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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Melissa Hurtado, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

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**Bill No:** AB 524

**Hearing Date:** 7/15/25

**Author:** Wilson

**Version:** 4/22/25

**Urgency:** No

**Fiscal:** Yes

**Consultant:** Reichel Everhart

**Subject:** Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act

### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the California Department of Conservation (DOC), in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (Task Force), to establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities program (FACT CA). This bill requires the program to provide financial assistance to qualified entities for the purpose of acquiring agricultural lands to transfer or provide long-term leases to qualified program participants.

### **BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:**

Existing federal law:

- 1) Establishes the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the purpose of helping underserved producers by increasing land, capital, and market access. The program funds cooperative agreements or grants for projects that help move underserved producers from surviving to thriving.<sup>1</sup>
- 2) Establishes the 2501 Program through the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (The 1990 Farm Bill) to help underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters who have historically experienced limited access to USDA programs and services. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the 2501 Program to include veterans.

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the Farmland Conservancy Program Act of 1995 within the DOC to encourage the voluntary, long-term preservation of agricultural land in California through conservation easements and land improvements.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/increasing-land-access>

- 2) Establishes the Farmer Equity Act to ensure that farmers who have been historically underserved have equitable access to resources needed in order to experience the long-term prosperity of California's food and farming system.<sup>2</sup>
- 3) Establishes the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force: The Task Force is responsible for developing recommendations to promote access to agricultural land. The Task Force is required to submit a comprehensive report with its recommendations to the legislature and the governor no later than January 1, 2026.<sup>3</sup>
- 4) Proposition 4: In 2024, voters passed California Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (SB 867, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024) which dedicates \$30 million to DOC, in consultation with the Task Force, to assist in improving land access and tenure for beginning farmers, underserved farmers and ranchers, and tribal producers.<sup>4</sup>

### **PROPOSED LAW:**

This bill:

- 1) Makes the following legislative findings and declarations:
  - a. California's small-scale, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) face impossible challenges when attempting to gain secure access to land.
  - b. As the Governor's Executive Order No. N-15-19 acknowledged, tribal communities have faced extensive violence, exploitation, dispossession, and the attempted destruction of tribal communities, while persisting in stewarding and protecting lands.
  - c. With the combination of unattainable land prices, decreasing water availability and the rapid rate of private investment firms buying up available land as investment properties SDFR and beginning farmers and ranchers (BFR) have increasingly limited access to farming.
  - d. DOC estimates that just under 50,000 acres of the state's agricultural land are being lost annually. This conversion is leading to a significant loss to the state's agricultural rural economy and undermines the state's ability to store carbon and sustain resilient ecosystems.
  - e. Land consolidation continues to be on the rise in the state, making land more and more inaccessible every year. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service, in 2024, the average price of an acre of farmland in

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<sup>2</sup> Food and Agricultural Code Section 511

<sup>3</sup> <https://sgc.ca.gov/initiatives/alei/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://bcp.dof.ca.gov/2526/FY2526\\_ORG3480\\_BCP8054.pdf](https://bcp.dof.ca.gov/2526/FY2526_ORG3480_BCP8054.pdf)

California was \$13,400. This ranks California as having some of the most expensive farmland in the country.

- f. SDFR and BFR face significant barriers to accessing land due to the lingering effects of institutionalized racism and limited access to farm loan programs. This problem has been documented in various publications, including the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) report prepared pursuant to the Farmer Equity Act of 2017.
  - g. Without access to secure land, farmers have limited stability on the land they rent, which leads to an inability to invest in sustainable agriculture practices or apply for existing programs, such as the CDFA's Healthy Soils Program, among others.
  - h. To date, there is no state-level program designed to provide financial or technical resources to directly support farmers with accessing secure land.
  - i. To address these issues, new opportunities are needed for SDFR and BFR to access land, whether through ownership or long-term leases. Financial tools like direct grants, forgivable or zero-interest loans, and certain types of easements, such as cultural respect easements and preemptive purchase rights, can help make farmland, farmer, and farmworker housing more accessible, protect it from sprawl development, and create new opportunities to support sustainable agriculture practices.
  - j. It is the intent of the Legislature that this act helps ensure vital opportunities for land access and tenure for SFR and BFR.
- 2) For the purpose of this bill, defines the following:
- a. "Agricultural land" to mean land used for the purpose of food or fiber or for the stewardship of cultural resources, or any combination of these things.
  - b. "Beginning," as it pertains to a farmer or rancher, to mean a natural person who has operated a farm or ranch for fewer than 10 years.
  - c. "Department" to mean the Department of Conservation (DOC).
  - d. "Farmer cooperative" to mean an entity that meets both of the following requirements:
    - i. The entity is either a worker cooperative, as specified, and whose articles of incorporation identify it as such, or a nonprofit cooperative association organized, as specified.
    - ii. The entity is a qualified farmer participant.
  - e. "Financial assistance" to mean a grant, forgivable loan, zero-interest loan, or any combination of these things.

