

Attachment A: Bio – Darlene Franco

Darlene Franco has worked all her life in Native communities, including directing statewide Native language revitalization programs, coaching Native youth sports teams, leading health and wellness cultural programs, providing cultural curriculum development, and teaching and practicing her Tribe’s culture and running ceremonies for her people. She is a member of the Wukchumni Tribe, whose ancestral homelands are near what is today known as Visalia in Tulare County. For the past year, Darlene has been attending California Truth and Healing Council (CTHC) sessions throughout the state to learn about other California Native Americans’ successes and struggles. She also regularly participates in agricultural groups and activities, from basketry workshops to Traditional Ecological Knowledge programs. Her expansive knowledge and lifelong commitment to California’s tribal communities are invaluable contributions to the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force. In her words, “I feel I can help make recommendations on how, why, and where to increase access to land for food production, traditional uses for culture and medicines, and support for traditional tending of the land.”

