

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

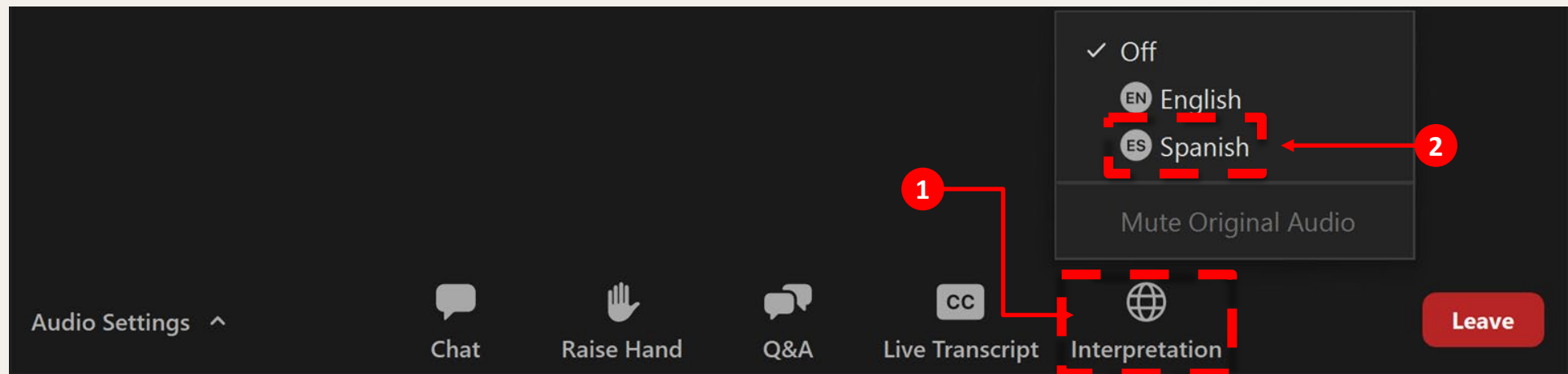
Feb. 24, 2026 | 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Sacramento, California



Listening to Language Interpretation

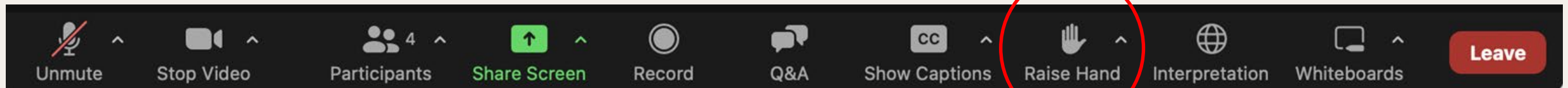
Cómo escuchar la interpretación de un idioma

1. In your meeting controls, click **Interpretation**. It can be located at the bottom of the screen. / En los controles de la reunión, haga clic en (**Interpretation**). Esto se puede localizar en la parte de abajo.
2. Click the language that you would like to hear. For this meeting, you will have English and Spanish as your options. / Haz clic en el idioma que desee escuchar. Para esta reunión, hay las opciones de Inglés y Español.
3. To only hear the interpreted language (Spanish), click **Mute Original Audio**. / Para escuchar solo el idioma interpretado (español), haz clic en (**Mute Original Audio**).



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.
- Use “Raise Hand” feature during public comment periods.



Public Comment Process

IN PERSON

- Submit the public comment card on the front table
- Separate form for each item
- Listen for your name and line up by the podium
- Staff will call your name to the podium
- Please adhere to **2-minute** time limit

VIRTUAL

- Complete form at sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events
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Participation Guidelines



**Share,
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different
Perspectives**



**Respectful and
Courteous Language**



**Avoid Judgements
and Editorials**



Stay on Point

Agenda Review

Tuesday, Feb. 24

- **Approval of Meeting Summary** from Dec. 11, 2025
- **Staff Report**
- **Reflections and Next Steps:** Interactive discussion
- **General Public Comment**

