

Briefing Materials

Prepared for the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Meeting

Aug. 13 & 14, 2025

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Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Staff Report

To California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force Members, August 13 & 14, 2025

Announcements & Updates

California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Draft Stewardship Policy released

CNRA's Draft Tribal Stewardship Policy is [now available online](#). Public comments and tribal consultation requests are being accepted now through Sept. 12, 2025.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) proposed revisions

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is hosting an office Hour with SALC staff Aug. 20, 2025, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to hear feedback on the proposed semi-annual Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Grant timeline, revised process, draft pre-proposal and application forms. [Register Here](#). Feedback may also be submitted at salcp@conservation.ca.gov.

Recently released reports

Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) recently released its report on land reform titled [Agriculture Land Reform in California: A policy platform for a more just land transition](#). The report outlines CAFF's core policy goals to drive meaningful progress toward land reform in California.

Union of Concerned Scientists' [Road Map Toward Accelerating a Just Land Transition in California](#) is a policy brief that outlines principles and next steps for guiding the transition of irrigated farmland to new uses in response to groundwater depletion under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Aspetuck Land Trust, Yale Center for Environmental Justice, and Yale Center for Business and the Environment released a [Land Justice and Land Trusts Toolkit](#) that offers strategies for land trusts to integrate equity, justice, and inclusion into their conservation work.

Jefferson Land Trust in Washington State published a guidebook that draws on nearly a decade of hands-on experience where innovative farmland transfers have balanced conservation goals with equitable land access and long-term farm

viability: [Selling Conserved Farmland and Advancing Viability: A Practical Guide to the Final Stage of Buy-Protect-Sell Projects](#).

Staff continue to update the public list of [reports and recommendations about agricultural land access and equity](#).

Interagency review process update

Staff shared the August 2025 Draft Report with interagency reviewers on Aug. 1, and hosted an optional kick-off call on Aug. 4. Reviewers are currently providing feedback via a collaborative document. Feedback is due Aug. 28, after which point staff will anonymize and consolidate reviewers' feedback and share with the Task Force.

Subcommittee updates

The Community Outreach Subcommittee met on May 29 and discussed community engagement efforts throughout the summer, integrating insights from engagement, and possible report additions related to community outreach.

The Assembly Bill (AB) 524 Subcommittee met on June 25 and decided to modify the Subcommittee's letter of support and submit the updated letter to the Senate Agriculture Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee. The support letter was submitted by members of the Subcommittee to the Senate Agriculture Committee on July 8 and the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 29.

The Grants and Resources Subcommittee met on June 27 and discussed best practices for program design with Tim Bryant of the California Department of Conservation (DOC) in relation to establishing DOC's new program authorized under Proposition 4. The Subcommittee also discussed the funding landscape and tax incentives and how they are addressed in the report.

Update on local assistance funds

At the May 2025 meeting, the Task Force discussed options for local assistance funds and emphasized the need for financial assistance to individuals and organizations as a first step toward implementing the Task Force's recommendations. With this guidance in mind, SGC staff have met with program staff who administer aligned grant and loan programs to better understand administrative requirements and timelines. Currently, SGC staff are developing a

short list of potential funding uses that they will continue to refine in conversation with funding administrators. Staff will share a further update at the October 2025 meeting.

Updated Task Force budget table

Current as of May 31, 2025.

Category	FY 22-23 & 23-24 expenditures	FY 24-25 expenditures thru 05/2025	Total budgeted	Total obligated	Total remaining
Personnel (SGC staff)	\$157,875	\$367,235	\$1,100,760	\$1,100,760	\$0
Operating expenses (travel, facilitator, language access, etc.)	\$100,429	\$239,739	\$884,240	\$305,524	\$238,548
Research and technical assistance	\$0	\$0	\$270,000	\$0	\$270,000
Local assistance (e.g., grants, pilot projects, research)	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Total	\$258,304	\$606,974	\$3,255,000	\$1,406,284	\$1,508,548

Community Engagement Report

Between May and August 2025, the Task Force and support staff conducted their last round of community engagement to gather input on the Task Force's draft recommendations. This effort reached new communities as well as re-connecting with people and organizations who had previously engaged with the Task Force's process through engagement sessions, site visits, guest speakers, and the survey.

Below is a list of community engagement events that have taken place or are planned for the near future. Events are listed in chronological order and summaries of insights from engagement sessions, focus groups, interviews, and follow-up meetings will be posted on the Community Outreach & Engagement page of the Task Force's [project website](#).

