

California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Meeting Summary: November 13-14, 2024

November 13, 2024

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Nelson Hawkins called day one of the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., with special thanks to the public and invited guest speakers for joining the meeting. Facilitator Meagan Wylie provided housekeeping information for all meeting participants. Slides and materials presented during the meeting are available on the Strategic Growth Council [\(SGC\) website](#).

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by the facilitator. Members present:

- Nelson Hawkins, Chair
- Emily Burgueno, Vice Chair
- Nathaniel Brown
- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard
- Irene de Barraicua
- Lawrence Harlan
- Dorian Payán
- Thea Rittenhouse
- Doria Robinson
- Liya Schwartzman
- Qi Zhou

Members absent:

- Darlene Franco
- James Nakahara

Quorum was established.

Staff Attendance:

Staff members present:

- Camille Frazier, California Strategic Growth Council
- Sean Kennedy, California Strategic Growth Council
- Tessa Salzman, California Strategic Growth Council
- Caleb Swanson, California Strategic Growth Council

- Meagan Wylie, California State University Sacramento

Opening Remarks

Chairwoman Louise J. Miranda Ramirez of the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation (OCEN) provided opening remarks. OCEN has 125 registered members and is seeking federal recognition and land ownership. They are collaborating with the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) to secure land in the City of Monterey. In April 2024, 84 acres of land were transferred to the BSLT with financial support from a \$2.7 million investment by the Hiss brothers.

Chairwoman Ramirez outlined additional, unexpected costs to be borne by OCEN to transfer the land to its ownership, including legal fees, insurance, annual maintenance costs, the development of a property stewardship plan, and other required assessments and plans, totaling approximately \$620,760. As OCEN does not currently have the necessary funds, the land will remain under the control of BSLT. She emphasized that these significant costs associated with the Land Back process are a challenge faced by many Tribal Nations.

Chairwoman Ramirez described the land's features, including that 27% of the land is wetlands. The land has conservation easements on it and is close to the airport. The Tribe envisions creating a cultural center, an indigenous garden, and camping areas on the land. However, these goals are partly constrained by the land's physical characteristics and land use zoning restrictions.

Chairwoman Ramirez also discussed how the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation's non-federally recognized status impacts its access to resources.

Action: Approval of Summary

Approval of August 14-15, 2024, Meeting Summary.

Task Force Discussion:

No discussion.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Action:

Member Rittenhouse moved to approve the August meeting summary. Member Zhou seconded the motion.

Motion passes (10-0-3*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Staff Report

SGC staff presented the Staff Report, highlighting Proposition 4 Section 93550 funding, the recent passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1448 allowing the establishment of per diem allowances for Task Force members, travel reimbursement updates, Task Force webpage updates, the launch of the "Land Access Experiences" survey, a call for applications to join the Advisory Committee

(AC) to the Task Force, and participation at recent conferences and events.

Task Force Discussion:

A member asked if the Department of Conservation has existing institutional infrastructure for issuing loans through Prop 4 funding. Staff will report back.

Members briefly discussed the survey and the process for soliciting interest in AC participation. Timelines for both the survey and the AC interest form can be extended to generate additional responses.

Vice Chair Burgueno shared she presented and spoke at the Intertribal Agriculture Council Food Summit. Other members said they also attended the Summit and found it rewarding. Member de Barraicua shared about the recent Healing Land Collective Power report developed by Lideres Campesinas, which can be found on its website. She also shared that she attended the Central Coast Small Farmer, Rancher, and Fisherfolk Forum.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Action: Per Diem Allowances

SB 1448 (Hurtado) was signed by Governor Newsom on September 28, 2024. Per section 75129.5 (a), SGC may “provide public members of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force ... a reasonable per diem allowance as specified in Section 11564.5 of the Government Code [\$100], or at a higher rate that may be established by the Task Force, for each day’s attendance at a noticed meeting of the Task Force.”

Staff proposed increasing the rate paid to public members to \$500 per day’s attendance at a noticed Task Force meeting. This rate is deemed reasonable based on three factors: feedback gathered from members of California’s agricultural community while establishing the Task Force; alignment with other State bodies, including the California Air Resources Board Environmental Justice Advisory Committee; and analysis of the Task Force budget. Task Force members will not receive per diem allowances for their subcommittee or working group participation.