Roll Call

Meeting Summary

from Dec. 11, 2025

Public Comment

Re: Meeting Summary

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Staff Report

Staff Report: Announcements & updates

- Outreach materials & report distribution
 - Draft Report Summary
 - Draft Summaries of Recommendations re: specific topics/audiences
 - Translation plans for summaries and video
 - In what languages will you share your work?
 - Previously identified: Spanish, simplified Chinese, Korean, Hmong, lu-Mien
- Other outreach materials in google drive

Staff Report: Announcements & updates

- Strategic Growth Council meeting
- Post-appointment communication
- Task Force evaluation
- Climate Bond (Prop 4)
- Reserved funds

Staff Report: Budget Update

Current as of Dec. 31, 2025

Category	FY 22-23, 23-24, & 24-25 expenditures	FY 25-26 expenditures thru 12/2025	Total funds obligated	Total budgeted	Total budget remaining
Personnel (SGC staff)	\$477,151	\$228,922	\$1,100,760	\$1,100,760	\$0
Operating expenses (travel, facilitator, language access, etc.)	\$365,473	\$25,624	\$290,579	\$884,240	\$202,564
Research and technical assistance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$270,000	\$270,000
Local assistance (e.g., grants, pilot projects, research)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Total	\$824,624	\$254,546	\$1,406,284	\$3,255,000	\$1,472,564

Staff Report: Announcements & updates

- Task Force members' announcements

Public Comment

Re: Staff Report

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Reflections and Next Steps

Plan for Discussion

- Staff recap of work accomplished
- Task Force reflections and discussion *in small groups*
- Come back together and share!

- 13 Quarterly Task Force Meetings
- 12 Subcommittees (33 meetings)
- 15 Work Groups



Task Force members in San Diego

Regional Engagement and Public Meetings



Research, Resources & Materials

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Land Access Experiences Survey Report

May 8, 2025

City/Type	Geography	Financing Type (Other)	Resource Name and Link	Lead agency / Organization	Resource Description	Eligible Applicants / Participants	Eligible Agencies
SD	California	Financing	Lending Programs	California FarmLink	Fair and affordable loans for agricultural and fishing businesses through FarmLink, a non-profit lender and Certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) which focus on underserved people and communities.	Priority for small-scale farmers, farmers of color and beginning farmers and ranchers. To be eligible you must meet this criteria: •Current management role in a farm or ranch, •Two or more years of farming experience, •Secure verified land tenure, •Active marketing or sales channels, and •Appropriate registrations and certifications.	General
IV	California	Financing	Farm Loans	Small Business Finance Center, California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Bank)	A program designed to support direct loans to small farms in California through participating lenders approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency (FSA) which guarantees up to 90% of those loans.	Farmers via participating lenders	
SD	Western States	Financing	Farm Credit	Farm Credit West (AgWest Farm Credit)	Farm Credit is nationwide network of independent, privately-owned lending institutions which offer loans, crop insurance, credit life insurance and other financially related services. Each institution is cooperatively owned by customers such as farmers, ranchers, farmer-owned cooperatives and others.	Agricultural producers, young, beginning and farmer-owned co-ops, rural homebuyers, agri exporters.	
SD	U.S.	Financing	Borrow Programs	Shared Capital Cooperative	Cooperative-friendly financing by an organization with an understanding of the unique ownership, governance and capital structures of cooperatives.	Any business or housing organization in the U.S. governed on a cooperative basis is eligible. Bg worker, consumer, producer and housing co	
IV	U.S.	Financing	Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers	USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)	Each year Congress sets aside a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds for beginning farmers and ranchers. See link. Also included: loan program to assist with farmland down payments and land contract guarantees.	Tribal Citizens, tribal organizations, and beginn ranchers who are unable to obtain financing lenders	

Briefing Materials

Prepared for the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Meeting on February 16, 2024

The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) was established by the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179) to develop recommendations to equitably access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. The Task Force consists of a regionally diverse group of individuals representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, land trusts, ag finance and real estate, and the State of California.

This briefing packet, developed by Strategic Growth Council (SGC) staff, has three components:

1. A staff report to share updates and answer Task Force members' questions.
2. A summary of the introductory conversations the CSUS facilitator had with Task Force members.
3. Examples of policy recommendations with a summary that defines and explains different components of making recommendations.

