

# California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force



February 16, 2024 | 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Sacramento State, Downtown Campus & Online

# Participation Guidelines



**Share,  
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different  
Perspectives**



**Stay on Point**

# 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 time limit determined by the Chair (~2 mins)

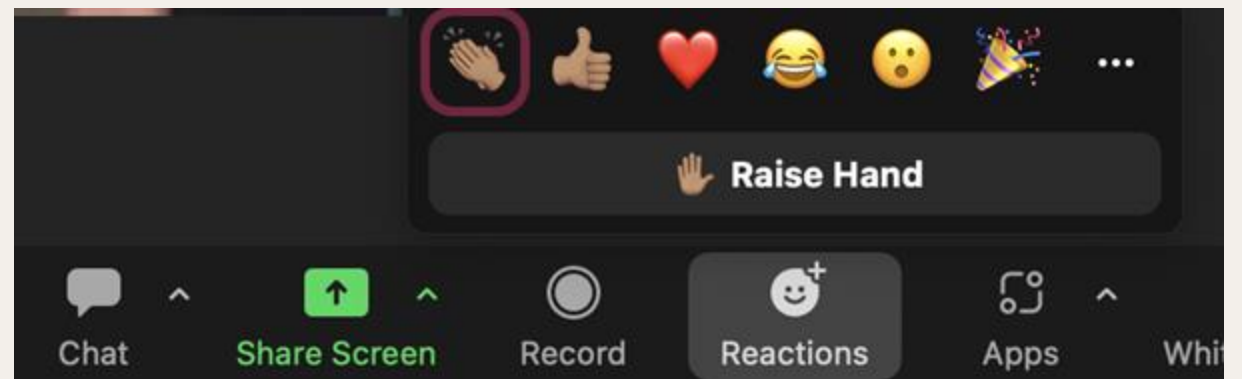
## VIRTUAL

- Complete form at [sgc.ca.gov/meetings](https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings)
- Separate form for each item
- Listen for your name and “raise your hand” on Zoom
- Staff will unmute your microphone
- Please adhere to time limit determined by the Chair (~2 mins)



# 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

- Approval of Meeting Summary from 10.30.2023
- Staff Report
- Task Force Governance Documents:
  - Charter
  - Bylaws
- Discussion: Land Equity and Related Key Topic Areas
- Preliminary Work Plan
- General Public Comment

# **Draft Meeting Summary from 10.30.2023**

# **Strategic Growth Council Staff Report**

# Membership and Staffing Updates

## Task Force membership:

- Welcoming Qi Zhou as CDFA BIPOC Advisory Committee representative
- Recommending Darlene Franco for appointment to the Task Force by the Strategic Growth Council during Feb. 28 meeting

## Support staff:

- Camille Frazier, Agricultural Land Equity Program Lead at SGC
- Tessa Salzman, Agricultural Land Equity Program Analyst at SGC



# Announcements

- SGC hosted the second annual Catalyst Conference on Feb. 1-2. Members are invited to share ideas for next year
- Review underway for SGC's Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Grant program
- Opportunity for TF member to participate as a panelist on "Building Equity in Conservation: Tools for Meaningful Engagement" at the California Council of Land Trusts Conference
  - March 19, 1-2:30 PM, Hyatt in Downtown Sacramento
  - Representatives from Department of Conservation and Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- Others?

# Response to Questions re: Reimbursement

## What counts as a “necessary expense”?

A documentable expense that is required to facilitate participation in the work of the Task Force (more about travel reimbursement on next slide).

## Can Task Force (TF) members be reimbursed for expenses *other than* those associated with TF meetings?

Yes; TF members can be reimbursed for necessary expenses (as above) for work assigned by the TF or its subcommittees, e.g. site visits or listening sessions.

## Can non-Task Force members be reimbursed and/or paid for their involvement with the Task Force?

Yes; SGC staff are currently working on creating draft scopes of work that can be used to establish contracts for services that support the work of the Task Force (e.g. presenting as an agendized speaker, serving on the Technical Advisory Committee).

# Travel Reimbursement

- Please review CalHR's "Allowances and Travel Reimbursement" Policies, available in the Online Human Resources Manual
- Coordinate with Tessa to arrange travel plans and confirm eligible reimbursement expenses before you travel

# Response to Question re: Translation

## Will briefing materials be translated into Spanish?

The Office of Planning and Research (OPR; SGC's sister agency) is working to establish an agency-wide contract for translating document summaries.

There are funds in the TF budget for language services – would appreciate TF members' thoughts on **which documents** to translate (all briefing materials, final report, etc.) and into **which languages**.