Task Force Discussion:

Members raised several questions regarding the source and application of the funding. Staff clarified that the per diem is a separate allowance from travel expenses, which will still be covered and reimbursed through the existing process. The per diem is specifically for public members' attendance at full Task Force meetings and does not apply to Subcommittee meetings. Additionally, staff explained that the funding for the per diem is not noted in the current budget table, but existing funds have been allocated and the budget table will be updated to reflect the associated cost.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Action:

Vice Chair Burgueno moved to implement a per diem allowance for public members of \$500 per day's attendance at a noticed Task Force meeting. Member Brown seconded the motion.

Motion passes (11-0-2*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

One-Year Review and Check-In

Staff provided an overview of the Task Force's work to date, highlighting key achievements such as the five quarterly Task Force meetings held, development of research materials and resources to support discussions and recommendations, and focused presentation sessions featuring invited guest speakers. Staff also detailed site visits across three regions, various outreach and engagement efforts, and the creation of six subcommittees and nine specialized work groups.

To further contextualize the work and scope of the Task Force, two brief presentations were offered on parallel State bodies and initiatives. First, Camille Randolph, Program Analyst, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, discussed California's Racial Equity Commission. The Commission was established as part of Executive Order N-16-22, mandating state entities embed and institutionalize racial equity strategies across their policies, programs, and initiatives. The Commission is in the process of developing a comprehensive Statewide Racial Equity Framework and will eventually offer technical assistance to other state agencies working on equity initiatives. Randolph emphasized that racial equity is a fundamental component of land equity.

Next, Thea Rittenhouse, Farm Equity Advisor, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Task Force member, reviewed the Farmer Equity Act. This state legislation, passed in 2017, defines socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The Act acknowledges the historical discrimination faced by farmers of color in terms of land ownership and access to farming opportunities. These issues are outlined in a legislative report submitted to the Governor and Legislature in 2020. They include difficulties with land tenure, limited access to land, language barriers, insufficient outreach and engagement, and challenges accessing programs, resources, and advisory groups. To conclude, Member Rittenhouse reviewed several webpages from the

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) that focus on farm equity initiatives.

A Member inquired whether the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Advisory Committee will be permanent. Member Rittenhouse clarified that the Committee is permanent in the sense that it has been officially recognized and established by the Secretary of State. However, to formalize its permanence, the Committee needs to be incorporated into legislation with a per diem allowance, which has not been approved due to its fiscal impact.

Task Force Members then engaged in a pair-and-share exercise to reflect on the past year and discuss plans for the year ahead, focusing on what has been effective, areas for improvement, and specific needs moving forward. Key points from this exercise included the need for more subcommittee and/or work group meetings to advance the development of recommendations, better organization of resources, and deeper engagement with farmers and the community.

Public Comment:

- Xago
- Kenneth Woodrow

The Task Force took a 60-minute break for lunch and resumed at 1:37 p.m.

Land Governance and Cooperative Ownership Models Discussion

Staff introduced presenters Dorian Payán, Niel Thapar, Carmen, and Hugo.

Dorian Payán, Sustainable Economies Law Center, Task Force Member

Member Payán presented on cooperative land tenure, highlighting their work at the Sustainable Economies Law Center (SELC) and their transition from full-time farming to land justice advocacy. They critiqued the traditional land access model, stating it is rooted in settler colonialism and relies on individual ownership, placing responsibility for ecosystem health and individual success solely on landowners. This model, Member Payán argued, limits access to land, especially for marginalized communities, and perpetuates the myth of the "Yeoman Farmer," which suggests that farmers are self-reliant and do not need external support. They emphasized that land should be viewed not just as a personal asset, but as a shared resource, vital for community-based food production and sustainable farming practices.

Member Payán then introduced the concept of community land tenure, which shifts the focus from individual ownership to collective, community-driven models, such as cooperatives and nonprofits. They highlighted agroecology, which aligns agricultural practices with the natural rhythms of the land, as a key principle in this approach. Using the Salinas Valley as an example, they stressed the importance of managing land at the ecosystem level, particularly through stewardship of waterways. They concluded with a "Community Land Tenure 101," explaining how entities like limited liability corporations (LLCs) and cooperatives can be structured to

manage land for community benefit. By fostering governance models that prioritize long-term, equitable land access, Member Payán emphasized the potential for community land tenure to address systemic inequities in land ownership and food production.