An asterisk (*) indicates outreach completed by University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) staff, who collaborated with SGC support staff to expand the Task Force's capacity – geographically, culturally and linguistically – to engage a wider diversity of priority producers and land stewards.

- *May 5: Engagement Session with Urban Farmers; virtual
- *May 9: Interview with Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
- May 13: Tribal Engagement Session at Susanville Indian Rancheria; hybrid
- *May 14: Interview with UCCE Fresno County
- *May 16: Interview with San Diego County Food System Alliance
- *May 19: Interview with Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- *May 20: Interview with Center for Land-Based Learning
- *May 20: Engagement Session with Asian Growers; Central Coast
- May 22: Presentation at the California Department of Food & Agriculture's BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee meeting; virtual
- *June 2: Engagement Session with Korean Farmers; San Bernardino County
- *June 2: Engagement Session with Indigenous Land Stewards; virtual
- June 3: Sent Tribal Leader Letter to federally and non-federally recognized Tribal Nations in California inviting engagement of the Task Force's draft report
 - 1 meeting conducted as of August 4, 2025
- *June 4: Engagement Session with Asian Growers; Central Coast
- *June 11: Engagement Session with Indigenous Land Stewards; virtual
- *June 12: Interview with North Coast Growers' Association

- *June 12: Interview with UCCE Marin County
- *June 14: Engagement Session with Spanish-speaking farmers; South Central Coast
- June 24: Presentation at the Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative eXchange (TECC-X) meeting; virtual
- *June 26: Interview with First Nations Development Institute
- *June 29: Engagement Session with Spanish-speaking farmers; South Central Coast
- *July 2: Interview with Flower Farm, Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties
- July 8: Round table conversation at Catalyst Convening; San Jose
- July 15: Engagement Session with Kern County Black Farmers Association; Bakersfield
- July 15: Engagement Session with Allensworth Progressive Association; Allensworth
- July 16: Follow up meeting with African American Farmers of California; Fresno
- July 22: Follow up meeting with Greater San Diego Resource Conservation District farmers
- July 23: Tribal Engagement Session at Golden Eagle Farm, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians; hybrid
- July 30: Engagement Session with Project MILPA – Líderes Campesinas, Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE); virtual
- Aug. 1: Presentation at California Native American Tribal GIS Summit 2025, Sacramento
- Aug. 12: Tribal Engagement Session at Blue Lake Rancheria; hybrid
- Aug. 20: Town Hall to discuss August 2025 Draft Report with the public; virtual

Everyone who has engaged with the Task Force since May 2024 was invited to participate in the Town Hall on August 20.

Legislative Updates

2025 bills continue to work their way through the legislature, which is on summer recess until August 18. Bills are now in the second house, and according to the [California State Senate legislative calendar](#), Sept. 12 is the last day for each house to pass bills and send them to the Governor for signature or veto.

[AB 524 \(Wilson\)](#)

Would create Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Program, administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC). DOC will provide financial assistance to qualified entities to acquire agricultural lands to transfer or provide long-term leases to qualified farmer participants.

DOC may contract with nonprofits to administer program.

Task Force References:

10104. The department, in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, shall establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Program in the department to provide financial and technical assistance to support agricultural land acquisition and protection.

10108. (e) Provide reasonable per diem and resources to members of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force to ensure proper oversight over the development of the program.

10114. (b) The department consults with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force to select each nonprofit organization to administer the program.

Status: Passed the Assembly (76-0). Passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water (6-1) and the Senate Committee on Agriculture (4-0). The bill will be considered by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on August 18.

[SB 462 \(Cortese\)](#)

Creates the Farmland Conservancy Program Funding Account within the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund. Would require \$20 million be annually appropriated to the Account for agricultural conservation easements on agricultural land.

Status: This bill was not advanced out of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and remains held under submission.

AB 1485 (Macedo)

As amended, would exempt tribal land return transactions for cultural, educational, recreational, or conservation uses from the documentary transfer tax, and exempt land held by federally recognized tribes for conservation purposes from property tax until 2033.

Status: Passed the Assembly. Passed the Senate Committee of Revenue and Taxation (5-0). The bill will be considered by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on August 18.

Summary of Revisions: May – July 2025

Prepared by SGC staff for the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

July 31, 2025

Revisions Process and Summary

In May 2025, the Task Force created working groups that would focus on different sections of the report, along with four identified discussion items.

