

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Goal 4: Secure Land Tenure
Subcommittee

Sept. 23, 2025 | 9–10:30 a.m.



Participation Guidelines



**Share,
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different
Perspectives**



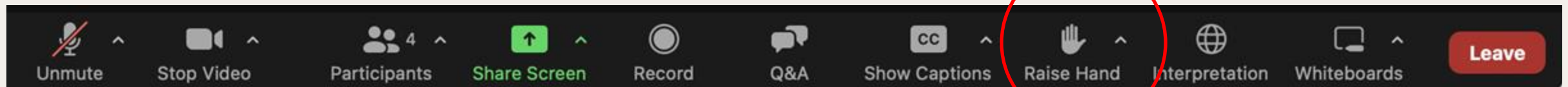
Stay on Point

Public Comment Process

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- 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**
- **Approve Summary** from 09/05/2025 meeting
- **Working Session**
 - Discuss and advance development of draft goal and subgoals for potential inclusion in Report
 - Review action items. Assign follow-up tasks and deadlines
- **General Public Comment**

Approval of Summary



Public Comment

re: Meeting Summary

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Working Session

Working Session

To consider:

- Goal 4 recommendations
- Order of recommendations
- Scope and level of detail

Working Session

Review of Feedback Received on Goal 4: Revisions

Requested revision	Status
Revert 4.2 title to previous	Complete
Add to 4.2h.ii a new bullet: “identify a stable source of funding for irrigated lands technical assistance beyond member fees”	Complete
4.2b Add clarifying example about water and soil health	Complete
Appendix B: Add “groundwater allocations” to list of water types. "Landowners may not sell or otherwise remove water rights..."	Complete

Working Session

Review of Feedback Received on Goal 4: Further discussion

Issue to discuss	Possible solution
Tenant bill of rights: How is it enforced? Further refinement of tenant bill of rights; Max. allowable lease length question 51 to 100 years	In progress; address if capacity
Compile all proposed entities and programs to review if they can be combined. Include a responsibility for interagency coordination re: laws and regulations.	Discuss today
Embed Ag Ombuds recommendation in Goal 4	Added as Goal 4.2a; Discuss today

Working Session

Discussion: Compile newly proposed entities

Subcommittee Mtg 1: Compile all proposed entities and programs to review if they can be combined. Include a responsibility for interagency coordination re: laws and regulations.

Proposed updates:

- Expand 4.1 to include all mentions of interagency collaboration (see next slide)
- Ag Ombuds
- Technical assistance

Working Session

Discussion: Compile newly proposed entities

4.1. - Expand the capacity of California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) farmer equity office

- a) Provide additional funding to CDFA's Farmer Equity Office to increase staff capacity and to perform the following roles.
- b) Facilitate interagency review, coordination, and evaluation prior to implementing new regulations that impact priority producers and land stewards to avoid conflicting guidance and requirements.
- c) Establish a process by which proposed agricultural regulations and policies that may impact priority producers and land stewards are evaluated by the CDFA BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Advisory Committee, the CDFA Small Producer Advisory Committee, and any other pertinent public bodies
- d) Define criteria for alternative or tiered reporting and compliance requirements for small scale farmers and cultural cropping systems to address systemic inequities in "one size fits all" regulatory programs.

Include inter-agency communication with local and regional agencies as well?

- 4.3.a Create processes and positions to increase inter-agency communication and to streamline compliance with local and regional requirements and resources.

Working Session

Discussion: Ag Ombuds

Subcommittee Mtg 1: Add Ag Ombuds position into Goal 4. Ensure long-term positions in public, non-regulatory agency. Include a regular process for recording, consolidating, responding to recommendations.

New language

- a) Establish new, permanent Ag Ombuds positions within a public, non-regulatory agency, such as UC Cooperative Extension, to serve as regional service providers to help priority producers and land stewards navigate permitting, regulatory processes, and public resources at all levels of government.
 - i) Develop a process for documenting, sharing, and addressing the persistent concerns between these positions and regulatory agencies.