Table of Contents

Strategic Growth Council Staff Report
Summary of Introductory Conversations with Task Force Members
Examples of Policy Recommendations

Reports and Recommendations on Agricultural Land Access and Equity

Note: This list is for informational purposes only and does not reflect an endorsement by or coordination with the State of California.

Topic(s)	Title (hyperlinked)	Authors, Sponsors, & Publishers	Year	Summary
Guidance; Models for access; Planning	Urban Edge Agricultural Parks Toolkit	Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)	2005	Sustaining cities and rural communities is a challenge that's given. However, increasingly, urban infill models and poses a new paradigm from the simple idea that urban and rural interest urban edge. This region with the potential to be nature trails, food production, health-related places that link urban and rural communities.
Guidance; Equity; Models for access	Seeds of Land Return: Legal Tools to Help you Liberate Land from the Exploitative Market and Return it to Communities of Loving Stewards	Sustainable Economies Law Center	N.d.	We created this Toolkit, in like Sogorea Te' Land Trust case to the process of land documents.
Policy	Managing Water and Farmland Transitions in the San Joaquin Valley	Ellen Hanak, Andrew Ayres, Caitlin Peterson, Alvar Escrivá-Bou, Spencer Cole, and Zaira Joaquin Morales, Public Policy Institute of California	2023	Successful implementation (SGMA) is vital to the long-term future of agriculture, environment, and robust efforts to augment significant land fallow is paramount to protecting the region's residents—including the growers and rural income communities who will be most directly impacted by the changes. With coordinated planning and robust incentives, the valley can navigate the difficult and land transitions coming its way and put itself on a path to a productive and sustainable future.
				Agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley is a key driver of the regional economy and an important contributor to the nation's food supply—but it faces a future with for irrigation. By 2040, average annual water supplies could decline by 20 percent constrained chiefly by the transition to groundwater sustainability under the Groundwater Management Act, but exacerbated by climate change and increasing environmental regulations. In the worst-case scenario, nearly 900,000 acres would be fallowed, almost 50,000 jobs would be lost, and regional economic would decline by 2.3 percent. But adaptations such as water trading and investing in new supplies—along with continued growth in agricultural productivity—could economic blow; new supplies could also significantly reduce the need to fallow

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Executive Summary

UC ANR Community Engagement for the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

To complement the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force's community engagement sessions, UC ANR facilitated 8 focus groups with small-scale farmers and Indigenous land stewards and conducted 9 interviews with organizations that provide support to these groups. Challenges and recommendations centered on insecure land tenure, land suitability, and political, economic, and social systems that placed farmers and land stewards at a systemic disadvantage. Feedback on the Task Force's draft recommendations highlighted the importance of implementation and ensuring equitable access to new programs.

Insecure land tenure

Challenge: Small-scale farmers and Indigenous land stewards cannot afford to purchase land, pushing many into insecure lease agreements that limit long-term investments. Competition from other land users limits the supply and affordability of farmland and contributes to farmland loss.

Recommendations for secure land tenure

- Protect land that is in transition through acquisition by land trusts and other values-aligned entities or return to Tribal Nations.
- Support cooperative models of farming and farm incubators and recognize traditions of shared land stewardship within Indigenous communities.
- Use state and local public land for agriculture with long-term access arrangements that affirm Indigenous cultural practices and farming.
- Make it easier to buy land through grants, no interest loans, incentives for first-time buyers, and lease-to-own programs.

Land suitability for farming and stewardship

Challenge: Without water access, infrastructure, labor, and proximity to affordable housing, land is not usable by farmers and land stewards. The size of land protected or made available also matters; small-scale farmers need access to appropriately sized farmland.