- f. “Program” to mean the Farmland Access Conservation for Thriving Communities Program established pursuant to this division.
  - g. “Qualified entity” to mean any of the following entities:
    - i. A nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code.
    - ii. A public agency.
    - iii. A farmer cooperative.
    - iv. A tribal government.
    - v. A tribal entity.
    - vi. An agricultural land trust, the primary purpose of which is the preservation, protection, or enhancement of land in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested, or open-space condition or use.
    - vii. A community land trust, as specified.
  - h. “Qualified farmer participant” to mean a farm enterprise whose beneficial owners are beginning farmers or ranchers, or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and that commit to using practices, methodologies, and techniques that improve soil health, biodiversity, conservation, and long-term sustainability in the production of agricultural crops to be sold in commerce or distributed.
  - i. “Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers” to have the same meaning as provided in Section 512 of the Food and Agricultural Code.
- 3) Establishes the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act (FACT CA) within CDFA and requires CDFA, in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, to provide financial and technical assistance for qualified entities to acquire agricultural lands or provide long-term leases to qualified farmer participants.
- a. The bill outlines activities eligible for funding through the program to include, but not be limited to:
    - i. Acquisition planning and development including, but not limited to:
      - 1. Providing support to assist with land acquisition.
      - 2. Determining zoning and land-use restrictions and verifying water rights and access to irrigation.
      - 3. Inspecting soil quality, performing environmental reviews, and assessing impacts.
      - 4. Retaining legal services with regard to acquiring agricultural land by qualified entities and the subsequent sale or leasing of that land to qualified farmer participants in accordance with program requirements.

5. Ensuring compliance for permitting.
  6. Supporting the transition of newly acquired tribal fee land into tribal trust land.
  7. Surveying cultural resources.
  8. Testing of water quality and assessing the condition of existing irrigation infrastructure, including well condition and output.
- ii. Purchase of fee title to agricultural land.
  - iii. Purchase of easements, including, but not limited to, conservation easements, reserved interest conservation easements, or cultural access easements.
  - iv. Technical assistance, including, but not limited to, retaining services of licensed attorneys, real estate brokers, business planning consultants, farmer cooperative management consultants, and property appraisers.
  - v. Land improvements that will directly benefit the lands and the individuals managing the land and their commitment to conservation and sustainable land use, including, but not limited to, farmer and farmworker housing, on-farm infrastructure improvements, and spaces for cultural practice.
- b. States CDFA, in providing financial assistance pursuant to the program, the department shall do all of the following:
- i. Prioritize financial assistance for activities that benefit socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
  - ii. Prioritize financial assistance for activities that primarily benefit farms and ranches that are 500 acres or fewer.
  - iii. Prioritize financial assistance to qualified entities who have clearly demonstrated experience working with socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
  - iv. Prioritize technical and financial assistance to tribal governments and tribal entities to secure agricultural land or reclaim ancestral lands for sustainable food production and stewardship of cultural resources.
  - v. 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.
  - vi. Ensure that the proceeds of future resale of land continue to be used for purposes of the program.
  - vii. Ensure that no more than 15% of financial assistance awarded under the program is used for those expenses described above.

- viii. Allocate at least 33% of financial assistance awarded under the program during each grant cycle to tribal governments and tribal entities.
- c. States that a qualified entity that receives a grant under the program shall do either of the following within 5 years of acquiring agricultural land with the financial assistance provided:
  - i. Transfer the agricultural land to a qualified farmer participant in accordance with the following criteria:
    - 1. The agricultural land is subject to an easement that meets the requirements of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 815) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code and that is recorded before or simultaneously with its transfer to the qualified farmer participant.
    - 2. The agricultural land is subject to any additional appropriate resale restrictions required by the department, such as affordability provisions, preemptive purchase rights, or shared appreciation consistent with the purposes of the program.
  - ii. Enter into a long-term lease of the agricultural land with a qualified farmer participant in accordance with all of the following criteria:
    - 1. The term of the lease is at least 10 years and no more than the time period described in Section 717 of the Civil Code.
    - 2. Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the duration of the lease may be fewer than 10 years if the initial term combined with options to renew the lease on the same or similar terms as the initial term collectively amount to at least 20 years.
    - 3. The lease authorizes, during the term of the lease, the qualified farmer participant to terminate the lease with advanced notice.
    - 4. The lease provides the qualified farmer participant with the opportunity to purchase the land at or before the end of the lease term through a purchase option or a lease-to-own provision in the lease agreement.
  - iii. If a farmer cooperative receives a grant pursuant to the program, the farmer cooperative may maintain ownership of the agricultural land if it records a conservation easement against the agricultural land that meets the requirements of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 815) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code and it records any additional appropriate