Carmen and Hugo, Tierras Milperas

Carmen explained that Tierras Milperas is a collective of 120 “campesino” families in Watsonville and Pajaro Valley, many of whom are from the global south, particularly Mexico and El Salvador. These families have been displaced by external factors like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and land dispossession. The community faces significant barriers to land access, such as high costs, leasing challenges, and limitations on holding gatherings on the land. After facing challenges with landholding entities, including a church, they were able to lease a four-acre farm through support from Minnow, Farmlink, and other organizations. They self organize as an assembly, allowing each family to decide how to manage their plot, while making most decisions collectively in monthly meetings.

Hugo elaborated on their vision for collective land ownership, explaining that while the Tierras Milperas community faces many challenges, they are committed to continuing their efforts to build community through agriculture. They aim to create a model that includes not just food production but also community housing and infrastructure. Their goal is to eventually purchase land and establish a cooperative ownership structure that supports both farming and collective living.

Task Force Discussion:

A Member inquired about the restriction on gatherings at Tierras Milperas' former site. Carmen explained when they were on the church property, the property owners wanted full control of how the property was managed. She continued that because of a stipulation in their current lease, and zoning laws, they cannot hold gatherings or build housing. They continue holding assemblies at community members' homes and spaces. They are seeking new land but lack a real estate agent and are working while searching for land.

A Member asked whether gatherings are always for governance and decision-making. Carmen confirmed that many gatherings are focused on the coordination of farming efforts. They also hold knowledge-sharing events like seed exchanges and workshops. While disagreements can arise, especially due to language barriers (many community members speak indigenous languages), patience and community values guide conflict resolution. Carmen emphasized the importance of maintaining unity and staying firm in their goals, even when external pressures, such as conflicts with the church, arise. Carmen also shared that a commission and community coordinator help enforce assembly decisions, with disputes often resolved by an assembly council of elder members.

Carmen discussed a recent partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribe, which began after attending a rally and a sacred site visit. The partnership has involved participating in an environmental impact assessment, though the process was delayed because documents were only available in English and had to be translated for the community.

Niel Thapar, Minnow

Neil Thapar from Minnow gave an overview of the organization, which works to secure land tenure for farmers of color and sovereignty for indigenous communities. Minnow functions as a technical assistance (TA) provider, working to create systems and structures that align with the needs of the communities they serve. Neil Thapar discussed the challenges land stewards face particularly when interfacing with the State. For example, he highlighted a land return project involving three federally recognized Tribes that were required to form a nonprofit to receive State land. These and other barriers limit Tribal sovereignty and force land stewards into structures that do not accurately reflect how people are organizing and want to operate on the land.

Minnow is also a founding member of the People's Land Fund and involved in their current Ranchos Corralitos project. Through this project they have acquired land and are transitioning it from single ownership to collective ownership by Latino immigrant farmers. With no clear path for this process, the team is identifying challenges along the way and developing the model as they go. Neil Thapar observed that existing programs often unintentionally reinforce inequities. He noted that state policies and funding mechanisms tend to support the current landownership system, enriching landowners rather than addressing underlying inequities. He also contemplated the challenge of redesigning programs to better serve marginalized groups versus starting new initiatives that are designed for equitable outcomes from the beginning.

In his recommendations, Neil Thapar suggested that state-level policies often lack the nuance needed to address these issues and that resources should be decentralized. He proposed that governance be transferred to local Tribes and community groups, allowing them to decide how to best allocate resources according to their values. This would shift the role of the state to that of a resource redistributor, helping to alleviate pressure on state agencies while empowering local communities to make decisions about land and governance.

Task Force Discussion:

A Member asked about the process of land return in Neil Thapar's example, specifically whether it involved actual land return or funding to purchase land. Neil Thapar clarified that the land return from CalTRANS was actual land return, with no cost involved. However, the State requires that such transfers be made to a nonprofit or a local government entity, and Tribes are not recognized as local governments under current legislation. As a result, the land had to be transferred to a nonprofit organization rather than directly to the Tribes.

A Member raised the challenge of organizing farmers into a nonprofit, noting that as more farmers join, the process becomes more complicated. He inquired about what would happen if land policy changes at the state level. The panel discussed the value and difficulties of organizing, especially when culturally based governance structures are involved.

A member inquired about potential structural barriers to cooperative land ownership other than those that had already been mentioned. The panelists added issues like insurance, land assessments, eligibility for government programs, and the impact of mortgages that prevent land transfers or land return initiatives. Certain eligibility criteria under state and federal agencies also may not apply to many small producers on the same larger piece of land. Panelists explained how the impact of financialization and speculation on land is a major barrier

to cooperative land ownership and equitable land access in general, as they lead to inflated land values and put land acquisition out of reach for communities. Panelists also mentioned the impact of speculation on the housing market, and cited Madeleine Fairbairn's book as a key resource for understanding these market forces.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Subcommittee Updates

Staff and members provided updates on efforts of the six subcommittees since the August quarterly Task Force meeting and anticipated next steps. Materials for all past subcommittee meetings are available on the [SGC website](#).