Discussion

- Is Subcommittee ready to move into October draft?

Working Session

Discussion: Technical assistance

Existing recommendations in draft:

- 4.2.a Ag Ombuds
- 4.2.d Require that all regulatory programs provide technical assistance to assist priority producers with compliance.
 - i. Establish a one-time regulatory compliance process to waive fees.
- 4.4.d Increase access and funding to legal support and technical assistance providers who assist, at low or no cost to priority producers, with contract and relationship development, mediation, and negotiation services. This includes support for approaches that can address disputes and default without resorting to formal legal procedures.

Discussion

- Confirm Ag Ombuds location in Goal 4
- [Community input] "Expand CALAMP. Two people to cover the entire state are not enough." Should 4.4.d reference CALAMP and suggest funding be directed there?

Working Session

Discussion: Technical Assistance (TA)

Subcommittee Mtg 1: How to define TA provider?

SGC definition: The process of providing targeted support to an agency, organization, or community with a development need or resource gap. TA may be delivered in many different ways, such as one-on-one consultation, small group facilitation, technical resources and analysis, or through a web-based clearinghouse. TA is one of the most effective methods for building the capacity of an organization.

Draft recommendation: 4.4.d Increase access and funding to legal support and technical assistance providers who assist, at low or no cost to priority producers, with contract and relationship development, mediation, and negotiation services. This includes support for approaches that can address disputes and default without resorting to formal legal procedures.

Discussion

- Is there additional detail needed to more clearly outline which technical assistance providers are eligible for proposed funding?

Working Session

Discussion: County-level liaison

Subcommittee Mtg 1: Add new rec: County-level agricultural lands liaison between growers and agency staff re: publicly owned lands

Existing recommendation: 2.3 a.ii Direct a collaboration of state agencies and technical assistance providers... to develop models for secure, long-term access agreements that would allow for cultivation of public lands, and act as a liaison for priority producers and land stewards navigating public land leases.

Discussion questions

- Is the ag lands liaison concept raised in the previous subcommittee meeting sufficiently addressed in Goal 2?
- Should the ag land liaisons provide support for publicly held lands at both state and local levels?

Working Session

Discussion: Interagency review feedback

Confirm next steps for specific revisions to wording of 4.2.h.

Feedback to consider:

- 4.2.g: Add: **Encourage and where possible** ensure representation of priority producers and land stewards in public decision-making bodies...
- 4.2.h.i.3: Amend and implement the following laws to enable secure land tenure.
 - Review language to confirm each part of this recommendation: Prohibit groundwater markets or develop a regulatory framework to protect tenant farmers from market power and the sale of farmland for its associated groundwater allocations

Working Session

Discussion: Community input

Feedback to consider:

4.3 Direct, incentivize, and support local governments to adopt zoning and land use planning practices

- Support on-farm infrastructure and legalize what farmers have built. Help farmers construct needed facilities and develop ways to bring existing informal structures into compliance, such as creating a program to legalize structures without penalizing farmers
- Adopt agricultural-specific building standards. Facilities like greenhouses should not be held to full commercial construction standards. Requirements to use expensive fire-proof materials or commercial-grade foundations on simple farm greenhouses add unnecessary cost. Having an “agricultural track” in building codes – with lower-cost standards suited for farm use – would make it feasible to construct needed infrastructure.
- Requirements related to septic systems and the cost to upgrade existing systems or install new ones are one of the biggest barriers to making farm improvements. Reconsider these requirements, including when changes to or installation of a septic system are necessary.