- resale restrictions required by the department, such as affordability provisions, preemptive purchase rights, or shared appreciation, consistent with the purposes of the program.
- iv. Establishes The Farmland Access Fund. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, the Farmland Access Fund is hereby continuously appropriated without regard to fiscal years to the department for program expenditures in accordance with this division.
    - 1. The following moneys shall be deposited into the fund:
      - a. Any moneys that may be appropriated by the Legislature pursuant to Section 93550 for purposes of the program.
      - b. Any gifts, grants, or endowments from private sources or the federal government received by the department for purposes of the program.
      - c. Any moneys collected by the department as proceeds from repayments of loans issued pursuant to this section from moneys described in paragraph (1) or (2).
  - v. States DOC may contract with one or more nonprofit organizations to administer the program if the department does both of the following:
    - 1. The department determines that each nonprofit organization that it selects is a qualified entity that has demonstrated substantial experience serving socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
    - 2. The department consults with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force to select each nonprofit organization to administer the program.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

“Building off of the success of Proposition 4, this bill is meant to create a new land access program to address one of the largest challenges California's beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers face: land tenure. This program would open up opportunities for farmers who have the greatest need for land security while simultaneously supporting agricultural land conservation in California. Farmers have limited stability on the land they rent, which leads to an inability to invest in sustainable agriculture and conservation practices or apply for many existing government programs. This program will increase land tenure,

protect it from sprawl development, and create new opportunities to support sustainable agricultural practices and land stewardship.”

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers, sponsors of the bill, write in support of the bill stating California’s agricultural system is “facing a serious challenge as small, beginning, and underserved farmers struggle to access and retain farmland.” In their letter, they state:

“Securing land tenure for California's small and underserved farmers represents an indisputable climate solution. When farmers have stable access to land, it promotes agricultural conservation, reduces carbon emissions, preserves biodiversity, and helps achieve California's 30x30 goals. Currently, the Department of Conservation estimates we're losing nearly 50,000 acres of farmland each year - losses that damage rural economies, increase emissions, and permanently harm ecosystems. Expanding land tenure for beginning and underserved farmers is essential to combat this unsustainable development. Without secure, long-term leases or ownership, these agricultural stewards cannot ensure farmland will remain in production, nor can they invest in critical sustainable practices like soil health improvement - investments that benefit both their livelihoods and California's environment.”

“To date, there is no state-level program dedicated to providing financial or technical resources to support farmers with land tenure. AB 524 is a bold step to fill this gap, creating the first statewide program in California dedicated to land security. Administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) in consultation with the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, this program aims to provide financial resources to various entities including beginning and underserved farmer cooperatives, SDFR-serving non-profit organizations, community land trusts, Tribal governments, Tribal entities, and land trusts to purchase land with the overall purpose of providing long-term leases or transferring land to farmers and Tribal communities directly. This program will also include funding essential technical assistance and infrastructural needs to ensure the long-term viability and success of these future farmers and land stewards.”

“We believe that AB 524 is a critical bill that offers an opportunity to address many pressing challenges our local food-producing community faces in California.”

### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**



None received.

### **COMMENTS:**

Who is eligible for grant funding under this bill? The bill aims to allocate funds only to "qualified entities," organizations, such as land trusts, cooperatives, agencies, and tribal governments.

Who will this bill support? The bill aims to support beginning farmers and ranchers as well as socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and tribal entities. The bill defines "beginning farmers" as a "natural person who has operated a farm or ranch for fewer than 10 years. Further, the bill utilizes the definition of "socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers" as established in 2017's AB 1348 (Aguiar-Curry). Additionally, AB 1348 directed CDFA to expand resources, outreach, and technical assistance and leadership opportunities for these groups.

