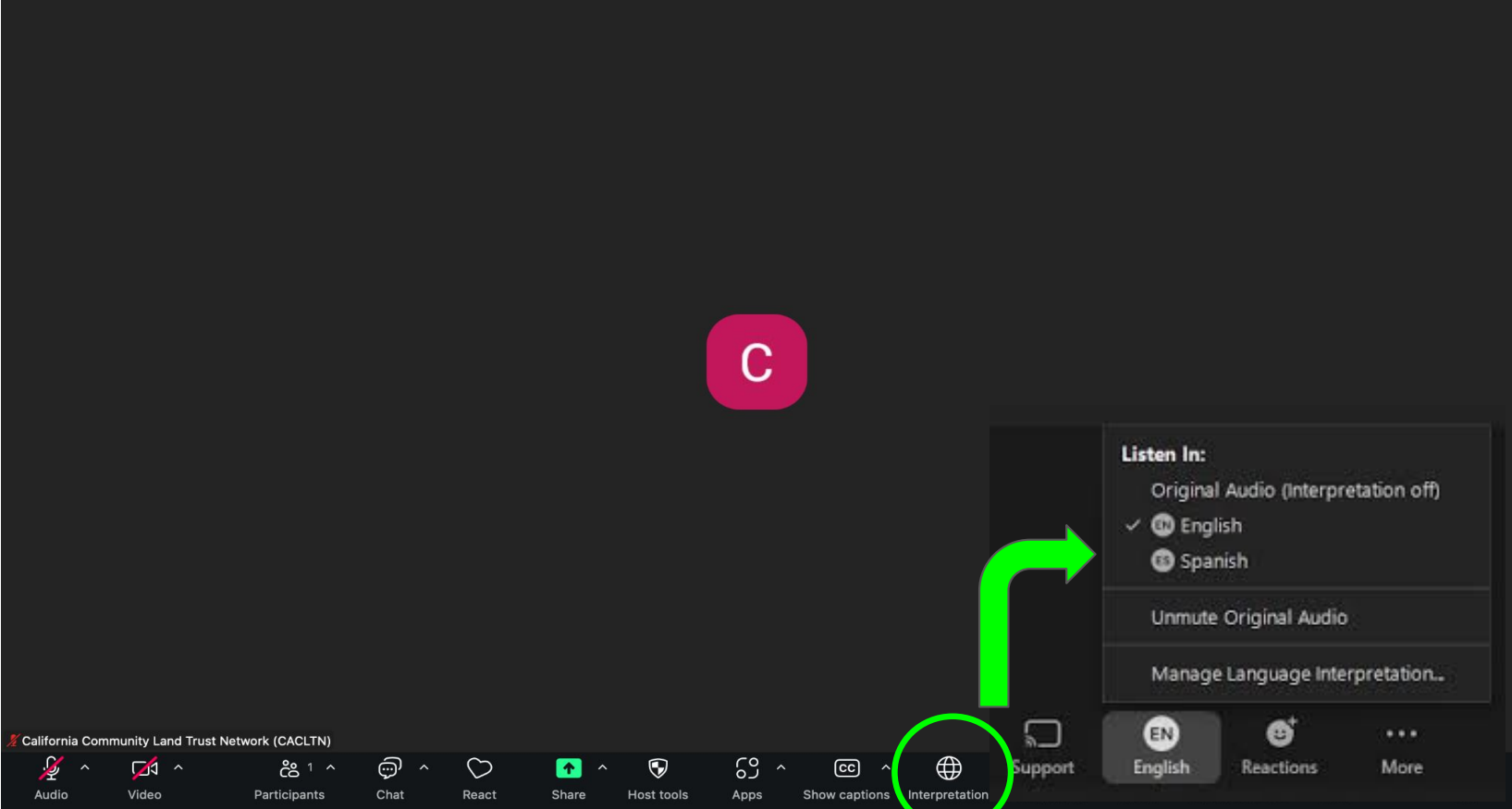


Advancing Agricultural Land Equity and Community Ownership in California

April 6, 2026 @ 1:00pm–3:00pm

Interpretation Instructions



Agenda

1. Welcome & Housekeeping
2. Introductions
3. Overview: Land Equity Task Force Report
4. Group discussion
5. ~Break~
6. CACLTN 2026 Ag Programming
 - a. Regional Convening planning
7. Announcements

Introductions

Who's in the room?