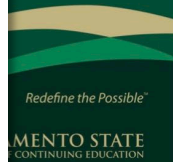
Recommendations for land suitability

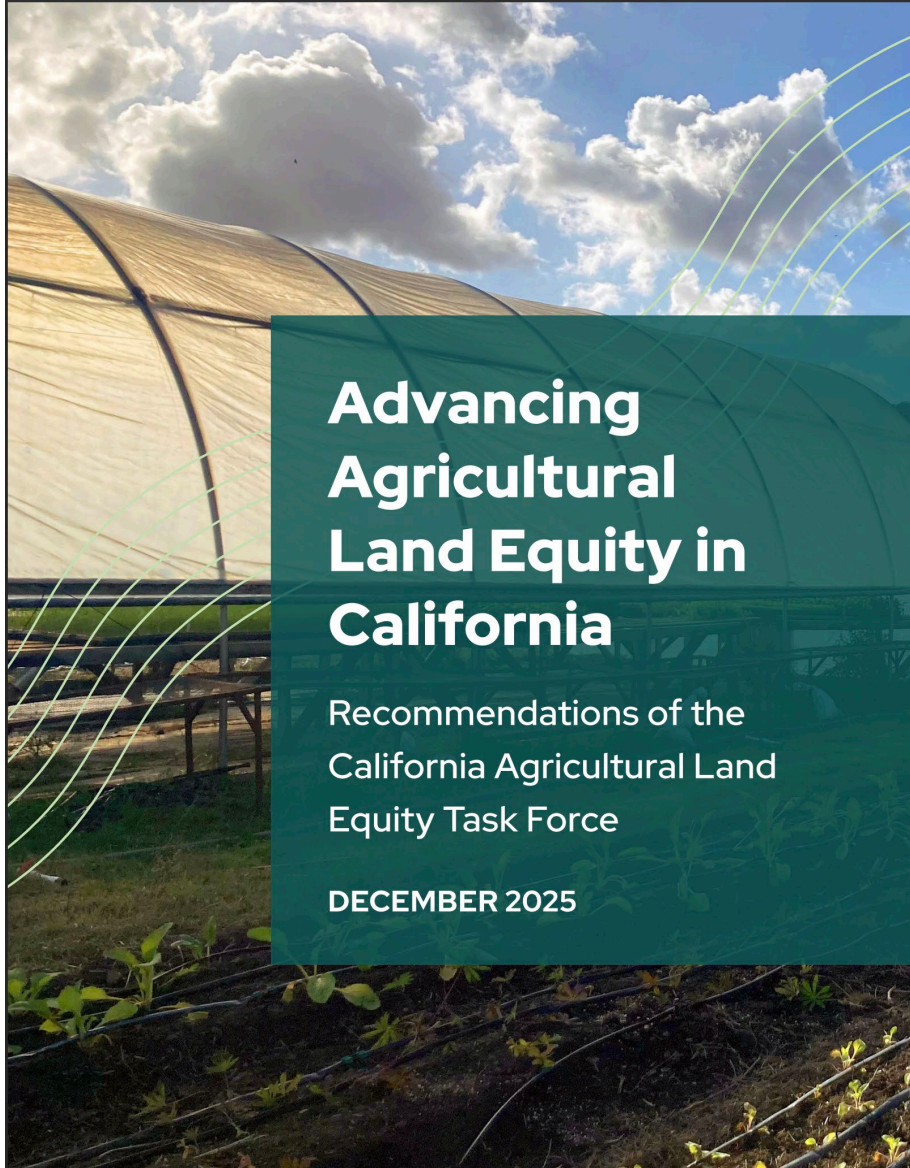
- Provide farmers and land stewards with financial and technical help to build infrastructure and create processes to bring existing infrastructure into compliance.
- Don't limit this initiative to prime farmland. Consider factors related to land suitability (e.g., access to water) when deciding what land to prioritize.
- Enable farmers and land stewards to realize the value of the investments they make in infrastructure and ecological health on leased land.
- Enable farmers and land stewards to live in close proximity to the land they steward.
- Ensure conservation easements do not restrict Indigenous cultural practices, Tribal sovereignty, or improvements needed to successfully manage land.
- Address the centrality of water access and cost to farmers' and land stewards' use of land.

In addition to land characteristics (e.g., supply, cost, size, suitability), participants identified systemic policy, economic, and social barriers affecting their ability to steward and stay on land and recommended a holistic approach to developing equitable land access solutions.