What is agricultural land equity and why is it important? Agricultural land equity is the process of eliminating disparities in secure and affordable access to viable land for the cultivation of food, fiber, medicine, and culturally valuable resources. California's agricultural land ownership has historically been concentrated among white producers, with limited access for Native American tribes and socially disadvantaged farmers, and ranchers. Equitable access to land fosters innovation, diversity, and collaboration in agriculture, leading to more efficient farming systems<sup>5</sup>.

The California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force is responsible for developing recommendations to promote access to agricultural land. The Task Force is required to submit a comprehensive report with its recommendations to the legislature and the governor no later than January 1, 2026. The Task Force has completed a draft for review of recommendations on how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses.

The Farmer Equity Report<sup>6</sup>: In 2020, CDFA presented to the legislature a report, as required by AB 1348, which provided CDFA's efforts to serve socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California. The report cites the 2017 USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) survey finding that of California's total agricultural producers, 19% (or nearly 1 in 5) are considered to be socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The report identified four key

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<sup>5</sup> <https://online.ucpress.edu/elementa/article/12/1/00106/200298/Land-equity-in-California-Challenges-and>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/farmerresources/pdfs/2020FarmerEquityReport.pdf>

challenges facing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and a set of recommendations for CDFA to address these challenges:

- 1) Land Tenure: Many socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers do not have a stable, long-term arrangement for land. This affects the long-term sustainability of their businesses as well as the ability to incorporate conservation practices.
- 2) Language: Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers do not always speak English as a first language. This can be prohibitive when seeking information about regulations, programs, marketing products, pest management, business management, and public engagement.
- 3) Engagement with Agricultural Industry and Boards/Commissions: Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers do not often belong to industry groups, and therefore do not always receive information through industry meetings or via the internet.
- 4) Access to Available Resources and Programs: Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are not familiar with resources such as grants, technical assistance, and other helpful programs because they do not know these resources exist or have been unable to seek out the information.

A brief background on agricultural land equity. In 1994, the USDA commissioned D. J. Miller & Associates, a consulting firm, to analyze the treatment of minorities and women in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and payments. The study examined conditions from 1990 to 1995 and looked primarily at crop payments and disaster payment programs and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans. The final report found that from 1990 to 1995, minority participation in FSA programs was very low and minorities received less than their fair share of USDA money for crop payments, disaster payments, and loans.

According to the commissioned study, few appeals were made by minority complainants because of the slowness of the process, the lack of confidence in the decision makers, the lack of knowledge about the rules, and the significant bureaucracy involved in the process. Other findings showed that (1) the largest USDA loans (top 1%) went to corporations (65%) and white male farmers (25%); (2) loans to black males averaged \$4,000 (or 25%) less than those given to white males; and (3) 97% of disaster payments went to white farmers, while less than 1% went to black farmers. The study reported that the reasons for discrepancies in treatment between black and white farmers could not be easily determined due to “gross deficiencies” in USDA data collection and handling.

Pigford v. Glickman/Brewington v. Glickman<sup>7</sup>: In 1997, litigation against USDA for discrimination against African American farmers began in with two suits

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RS20430.html>

brought by black farmers—Pigford v. Glickman and Brewington v. Glickman. For many years, black farmers had complained that they were not receiving fair treatment when they applied to local county committees (which make the decisions) for farm loans or assistance. These farmers alleged that they were being denied USDA farm loans or forced to wait longer for loan approval than were non-minority farmers. Many black farmers contended that they were facing foreclosure and financial ruin because the USDA denied them timely loans and debt restructuring.

As a result of the suits: On April 14, 1999, Judge Paul L. Friedman of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia approved a settlement agreement. Additionally, USDA re-opened its Civil Rights Office and began taking discrimination complaints again. USDA employees were required to take civil rights training courses and the complaint process was amended to ensure clarity in how to file a complaint. As a result, USDA has reported formal discrimination complaints dropped from 396 in 2020 to 320 in 2023 and the average days for investigating complaints dropped from 170 days in 2020 to 125 days in 2023<sup>8</sup>.

Other considerations: The Committee acknowledges access to available agricultural land is a key factor in providing beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and tribal entities with the stability necessary for long-term success in farming and ranching. In addition to promoting the availability of agricultural land for lease or purchase, the Committee encourages the legislature to look at efforts to protect the very individuals we aim to support in achieving land tenure from predatory lending practices.

### **RELATED LEGISLATION:**

AB 179 (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022): Appropriated \$1,000,000 to the Strategic Growth Council to establish the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force to develop recommendations on how to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. These funds are available for expenditure or encumbrance through June 30, 2025, and for liquidation until June 30, 2027.