Community Outreach Subcommittee

The Community Outreach Subcommittee developed a Community Outreach Plan, finalized the multilingual Land Access Experiences survey, and compiled an outreach toolkit with basic informational materials members can share as desired. Next steps include attending the Latino Farmers Conference and continuing to develop a community partner outreach list. Staff will also organize listening sessions for 2025 and explore potential compensation mechanisms for participants. In the upcoming December/January subcommittee meeting, discussions will focus on outreach plans for 2025, and recommendations related to community outreach strategies.

Members discussed the survey. Members suggested that staff and the subcommittee consider adding a question about experiences with land access through partnerships. To allow for more responses, the survey deadline will be extended into 2025. Staff will also ensure that the same electronic device can be used to submit multiple survey responses. Several members verbally committed to distributing the survey through their networks to increase outreach.

Member de Barraicua joined this subcommittee.

Land Access, Acquisition, and Ancestral Land Return

This nine-member subcommittee held its first meeting in September. They established the following four working groups: Public Lands, Land Markets, Land Back, and Land Succession Strategies. The subcommittee identified two key research tasks, including exploring the Shuumi Land Tax of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust and reviewing the work of the California Reparations Task Force in relation to the subcommittee's objectives. The subcommittee plans to invite Dr. Risling Baldy as a guest speaker and continue advancing the priorities of each working group.

Member Dahlquist-Willard joined the Land Markets working group.

Grants and Resources Subcommittee

The Grants and Resources Subcommittee received a presentation by David Mancera regarding financing land acquisition at its September meeting. They also established three working

groups: Financing, Grant Program Outcomes, and Tax Law and Incentives.

The subcommittee is currently focused on several research tasks, including examining tax incentive models from outside California, analyzing 12 selected grant programs, and studying case examples of programs that support land return initiatives. Moving forward, working groups will continue their efforts between meetings, with the next subcommittee meeting anticipated in January 2025. It was suggested that review of philanthropic funds be added to the next meeting agenda.

Land Tenure

This subcommittee first met in September and formed one working group with the same name. Staff is currently researching the Subdivision Map Act to support future discussion. The next steps include emphasizing the link between land tenure, conservation, and climate mitigation, with a focus on increasing access to legal resources and funding for TA providers. The subcommittee will also address issues related to insurance and invite the Indian Land Tenure Foundation as a guest speaker to further inform discussions.

A member suggested this subcommittee also consider affordability in its discussions, and possibility consider a name change to “Land Tenure and Affordability.”

Member Brown joined the subcommittee.

Land Use Governance and Sovereignty

The subcommittee met and established the Land Use Governance and Sovereignty (LUGS) working group, which is now focused on defining key terms and developing recommendations. Research tasks underway include exploring urban growth boundaries and urban agriculture, examining easement and grant program limitations for land improvements, and investigating co-management agreements with the State. The group is also looking into traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and cultural fire practices, and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program to further inform their work. Members from The Circle Law Group will be invited to speak at an upcoming meeting to share their expertise.

Sustaining Natural and Cultural Resources Subcommittee

This subcommittee last met in October. Research tasks currently focus on examining existing policies and their impact on sovereignty, particularly in relation to TEK and cultural fire practices, ancestral land return, and the protection of Native sites, remains, and artifacts. Additionally, efforts are underway to develop a summary of both ratified and unratified treaties, as well as mapping ancestral lands in relation to contemporary ownership, alongside other related mapping requests.

Next steps may include inviting Redbud Resource Group as a guest speaker or workshop host. The subcommittee will also meet again in early 2025 to clarify its scope and review preliminary research findings.

Public Comment:

- Marissa Raya

- Adam X

General Public Comment

- Kamilah Moore
- Adam X

Day 1 meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

November 14, 2024

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Nelson Hawkins called day two of the meeting to order at 9 AM.

Welcome and Housekeeping

Meagan Wylie, facilitator, provided housekeeping information for all meeting participants.

Slides and materials presented during the meeting are available on the Strategic Growth Council [\(SGC\) website](#).

