

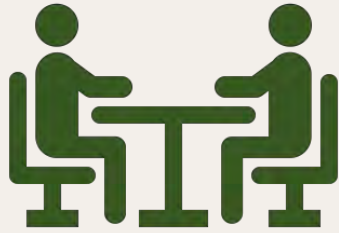


California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

SUSTAINING NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

APRIL 4, 2025 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Participation Guidelines



**Share,
Listen, Learn**



**Respect Different
Perspectives**



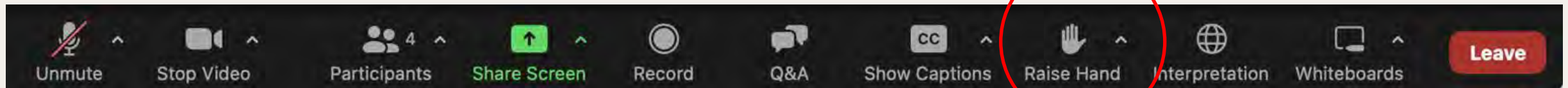
Stay on Point

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.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a greenhouse. The top of the image shows a blue sky with white clouds. The sides of the image show the wooden frame and translucent plastic covering of the greenhouse structure. The bottom of the image shows some green plants growing in the ground. A large, solid white rectangular panel is centered on the slide, covering most of the middle section.

Roll call

Agenda Review

- Welcome
- Approval of Meeting Summaries
- Staff Updates
 - Related work
 - Research
 - Legislative Session
- Working Session and Next Steps
 - March 2025 Draft Report
 - Plans for Tribal Engagement
- General Public Comment

Approval of Summaries

- July 2, 2024
- October 4, 2024

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Staff Update

Staff Update

Related Work:

- Land Back Working Group
- Public Lands Working Group

Staff Update

Research Update: Map of ancestral lands

Existing maps:

- Ancestral lands: [NAHC's Digital Atlas of California Native Americans](#)
- Agricultural lands: [DOC's Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program](#)
- Public lands: [CAL FIRE's Land Ownership and Administration](#)

Staff Update

Research Update: Ratified and unratified treaties

- 18 unratified treaties: [California Indian History – California Native American Heritage Commission](#)
- Treaty with the Klamath included the Modoc and Yahooskin Band of Snake Indians and was ratified in 1866: [Treaty with the Klamath, etc., 1864](#)
- Resource: [Oklahoma State University Library's Tribal Treaties Database](#)

Staff Update

Research Update: Cultural Fire

- 2024 SB 310
 - Allows CNRA and local air districts to partner with federally recognized Tribal Nations on cultural fire agreements.
 - Tribes do not need state permits for cultural burning.
 - The Karuk Tribe and CNRA have entered into an agreement, and the Tribe has already begun practicing cultural burning.
 - [More information](#) is available online

Staff Update

Research Update: Land Back

SNCR Presentation by Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy

- [California #LandBack Special Report](#)
- Panel session recordings from the 2023 Northern CA Land Back Symposium
- Land return has significant ecological benefits
- Land ownership is incredibly stratified, consolidated in the hands of wealthy and white landowners
- Land return should be nonconditional – stolen computer analogy
- Recommendations: increase funding for Tribal Nations to acquire and restore land, explicitly state the goal is land return, have state employees dedicated to land back.

Staff Update

Research Update: Land Back

Insights on Ag Land Access & Stewardship Series presentation by Michelle Lee, Founder of The Circle Law Group

- Provided historical overview of land dispossession and discussed tribal sovereignty and ongoing efforts to restore Tribal Lands in CA.
- Reviewed land return case studies of Potter Valley and Mooretown Tribes
- New policies like the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Tribal Land Return Policy and state agency funding helping, but restrictions and taxes challenging
- Land return is restorative justice and investment in Tribal and broader community well-being

Staff Update

Legislative Session Updates:

Proposed bills relevant to the Task Force:

- [SB 462 \(Cortese\)](#): California Farmland Conservancy Program: conservation easements: funding.
- [AB 1485 \(Macedo\)](#): Real property tax: documentary transfer tax: exemptions: Native American tribes.
- [AB 524 \(Wilson\)](#): Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act.



Public Comment

re: Staff Updates

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Working Session

Working Session

Draft Resolution on Scheduling, March 27, 2025:

For future (not already calendared) meetings of the full Task Force, the Task Force directs staff to schedule meetings according to all of the following criteria:

- Bagley-Keene compliance,
- Virtual or in-person availability of either Chair or Vice Chair, and
- Virtual or in-person availability of at least two of three Tribal Representatives.

Once a meeting is scheduled, it will continue regardless of changes in attendance, if Bagley-Keene compliance is maintained.

Working Session

Plans for Tribal Engagement:

- Susanville engagement session – in person, virtual option
- Statewide session – virtual
- 1-2 additional sessions – TBD
- Formal consultation
- Reconnect with site visit hosts and speakers

Working Session

Revised March 2025 Draft Report: Recommendation Goals

1. Return ancestral lands to CA Tribal Nations
2. Recognize and remove barriers to sovereignty of CA Tribal Nations
3. Conserve and protect CA's agricultural land
4. Facilitate equitable transition of private lands
5. Advance fair and just landowner-tenant relationships
6. Address inequitable impacts of policies and regulations
7. Increase fair access to public funding for land acquisition
8. Support and incentivize changes in zoning and land use planning
9. Leverage public lands for agriculture

Working Session

Revised March 2025 Draft Report: Goals 1 & 2

1. Return ancestral lands to California Tribal Nations
 - Return state-owned land to Tribal Nations
 - Fund, incentivize, and support ancestral land return projects
2. Recognize and remove barriers to sovereignty of California Tribal Nations
 - Remove barriers to sovereignty

Summarize, Action Items, Next Steps

- Review of Action Items and follow up items
- Decide on next meeting + meeting schedule
- Report-back to Task Force on November 13th/14th
- Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

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

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Public Comment

re: Working Session

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General Public Comment

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Upcoming Meetings

- April 7th 2:00 – 4:00 | Grants & Resources Subcommittee
- May 14 & 15 | Full Task Force Meeting, Susanville & Virtual

Meeting Notes, Recording, and Materials posted to:

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



Thank You!