



California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

GRANTS & RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

JANUARY 9, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Participation Guidelines



**Share,
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different
Perspectives**



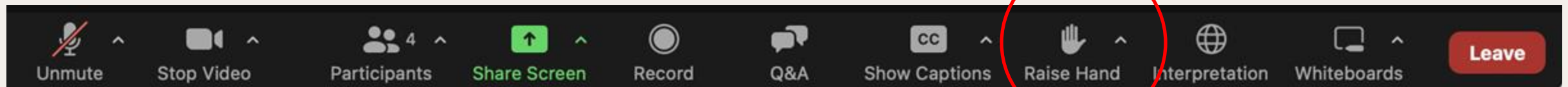
Stay on Point

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**
- **Approval of Summaries**
- **Research Updates & Discussion**
 - Grant programs research update
 - Land access policy incentive examples and outcomes from other states and how they relate to the CA context
- **Working Session**
 - Review preliminary recommendations
 - Working group check-ins
 - Review action items and confirm next steps
- **General Public Comment**

Roll Call

Approval of Summaries

- July 10, 2024
- September 18, 2024

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Research Updates & Discussion

Grant Program Research

- 12 programs: Demographics & outcomes
- Questionnaire for program leads
 - Funding consistency
 - Language access, set asides
 - Applicant vs. awardee data
 - Acres transitioned or impacted
- Results
 - Lead to Subcommittee recommendations
 - Identify gaps in knowledge, monitoring
 - Baseline impact of existing programs

Related Programs from Other States

- Request: Overview of grant, loan, and incentive programs from other U.S. states that support agricultural land access
- Actions:
 - Literature review of research on policy incentive programs
 - Compilation of non-CA state-level programs that fund land access for beginning farmers

Land Access Policy Incentives for Beginning Farmers

1. Beginning Farmer Tax Credits (BFTC)
 - Tax credits to asset owner who leases or sells assets to beginning farmers (BF)
 - Assets = land, equipment, livestock, etc.
2. Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP)
 - Farmers with expiring CRP contracts may receive 2 additional years of federal govt payments for renting or selling to BFs
3. State-Level Ag Easement Incentive Program
 - Provide financing to BFs to purchase land, protect land with ag conservation easement

Policy Incentive Research Key Findings

1. Little is known about effectiveness, impact, and reach; more research
2. Policies may slightly increase # of farms owned by BFs, help stay in profession longer
3. Policies well-utilized and regarded highly by owners and BFs, but designed for larger parcel sizes and broadacre operations
4. Indirect incentive to BFs, "pay landowners as gatekeepers of land access"

Policy Incentive Research Key Findings Cont.

1. Program participants overwhelmingly white & male (often 90%+), low first-gen participation
2. For BFTCs, ~50% benefit pre-existing relationships and 70%+ still have land access challenges
3. Key factors affecting program participation and effectiveness
 - Spatial mismatch
 - Relationships between landowners & socially disadvantaged farmers
 - Lack of cultural and social infrastructure
 - Awareness

Non-CA State-Level Programs

- Spreadsheet of relevant grant, loan, & incentive programs linked in briefing packet
- Primary programs:
 - Low-Interest Loans
 - Tax-exempt bonds to lenders, help BFs secure lower-interest loans
 - BFTCs
 - State tax-credits to existing asset owners who lease or sell to BFs
 - Grants
 - Diverse formats/goals (from succession planning to funding land purchase) but each identified program prioritizes land access for beginning farmers or ranchers in some way
- Note: Different definitions of BF - age, years of experience

Task Force Discussion

Are there programs from other states that could be elevated as models for CA to adopt? Which ones and why?

What insights from the research presented today should shape the Task Force's recommendations? How so?

Understanding the CA Context: Defining Priority Populations

1. Overview of Prop 209
 - Brief discussion with Douglas Bojack, Senior Staff Council at Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)
2. California Climate Investments (CCI)'s definition of priority populations

Prop 209 Primer

- Prop 209 passed by CA voters in 1996 and incorporated into State Constitution as Article 1 Section 31
- Prohibits preferential treatment in public employment, education, or contracting on the basis of race, gender, or national origin
- Legal analysis of Prop 209 compliance highly dependent on program specifics and details of implementation

Prop 209-Compliant Diversity Programming

- Programs that are targeted by race or gender but do not provide preferences or benefits that are not generally available to all
- Programs that are not targeted by race or gender but are targeted by factors that support the organization's mission and reflect its commitment to diversity and equal opportunity
- Programs that are about issues relating to race or gender, but open to all
- Programs that are targeted by race or gender, but are operated and managed by private, non-state organizations

California Climate Investments (CCI)

SB 535 and AB 1550 specified 35% of CCI funding be allocated to priority populations.

Priority populations:

- Disadvantaged communities, as determined by California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA):
 - Census tracts with highest pollution burdens as calculated by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (specific language to account for lack of data/past designations)
 - Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes
- Low-Income communities and households:
 - Incomes either at or below 80 percent of the statewide median, or
 - Below a threshold designated as low-income by the Department of Housing and Community Development

Task Force Discussion

- How do ALETF's priorities compare with these definitions?
- What recommendations might this subcommittee propose to ensure public programs advance ALETF priorities?
- Are there programs from other states that could be elevated as models for CA to adopt? Which ones and why?
- What insights from the research presented today should shape the Task Force's recommendations? How so?

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Working Session

Draft Recommendations

What would an ideal funding landscape look like?

- Select ideas from previous conversations:
 - Program types:
 - Block grants that are designed to be responsive to specific communities/needs
 - Grants to individual farmers and ranchers, e.g. to support acquisition costs
 - Tax incentives that directly benefit priority communities
 - Low-interest or reverse amortization loans
 - Accessibility:
 - Redesign and create new programs to increase individuals' access
 - Fund technical assistance providers to increase capacity

Working Group Check-ins

- Tax laws and incentives (Liya and James)
 - Questions for tax specialist?
 - Board of Equalization: Property taxes
 - Williamson Act (Dept. Of Conservation implements)
 - Franchise Tax Board: Personal and business income taxes
 - Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit (Wildlife Conservation Board implements)
- Financing (James and Doria)
 - Prompts in the WG doc re: David Mancera's presentation and next steps
- Grant program outcomes (Doria and Thea)
 - How review/engage with grant programs research findings?

Summarize, Action Items, Next Steps

- Review of Action Items and Follow Up Items
- Decide on next meeting and meeting schedule
- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

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

General Public Comment

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Upcoming Meetings

- **January 16, 10:00 – 12:00** | Land Use & Governance
- **January 28, 1:00 – 3:00 pm** | LA3
- **January 29, 10:00 – 12:00 pm** | Land Tenure
- **February 6, 10:00 – 12:00 pm** | SNCR
- **February 12 & 13** | Full Task Force Meeting, Coachella Valley & Virtual

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

Thank You!