramento

Bio: Nelson Hawkins holds over 12 years of farming experience and is the founder of We Grow Urban Farm in West Sacramento. Nelson is in the process of acquiring land and can speak directly to the barriers faced by beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. At We Grow, Nelson produces a large variety of seasonal fruits/vegetables and makes them accessible to low-resourced communities directly and at their summer farm stand, as well as supplying local restaurants, food distribution programs, and the Yolo Food Bank. Nelson also provides work opportunities for local youth to learn about sustainable food production and help run their seasonal community-supported agricultural program.

Issues Affecting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers

Nominee: Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, Ph.D., Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno and Tulare Counties

Geographic Representation: Central Valley

Bio: Ruth Dahlquist-Willard is the Small Farms and Specialty Crops Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension in Fresno and Tulare Counties. She coordinates an extension program supporting small-scale, diversified, and socially disadvantaged farmers through individual extension support, bilingual outreach and training in Hmong, Lao, Spanish, and Punjabi, research on small-acreage specialty crops, and policy engagement. Ruth holds a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Idaho and the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE). Her collaborative policy efforts have resulted in several changes to regulatory and incentives programs, including revised reporting requirements for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program for small-scale and diversified farms and improving access for limited-resource farmers to California Department of Food & Agriculture's (CDFA) Climate Smart Agriculture programs. She has served as a co-chair of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) Small Farms Workgroup and is currently the co-leader of the Diversified Farming and Food Systems Program Team.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Farm Equity Advisor

Nominee: Thea Rittenhouse, CDFA Farm Equity Advisor

Geographic Representation: Statewide

Bio: Thea Rittenhouse joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2018 as the first Farm Equity Advisor. Her career has been dedicated to working with farmers, farmworkers, and sustainable agriculture projects in different capacities. She received a Master's Degree from UC Davis in Community Development with a specialization in Food Systems. Most recently, she was a sustainable agriculture specialist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA). She taught workshops for farmers in English and Spanish, co-developed the Latino Farmer Conference, and created farm business resources for beginning farmers and ranchers. She was raised on a farm in the Midwest and is the co-owner of an organic farm in Yolo County.

State Board of Food and Agriculture Member

Nominee: Doria Robinson, Agricultural Industry Member, California State Board of Food and Agriculture / Executive Director, Urban Tilth

Geographic Representation: Statewide

Bio: Since 2008, Doria has been executive director of Urban Tilth, which works to build a just local food system by, in part, educating, training, and hiring community members to grow their own edible gardens to provide healthy foods to the community. The nonprofit operates more than a half-dozen school and community gardens, including the North Richmond Farm. In 2022, Doria became the first Urban Agriculture representative and the first Black Woman to serve on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Doria is a member of Cooperation Richmond, Richmond Our Power Coalition, Climate Justice Alliance, U.S., Food Sovereignty Alliance and the Richmond Food Policy Council.

TBD (pending CDFA BIPOC Farmer Advisory Committee recommendation)

Task Force Position: CDFA BIPOC Farmer Advisory Committee member