# Task Force Budget

Category	FY 22-23 (actual)	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	Total
Personnel (SGC staff)	\$0	\$188,500	\$386,000	\$474,000	\$1,048,500
Operating expenses (travel, facilitator, language access, etc.)	\$264,529	\$267,000	\$228,000	\$346,782	\$1,106,311
Research and local assistance*	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Residual	-	-	-	-	\$100,189
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$264,529	\$455,500	\$1,614,000	\$820,782	\$3,255,000

\*This budget category is funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and must comply with California Climate Investments (CCI) requirements. Can include activities such as administering grants for action-oriented research and/or pilot projects, and contracts to complete specific research requests.



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# **Task Force Governance Documents: Charter**

# **Task Force Governance Documents: Bylaws**

# **Land Equity and Related Key Topic Areas**

# **Summary of Introductory Conversations with Task Force Members**

Defining land equity and key topics



# Context

- Individual conversations with Facilitator Meagan Wylie prior to first TF meeting on October 30, 2023
- Purpose:
  - Learn about members' backgrounds and motivation to serve on the TF
  - Learn about members' goals, interests and expertise
- Briefing packet includes complete summary
- Responses aggregated for confidentiality

# Plans for this Discussion

Support staff will share main points from the briefing packet, focusing on:

1. Land equity definitions
2. Key topics Task Force members highlighted

Task Force members reflect on and discuss what is presented:

- Guided conversation to develop a foundation for the work ahead
- Identify common ground and potential tensions

Begin to identify group priorities and areas of focus for the next two years

# Defining “Land Equity”

# Reflection & Discussion Questions on Land Equity

1. What resonates about the summarized definitions and descriptions of “land equity”? What would you add? What might you change or reframe?
2. What questions, concerns, and/or tensions arise for you?

# Members' Descriptions of Land Equity

Range of people and populations most impacted by inequities in land access:

- Asian, Japanese American
- BIPOC, Communities of color
- Black, African American
- Farmworkers
- Immigrant farmers
- Latina women
- Latinx farmers
- Minority populations and underserved communities
- Native American tribes, indigenous communities
- Small farms (under 20 acres)



# Members' Descriptions of Land Equity

## **Key Point I:** Land equity means fair and just access to land

- Land is available, affordable and accessible
- Community control of land and resources
- Small farmers can own land
- Land is returned to tribes

# Members' Descriptions of Land Equity

**Key Point II:** Land equity is achieved when barriers are removed and resources are provided

- Acknowledge and remove systemic barriers
- Provide resources and opportunities to address past harms

# Reflection & Discussion Questions on Land Equity

1. What resonates about the summarized definitions and descriptions of “land equity”? What would you add? What might you change or reframe?
2. What questions, concerns, and/or tensions arise for you?

# Topics to Consider

# Reflection & Discussion Questions on Key Topics

1. What resonates about the key topics presented? What would you add? What might you change or reframe?
2. What questions, concerns, and/or tensions arise for you?
3. Which ideas would you prioritize for developing recommendations?



# Topic Areas that Emerged in Introductory Conversations

1. Land Access and Tenure
2. Land Access for Tribes
3. Land Markets
4. Financial Resources
5. Sustaining Natural Resources
6. Regulations
7. Meeting Diverse Farmer Needs

# 1. Land Access and Tenure

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

- Prioritize secure, favorable lease terms that protect tenants
- Prioritize new and small farmers in succession planning
- Financial support for land acquisition
- Explore structures for communal land ownership, tenure, governance, and/or management

## 2. Land Access for Tribes

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

- Include non-federally recognized tribes in land equity efforts
- Prioritize open and accessible public lands for traditional tribal agricultural uses
- Support the Land Back movement
- Offer right of first refusal to tribes if agricultural land is to be sold

# 3. Land Markets

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

## **Current challenges**

- Foreign investment in agricultural land
- Corporate consolidation and ownership of land

## **Possible interventions**

- Move land from speculative market to public trust.
- Establish a transparent public process to buy or secure land.

# 4. Financial Resources

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

- Reform loan programs.
- Eliminate land tenure as a prerequisite for accessing grants and loans.
- Institute stronger financial and business support for farmers without registered businesses.

# 5. Sustaining Natural Resources

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

- Include water conservation, soil health, and pollinator benefits
- Promote traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and cultural burning.
- Protect natural and cultural resources.
- Consider water access and rights.
- Keep land for farming instead of development.