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by the facilitator. Members present:

- Nelson Hawkins, Chair
- Emily Burgueno, Vice Chair
- Nathaniel Brown
- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard
- Irene de Barraicua
- Lawrence Harlan
- James Nakahara
- Dorian Payán
- Thea Rittenhouse
- Liya Schwartzman
- Qi Zhou
- Doria Robinson

Members absent:

- Darlene Franco

Quorum was established.

Staff Attendance:

Staff members present:

- Camille Frazier, California Strategic Growth Council
- Sean Kennedy, California Strategic Growth Council
- Tessa Salzman, California Strategic Growth Council
- Caleb Swanson, California Strategic Growth Council
- Meagan Wylie, California State University Sacramento

Working Session

Task Force members participated in an interactive, three-hour working session designed to foster thoughtful dialogue and generate insights for the development of draft recommendations. Members engaged in four rounds of conversation, each lasting 30 minutes, with small groups of three to four members. The discussions were organized around four key topics:

1. Guiding Principles and Commitments
2. Land Access, Acquisition, and Ancestral Land Return (LA3)
3. Land Use Governance and Sovereignty (LUGS)
4. Secure Land Tenure

The structure of the session encouraged cross-pollination of ideas and perspectives. Following small group discussions, staff synthesized key takeaways for each topic, which were shared with the full group. Task Force members then reflected on the synthesis, further refining and expanding on ideas presented. A summary of key points from each discussion topic is provided below.

Guiding Principles and Commitments

- Description of land equity has to start with inequity—critical to acknowledge that this work is necessary because of longstanding injustice.
- Recognize that the meanings and practices of land equity will vary for different communities based on particular histories, geographies, and experiences of inequity.
- Be consistent in the language used to describe priority communities.
- The use of the word “sovereignty” requires further thought and discussion and should be defined in the final report.
- Acknowledge the historical context as a foundation for addressing past injustices.
- Support diverse forms of relationships with the land, such as cooperative land tenure and business operations.
- Focus not just on land, but on viable, productive land

Land Access, Acquisition, and Ancestral Land Return

- Develop alignment for key terminology to be used in report: underserved, under-resourced, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs), Ancestral Land Return, Land Back, etc.
- Consider how the Task Force wants to define “public good” versus greater societal good.
- Address legal barriers preventing Tribes from directly acquiring public lands.
- Consider and develop the criteria for a right of first refusal or right of first offer program for both public and private lands.
- Consider bilateral incentives for both sellers and operators to facilitate land access and acquisition.
- Consider amending or creating a revised version of the Williamson Act to support land

access goals.

- When considering land access support, include wrap around services that include funding, legal, and technical assistance.

Land Use Governance and Sovereignty

- Existing legislation often disproportionately impacts small and tenant farmers.
- Implement exemptions and modify requirements for small and tenant farmers.
- There is a need to modify zoning laws to better accommodate both agricultural and housing needs.
 - Emphasize cultural land management practices.
- Address issues related to easements and zoning regulations.
 - Review regional zoning laws and develop recommendations for improvement.
- Consider how to increase sovereignty for Tribal Nations, particularly those that are not federally recognized, by navigating legal frameworks that maximize sovereignty.
 - Advocate for federal recognition and explore the state's role in supporting this effort.
- Seek formal consultation with California Tribal Nations, including both federally recognized and unrecognized Tribes.

Land Tenure

- Narrative regarding language barriers that limit access should be moved to Guiding Principles section.
- Long-term leases should align with equity goals, though short-term leases are valuable in certain contexts.
- Agricultural and conservation easements require careful consideration of how they are structured. How can they be reimaged to promote equitable land tenure while still allowing or restricting specific activities?
- Reporting requirements (e.g., for regulations and grants) are often burdensome and resource intensive. Are there possibilities for exemptions?
- Evaluate state programs focused on access and effectiveness. For example, how many programs emphasize TA over direct land acquisition.
- There is an imbalance in support, currently skewed toward TA rather than direct assistance (e.g., down payment support for land acquisition).
- Tenure should be seen as a responsibility, not just ownership, with an emphasis on stewarding the land.
- Retaining the value of improvements on the land should be addressed within lease agreements.
- More funding and support are needed for cultural humility training and for expanding TA and legal assistance. This should be coordinated regionally, with a focus on agriculture-specific and technical expertise, to help develop mutually beneficial contracts.
- Assistance with navigating regulations/laws related to the formation of leases is critical.
- A Tenant Bill of Rights should be considered to protect those involved in land leasing

arrangements.

