

# **California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Virtual Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting Summary: May 29, 2025**

## **Meeting Called to Order**

Facilitator Wylie started the meeting at 3:08 p.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:

- Nelson Hawkins, Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Chair
- Emily Burgueno, Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Vice Chair
- Darlene Franco
- Qi Zhou

Members absent:

- Irene de Barraicua

Quorum was established.

Staff present:

- Tessa Salzman, California Strategic Growth Council
- Caleb Swanson, California Strategic Growth Council
- Meagan Wylie, Sacramento State University

## Action: Approval of Past Meeting Summaries

Approval of the December 2024 meeting summary was postponed. Members requested that the summary be re-sent for review and recommended including summaries at the top of Task Force emails to prompt member feedback.

## Working Session and Next Steps

### Outreach Timeline and Engagement Activities

Staff reviewed the community engagement plan and timeline leading up to a proposed August 31 deadline for community input on the forthcoming August draft report. Highlights include:

- **May:** Engagement with CDFA small-scale farmer and BIPOC advisory boards.
- **May – June:** UCANR-led engagement sessions, including Tribal-focused sessions.
- **July:** Site visits in Oxnard and Fresno.
- **July–August:** Additional Tribal Engagement sessions and possible one-on-one discussions with Tribal leadership (as requested).
- **By August 31:** Follow-up with all past engagement participants and site visit hosts.

Members discussed the importance of trust-building with Tribal Nations and raised concerns about honorarium levels, outreach materials, and facilitation practices in upcoming UCANR-led sessions. Members recommended involving Tribal experts in planning and contracting.

### Integration of Engagement Insights

Staff reviewed how engagement input will be iteratively integrated into the Task Force's report. Members were invited to highlight key themes or stories to incorporate as case studies, narrative examples, or quotes.

Suggestions included:

- Highlighting underrepresented themes such as racial discrimination, language barriers, and zoning restrictions.
- Using visual components and call-out boxes for a better reader experience.
- Separating survey analyses into an appendix due to limited representativeness.

Several site visits were flagged for potential case studies, including:

- *Golden Eagle Farm:* A fee to trust transfer on ancestral homelands.
- *Fresno County and San Diego sites:* Public land leasing and cooperative models.
- *Susanville:* Emphasis on meaningful partnership with Tribal Nations over a focus on compliance.

Members discussed ways to preserve nuance and offer transparency through lessons learned, storytelling, and potentially an audiovisual (AV) approach to sharing farmer and land steward stories. There was interest in proposing a post-report AV storytelling project and recommending a more comprehensive survey effort, which staff noted could be discussed at the August full Task Force meeting.

### **Discussion of Report Additions**

Members proposed the inclusion of:

- A “Lessons Learned” section on community and Tribal engagement instead of “Best Practices,” documenting successes, challenges, and recommendations for future outreach efforts.
- A more thorough overview of the community engagement process, with an acknowledgment of its scope, limitations, and the value of continued engagement.
- Guidelines for safeguarding confidentiality when featuring stories or recommendations shared by farmers or community participants.

### **Next Steps**

- Staff will review opportunities for incorporating engagement insights into the draft report and explore options for AV storytelling and a future survey recommendation.
- Members were reminded to submit feedback on the May draft of the report by June 1, particularly regarding case studies.
- Staff will begin developing draft language on lessons learned for review by the subcommittee, potentially convening again in September.
- Staff will continue coordinating the distribution of the Tribal leader invitation letter and may seek member support in follow-up efforts depending on responses received.

### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **General Public Comment**

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.