# 6. Regulations

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

- Make regulations designed for large scale farms work for small farmers, e.g., Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
- Evaluate land use planning (state and regional).

# 7. Meeting Diverse Farmer Needs

Specific ideas shared by TF members:

- Multilingual outreach materials
- Immigration reform to allow for land access for undocumented people
- Housing access
- Food access and security



# Reflection & Discussion Questions on Key Topics

1. What resonates about the key topics presented? What would you add? What might you change or reframe?
2. What questions, concerns, and/or tensions arise for you?
3. Which ideas would you prioritize for developing recommendations?

# **Preliminary Work Plan**

# What might you need, and when, to accomplish your goals?

Let's try to (roughly!) map questions, resources, and outcomes onto a timeline.

First,

1. A reminder of the Task Force's mandated outcome
2. Discussion of resources available to the Task Force

# Mandated outcome: A report to the Legislature and Governor by Jan. 1, 2026

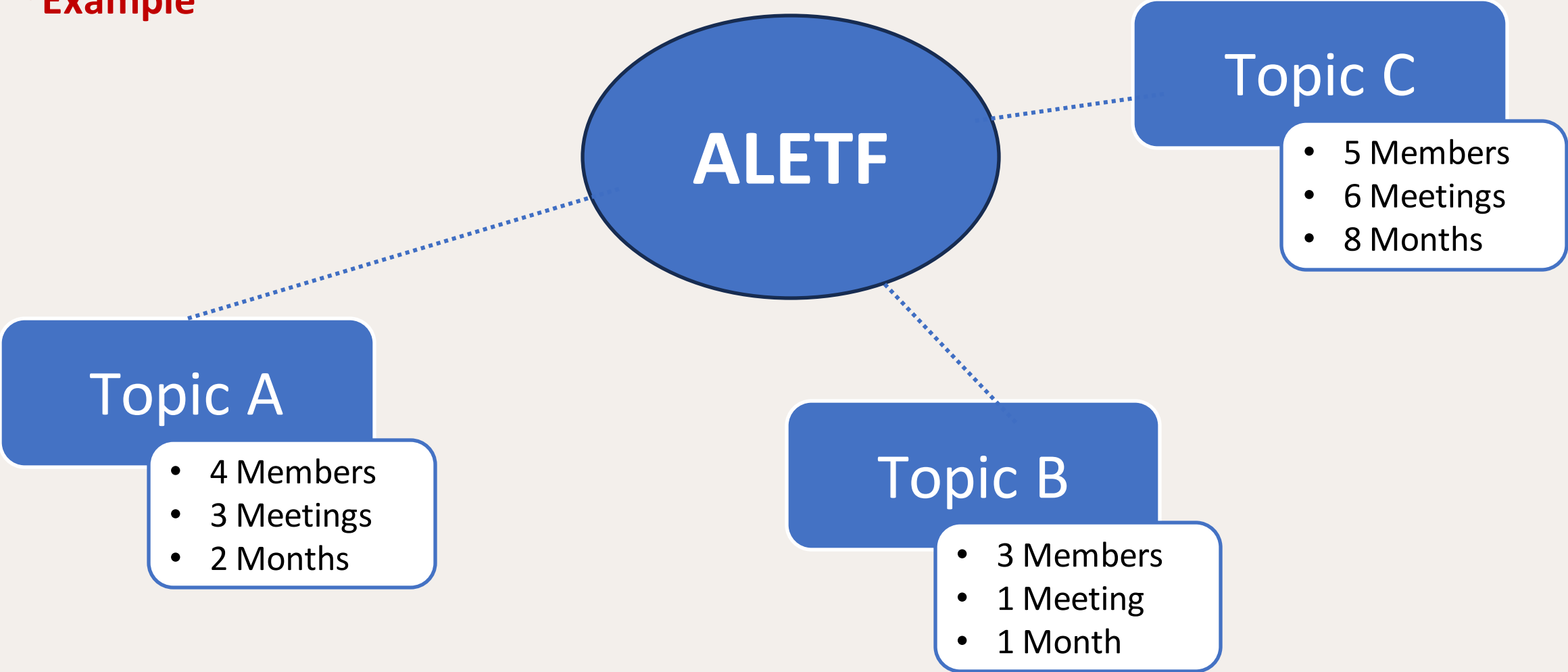
- As per AB 179, the Task Force shall “**develop recommendations** to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses.”
- Recommendations can take many forms, as described in the briefing packet

# Resources available to the Task Force

- Support staff (Assist with logistics, check-ins, research, outreach, interagency coordination)
- Task Force meetings
  - Share and learn from members' expertise
  - Invite speakers
  - Request specific briefing materials
  - Hear public input
  - Discuss, draft, and revise final recommendations
- Subcommittees
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Site visits
- Listening sessions and other forms of community engagement
- Funding
  - Budgeted \$3.25 million to support the work listed above
  - Approx. \$1 million in GGRF funds to support additional action-oriented research, pilot projects, contracts (technical assistance, consultants)
- Others?