**Name, Organization/Group &
connection to land stewardship**

Today's Speakers



Darlene Franco
Chief Executive Officer
Tribal Chairperson



Dorian Payán
Director of Holistic Land Relations





California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force

- Established in the 2022 California Budget to **develop recommendations on how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses.**
- 13 Member appointed body
- Diverse expertise, backgrounds, geography
- **Final report submitted to Governor & Legislature December 2025**



Task Force members in San Diego



Blue Lake Rancheria Daluviwi' Community Garden

How did the Task Force develop its recommendations?

Regional, public meetings

- 13 hybrid Task Force meetings across California
- 33 virtual subcommittee meetings
- October 2023-December 2025



How did the Task Force develop its recommendations?

Community engagement

- Land Access Experiences Survey
- Guest speakers
- Site visits and community engagement sessions
- Tribal Leader meeting invitation
- Public comment

Technical guidance

- Advisory committee
- Interagency review



What is agricultural land equity?

Agricultural land equity: When priority producers and Tribal land stewards have **access to secure, affordable, and viable land** for the stewardship and cultivation of food, fiber, medicine, and cultural resources without systemic barriers, disparities, or exploitation.

California Native American Tribes: Both federally recognized and non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes. This term was selected to **denote the inherent sovereignty of Native communities and their relations of care** since time immemorial with the land that is now called California.

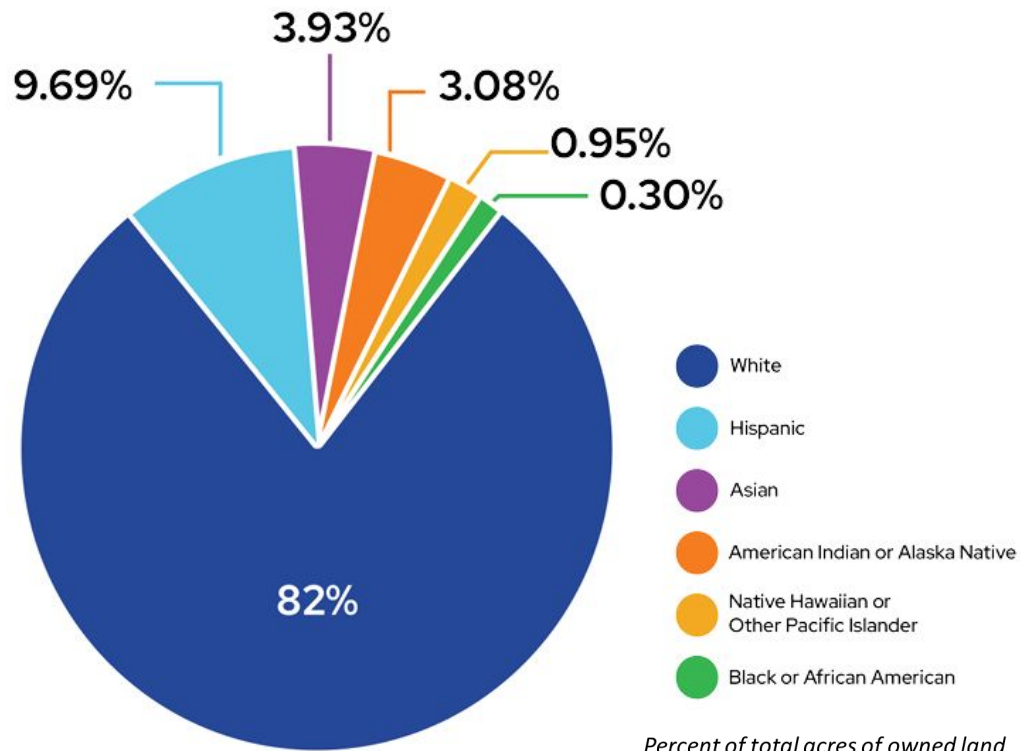
Priority producers and Tribal land stewards: Those **who have been historically and systematically excluded from landownership and secure tenure** for agriculture and traditional Tribal uses. This includes farmworkers and aspiring farmers.

