

# AB 3121

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Civil Rights Enforcement Section  
Office of the Attorney General  
California Department of Justice





## Overview

- ▶ **Legislative Findings**
- ▶ **Purpose**
- ▶ **Duties**
- ▶ **Membership**
- ▶ **Powers**
- ▶ **State Level Reparations**
- ▶ **Administration and Termination**



May 3, 1980 Wilton, CA:

About fifty members of the Ku Klux Klan held a cross burning ceremony on a small ranch outside of Sacramento. Gun-toting guards wearing Klan outfits and helmets surrounded the ranch, while members made speeches and paraded around the burning cross. Getty Images.



## Background

- ▶ Passed September 30, 2020
- ▶ A large margin of votes



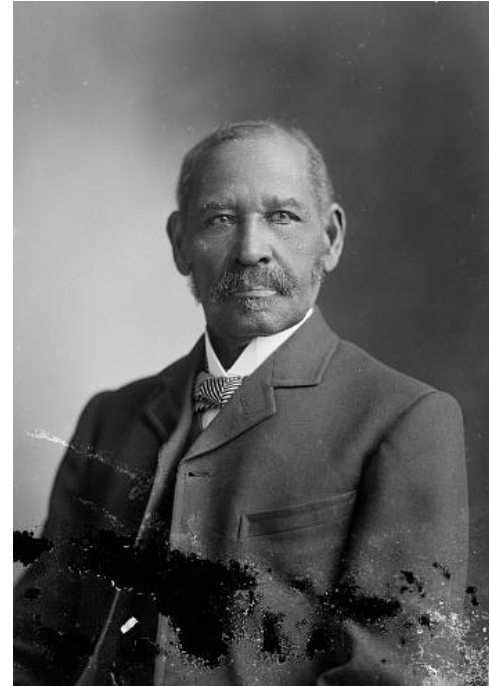
Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber. *Source: CA Secretary of State.*

# Legislative Findings



## Legislative Findings

- ▶ More than four million Africans enslaved
- ▶ U.S. government sanctioned slavery
- ▶ Slavery was an immoral and inhumane deprivation of life



Mifflin Gibbs, a prominent civil rights activist and entrepreneur in San Francisco waged war against California's anti-black laws.  
*Source: Library of Congress.*

## Legislative Findings

- ▶ Ongoing legacy of slavery: systemic discrimination against Black people
- ▶ American government continued to benefit from the destruction of Black life

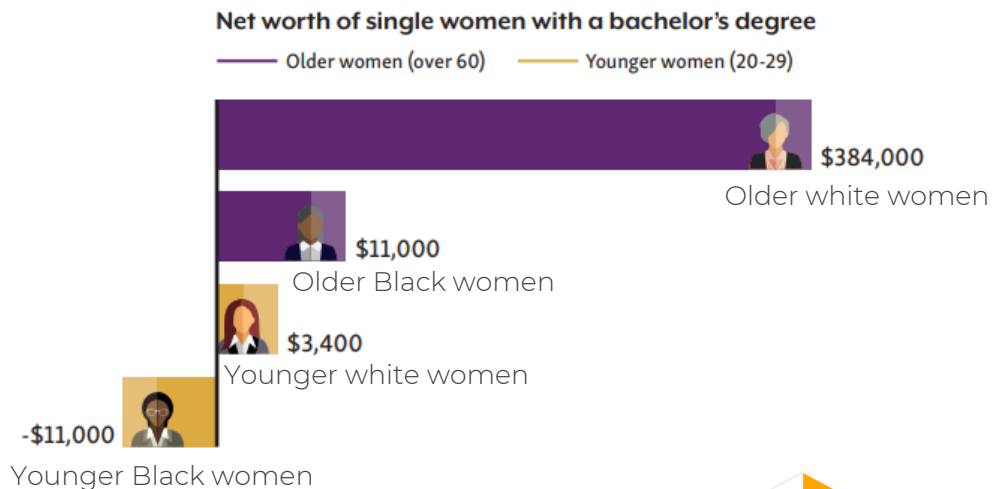


Child convicts who were descendants of enslaved people forced to work without pay. 1903. Location unknown.

*Source: Library of Congress.*

## Legislative Findings

As a result, Black people disproportionately suffer in wealth, education, and health



Data from *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty First Century*, by Kirsten Mullen and William Darity.  
Graphic: California Department of Justice

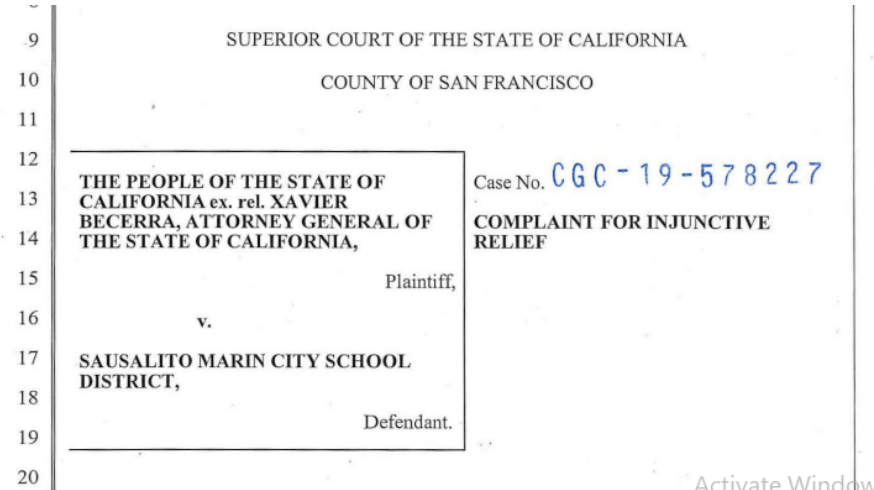
# Purpose of the Task Force





# Study and Develop Reparations Proposals

- ▶ The institution of slavery
- ▶ De jure and de facto discrimination
- ▶ Lingering effects of slavery on Black people and society in California