Working Session

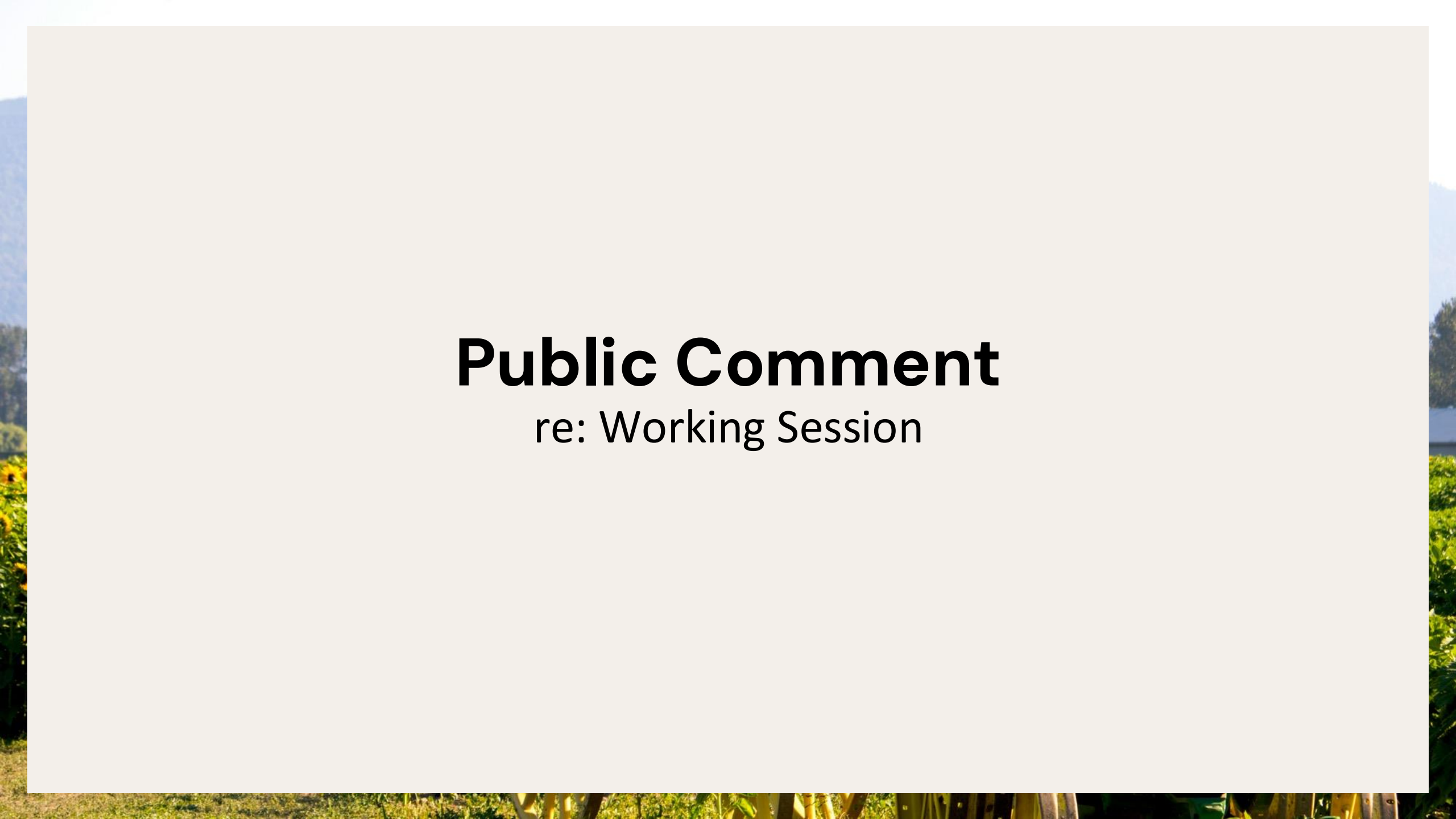
Discussion:

- Order of recommendations
- Scope and level of detail

Working Session

Discussion:

- Confirm next steps and assignments, as applicable.

The background of the slide features a photograph of a sunflower field in the foreground, with rolling green hills and mountains visible in the distance under a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent white rectangle is centered over the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

Public Comment

re: Working Session

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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. 24 (Wednesday) | 3 – 5 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!