Agriculture: The knowledge and practice of cultivating plants, animals, and ecosystems for food, fiber, medicine, or other resources. **This includes gardening, horticulture, ranching, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge practices**, among others.

Contemporary disparities

- Extreme disparities in land and resource access in CA agriculture
- White landowners hold 82% of farmland

Percent of total acres of owned land in farms in California (2022)

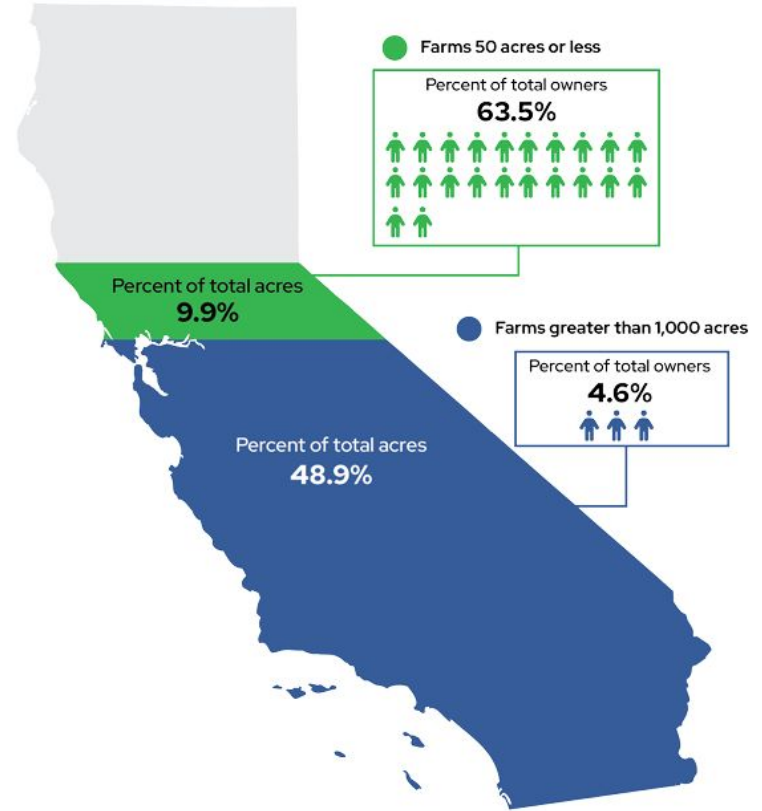


Percent of total acres of owned land in farms in CA (2022 USDA Census)

Contemporary disparities

- 62% of producers operate on 50 acres or less
- number of small farms in the state decreased by 13% between 2017 and 2022; large farm increased by 4%
- Leading to worsening land consolidation and financialization
- Just 4.6% of landowners collectively own almost half of the state's total cropland
- Value of farm real estate increased by 28% since 2018 in CA

Farm size in relation to percent of total owners and percent of total acres of cropland owned in California (2017)



What does the Task Force ask California to do?

