



California State Treasurer's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Treasurer Fiona Ma Announces Establishment of San Francisco Farm Bureau

County Bureau to Bridge Gap Between Urban and Rural California

SAN FRANCISCO – Treasurer Fiona Ma proudly announces the founding of the San Francisco Farm Bureau, an organization dedicated to nurturing local agriculture and enhancing urban food security education. With over 15 years of commitment to understanding California's vast agricultural landscape and having participated in more than 220 farm tours, Treasurer Ma recognized the vital need for a Farm Bureau in San Francisco, a California county that has been without a Farm Bureau historically.

"Discovering the absence of a Farm Bureau in San Francisco, where I have lived for over three decades, was a shock," stated Treasurer Ma. "This initiative will bridge the gap between urban residents and the origins of their food, fostering an appreciation and understanding that is crucial in today's world."

The San Francisco Farm Bureau was established following a year of diligent planning and collaboration with local agriculture enthusiasts and has been officially chartered by the California Farm Bureau.

"We welcome the San Francisco Farm Bureau into our community," said California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass. "This expansion represents a significant step towards incorporating urban areas into the broader agricultural conversation of our state."

Delegates of the California Farm Bureau voted in December to admit the San Francisco Farm Bureau as the Golden State's 54th Farm Bureau.

Key contributors to the bureau's establishment include local agriculture veterans such as Ted Fang of Fang Family Farm, who served as the bureau's Founding President, and Gary Soiseth, who played a crucial role during the bureau's presentation at the California Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting and serves as its current President. Bill Mattos of the California Poultry Foundation has also joined as Treasurer, bringing over 40 years of agricultural experience to the bureau's leadership.

With over 100 urban farms and community gardens in San Francisco, SF Farm Bureau will help promote and advocate for urban agriculture in San Francisco, while educating residents and youth on growing food.

For more information on the San Francisco Farm Bureau and how to get involved, please visit www.sffarmbureau.org.

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Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was first elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history and reelected on November 8, 2022. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Presently, her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion—a significant portion of which is beneficially owned by more than 2,200 local governments in California. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.