The resulting working groups were organized as follows:

- Dorian Payán and Lawrence Harlan:
 - Goal 1: Return ancestral lands to CA Tribal Nations
 - Goal 9: Utilize suitable public land for agriculture
 - Discussion 4: Land consolidation and corporate ownership
- Darlene Franco and Nelson Hawkins:
 - Intro 1: “What is land equity” and glossary
 - Goal 2: Recognize and remove barriers to sovereignty of CA Tribal Nations
 - Goal 8: Support and incentivize changes in zoning and land use planning
- Irene de Barraicua and Ruth Dahlquist-Willard:
 - Discussion 1: Governance and monitoring bodies
 - Discussion 2: Cropland repurposing
 - Goal 6: Reform current policies and regulations to address uneven impacts
- Doria Robinson and Nathaniel Brown:
 - Discussion 3: Urban and rural infrastructure
 - Goal 4: Facilitate equitable transition of private lands
- James Nakahara and Liya Schwartzman:
 - Goal 3: Conserve and protect CA’s agricultural land
 - Goal 5: Advance and support secure land tenure
- Thea Rittenhouse and Qi Zhou:
 - Intro 2: “Why is agricultural land equity necessary” and “what can it achieve”
 - Goal 7: Ensure fair access to public funding for land acquisition

These groups met with SGC staff and Advisory Committee members, as requested, between July 14 and August 14 to review the assigned sections, discuss feedback, and make revisions.

Between Aug. 14 and Aug. 28, SGC staff consolidated working group ideas into a singular draft. As directed by the Task Force, the consolidation process included an effort to reduce redundancy and reorganize the recommendations to ensure that the ideas are cohesive, concise, and clear.

This effort resulted in a reorganization of recommendations into four overarching goals, reduced from the nine goals in the May 2025 Draft Report. The context sections and list of recommendations were consolidated accordingly. Staff made minor changes to language to ensure cohesion and clarity, but otherwise maintained the recommendations as developed by working groups.

Staff have saved a version of the report that consolidates working groups' language but adheres to the May 2025 Draft Report structure. This document is available for Task Force members' review upon request.

The Task Force will discuss these revisions in the August 2025 meeting.

Working Group Discussion Items

The following text was written by working group members, in collaboration with SGC staff and Advisory Committee members, in response to the four discussion items assigned at the May 2025 meeting. The text is included for consideration by the Task Force, which will consider these ideas and decide whether and how to incorporate them into the Draft Report at the August meeting.

The four discussion items include:

1. New government entities
2. Cropland repurposing
3. Urban and rural infrastructure
4. Cropland repurposing

The sections below are organized by topic. Section 5, “Additional proposals,” includes new recommendations or requests that emerged through working group conversations about the draft report that require additional discussion and direction from the Task Force.

Discussion Item 1: New government entities

Language from the working group

Agriculture Ombuds Program

Modeled after UCANR’s agriculture ombudsperson, this is a proposal to create at least one agriculture ombuds position in each county. The agriculture ombuds would assist farmers in navigating complex permitting requirements; provide up-front information on new project requirements; help farmers ensure they comply with local, state, and federal laws; and generally serve as a resource for priority producers and land stewards. Agriculture ombuds could be employed through UCANR’s Policy Institute. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) would serve an informational role in this program. The State of California would provide funding to UCANR to employ the ombuds and cover associated expenses with the position.

Department of Agricultural Equity

Create a new state department, housed under the _____, focused on advancing equity in the agriculture industry through administering relevant grant, loan, and technical assistance programs; advancing interagency collaboration; addressing

priority producers' and land stewards' complaints; providing permitting and legal guidance; ensuring language access; and generally serving as a resource for priority producers and land stewards.

Expand the Capacity of CDFA's Farmer Equity Office

[CDFA's Farmer Equity Office](#) does important work advancing agricultural equity throughout California. To bolster this work, the Office should receive increased funding for additional staff. At least one staff member should focus on interagency collaboration and another should focus on helping farmers navigate relevant regulations.

Priority Producer and Land Steward Complaint Streamlining Program

Establish a priority producer and land steward complaint streamline program. Mandate that state entities that receive a complaint from a priority producer or land steward collaborate with other relevant state agencies to process, investigate, and address the complaint

Discussion Item 2: Cropland repurposing

Language from the working group

Potential of Farmland Repurposing Programs to Support Land Equity

Under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), land currently in agricultural production will be fallowed or repurposed to reduce demand for pumping groundwater in critically overdrafted basins. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are tasked with either increasing groundwater supply or reducing groundwater demand, and in many basins, reducing demand will be necessary to bring groundwater use to sustainable levels. Estimates vary on how much land will need to be taken out of production: for example, in the San Joaquin Valley, recent estimates range from around 500,000 acres (Hanak et al. 2019) to around 1 million acres (Sunding and Roland-Holst 2020).

