

Attachment A: California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Nomination and Review Process

Overview

Land ownership characteristics are an important predictor of economic decision-making, conservation practices, and recreational use. Stable and secure land tenure plays a vital role in achieving long-term prosperity for California's farmers, a robust food system, and healthy natural and working lands.

Historically, farmers of color in California have not had equitable access to land and other resources necessary to conduct farming in the state, and that legacy of prejudice persists. Female farmers represent less than a quarter of all farmers in the state, and only 2 percent of California farmers are women of color. Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers – defined by the USDA as those belonging to groups that have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice – tend to farm fewer acres but have a greater diversity of crops in California. On average, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California receive less in federal payments than their White counterparts and also earn less.

Announced in the California Budget Act of 2022 (AB-179), the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) will develop recommendations on how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. The Task Force will meet at least quarterly over a three-year period and develop a full report of recommendations at the end of the three years. On or before January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report to the Legislature and Governor, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code, that includes a set of policy recommendations on how to address the agricultural land equity crisis.

Task Force Composition

The task force shall consist of a regionally diverse group of individuals of up to 13 members including native and tribal liaisons, a land trust representative, individuals with expertise in issues affecting socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, an individual with expertise in agricultural land acquisition and finance, State Board of Food and Agriculture member, a farmworker representative, a beginning farmer, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Farm Equity Advisor, and an individual from the CDFA BIPOC Farmer Advisory Committee that is currently being established.

Members shall be appointed by the Council, in consultation with the CDFA Farm Equity Advisor and the California Truth and Healing Council, and ensure that its recommendations further the objectives of the Farmer Equity Act of 2017, as described in Sections 511 and 513 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

Task Force Member Application Process

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from November 1, 2022, to December 15, 2022. The Call for Applications will be announced via an SGC press release and established public outreach channels, with accompanying announcements via the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Natural Resources Agency.

Applications will be accepted via an online form, which will capture applicant information such as California residency status, demographic representation, and relevant personal and professional experience. The full list of questions is contained in Table 1.

Task Force Application Questions

Section 1: Contact information

Name

Email address or phone number if no email

California residency (Yes/No).

Section 2: Sociodemographic & Socioeconomic Representation

Which geographic region/s do you represent?

Please indicate if you identify with or represent any of the following:

- Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Asian or other community of color
- Native American Tribal Government or community member
- Person of marginalized gender or sexuality (women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual)
- Beginning farmers
- Farmworker
- Elder/Senior
- Youth
- Formerly incarcerated
- Disability Rights
- Rural Community
- Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)
- Limited-English Proficient
- Migrant or Immigrant Population

Section 3: Agriculture/Land Equity Knowledge and Experience

- Please describe your interest in serving on the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force.
- Please describe your personal or professional experience working with diverse communities in agricultural land equity policy, programming, advocacy, or related fields.
- Please describe how you have been directly impacted by lack of land access and/or have a role to play in addressing the agricultural land equity crisis.
- Please list or describe anything any additional experience or expertise as it pertains to the objectives of the Task Force.
- If you have any questions about the California Land Equity Task Force, please list your questions below.

Review Criteria and Guidance

SGC staff will conduct an initial screening of each application using the criteria contained in Table 2. This screening will be used to determine eligibility and to ensure breadth of demographic, geographic, and



professional representation on the Task Force. Nominations will be screened on an ongoing basis to inform targeted outreach to address any identified gaps in the areas of geographic, demographic, and socio-economic representation. Nominees will not be evaluated for their own identity based on a protected class but rather their representation of groups that belong to the identified under-represented groups.

Draft Screening Criteria

Geographic Representation

CA Geographic Region

Sociodemographic & Socioeconomic Representation

Sociodemographic & Socioeconomic Representation	Check where applicable
Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Asian or other community of color	
California Native American Tribal Government or community member	
Person of marginalized gender or sexuality (women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual)	
Beginning farmers	
Farmworkers	
Land trusts	
Elder/Senior	
Youth	
Formerly incarcerated	
Disability Rights	
Rural Community	
Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)	
Limited-English Proficient	
Migrant or Immigrant Population	

Agriculture/Land Equity Knowledge and Experience

Agriculture/Land Equity Knowledge and Experience	Check where applicable
Agricultural land protection (equity, policy, programming, advocacy, or finance)	
Equity-centered community leadership	
Health (policy, action, resilience)	
Climate and Environmental Justice (air quality, transportation pollution, climate adaptation)	
Land Use	
Social Justice	

Environmental Justice	
Labor Organizing	
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)	
Community and socioeconomic development	

The review committee will consist of 5 members:

1. SGC Special Projects Analyst
2. OPR Senior Advisor for Land Conservation
3. CDFA Farm Equity Advisor
4. California Truth and Healing Council representative (TBD)
5. One additional member selected by SGC staff from within Strategic Growth Council member agencies.

Reviewers are required to recuse themselves from the review of any applicant with whom the reviewer has a substantial interest.

Reviewers will be advised to consider the following criteria when evaluating each submission:

- California Residency: Current California residency is not a requirement for Task Force membership. However, applicants residing outside California must demonstrate significant experience within the state.
- Participation in the Task Force will not generate a conflict-of-interest concern. Such a conflict exists if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material financial effect on one or more of the applicant’s economic interest
- Ability to attend Task Force meetings and perform the stated functions of the Task Force
- Experience or desire to advise agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in agricultural land equity
- Demonstrated commitment to elevating diverse and historically marginalized voices to achieve equitable outcomes in land equity and related issue areas

Reviewers will be asked to record a recommendation for including the applicant on the Task Force (Yes/No/Maybe) to be accompanied by a brief justification for the decision relating to the criteria outlined above. Based on the review, the review committee will meet to identify a list of 13 candidates, to be submitted to the SGC Executive Director no later than January 15. SGC Staff will submit the final list of candidates for approval at the February Strategic Growth Council meeting.

Review Timeline

- Applications window: November 1, 2022 to December 15, 2022
- SGC post-application screening: December 15-31, 2022
- Formal Review: January 15-31, 2023
- Submission to Strategic Growth Council: February 28, 2023