

# 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**