Submitted by:

Sacramento State
Continuing Education
101 State University Drive
Sacramento, CA 95819
Phone: 916-278-4826





Advancing Agricultural Land Equity in California

Recommendations of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

DECEMBER 2025



Dream Farm in Fresno

Executive summary

California faces an agricultural land equity crisis that must be promptly addressed. For decades, many producers and Tribal land stewards in California have been systemically excluded from landownership and secure tenure due to race, ethnicity, gender, class, and citizenship status, among other factors. Today, these exclusions intersect with agricultural land consolidation and financialization, climate change, and burdensome regulations resulting in negative outcomes for agricultural communities and the state's ecological and economic resilience.

Addressing these harms requires active efforts to ensure that priority producers and Tribal land stewards have access to secure, affordable, and viable land for the stewardship and cultivation of food, fiber, medicine, and cultural resources, without systemic barriers, disparities, or exploitation. In turn, these efforts hold potential to benefit all Californians by fostering a more resilient and just food system through strengthening local,

diverse food economies and sustaining healthy natural and working lands.

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."

The Task Force is an independent body administered by the California Strategic Growth Council. As an independent body composed of public members with diverse backgrounds and experiences, the Task Force is uniquely situated to provide the Governor and Legislature with an understanding of people's lived experiences with agricultural land access and tenure.

Resources & Materials:

- **Research**

- Trends in California Agricultural Land Ownership and Access (10/2023)
- Overview of the Legislative Process (10/2023)
- Overview of Land Use Policies Shaping Agricultural Land Access (10/2023)
- Recent State Legislation Addressing Farmer and/or Land Equity (10/2023)
- Grants, Loans, and Financial Incentive Programs Targeting Agricultural Land Access and/or Farmer Equity (10/2023)
- Overview of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (08/2024)
- Parallel State Efforts Related to Land Equity (11/2024)
- Land Access Experience Survey (05/2025)

Resources & Materials:

- **Resources**

- Compendium of Additional Informational & Resources as Hyperlinks (10/2023)
- Summary of Introductory Conversations with Task Force Members (02/2024)
- Examples of policy recommendations (02/2024)
- Table + Narrative: Existing Resources Related to Ag Land Access in CA (05/2024)
- Table + Narrative: Reports and Guides concerning Ag Land Access and Equity (08/2024)
- Work Plan (08/2024 + 11/2024)
- Outreach Plan (09/2024)
- Approaches to Designing Policy Recommendations (11/2024)

- **Staff Reports**

- **Meeting Summaries**

- **Meeting PPT Slide Decks**

Focused Discussion Sessions with Guest Speakers:

- **Resource Landscape** - May 2024
 - Anthony Chang, Manzanita Capital and People's Land Fund
 - Essence Oyos, Golden Eagle Farm
 - Idzai Mubaiwa, African Sisters Produce
 - Josiah Griffin, USDA Office of Tribal Relations
 - Lena Ortega, Intertribal Agriculture Council
 - Mai Nguyen, Farmer Mai
 - Shanna Atherton-Bauer, CA Department of Conservation

Focused Discussion Sessions with Guest Speakers:

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Land and Water Market Impacts on Equitable Land Access in the San Joaquin Valley** – August 2024
 - Janaki Anagha, 11th Hour Project
 - Ngodoo Atume, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program and ALETF member
- **Land Governance and Cooperative Ownership Models** – November 2024
 - Carmen and Hugo, Tierras Milperas
 - Dorian Payán, Sustainable Economies Law Center and ALETF member
 - Neil Thapar, Minnow

Focused Discussion Sessions with Guest Speakers:

- **Land Consolidation, Land Markets & Policy Responses** – February 2025
 - Adam Calo, Radboud University
- **Local Conditions in Coachella and Community – Driven Solutions** – February 2025
 - Irene De Barraicua, Lideres Campeisnas
 - Elias Aceves, Plurinational Land Reform in CA Working Group
 - Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido

Insights on Ag Land Access and Stewardship Series:



Insights on Agricultural Land Access and Stewardship Series

Lack of finance as a barrier to progress

 March 11, 2025

 2 - 3 p.m.



SPEAKER
Zach Ducheneaux



Insights on Agricultural Land Access and Stewardship Series

Advancing ancestral land return, ancestral sites protection, and Tribal sovereignty

 March 18, 2025

 2 - 3 p.m.