AB 1348 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 620, Statutes of 2017): Required CDFA to ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, and policies and programs.

### **PRIOR ACTIONS:**

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/11-2024-OCR.pdf>? (page 11-9)

Assembly Floor:	76 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

**SUPPORT:**

Community Alliance with Family Farmers (Sponsor)  
2518 OFB LLC dba Wormley Orchards  
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet  
African American Farmers of California  
Agricultural Institute of Marin  
Agriculture & Land Based Training Association  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Alchemist CDC  
Allensworth Progressive Association  
American Farmland Trust  
App's Photography  
Apple Creek Vineyard Farm  
Aqua Crop LLC  
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement  
Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD  
Asyrs Bridge LLC  
Bianchi Ranches  
Big Pine Paiute Tribe  
Black Thumb Farm  
Bless'd Blossom Garden  
Blossom Bluff Orchards  
BR Beef LLC  
Brisa Ranch  
Brown Sugar Farm  
Brunner Family Farm LLC  
Butte County Local Food Network  
California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force AB 524 Subcommittee  
California Center for Cooperative Development  
California Climate & Agricultural Network (CALCAN)  
California Community Land Trust Network  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Farmer Justice Collaborative

California Farmlink  
California Food and Farming Network  
Captain Vineyards  
Carbon Cycle Institute  
Center for Land-based Learning  
Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)  
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy  
Ceres Community Project  
Chiatri De Laguna Farm  
Chávez Lamb  
Coastside Farmers' Markets  
Condor's Hope Ranch  
County of Santa Clara  
Crop Swap LA  
Cultural Roots Nursery  
Deep Roots Farm  
Devil's Gulch Ranch  
Dinner Bell Farm  
Dolly Farms Vacaville  
Earthseed Laboratories  
Edible Ecology INC.  
Eggman Family Honey Farms  
Endangered Habitats League  
Entangled Stewardship  
Estrella Farm  
Everyone's Harvest  
Facts Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety  
Farm2people  
Feral Heart Farm  
First Mother Farms  
Fogdog Farm  
Food Access LA  
Foodwise  
Fresh Approach  
Fresno BIPOC Produce INC.  
Friends Center for National Legislation  
Frog Hollow Farm  
Fruition Farm & Fiber

Future Roots Farm  
Golden Nectar Farm  
Grazing School of the West  
Green Foothills  
Green Hill Farms  
Grow Eco Farm  
GT Florists & Herbs  
Hen and Harvest Farm  
Huitla Co Farm  
Hummingbird Agrotek, LLC  
Inecui Flowers  
Integrity Alpacas's & Fiber  
Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative  
Jaide Conservation Collective, LLC  
Kitchel Family Organics  
Kitchen Table Advisors  
Ladyhawke Farm  
Laura's Apples  
Lideres Campesinas  
Littorai Wines  
Los Angeles Climate Reality Project  
Los Angeles Ecovillage  
Los Angeles Food Policy Council  
Los Prismas Organic Farms  
Lost Sierra Food Project  
Magpie  
Mariposa Habitat Nursery  
McGrath Family Farm  
Medium Farm LLC  
Merriman Properties LLC  
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)  
NextGen California  
Oasis Group  
Occidental Community Farmers Market  
Ocean Street Farm  
Olivia Tincani & Co., LLC  
Orange Home Grown Foundation INC.  
Our Global Family Farm

Papa Joe Farm  
Peninsula Open Space Trust  
Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network  
Piano Farm  
Pie Ranch  
Plowshares Alliance  
Plurinational Land Reform in CA Working Group  
Prairie Companion Company  
Prevention Institute  
Project New Village  
Punjabi American Growers Group  
Red DOT Ranch  
Red H Farm  
River Dip Farm  
Riverdance Farms  
Rootdown LA  
Roots of Change  
Saba Community Food Alliance  
San Diego Food System Alliance  
Santa Barbara County Food Action Network  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Sierra Harvest  
Sierra Orchards  
Singing Frogs Farm  
Slow Food East Bay  
SoCal Double D Farm  
Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space  
Sonoma County Farm Trails  
Spring Hill Farmstead Goat Cheese LLC  
Square One Foundation  
Sustainable Systems Research Foundation  
The Farmer and the Cook  
The Hens Toast  
The Hungry Gardens  
Three Feathers Farm  
Tierra De Esperanza Organic Farm  
Tokoro Seeds  
Topete Family Farm

Tree People  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Veggielution  
West Marin Food Systems Group  
Wisteria Springs Farm  
World Be Well Organization

**OPPOSITION:**

None received

**-- END --**