1

Tribal Stewardship
& Land Return

2

Fund Land
Acquisition

3

Halt Land
Consolidation

4

Preserve Land
Equitably

5

Secure
Land Tenure

6

Support Urban
Agriculture

Land Trusts: 3 Named Roles in the Report

1

Intermediary Holder

Temporarily acquire & hold land until it can be transferred to Tribes or priority producers

Rec. 1.1 / 4.4

2

Easement Partner

Hold & negotiate agricultural and cultural conservation easements — with new required flexibility provisions

Rec. 4.2

3

Public Land Liaison

Hold primary leases on publicly held land; establish subleases for priority producers & Tribal stewards

Rec. 4.4

1. Prioritize Tribal stewardship and land return



1. Establish an Ancestral Land Return Fund.
2. Embed ancestral land return for California Native American Tribes in the state's policies and programs.
3. Return publicly held land to California Native American Tribes.
4. Enable and promote the implementation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices.

Rec. 1.1 – Ancestral Land Return Fund

Roles for Land Trusts

Serve as a temporary intermediary holder

Acquire land before Tribes are ready to take title.
Follow agreed processes & timelines for return.

Transfer land to Tribes

The fund will create financial incentives for land trusts and private individuals to transfer land to California Native American Tribes.

2. Fund & incentivize land acquisition for priority producers & Tribal land stewards



1. Establish a Restorative Land Fund.
2. Develop and implement a public education campaign to document past and ongoing harm.
3. Provide funding for the purchase of agricultural land to be leased or transferred to priority producers and Tribal land stewards.
4. Establish loan and debt forgiveness programs.
5. Adopt new tax programs and benefits designed to serve priority producers and Tribal land stewards.
6. Continually evaluate and improve funding and incentive programs.
7. Expand tailored technical assistance for land access and acquisition.

Rec. 2.3 – Restorative Land Fund

Land trusts are explicitly named as eligible applicants in the report



Proven track record
with priority producers



Community letters
of support required



Must lease or transfer
not retain for non-equity use

Buy-Protect-Improve-Sell The Task Force strengthens this model, which is a natural fit for land trusts. Priority producers & Tribal stewards must be prioritized for lease or transfer.

4. Preserve CA's agricultural land while prioritizing equitable land access & stewardship



1. Develop a statewide agricultural land preservation and stewardship plan.
2. Improve conservation programs and tools to enable equitable land access and stewardship.
3. Promote local strategies for agricultural land preservation.
4. Expand state and local government capacity to effectively and fairly lease publicly held land.

Rec. 4.2 – Easement Reform: Recommended Changes

Allow flexible Tribal & agricultural uses

Respond to changing environmental and market conditions

Allow necessary infrastructure

Housing, irrigation, water storage, post-harvest handling

Community Stakeholders/tribes help define conservation plan

Not the easement holder — when working with Native American Tribes

Training mandated for land trusts

Cultural humility, equitable easements — co-created with Tribes

Rec. 4.2.e-f – Two New Mandates on Practice

Training programs for land trusts

State-funded

Co-designed with Tribes & priority producers

Cover equitable easements, cultural humility

Financial support provided for participation

Co-create conservation goals with communities

Includes consultation with California Native American Tribes.

Applies to all conservation goals — not just Tribal partnerships.

Rec. 4.4 – Publicly Held Land: Land Trusts as Liaisons

1

Receive Funding

State funds RCDs, land trusts, and
CBOs to serve as liaisons

2

Hold Primary Lease

Land trust is the legal entity
accountable for major land
management

3

Sublease & Facilitate

Establish subleases tailored to priority
producers and Tribal stewards



Questions?



Break out discussion

1. Are any of the recommendations of particular interest to your work/project?
2. What does your organization need to advance its project/efforts (i.e. resources, technical assistance, political/advocacy, networking)?

Report Back!

2026 Ag Programming

Building upon today's conversation...

