

Briefing Materials

Prepared for the California Agricultural
Land Equity Task Force Meeting

Nov. 13, 2025

Contents

Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Staff Report 2
Summary of Revisions: Oct.-Nov. 2025..... 4

California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Staff Report

To California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Members, Nov. 13, 2025

Announcements & updates

Tule River Indian Tribe of California reclaimed over 17,000 acres

On Oct. 29, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the return of 17,030 acres of ancestral land to the Tule River Indian Tribe. This is the largest ancestral land return in the Sierra Nevada foothills and Central Valley region. This land return and tule elk reintroduction restores sacred homelands, renews access to traditional foods and medicines, and strengthens cultural continuity for future generations. It was done in partnership with the Tribe, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and facilitated by The Conservation Fund (TCF), and was funded through CNRA's Tribal Nature-Based Solutions grant program, WCB's Habitat Conservation Fund, and private philanthropic partners. The [press release is available online](#).

Vulnerable Communities Platform released

In October, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) released the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP), a virtual tool that allows users to look at the intersection of current and projected climate impacts with relevant social and demographic factors. A resource included in the VCP is the Climate Vulnerability Map, a tool which members of the public or state agencies can use to assist in identifying frontline communities that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change to inform outreach and funding strategies. Local governments and community-based organizations can use the map to get an overview of their area's vulnerabilities and pinpoint key challenges. The Map is [available on the VCP website](#).

Update on Task Force's Tribal engagement

On Oct. 3, 2025, the Karuk Tribe requested a meeting to share their input on Task Force's Draft Report in response to the Task Force's Request for Input Letter sent to California Native American Tribes in June 2025. The meeting took place on Oct. 24, 2025 and included the Karuk Tribe Chairman, leadership, and staff, Task Force Vice Chair Burgueno and member Franco, and LCI/SGC support staff.

Staff from SGC noted the feedback shared by the Karuk Tribe in the November Draft Report for the Task Force’s review and approval during the November meeting.

Update on Task Force outreach and report distribution

Task Force members attended the Rural Justice Summit in Merced, California on Nov. 7, 2025 and participated in a panel discussion about policy and funding to increase land access for farmers of color. They also shared details about their draft report of recommendations and the final report timeline.

Task Force members are planning to host workshop sessions at EcoFarm and CAFF Small Farm Conference in January and February of 2026, respectively. These sessions will be an opportunity to share the final report and to follow up on the sessions that Task Force members hosted at these same conferences in 2025.

Updated Task Force budget table

Current as of Sept. 30, 2025.

Category	FY 22–23, 23–24, & 24–25 expenditures	FY 25–26 expenditures thru 9/2025	Total obligated	Total budgeted	Total remaining
Personnel (SGC staff)	\$477,151	\$111,291	\$1,100,760	\$1,100,760	\$0
Operating expenses (travel, facilitator, language access, etc.)	\$365,473	\$2,924	\$290,579	\$884,240	\$225,264
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	\$842,624	\$114,215	\$1,406,284	\$3,255,000	\$1,495,264

Summary of Revisions: Oct.–Nov. 2025

Prepared by SGC staff for the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

Nov. 5, 2025

Revisions from October Task Force meeting

The following revisions were requested at the October Task Force meeting. These revisions will be discussed and approved at the November Task Force meeting.

- Added new recommendation 1.1: Establish an Ancestral Land Return Fund
- Revised section 2: Fund and incentivize land acquisition for priority producers and land stewards
 - Noted the Task Force’s timeline for community engagement and review of material on p. 8
- Added new section 3: Halt and reverse agricultural land consolidation
- Added new section 6: Support urban agriculture
- Added new terms to glossary: producer, land steward
- Revised language as discussed in the meeting

Incorporated Task Force members’ comments

Task Force members were invited to send to staff their tracked changes and comments on the Draft Report, including an updated Appendix B: Draft Tenant Bill of Rights, by Oct. 24. These were incorporated into the November 2025 Draft Report as proposed additions or comments and will be reviewed at the November Task Force meeting.

Copyediting and revisions for clarity, consistency, and flow

As noted in the October meeting, staff revised the Draft Report to improve the clarity, consistency, and organization of ideas. These revisions will be reviewed at the November meeting and include the following:

- Reduced repetitive language or tangential information to strengthen core ideas
- Moved citations to endnotes to increase readability
- Moved “implementation” section to conclusion, renamed to “Next steps: Implementation and evaluation,” and added reference to Appendix F: Ideas for future consideration.

Staff also worked with the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)'s communications team to copyedit the draft report.

Graphic design

Staff from SGC have worked with LCI's communications team and a graphic designer at CSU Sacramento to move the November 2025 Draft Report into the graphic design template that was previewed at the August 2025 Task Force meeting. The Task Force will review this document during the Task Force meeting on Nov. 13.