As described in the Task Force Report (Goal 6), SGMA may have unintended consequences for small-scale and priority producers and land stewards, as competition for groundwater as a scarce resource increases and local, state, and regional policies develop that may disadvantage these producers if their needs and priorities are not included in decision-making. Under these circumstances, land fallowing and repurposing programs provide an opportunity to prioritize land equity along with the need to reduce groundwater demand. Two land repurposing programs currently exist in California: the Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program

(MLRP) and the LandFlex Program, both under the Department of Conservation. The LandFlex program has incentivized both temporary fallowing of annual crops and permanent fallowing of farmland, while the MLRP includes a broader range of land repurposing strategies. Currently, \$200 million has been allocated to the MLRP through Proposition 4.

Strategies to increase agricultural land equity through land repurposing fall into three main categories:

1. Fallow or repurpose large acreages of farmland to preserve groundwater access for shallow wells. Large commercial acreages of high water-use crops in critically overdrafted basins are a high priority for land repurposing to reduce groundwater demand for the benefit of all regional users, particularly those with limited resources and shallower wells. Taking large acreages out of production can benefit land equity by improving access to groundwater for smaller farms, priority producers and land stewards, and disadvantaged communities. For example, the LandFlex program has prioritized fallowing of farmland near disadvantaged communities to preserve access to groundwater for drinking water wells. Fallowing farmland strategically to maximize reduction of regional groundwater use can help to reduce the risk of shallower wells going dry and the associated costs of replacing a well, which can be prohibitive for limited-resource producers. This also reduces the burden on smaller-scale producers to fallow their own farmland, which has a disproportionately larger impact on a small-scale farm than on corporate or family-owned large operations with multiple options to manage their assets in a land fallowing program.

2. Transition large-scale farmland to smaller farms producing crops with lower water use and operated by smaller-scale and priority producers and land stewards. Repurposing larger acreages of crops with high water use to lower water use crops, in smaller parcels that can be rented or owned by priority producers and land stewards would both reduce regional groundwater demand and contribute to land equity. For example, 500 acres of a high water use crop could be divided into 20 parcels of 25 acres each. This strategy also provides regional economic opportunities and public health co-benefits through keeping farmland in production as a working landscape, rather than simply fallowing land that may become a source of dust and pest problems if unmanaged. Small-scale diversified farms can reduce groundwater use through planting niche crops with low water use requirements such as agave, moringa, and jujube; growing diversified annual crops in rotation, especially with rotating fallow plots; increasing water use efficiency; and increasing

access to surface water. This strategy could be combined with support for beginning farmer training programs near disadvantaged communities. In contrast with alternate land uses such as solar power that would eliminate jobs for farm workers, repurposing land to be available in small plots near disadvantaged communities would provide economic opportunities for farm workers interested into transitioning into small-scale farm operation.

3. Increase access to infrastructure resources for small-scale and priority producers and land stewards in land repurposing programs. Rather than fallowing small portions of an already small farm, increasing resources for water infrastructure would help small-scale and priority producers and land stewards maintain essential access to water resources and contribute to the goal of reducing groundwater use in land repurposing and fallowing programs. Resources could include: infrastructure for access to surface water; efficient irrigation technology; and support for planting and managing cover crops. An additional benefit of infrastructure improvements could be the opportunity to conduct groundwater recharge on smaller farms, especially those with crop rotations with fallow periods and winter cover crops.

References:

- Union of Concerned Scientists. Road Map Toward Accelerating a Just Land Transition in California. <https://www.ucs.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/roadmap-just-land-transition-ca-policy-brief.pdf>
- Ellen Hanak, Alvar Escriva-Bou, Brian Gray, Sarge Green, Thomas Harter, Jelena Jezdimirovic, Jay Lund, Josué Medellín-Azuara, Peter Moyle, and Nathaniel Seavy. 2019. Water and the Future of the San Joaquin Valley. PPIC. <https://www.ppic.org/publication/water-and-the-future-of-the-san-joaquin-valley/>
- David Sunding and David Roland-Holst. 2020. Blueprint Economic Impact Analysis: Phase One Results. <https://www.restorethedelta.org/wp-content/uploads/SJV-Blueprint-for-Extinction-Economic-Study-2-15-2020.pdf>
- State of California California Natural Resources Agency
- DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES LandFlex Grant Program Final Report
- <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/LandFlex/LandFlex-Grant-ProgramFinal-Report52025.pdf>