SPEAKER
Michelle Lee



Insights on Agricultural Land Access and Stewardship Series

A discussion on how farmland is being transformed into a new financial asset class.

 March 25, 2025

 2 - 3 p.m.



SPEAKER
Madeleine Fairbairn

Outreach & Engagement:

- **Tribal Engagement Sessions**
 - Golden Eagle Farm
 - Susanville Indian Rancheria
 - Blue Lake Rancheria
- **Community Engagement Sessions**
 - Kern County Black Farmers Association session
 - Coachella & MILPA sessions
 - UC ANR Focus Groups
 - Virtual “Town Hall” meetings (x2)
 - & more!



Outreach & Engagement:

- **8 Outreach + Tabling Events**
- **20 Site Visits (2024-2025)**
 - Farms
 - Ranches
 - Tribal farms and gardens
 - Urban gardens

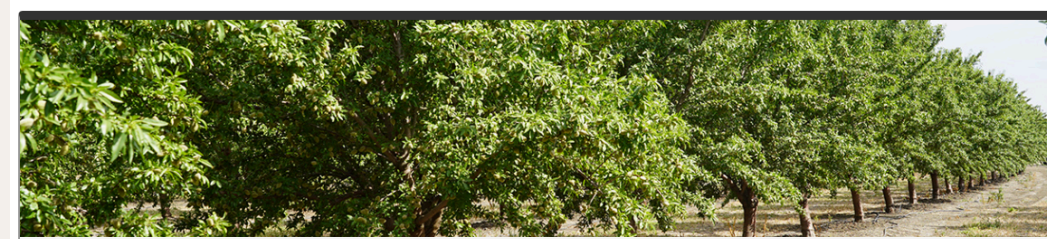
Pauma Tribal Farms



Dream Farm

Outreach & Engagement:

- **Ways to engage:**
 - Project website
 - Email list
 - Public comment and written communications
 - Event attendance
 - Materials: Two-pager, business cards, Report
 - Survey
 - Listening sessions
 - Advisory Committee



California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force) works to develop recommendations to equitably increase agricultural land access across California for food and fiber production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI) staff support the Task Force.

The 13-member Task Force is an independent body established in the [California Budget Act of 2022](#) (AB 179) 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.” Following two years of meetings, site visits, guest speakers, presentations, and community engagement sessions across California, the Task Force members have finalized the report of recommendations.

The Task Force has hosted quarterly meetings, and its subcommittees meet on an ongoing basis. All meetings are open to the public. You can find details and resources for each meeting on our website.

[Task Force Meetings](#) >

[Task Force Final Report](#) >

[E-List Signup](#)



Meet the Task Force Members

Task Force members have wide-ranging expertise and experience in issues of land access and tenure, especially as they relate to Native American tribes and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California.

[Task Force Members](#) >

Resources

The resources below have been developed to provide information and context on equitable land access for both the Task Force members and the public. These materials are living documents which staff add to on an ongoing basis. Briefing materials for each meeting are also available on the [meetings page](#).

[Reports and Recommendations](#)

[Resource List – Land Equity and Access Programs](#)

Insights from Community Engagement

The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force has conducted extensive community engagement to inform the development of its draft recommendations. You can learn more by visiting our Insights from Community Engagement webpage below.

[Insights from Community Engagement](#) >



Plan for Discussion

Small groups: (~6 people; mix of TF + public) reflect on Task Force experience using three prompts

Group roles:

- 1 staff person per group = note taker (*listen only*)
- 1 TF member = light facilitator
- 1 TF member (or same person) = report-back

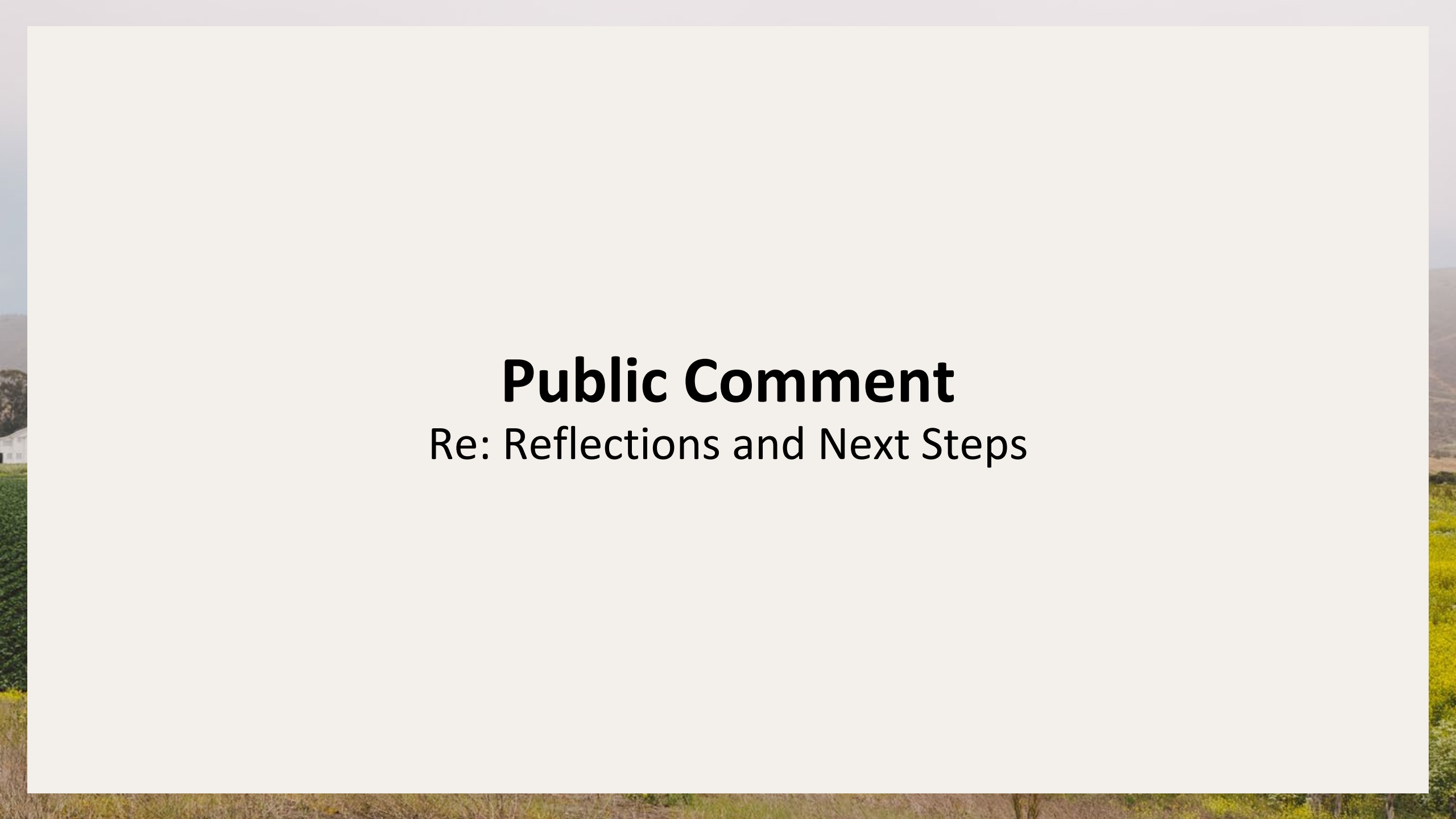
~ 30 mins discussion → Break → Report Backs

Discussion Prompts:

1. **Looking Back** | Reflect on your collective work over the past two years. How has serving on the Task Force shaped or shifted your understanding of agricultural land equity in California?
2. **What Matters Most** | What do you see as the most important insight, principle, or takeaway from the Task Force's work that should carry forward?
3. **Looking Ahead** | What opportunities do you see for continued collaboration (formal or informal) to advance the recommendations and agricultural land equity beyond Report submission? What role might you or your organization play?

15 Minute Break

Reflections and Next Steps, cont.



Public Comment

Re: Reflections and Next Steps

Participation Guidelines



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General Public Comment

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Thank You and Congrats!