

California State Assembly



ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS LEE AND SORIA CHAIRS

Joint Oversight Hearing ***From Seed to Sustenance:*** ***Harvesting Insights on California's Food Systems & Nutrition Initiatives***

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
2:30 p.m. or upon Adjournment of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, Room 126

AGENDA

- I. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
 - Assembly Member Alex Lee, Chair, Assembly Committee on Human Services
 - Assembly Member Esmeralda Z. Soria, Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture
- II. **Overview of Food Insecurity & the Role of Government Addressing Food Insecurity**
 - Tess Thorman, Research Associate, Public Policy Institute of California
 - Alexis Fernández Garcia, Deputy Director of Family Engagement and Empowerment Division, California Department of Social Services
 - Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture
- III. **Food Production Systems**
 - Steve Brazeel, Founder & CEO, SunTerra, Project Food Box
 - Tim Galarneau, Manager of Food Systems Program, UCSC Center for Agroecology; Member Southwest Regional Food Business Center
 - Veronica Mazariegos-Anastassiou, Farmer, Brisa Ranch
- IV. **Farm to Table: California's Response to Hunger: Exploring Food Safety-Net Programs**
 - Andrew Cheyne, Managing Director of Public Policy, GRACE/End Child Poverty in California
 - Becky Silva, Director of Government Relations, California Association of Food Banks
 - Andy Naja-Riese, CEO, Agriculture Institute of Marin, Market Match
 - Eli Zigas, Executive Director, Fullwell, EBT Fruit & Vegetable Pilot Project
- V. **Questions and Closing Remarks**