- Environmental Defense Fund. 2021. Advancing Strategic Land Repurposing and Groundwater Sustainability in California.
<https://library.edf.org/AssetLink/8xdw8pyr2oma7lv08wjr2r27fn5s708d.pdf>

Discussion Item 3: Urban and rural infrastructure

Language from the working group

Remove barriers to urban agriculture

- Formalize recognition of urban farmers of all sizes by farm agencies
- Incentivize local governments to adopt and implement the urban ag incentive zone statewide
- The State should offer local jurisdictions pre-designed and pre-approved zoning code for urban agriculture projects and community gardens. These codes should be paired with technical assistance to local governments to help them update and improve their policies that regulate and disincentivize urban agriculture.

Discussion Item 4: Land consolidation

Language from the working group

Context on Land Consolidation

The State of California has seen an influx of land grabs by the **farmland investment industry**, consortium of investors, asset managers, operating companies, and intermediaries that together form a growing industry that purchases agricultural land in order to draw profits from rents, appreciation, and in less common cases, productive activities. Altogether, this problem is being referred to as the **financialization of farmland**, a phenomenon where farms are being targeted for finance-sector investment and profits. For example, TIAA, a large pension fund manages \$11.6 billion of farmland assets, with a significant presence in California farmland. This has also served to increase the gap between operating and non-operating landlords, further exacerbating existing inequities by shifting the power away from communities to govern their own land.

Non-Operating Landowners are often described as a class of landlords that own land used in agricultural production but are not actively involved in farming. By contrast, **operating landowners** are actively involved in farming. According to the last U.S. Farmland Ownership, Tenure, and Transfer report from 2016, operating landowners operate 55% of land, and lease out another 8%. The remaining 37% of

land in California is owned by non-operating landowners. In some cases, the presence of non-operating landowners is as high as 60% in some counties.

This number has likely increased since 2016 as investment companies have increased their tenure on farmland, given that it is a stable investment vehicle with stable appreciation.

In order to halt and reverse the ongoing trend of Land Grabs, there must be a policy in place that effectively Bans Land Grabs, ensuring that agricultural land cannot be seized by farmland investment institutions whose sole purpose is to draw profits through non-operating mechanisms, or whose ultimate goal is to benefit from the appreciation of farmland.

Halt and Reverse Land Consolidation

1. Ban Farmland Investment Institutions from Purchasing Land in California
 - a. Ban financial services organizations or their subsidiaries from acquiring title or any other interest in land.
2. Seize existing lands currently owned by financial services organizations.

Additional needs: Research on [Foreign Ownership](#) and [Anti-Corporate Farm Laws](#)

Discussion Item 5: Additional proposals

The following sections include new recommendations and requests developed by working group members while reviewing the draft report.

Request: Additional context for Tribal Nations

- List all federally recognized Tribal Nations in California with total acreage of landholdings and total number of enrolled members for each tribe.

Proposed recommendation: CEQA Streamlining and Coastal Commission Permitting

Permitting Reform:

- Incentivize and enforce changes to permitting processes and regulations to ensure that priority producers and land stewards can maintain and improve their lands

- Enforce a 90-day permitting shot clock for certain infrastructure and sustainability projects proposed by priority producers, with automatic approval if agencies fail to meet deadlines.
- Amend California's Permit Streamlining Act to explicitly include agricultural and tribal land use permits, enhancing predictability and transparency.
- Require agencies to publicly report permitting timelines and adherence to mandated deadlines.
- Promote broader adoption of county level permitting exemptions, such as Sonoma County's exemption of agricultural outbuildings from permitting on farms meeting defined criteria.
- Incentivize counties to establish regulatory carve-outs specifically for infrastructure critical to farm viability and sustainability.

CEQA Streamlining:

- Expand statutory and categorical exemptions under CEQA for small-scale climate-smart agricultural projects, including water saving irrigation techniques, soil health improvements, renewable energy installations, and habitat restoration.
- Encourage counties to adopt more pragmatic and timely environmental reviews, allow priority producers projects to efficiently tier from existing analysis.

