

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Goal 3: Equitable Land Transition &
Land Acquisition Subcommittee

Sept. 4, 2025 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Participation Guidelines



**Share,
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different
Perspectives**



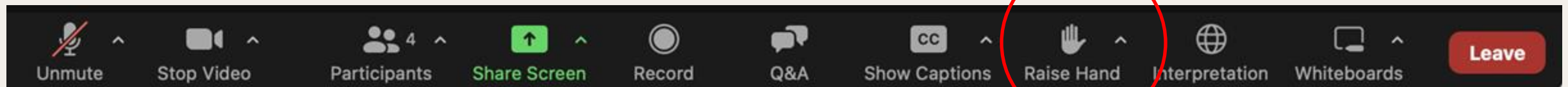
Stay on Point

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**
- **Working Session**
 - Review of feedback received re: Goal 3 from August ALETF meeting
 - Review and discuss draft goal and subgoals
 - Review action items. Assign follow-up tasks and deadlines
- **General Public Comment**

Working Session

Working Session

To consider:

- Order of recommendations
- Scope and level of detail

Working Session

Review of Feedback Received on Goal 3: Revisions

Requested revision	Status
3.1c: Clarify Aggie Bonds already exist, how relates to private lenders	In Progress
3.1: Move position of "Establish new funding programs that are designed to serve priority producers and land stewards" to 3.1	Complete
3.2: Move position of "Continually evaluate and improve funding programs" to 3.2	Complete
3.2d: Make specific to land access programs and require development of tools to reduce burdens on individuals and orgs	Complete
3.2b: Require review by Tribal Nations as well as CDFA committees	Complete
3.2: List relevant agencies and programs so easier to implement	In Progress

Working Session

Review of Feedback Received on Goal 3: Revisions

Requested revision	Status
3.4a: Add technical and technology assistance	Complete
3.5b: Integrate land-linking services into Land Observatory	Complete
Require programs to model on SWEEP and HSP re: set-asides and call-outs	Complete
3.4b: Call out legal technical assistance dealing with deeds, title, trust agreements, water rights	Complete
3.4b: Call out need for TA in holding land long-term	Complete

Working Session

Review of Feedback Received on Goal 3: Further discussion

Issue to discuss	Possible solution
3.5: Land Observatory should not be standalone goal; question of who would be involved and how; scope of this entity re: pre and post sale	Changed to Land Market Monitoring Department, clarified purpose: state-supported, public-facing system that can collect, analyze, share data on ag land access and ownership to support implementation of various recs
3.1c: Opposition to tax breaks for landowners who can't be vetted as ethical business owners	Tie landowner tax breaks to certification as ethical business owners
3.2d: Could overburden TA; capacity issue	Added language addressing burden concerns

Working Session

Task Force Discussion: Land consolidation

- Language discussed in August: Ban Farmland Investment Institutions from Purchasing Land in California
 - Ban financial services organizations or their subsidiaries from acquiring title or any other interest in land.
 - Seize existing lands currently owned by financial services organizations.
- Feedback from August meeting:
 - Question about legality of proposal. What financial disincentive could be used to make these types of purchases less attractive? Who and how to disincentivize?
 - Question of balancing disincentives like caps on appreciation paired with farmer pension funds and other measures to ensure security and ability to retire
 - What could be done to reduce reliance on appreciation? This could be theme addressed throughout report – recognize that land back, etc. are disincentivizing commodification of public land – call this out and make clear goal throughout report

Working Session

Community Input: Land consolidation

Challenges

- Recommendations currently lack a direct focus on the accelerating crisis of corporate consolidation.
- Large-scale land purchasing by non-agricultural entities. Investment firms are buying land as an investment tool and not for food production.
- In tandem with the first right of refusal program, there must be a suite of active policies to prevent intensive land grabs and truly level the playing field for priority producers.
- Transactions on the open land market happen more quickly than Tribal timelines and disadvantage low resource growers
- Public funding takes too long. Private offers can be accepted while the buyer waits for a response from Tribe's or other buyer's appraisal.

Working Session

Community Input: Land consolidation

Solutions

- Add Goal #5 that establishes policies and regulations to curb large-scale land purchasing by non-agricultural entities.
- Establish protections against land speculation and extractive economic activities that displace Tribal uses.
- Slow down land transactions
- **Require community benefits agreements (CBAs)** for the sale of large plots of agricultural land with robust technical support to the community to negotiate, in addition to state oversight to ensure CBAs are enforced.
- **Adopt a corporate farm law** that limits corporations and private investment funds from purchasing or leasing farmland. This could include requiring agricultural landowners to be affiliated with agriculture to reduce speculative investment of agricultural land by hedge funds and non-agricultural entities. Institute a **corporate land ownership fee** (by acre or percentage of annual revenue) used to fund farmland acquisition for underserved farmers.