- Tax incentives for landholders who provide leases with specific criteria could help encourage equitable land agreements.
- Increased funding for land acquisition, affordability, and access to financing is necessary to support equitable land tenure.
- Outcomes need to be better understood and evaluated, both for philanthropic and public funding.
- Rather than simply increasing funding for TA to address program flaws, it is necessary to fix underlying program issues.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

The Task Force took a 40-minute break for lunch and resumed at 1:10 p.m.

Work Plan and Next Steps Discussion

SGC staff reviewed the Task Force's final report drafting process and timeline, presenting a visual diagram for clarity. It was confirmed that the process would be detailed in the final report itself. One member inquired whether the Governor's office should review initial drafts of the report. Staff clarified that while the legislation only requires the submission of the final report, staff are currently working on an engagement plan for the Governor's Office that involves sharing a draft of the report in summer 2025 for awareness. Another member asked whether there would be a formal presentation to the Governor and Legislature. Staff responded that this is still being finalized, with the suggestion that such a presentation could take place at the December 2025 Task Force meeting. The group also expressed support for hosting a celebratory event in December to mark the culmination of the two-year effort.

Members asked whether all draft versions of the report would be available for public review, and staff confirmed they would be. One member proposed that the May and August 2025 meetings focus on gathering feedback on draft report content from Task Force members, key stakeholders, Tribal Nations, and the public. Another member asked if it would be appropriate to seek feedback from the Governor and Legislature at that time. Staff noted that this decision would depend on the level of drafting independence the Task Force desires, as well as timing considerations. It was suggested that invitations be extended to legislative staff for review in early summer. Additionally, a member recommended including the USDA in interagency outreach efforts. Finally, the group discussed the importance of consulting with federally recognized California Tribal Nations—leadership, staff, and community members, including cultural practitioners and land stewards—in the community review process.

Staff reviewed the proposal for the Advisory Committee (AC) and discussed the potential timeline for closing the interest form. One member inquired whether the AC would meet in person, to which staff responded that meetings would likely be virtual, with the option for in-

person meetings if desired and appropriate. Another member asked about the qualifications for AC members, emphasizing the need for representation from unrepresented Tribal Nations, as well as expertise in areas such as water and easements. There was also discussion about including government officials, such as Tribal Nations and local government representatives, on the committee.

Further questions were raised about the number of AC members and whether individuals could be invited to review materials or attend regular Task Force and Subcommittee meetings. Staff shared the gaps they hope the AC will fill, and, in response, Task Force members suggested additional areas of expertise to include in the committee: climate adaptation, tax law, zoning, and public lands and land transfer mechanisms.

One member expressed concern that the timeline for submitting the AC interest form was too short and proposed extending it until mid- or late-December, at minimum. Staff confirmed that recruiting was already underway and emphasized the need to carefully manage conflict-of-interest concerns. Another member recommended providing an orientation for AC members, and it was raised whether all members needed to be onboarded at the same time. Staff clarified that AC members could be brought on at different times, but contracting processes would need to be consistent to ensure smooth integration.

The group reviewed the 2025 meeting schedule and confirmed updates to subcommittee and working group compositions:

- The Task Force meeting on February 12-13, 2025, will be held in the inland southern California region, with Coachella and Riverside suggested as potential locations.
- The May 14-15, 2025, meeting will take place in northern California.
- An additional two-day Task Force meeting will be added in October 2025, with staff to poll members for availability and preferences.
- Each Subcommittee will meet at least once prior to the February meeting.

Subcommittee membership updates include:

- Members Nakahara and Robinson joined the Land Tenure subcommittee.
- Member Zhou joined the Land Access, Acquisition, and Ancestral Land Return subcommittee.
- Member de Barraicua stepped off the Grants and Resources subcommittee but joined the LUGS subcommittee.

The group also discussed potential topics for future meetings. Members suggested a presentation on land consolidation. Furthermore, a map of public lands and large corporate landholdings might be informative.

The discussion on community outreach was revisited, with one member emphasizing the need for clearer goals and more community input. Others shared their ongoing efforts to engage with community groups through meetings and conversations. Staff noted that the planned listening sessions in 2025 could help improve outreach. To better track and enhance engagement efforts, members requested that staff develop a tracker to monitor outreach

activities and conference participation, as well as a short script to support outreach conversations. These materials will be added to the outreach toolkit.

General Public Comment

- Kenneth Woodrow

Meeting Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12-13, 2025, in the Southern California region, with an option to join remotely. Chair Hawkins and Vice Chair Burgueno provided closing comments. Chair Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.