

Feb. 25, 2026

Subject: California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) Report

Reporting Period: October 2023 - February 2026

Staff Lead: Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director of Energy Investments and Camille Frazier, Agricultural Land Equity Program Lead

Summary

This Staff Report provides an overview of the Task Force and its final report. The Task Force, established in the California Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179), is a 13-member independent body charged with delivering policy recommendations to address California’s agricultural land equity crisis. Its report, finalized in December 2025, reflects two years of public meetings, site visits, expert presentations, and community engagement across the state.

Background

About the Task Force

Established in the [California Budget Act of 2022 \(AB 179\)](#), the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force is an independent 13-member body directed to “submit a report (by Jan. 1, 2026) to the Legislature and Governor...that includes a set of policy recommendations on how to address the agricultural land equity crisis.”

Per AB 179, Task Force members were appointed by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Farm Equity Advisor and the California Truth and Healing Council. Members’ bios are available on the [SGC website](#).

The Task Force is administered by SGC yet operates independently of SGC direction and oversight. SGC Staff, with support from California State University, Sacramento, facilitated public meetings and community engagement and assisted the Task Force in documenting, discussing, refining, and finalizing its recommendations, while aiming to accurately reflect the Task Force’s ideas and opinions throughout the process. The Task Force maintained final decision-making control over the contents of its report. As such, the views and recommendations expressed in the report are those of the Task Force and not necessarily those of SGC or the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

Development of recommendations

The Task Force developed its recommendations through a collaborative process from October 2023 to December 2025. This included 12 public Task Force meetings at locations across California with associated guest speakers and site visits at local farms, ranches, urban gardens, and Tribal farms and gardens. The Task Force also hosted 33 public subcommittee meetings. Community engagement activities included 20 engagement sessions across the state and a survey administered in English, Spanish, and Chinese with 207 respondents, among other activities.

The Task Force received technical guidance from an advisory committee and an interagency review panel to improve and refine its draft recommendations. Final decisions regarding whether and how to implement feedback were made by the Task Force.

Report Overview

The report, “Advancing Agricultural Land Equity in California: Recommendations of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force,” was submitted to the Governor and Legislature in December 2025. It is publicly available on [SGC's website](#).

The report begins with an overview of the Task Force's mandate and process and defines key terms, including agricultural land equity and priority producers and Tribal land stewards. The “historical context and contemporary inequities” section describes how California's agricultural landscape has been shaped by historical injustices and systemic exclusion based on race, ethnicity, gender, class, and citizenship status, among other factors. Today, these inequities overlap with land consolidation, financialization, and regulatory burdens to make secure land access unattainable for many of California's producers and Tribal land stewards.

The report highlights the economic, ecological, and cultural gains all Californians experience by advancing equitable and secure access to agricultural land.

The recommendations are divided into six sections, as follows.

1. Prioritize Tribal stewardship and land return.

- 1.1. Establish an Ancestral Land Return Fund.
- 1.2. Embed ancestral land return for California Native American Tribes in all policies and programs.
- 1.3. Return publicly held land to California Native American Tribes.
- 1.4. Enable and promote the implementation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices.

2. Fund and incentivize land acquisition for priority producers and land stewards.

- 2.1. Establish a Restorative Land Fund.
- 2.2. Develop and implement a public education campaign.
- 2.3. Provide funding for the purchase and lease or transition of agricultural land to priority producers and land stewards.
- 2.4. Establish loan and debt forgiveness programs.
- 2.5. Adopt new tax programs and benefits designed to serve priority producers and land stewards.
- 2.6. Continually evaluate and improve funding and incentive programs.
- 2.7. Expand tailored technical assistance for land access and acquisition.

3. Halt, mitigate, and reverse agricultural land consolidation.



- 3.1 Limit agricultural landownership by investment companies.
- 3.2 Develop local first opportunity to purchase ordinances for priority producers and land stewards.
- 3.3 Establish a California Producer Retirement Fund.
- 3.4 Establish and fund a Land Market Monitoring Program.

4. Preserve California's agricultural land while prioritizing equitable land access and stewardship.

- 4.1 Develop a statewide agricultural land preservation plan.
- 4.2 Improve conservation programs and tools to enable equitable land access and stewardship.
- 4.3 Promote local strategies for agricultural land preservation.
- 4.4 Expand state and local government capacity to effectively and fairly lease publicly held land.

5. Prioritize and protect secure land tenure.

- 5.1 Address power imbalances in landowner-tenant relationships.
- 5.2 Expand the capacity of CDFA's Farmer Equity Office.
- 5.3 Establish and fund regional Ag Ombuds positions.
- 5.4 Address inequitable policy consequences while respecting the intention of the law.
- 5.5 Incentivize and support local governments to adopt zoning and land use planning practices that facilitate secure land tenure and stewardship.

6. Support urban agriculture.

- 6.1 Ensure eligibility of urban producers and land stewards in existing programs and provide tailored funding.
- 6.2 Make land available for urban agriculture and address barriers to secure tenure.

The report concludes with guidance for implementation and evaluation, followed by references and appendices that provide additional information and context.

Next Steps

SGC staff will support the Task Force in distributing the report to individuals, organizations, and California Native American Tribes engaged in and impacted by issues related to agricultural land access and tenure. As mandated by [SB 1448 \(2024\)](#), the final report will remain available on SGC's website.

During the Feb. 25 meeting, Council will consider a resolution thanking Task Force members for their service and concluding and withdrawing their appointments.