In a 2019 investigation, the California Department of Justice found that a Marin County School District discriminated against a predominantly Black school in order to benefit a nearby white charter school.

*Source: California Department of Justice*

# Duties of the Task Force



## Task Force Duties

Summarize evidence of:

- ▶ Capture, transport, and sale of African people
- ▶ Treatment of enslaved people
- ▶ Denial of humanity and sexual abuse



Born enslaved, Bidley Mason walked 1,700 miles behind her owner's 300-wagon caravan to Los Angeles. She became a midwife, landowner, and founded the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles in 1872. *Source: National Park Service*

## Task Force Duties

Summarize evidence of:

- ▶ Anti-Black Discrimination in law
- ▶ Anti-Black discrimination in public and private sector
- ▶ Lingering harm of slavery



Protesters stand outside of council chambers during a special city council meeting at Sacramento City Hall on March 27, 2018 in Sacramento, California. *Source: Getty Images.*



## Task Force Duties

- ▶ Address:
  - ▶ International standards of reparations
  - ▶ State of California's apology
  - ▶ Elimination of laws and policies that perpetuate effects of slavery

# Task Force Duties

Recommend:

- ▶ Policies, programs, projects for reversing injuries
- ▶ Calculating compensation, instrumentalities, eligibility
- ▶ Other forms of rehabilitation

FROM THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY'S ANGELA DAVIS' PEOPLE'S FREE FOOD PROGRAM

## 10,000 FREE BAGS OF GROCERIES

(WITH CHICKENS IN EVERY BAG)

WILL BE GIVEN AWAY FREE MARCH 29, 30 AND 31, 1972

AT THE BLACK COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 29, 1972 Oakland Auditorium 10th St. OAKLAND, CALIF. (Doors Open at 5:00 P.M.)  
MARCH 30, 1972 Greenman Field 66th Ave. (Near East 14th) OAKLAND, CALIF. (12:00 P.M.)  
MARCH 31, 1972 San Pablo Park 2800 Park St. (at Oregon) BERKELEY, CALIF. (12:00 P.M.)

SPEAKERS

- BOBBY SEALE, CHAIRMAN, BLACK PANTHER PARTY
- SISTER JOHNNIE TILLMAN, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
- ERICKA HUGGINS, BLACK PANTHER PARTY
- RONALD V. DELLUMS, CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN
- JULIAN BOND, GEORGIA STATE SENATOR
- D'ARNEY BAILEY, BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMAN
- IRA SIMMONS, BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMAN
- ANTHONY EVE, NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
- LLOYD BARBER, MICHIGAN STATE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
- DONALD WILLIAMS, MEDICAL AUTHORITY ON SICKLE CELL ANEMIA
- FATHER EARL WELLS, ST. AUGUSTINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- MARSHA MARTIN, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, MISS COLLIER
- JODY ALLEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE N.S.A., LARRY COLLIER

ANGELA DAVIS WILL BE AT THE BLACK COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CONFERENCE

BOBBY SEALE, CHAIRMAN, BLACK PANTHER PARTY

SISTER JOHNNIE TILLMAN, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

RON DELLUMS, CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN FROM THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

ERICKA HUGGINS, BLACK PANTHER PARTY

FREE ADMISSION ALL THREE DAYS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, AT CONFERENCES CONTACT THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS 1048 PEARLITA STREET OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94607 CALL (510) 465-5047

Flier for 1972 Black Community Survival Conference held in California.  
Source: Public Domain



## **Additional Duties of the Task Force**

- ◀ Educate the California public of the task force's findings
- ◀ Submit report by June 1, 2022

# Membership of the Task Force







## Membership

- ▶ Nine members
  - ▶ 5 by Governor
  - ▶ 2 by President of Senate
  - ▶ 2 by Speaker of Assembly
- ▶ From: academia, reparatory justice organizations
- ▶ Diverse backgrounds, experience implementing racial justice reform



## Membership

- ▶ Term: entirety of the Task Force
- ▶ 5 members = quorum
- ▶ Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- ▶ Reimbursement of expenses for 10 meetings

# Powers of the Task Force





## **Powers of the Task Force**

- ▶ Hold hearings
- ▶ Request witness testimony
- ▶ Request production of documents
- ▶ Compel testimony
- ▶ Acquire information from state agencies

# Administrative Provisions of the Task Force





## Administrative Provisions of the Task Force

- ▶ May compensate personnel
- ▶ Administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Justice
- ▶ Enter into contracts

# State Level Reparations

“Any state level reparation actions that are undertaken as a result of this chapter are not a replacement for any reparations enacted at the federal level, and shall not be interpreted as such.”



# Termination

July 1, 2023