Coast Commission Permitting:

- Broaden existing exemptions and create new categorical exclusions for minor agricultural infrastructure and sustainability projects within the coastal zone.
- Increase administrative approvals (staff level CDPs and de minimis waivers*) for straightforward, compliant projects.
- Establish co-management agreements or Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) with Tribal communities for streamlined approval of restoration and culturally significant projects.

*CDPs and de minimis waivers are means for the Coastal Act to permit expedited minor common development activities with lower application costs and quicker processing times.

Regional Overview of Humboldt County

The Aug. 14 & 15 meeting will be a hybrid event hosted at the Blue Lake Rancheria in Humboldt County. In preparation for this meeting, staff have compiled the following details to provide Task Force members with additional context for the region.

Regional Maps

The Humboldt County Planning and Building website includes [several maps](#) of the County, including [land use](#) and [agricultural preserves](#).

Tribal Nations in Humboldt County:

- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Big Lagoon Rancheria
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Table Bluff Rancheria
- Trinidad Rancheria
- Wiyot Tribe
- Yurok Tribe

Agriculture organizations

[Humboldt County Farm Bureau](#): The Humboldt County Farm Bureau is the county's largest agricultural organization and aims to preserve the rich agricultural lands and culture of the region. The bureau is also working to provide residents with local, fresh products instead of relying on imported goods.

[North Coast Growers' Association](#): The North Coast Growers' Association provides a wide variety of services to local farmers including workshops, business consultations, and notices of available funding sources. The association has a strong emphasis on improving local food systems and in addition to the Arcata Plaza Farmer's Market, hosts 9 seasonal markets throughout the county to provide local produce to residents.

Farmers' markets

The [Arcata Plaza Farmer's Market](#) is the largest and most well-known farmers market in the area and is hosted by the North Coast Growers' Association. The market is open every Saturday throughout the year and features a variety of

seasonal, non-GMO produce as well as meats and artisan products from the surrounding Humboldt County region.

Key agricultural products:

According to the Humboldt County Department of Agriculture / Weights and Measures [2022 Crop Report](#), regional crops include:

- Timber
- Livestock, livestock products, and aquaculture: Beef, pork, poultry, lamb, eggs, goat cheese, oysters and clams
- Crops: Cannabis, hay, cut flowers, leafy greens, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, root vegetables, beans

Land use trends

Arcata's [Land Use Element](#) describes the city's plans for development which includes several areas being preserved exclusively for agricultural use. According to the same document, Arcata is also working to avoid urban sprawl into agricultural lands through extensive efforts to implement brownfield remediation and infill housing.

Current and future climate impacts

[California's Fourth Climate Assessment North Coast Region Report](#) (2019)

summarizes major climate change risks for communities and natural resources in the North Coast region of California, encompassing Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Lake, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties. The synthesis report identified several key climate change effects for the region, including:

- Average annual maximum temperatures are likely to increase by 5–9 °F throughout the region through the end of the 21st century. Interior regions will experience the greatest degree of warming.
- Annual precipitation is not expected to change significantly, but will likely be delivered in more intense storms and within a shorter wet season. As a result, the region is expected to experience prolonged dry seasons and reduced soil moisture conditions, even if annual precipitation stays the same or moderately increases. Less precipitation will fall as snow and total snowpack will be a small fraction of its historical average.
- There is a higher likelihood of extreme wet years and extreme dry years (drought). An "average" rainfall year will become less common.

- A rise in extreme precipitation events will increase the frequency and extent of flooding in low-lying areas, particularly along the coast where flood risk will be enhanced with rising sea levels.
- Streamflows in the dry season are expected to decline and peak flows in the winter are likely to increase.
- Sea-level rise projections differ along the coast, but are greatest for the Humboldt Bay region and Eel River delta, threatening communities, prime agricultural land, critical infrastructure, and wildlife habitat.
- Wildfires will continue to be a major disturbance in the region. Future wildfire projections suggest a longer fire season, an increase in wildfire frequency, and an expansion of the area susceptible to fire.

These changes will have significant consequences for natural ecosystems, working landscapes, and the built environment. These include:

- Habitat loss for sensitive plant and wildlife species, including cold-water fish species such as salmon.
- Change in vegetation types, including forests.
- Reduced productivity of rangeland and pastureland.
- Increased flood and landslide risks to critical infrastructure, including major transportation corridors, water supply systems, wastewater treatment plants, and energy and communication networks.
- Increased public health risks from wildfire, floods, heat waves, and disease vectors. These risks are greatest for vulnerable populations along the coast and in remote inland communities.