Working Session

Example Legislation: Land consolidation

Farmland for Farms Act, 2023

- Corporations, multilayered subsidiaries, pension funds and investment funds are restricted from purchasing or leasing agricultural land for investment purposes. [See community input]
- Important exemptions are made for certain groups, including farmer cooperatives, heirs' property owners, and nonprofit or municipal corporations with 25 or fewer stakeholders, provided all parties are actively engaged in farming.
- State authority to regulate and track corporate ownership of farmland, both domestic and foreign, is strengthened to improve transparency [Similar to Land Observatory]
- The Act authorizes the imposition of civil and criminal penalties on corporate entities that violate farmland ownership restrictions.

Working Session

Community Input: Discussion

Issue to discuss	Possible solution
Increase resources and capacity building for ag cooperatives; provide TA support for development of coops	3.4: Propose new rec re: support for cooperatives
Provide one-on-one, long-term TA designed for Black farmers to resolve land access questions.	Add to 3.4b
Create local Grassroots Advisory Councils to advise and approve local government agency decisions related to TA and resource distribution and to enhance local agencies' services for Black farmers and Black-led organizations	Add / merge with 3.4b
TA should include to acquire, access, maintain, remediate degraded lands, and protect existing land, e.g. title and legal questions, long-term land retention, and resolving ownership issues.	Add detail to 3.4c

Working Session

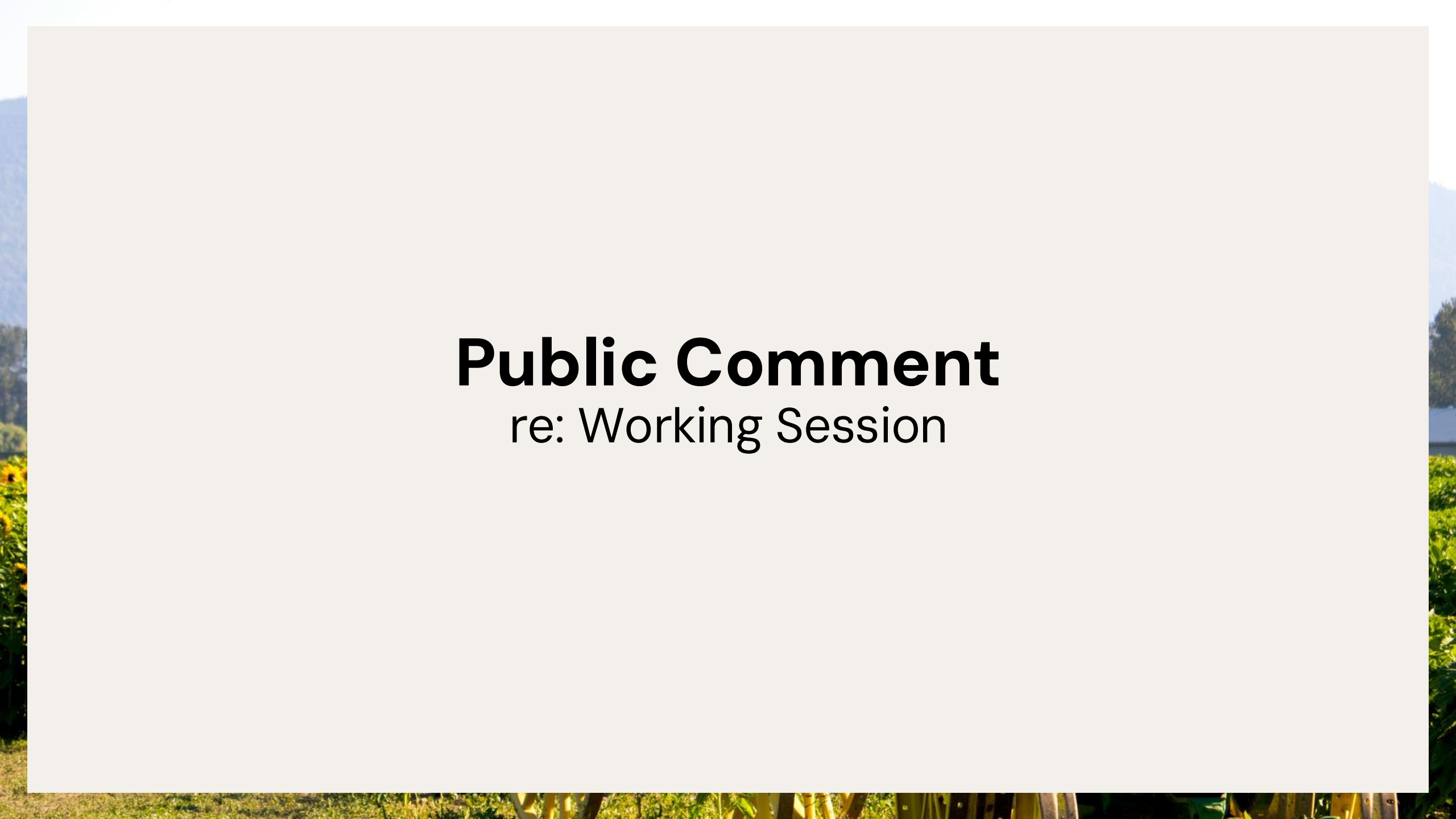
Discussion:

- Order of recommendations
- Scope and level of detail

Working Session

Discussion:

- Confirm next steps and assignments, as applicable.



