

# **California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Virtual Restorative Lands Subcommittee Meeting Summary: Sept. 5, 2025**

## **Meeting Called to Order**

Facilitator Wylie opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

## **Welcome and Housekeeping**

Facilitator Wylie provided housekeeping information for all meeting participants. Slides and materials presented during the meeting are available on the California Strategic Growth Council ([SGC](#)) [website](#).

## **Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted by the facilitator. Members present:

- Irene de Barraicua
- Lawrence Harlan
- Thea Rittenhouse
- Doria Robinson

Members absent:

- None

Quorum was established.

Staff present:

- Camille Frazier, SGC
- Tessa Salzman, SGC
- Meagan Wylie, Sacramento State

## **Working Session**

Staff reminded members of prior Task Force discussions, including the interest expressed at the August Task Force meeting in a Restorative Land Fund and the importance of

explicitly addressing historic harms such as slavery in California, dispossession of Native individuals, and land theft during the incarceration of Japanese Americans.

Community engagement input on this topic emphasized:

- Creating a program for Black farmers to resolve heirs' property and succession issues using the United States Department of Agriculture Heirs' Property Relending Program as a model.
- Establishing a dedicated Restorative Land Fund to remedy racially motivated land loss by providing access to agricultural land.
- Coupling funding with education, outreach, and accountability metrics to ensure targeted and culturally competent support.

Marisa Raya, Advisory Committee member, provided context from prior research on the Reparations Task Force and land equity processes.

Members discussed whether to propose a new goal specifically establishing a Restorative Land Fund or to embed it within existing goals. Several members favored a separate goal to ensure visibility and accountability, while others suggested alignment with related goals such as Goal 2.

There was agreement that recommendations should build on the California Reparations Task Force (RTF) to address agricultural and rural contexts. Marisa Raya noted that RTF recommendations addressed land broadly (e.g., Allensworth, heirs' property loss, housing segregation) but did not focus on rural communities. The Task Force's recommendations could help to identify reparations specific to agriculture.

Members discussed eligibility and whether to limit to descendants of enslaved Africans or extend to other groups who experienced racially motivated land loss (e.g., Japanese Americans during World War II). Several members noted that there should be a mechanism for land access that is specific to ancestors of enslaved individuals. Members will continue to refine eligibility in future discussions, with legal input.

Members emphasized the importance of education, particularly raising public awareness about California's history of slavery, exclusion, and land dispossession. They supported pairing this with culturally specific outreach, leveraging public-private partnerships to resource funds, and establishing evaluation mechanisms to measure impact.

Additional concept elements for refinement included:

- Exploring community ownership models alongside cooperatives.
- Adding heirs' property legal support to Goal 3 recommendations.
- Ensuring accountability through measurable outcomes and targeted impact.

### **Next Steps**

- Staff will develop a proposal for full Task Force consideration in October, including:
  - Establishment of a Restorative Land Fund.

- Targeted outreach and culturally competent technical assistance.
  - Education initiatives to raise awareness of California’s history of enslavement and racially motivated land takings.
- Staff will consult with legal experts and review the California Reparations Report to vet eligibility criteria and compliance with existing law.
- The Subcommittee will reconvene the week of Sept. 22, 2025 for a two-hour follow-up session to refine the draft proposal.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**General Public Comment:**

- None.

Facilitator Wylie summarized action items and next steps and highlighted upcoming meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.