- April 6: **today**
- June/July: 1-day in person convening
- *August: virtual*
- Sept 3-4 conference: NorCal
- Nov @ Allensworth

1-Day Convening: organizing deep dive technical and/or regional content

1-Day convening

- Considerations:
 - a. What topics/activities are top priority to you?
 - b. Besides practitioners, are there other key audience members?
 - c. Location preferences?
- Date proposals (poll): June or July
- Time: 10am - 4pm
- Invitation to join Planning Committee

Results - full results in notes doc

What topics/activites are top priority to you? / ¿Qué temas/actividad son de máxima prioridad para usted?

Site visit to clts using farms

CLT formation

Info re building housing on ag zoned land

Policies to codify support for CLTs and Ag Land Equity

Governance with multiple farms

Identifying all resouces for generating CLT policies, e.g., easements

Exploration of potential state policies that could support land access issues

Capital stack for land acquisition

Funding sources for CLT ag land purchasing.

distinguish the needs of specific BIPOC communities, rather than homogenize general needs

Accessing implementation funds once land is accessed or at the same time land is accessed.

Public policy towards land acquisition and infrastructure, housing and aariculture. controlled enviroment

Results

Audience / Audiencia

Besides practitioners, are there other key audience members? / Además de los profesionales, ¿hay otros miembros clave de la audiencia?



Upcoming CACLTN Workshops

- **April 21 @ 12pm - 1pm:** Debt Preparedness w/ Nonprofit Finance Fund
- **April 28 @ 12pm - 1pm:** Part 2: Driving Bank Investments in CLTs - Lessons learned from CLT Negotiations with Banks
- **May - July: Solidarity Series**



Finance for Operations TA: Request for Information (RFI)

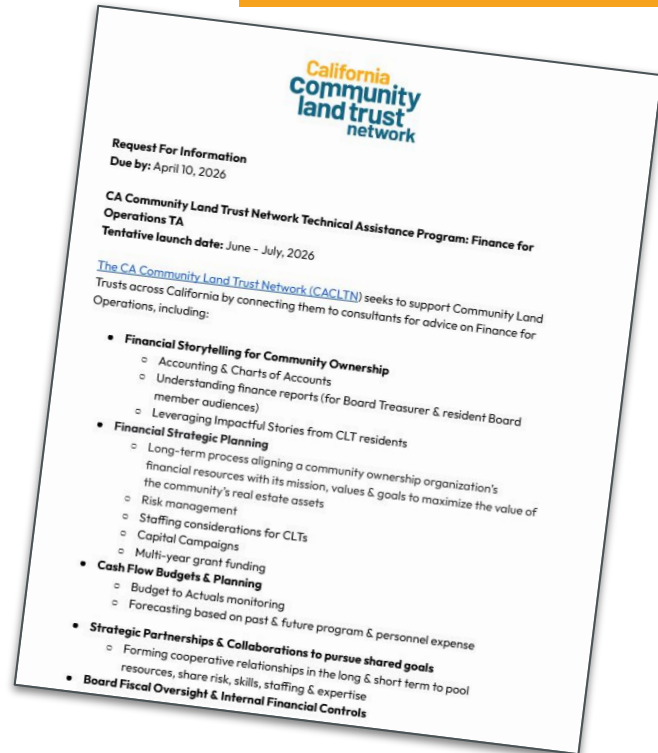
Due by: Rolling basis

Launch date: June - July 2026

CACLTN is **seeking consultant(s) experienced in Finance for Nonprofit Operations** to add to Technical Assistance Program.

Topics of Technical Expertise:

- Financial storytelling for community ownership organizations
- Financial Strategic Planning & Cash Flow
- Internal Financial Controls
- Board Fiscal Oversight, Board Development, Fiduciary Duties
- Strategic partnerships to pursue shared goals, shared staffing, fiscal sponsorships



California Community land trust network

Call for Conference Proposals: Sept, 2026

NorCal location

- **Open for submissions:** Fri, March 6, 2026
- **Submission Deadline:** Fri, April 17, 2026
- **Notification of acceptance:** week of June 1



2026 Conference, September - NorCal

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS