

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Report

Advancing Agricultural Land Equity in California

Recommendations of the
California Agricultural Land
Equity Task Force

DECEMBER 2025



California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Independent body established in the 2022 California Budget to **develop recommendations on how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses.**

Task Force Members appointed by the Strategic Growth Council and administered by SGC.

Final report delivered to Governor & Legislature in December 2025.



Report development

Public meetings

- 13 hybrid Task Force meetings in regions across California
- 33 virtual subcommittee meetings

Extensive community engagement

- Survey, guest speakers, site visits
- Engagement sessions
- Public comment

Technical guidance

- Advisory Committee
- Interagency review

Report overview

1. Historical injustices and contemporary inequities
2. Future benefits of advancing ag land equity
3. Recommendations:
 1. Prioritize Tribal stewardship and land return
 2. Fund & incentivize land acquisition for priority producers and Tribal land stewards
 3. Halt, mitigate, & reverse agricultural land consolidation
 4. Preserve CA's agricultural land while prioritizing equitable land access & stewardship
 5. Prioritize & protect secure land tenure
 6. Support urban agriculture
4. Next steps: Implementation & evaluation



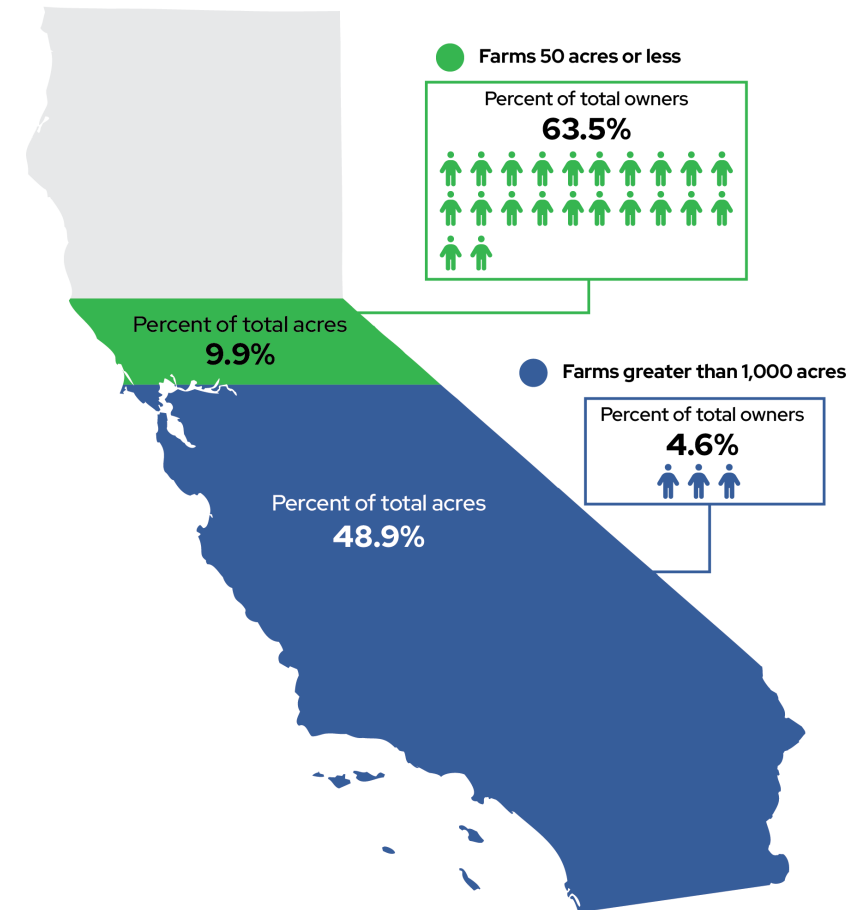
Challenges & opportunities for agricultural land access in California

Trends

- Ongoing impacts of historical discrimination
- Farmland loss and conversion
- Consolidation and financialization

Benefits of more equitable ag land access

- A more resilient, just, and diverse food system
- Healthier, climate-resilient working lands
- Thriving local businesses and food economies



Farm size in relation to percent of total owners and percent of total acres of cropland owned in CA (2017)

Agricultural land equity is when 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.



Report overview: Recommendations

1. Prioritize Tribal stewardship and land return
2. Fund and incentivize land acquisition for priority producers and Tribal land stewards
3. Halt, mitigate, and reverse agricultural land consolidation
4. Preserve California's agricultural land while prioritizing equitable land access and stewardship
5. Prioritize and protect secure land tenure
6. Support urban agriculture

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 the state's 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 & incentivize land acquisition for priority producers & Tribal land stewards



- 2.1 Establish a Restorative Land Fund.
- 2.2 Develop and implement a public education campaign to document past and ongoing harm.
- 2.3 Provide funding for the purchase of agricultural land to be leased or transferred to priority producers and Tribal land stewards.
- 2.4 Establish loan and debt forgiveness programs.
- 2.5 Adopt new tax programs and benefits designed to serve priority producers and Tribal 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, & 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 Tribal land stewards.
- 3.3 Establish a California Producer Retirement Fund.
- 3.4 Establish and fund a Land Market Monitoring Program.

4. Preserve CA's agricultural land while prioritizing equitable land access & stewardship



- 4.1 Develop a statewide agricultural land preservation and stewardship 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 & 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 Tribal land stewards in existing programs and provide tailored funding.
- 6.2 Make land available for urban agriculture and address barriers to secure tenure.

Learn more

sgc.ca.gov/initiatives/alei

