

CALE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

CONNECTING LAND, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY

We're excited to share another update from the Climate Action Land Equity (CALE) Project. This quarter, our work continued to focus on strengthening partnerships, expanding outreach, and supporting community-driven solutions for equitable land access and climate-smart land stewardship across California.

From onboarding new leadership and deepening collaboration with partners, to hosting virtual events and advancing media and mapping tools, this quarter was all about momentum, connection, and groundwork for what's ahead.

If you'd prefer not to receive these updates, just let us know and we'll take you off the list.



WHAT IS CALE?

The Climate Action Land Equity (CALE) Project is part of California's effort to build a resilient, equitable, and carbon-neutral future through climate-smart land use. UC ANR in partnership with CAFF, CARCD, and CFBF was awarded \$1.7 million through the California Department of Conservation (DOC).

CALE focuses on two of the most urgent climate action needs: Equitable land access and land management diversification.

Our goals?

- Create climate action plans that center around historically underserved communities
- Strengthen regional technical assistance and capacity
- Improve tracking and outcomes of land-based climate projects
- Deliver multi-lingual, community-driven outreach and education



This work aligns with the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and California's 30x30 goals, helping to bridge equity, conservation, and climate resilience across the state.

THIRD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING & STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration remains at the heart of CALE's work. This quarter, we held 10 coordination meetings to support ongoing grant activities and alignment across partners.

- Met with CAFF, CARCD, and CFBF to advance shared priorities and strengthen collaboration.
- Held individual meetings with each CALE subawardee - Condor Visual Media, Asian Culture & Media Alliance, Entravision, and California Farmlink + San Diego Food System Alliance - to support onboarding, planning, and next steps.



VIRTUAL EVENT HIGHLIGHT: EQUITABLE LAND ACCESS IN ACTION

On December 12, we hosted our second virtual event, Equitable Land Access in Action: Partner Plans & Resources, in partnership with American Farmland Trust.

- Brought together 50 participants and 8 presenters to share outreach plans, tools, and resources.
- Featured CALE subawardees discussing community-based approaches to advancing land access.
- Created space for participants to share insights and help shape future outreach efforts.

The event recording is available in English. [Click here to check it out if you missed it!](#)

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Our Southern California work this quarter focused on internal transitions, research alignment, and expanding equity-focused outreach.

- Supported leadership transitions by onboarding a new PI and beginning transition planning for our incoming Academic Coordinator, while continuing to strengthen internal coordination through the first convening of the UC ANR Systemic Inequalities Program Team.
- Continued advancing Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETF) findings toward a research article in collaboration with research partners.
- Participated in the SCAG Demographics Workshop to deepen our understanding of regional equity, land access, and community challenges.



INLAND EMPIRE

- Presented on diversified urban farm production at a CAFF Farmers Meeting and led urban farm pest management trials focused on climate resilience.
- Published a research article on biodegradable mulch use in Progressive Crop Consultant.
- Continued statewide engagement through UC projects, conferences, site visits, and working groups focused on land equity, policy, and community economic development.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

This quarter marked a big push on tools, storytelling, and public engagement.

- Shared CALE resources including the CALE website and Statewide Partners Map at the CARCD Conference in Sacramento.
- Partnered with LA Food Policy Council to plan our third in-person CALE Connections event, focused on agritourism and diversified income streams.
- Spoke on the Shared Roots Podcast to share CALE resources and program goals.
- Launched a dedicated CALE gift fund through UC ANR to support the program.



SUB AWARDEES



- **Condor Visual Media** documented seasonal cultural practices, including cultural burning activities and traditional food and medicine preparation, while finalizing contract steps to expand production.
- **Asian Culture & Media Alliance (ACMA)** advanced the Shared Roots Initiative, producing pilot podcast episodes, developing branding and workflows, and planning multilingual media and workshops for 2026.
- **Entravision** launched a culturally responsive, data-informed media strategy and produced farmer storytelling content across Riverside County and the Coachella Valley.
- **California Farmlink & San Diego Food System Alliance** began planning a Landseeker Pilot Cohort, launched extensive landholder outreach, added new tools to the Landseeker and Landholder Toolsheds, and supported land listings and technical assistance across Southern California.
 - Some resources created this quarter are this [step by step guide to build a land listing](#) and this [basic lease template](#) for farmers.

This quarter, we officially began active collaboration with our subawardees, drawing on their expertise to support strategic planning, early production, and community-centered outreach efforts. All four subawardees also participated in our December virtual event, where they shared their outreach plans, resources, and engagement strategies with attendees.

These partners will play a key role in helping CALE reach more farmers, land stewards, and communities through trusted, culturally responsive, and accessible platforms across California.

Their on-the-ground expertise is already strengthening CALE's ability to connect with diverse growers and land stewards across Southern California.

A graphic for a podcast featuring two hosts. On the left is Areli Perez, a woman wearing a blue patterned hat and a white floral shirt. On the right is Paul Maschka, a man with a grey beard wearing a blue t-shirt. Above them is a circular logo for the Shared Roots Initiative, which includes the text "SHARED ROOTS INITIATIVE" and "CULTURA Y TIERRA PARA ACCESIBILIDAD". Below the photos, the text "Meet our" is in a green box, "PODCAST" is in large brown letters, and "Hosts" is in a green box. At the bottom, there are logos for ACMA, the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, and a small circular logo.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE WITH FAMILY FARMERS (CAFF)



- Reviewed final ALETF recommendations and advanced land ownership research through the Land Observatory.
- Prepared for EcoFarm 2026 and began collaboration with Stanford researchers to refine statewide land ownership data.
- Continued facilitation of the land equity collective.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (CARCD)



- Participated in ALETF meetings and supported refinement of the Advancing Agricultural Land Equity in California report.
- Engaged farmers and technical providers at the Rural Justice Summit and Small Farms Conference.
- Coordinated outreach with RCDs across Southern California.

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION (CFBF)



- Promoted CALE workshops and supported outreach efforts, including assistance for in-person events.



Eleven of 13 Task Force members and SGC staff in Sacramento

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Here's what's coming up in the beginning of 2026.

- Onboarded Darlene Ruiz as Academic Coordinator in early 2026. We will continue strengthening internal coordination and program leadership to ensure the CALE project remains responsive, collaborative, and community-centered as we grow.
- Continue advancing land access research and policy alignment statewide alongside Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (ALETf).
- Hosted a CALE Connections event focused on agritourism and diversified income.
 - February 4th at Alma Backyard Farms we hosted an in-person agritourism event exploring strategies for on-farm diversification, visitor engagement, and income generation.
- We will also partner with California FarmLink to host virtual workshops for landholders and land seekers, creating space for connection, resource-sharing, and land matching support this quarter.
- Strengthen partnerships with technical assistance providers and Tribal-serving organizations.
- Participate in EcoFarm, CAFF Conference, and upcoming ALETf meetings.



Thank you for joining us on this journey toward equitable land access, climate-smart practices, and stronger communities. We're motivated by our partners, guided by the voices of growers and land stewards, and dedicated to creating lasting impact. Keep an eye out for upcoming events and newsletters!

With gratitude,
The CALE Team