# Formation of Subcommittees

**\*Example**



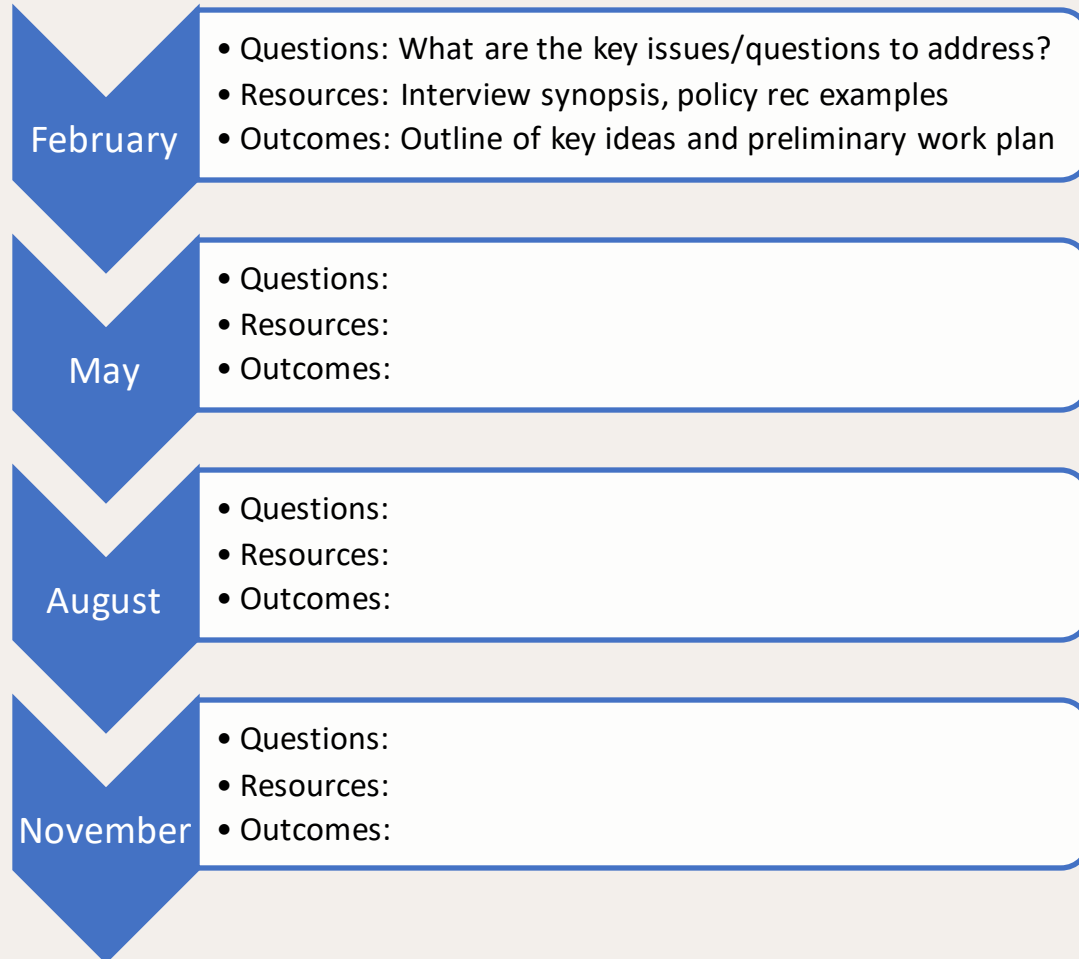
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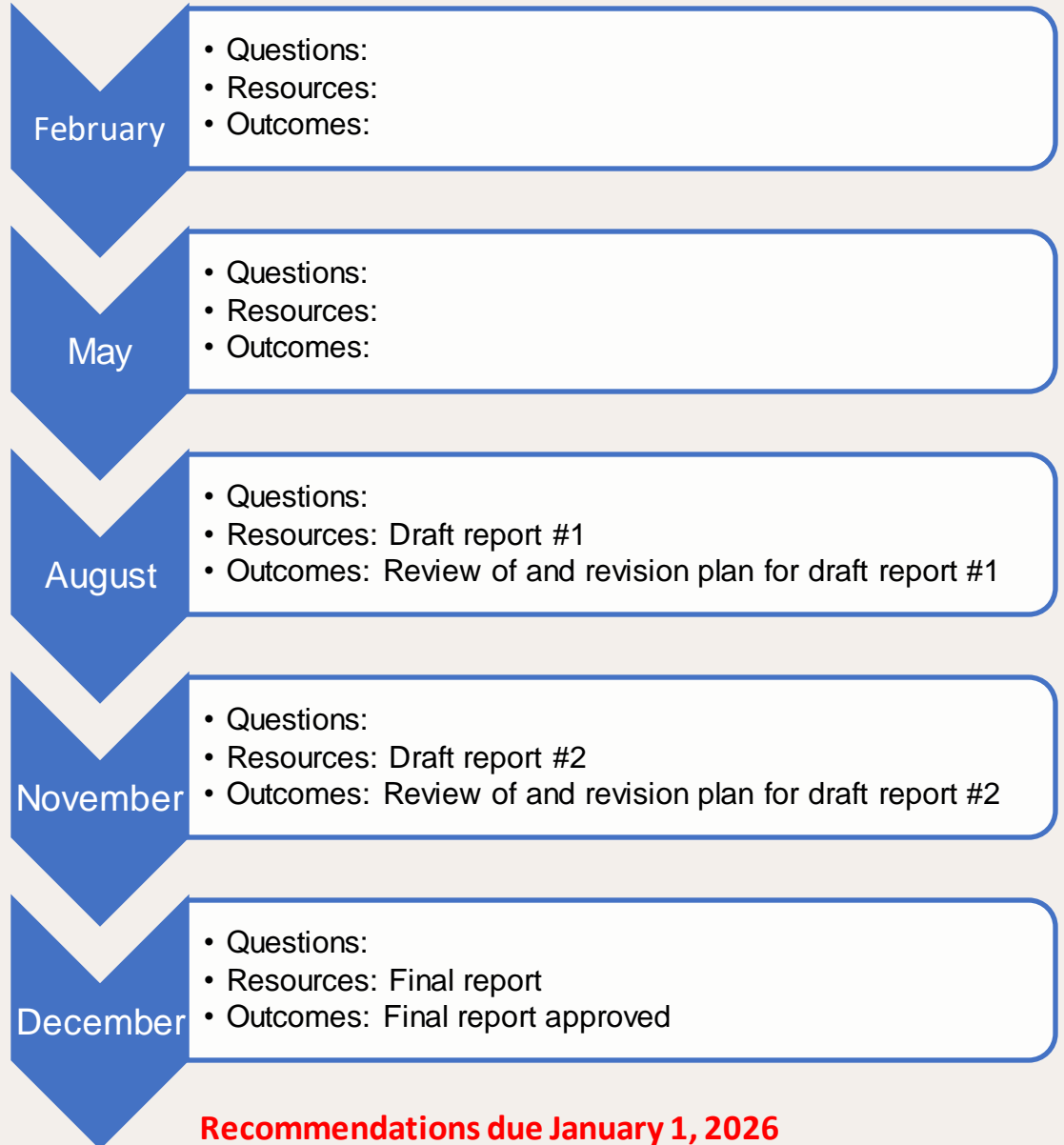
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# Timeline

## 2024



## 2025





# Looking ahead: May 2024

## Meeting #3 in the San Diego (SD) area

- Travel should be arranged through Tessa

## Proposed plan:

- TF members are invited to work with support staff to plan site visits in the SD area on **Wed. May 8**
  - No more than 2 members on a site visit at a time
  - Initial suggestions:
    - Golden Eagle Farm (Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians)
    - Pauma Tribal Farms (Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians)
    - Temalpakh Farm (Augustine Band of the Cahuilla Indians)
    - San Diego Resource Conservation District (SDRCD)'s incubator plots at Tijuana River Valley
    - Others?
- **All-day meeting on Thurs. May 9**
  - Includes reports from site visits, subcommittees
  - Local speakers to invite?

# **General Public Comment**

# Decisions, Action Items, Next Steps

- Summary of Actions Taken
- Review of Action Items and Follow Up Items
- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:  
<https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings/caletf/>

**Thank You!**

# The Role of the Task Force

- ✓ Develop recommendations on **how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses** (Ting, Chapter 249, 2022).
- ✓ On or before **January 1, 2026**, the Task Force **shall submit a report** to the Legislature and Governor that includes a set of policy recommendations on how to address the agricultural land equity crisis.