Public Comment

re: Working Session

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General Public Comment

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Summarize, Action Items, Next Steps

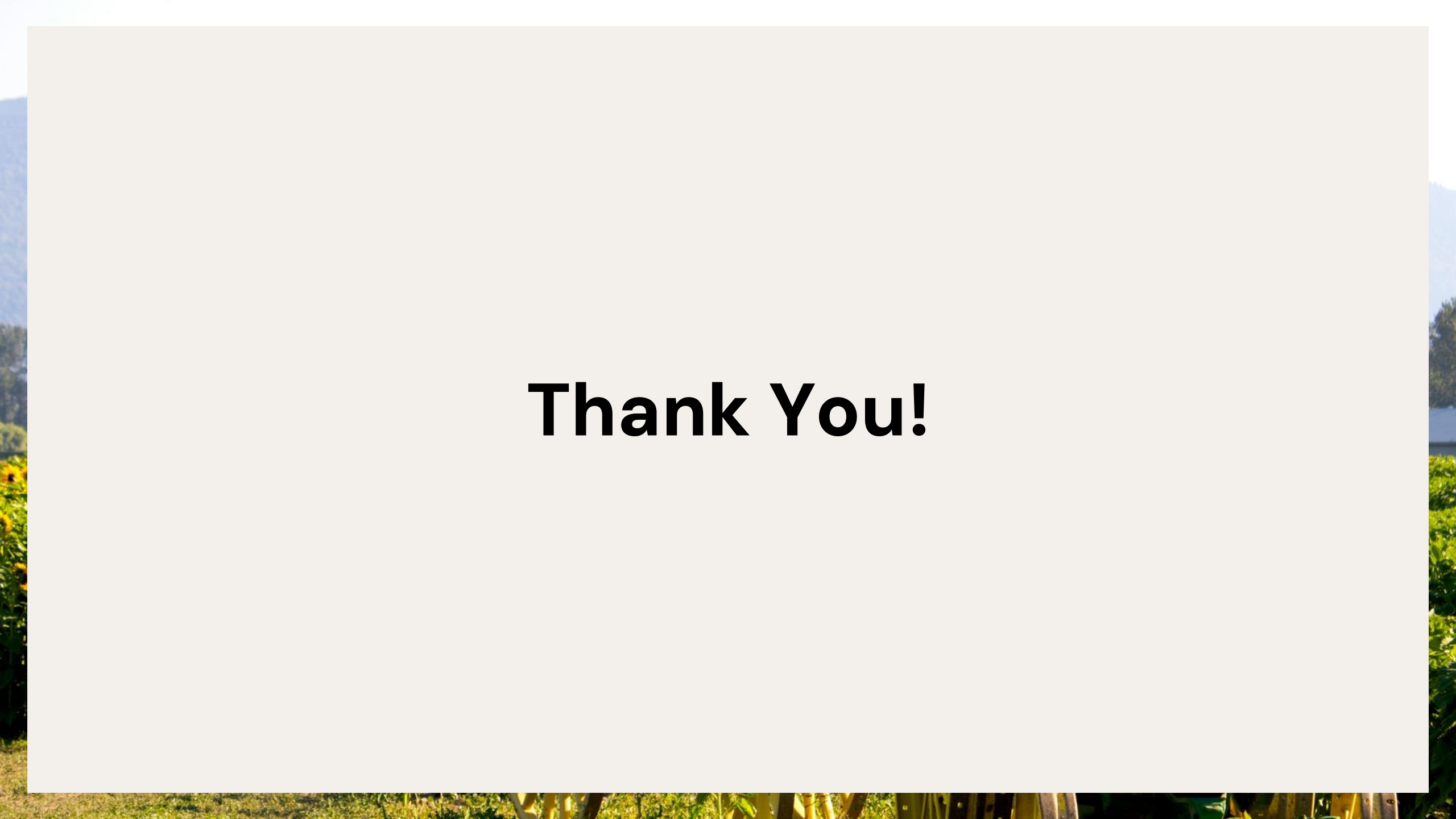
- Review of Action Items and follow up items
- Decide on next meeting + meeting schedule
- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

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

Upcoming Meetings

- **Restorative Lands Subcommittee:** Sept. 5 (Friday) | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Goal 4 Subcommittee :** Sept. 5 (Friday) | 2–4 p.m.
- **Full Task Force Meeting:** Oct. 15 & 16 | Ventura & Virtual

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



Thank You!