



EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES 2021

a METRO To CHAMBER production



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In the Greater Sacramento Region, the strength of our business community is reflected in the strength of our advocacy efforts. For five decades, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has recognized that our business community, representing six counties and twenty-two cities, is stronger, together.

To maximize our collective impact, the Metro Chamber launched the annual Capitol-to-Capitol Program (Cap-to-Cap), taking business leaders, policy experts and elected officials to Washington, DC to propose policies that will benefit the business community, drive economic growth, and improve the quality of life for California's Capital Region. For years, our Cap-to-Cap program has been recognized as the largest regional chamber delegation that advocates nationally each year.

From October 25-29, the 2021 Cap-to-Cap delegation, represented through twelve policy teams, will collectively advocate on the most pressing policy needs in the region. Below, you will find summaries of those policies that will benefit our region for generations to come.

CAP-TO-CAP PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Kierstan DeLong

Edelman

2021-2022 Program Co-Chair

Dr. Brian King

Los Rios Community College District 2021-2022 Program Co-Chair

Meghan Phillips

Honey

2023 Program Chair

Andrea Clark

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Amanda Blackwood

Sacramento Metro Chamber President & CEO

David Roughton

SAFE Credit Union

Sacramento Metro Chamber Board Chair

CAP-TO-CAP TEAMS

Air Quality

Economic Development

Civic Amenities

Community Resources

Food & Agriculture

Flood Protection

Health Care

Land Use & Natural Resources

Public Safety

Transportation

Water Resources

Workforce Development

& Education

4-POINT BUSINESS PROMISE

For 126 years, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has planned for long term success – not for our chamber, but for business and the Greater Sacramento Region. Recognizing that economic growth depends on a Connected Region, Ready Workforce, Vibrant Community and Strong Business, the Metro Chamber Board of Directors adopted the 4-Point Business Promise, which strategically positions our region, and our businesses for long term success.

Every action and strategy executed by the Metro Chamber aligns with the 4-Point Business Promise. This is our guiding compass for ensuring that business, along with our region's leaders, recognize the value in supporting business through strategic advocacy, partnerships, and flawless execution. As the regional leader of and for business, our promise to the Greater Sacramento Region is to align strategy and policy for the continued success of our region and for business.



connectedregion

connect people, place and commerce

readyworkforce

close the gap between business needs and a skilled workforce

strongbusiness

cultivate the environment business needs to succeed

vibrantcommunity

benefit business health through community vitality

2021 PRIORITY ISSUES

As the Capital Region's leading advocate for business and economic prosperity, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has identified three critical focus areas for 2021 that center around forest health and wildfire mitigation, COVID-19 response and recovery, and infrastructure investment. These themes reflect a resilient regional economy, after a public health pandemic, and devastating wildfires exacerbated by drought, the business community has come together to demonstrate robust economic growth and recovery.

Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation

California's forests provide a multitude of benefits including water supply and quality, ecosystem health, and carbon sequestration. However, historic management practices have contributed to forests that are explosive tinder in the event of a wildfire. Our state's headwaters and communities are increasingly threatened by wildfires, threats of drought and insect infestation are also present. In August of 2020, Governor Newsom (California) and the United States Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperatively manage one million acres of forest and rangelands in California annually. This MOU represented a positive and aspirational step toward managing catastrophic wildfire threats to communities and watersheds throughout the state. We desire to help the State and Federal government successfully implement the MOU in the coming years by focusing resources efficiently. We see the following three principals as cornerstones to successful implementation:

 Mitigate wildfires through pre-fire work reducing the long-term cost of catastrophic fire to the ecosystem, communities, and watersheds.

- In partnership with local government entities in California, identify the most pressing pre-fire treatment needs to protect communities and watersheds.
- Implement pre-fire stewardship projects at the local level as an established and efficient model for success throughout California.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Key objectives for COVID-19 Response and Recovery include:

- Acknowledge the role of our health care systems in addressing the pandemic and provide continued support as they address emerging threats from COVID-19.
- Provide funding and additional resources for retraining and workforce development in light of recruitment and retention challenges in the workforce.
- Acknowledge the impacts to our educational institutions and provide resources to ensure student safety, mental well-being and overall public health.

Infrastructure Investment

The Sacramento Metro Chamber continues to advocate for federal investments in our transportation systems, water resources, flood protection infrastructure, and inclusive broadband access.

Regional Priorities include:

- Support the passage of a comprehensive multimodal infrastructure package that includes enhanced levels of funding, streamlined project delivery and increased cooperation between federal agencies to reduce costs and construction timelines.
- Secure additional investments in critical water resource projects to ensure a sustainable water supply for the Sacramento region that will provide benefits to all Californians.
- Identify additional support for flood protection projects in the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP). The SRFCP consists of approximately 980 miles of levees, in addition to overflow weirs, pumping plants, and bypass channels that

- protect more than 2.3 million people within 50 communities, one million acres of land, and nearly \$38 billion worth of infrastructure.
- Continue to invest in broadband technologies and deploy to historically underserved communities. These investments will ensure that all communities have critical access to digital technologies and new investments in broadband and highspeed network communications that will power cutting edge industries of the future.
- Significantly increase funding to maintain our nation's system
 of roads, bridges, public transit, human service transportation,
 intercity passenger rail, port, and aviation networks to protect
 past investments and advance future innovations to address
 the demand for safe, efficient transportation.
- Continue investments in green fuel initiatives, including electrification, to modernize America's fleets, reduce our dependence on oil, and improve air quality.

AIR QUALITY

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Public-private partners in California's Capital Region have collaborated for over three decades, with bold action and significant strides toward cleaner air. The region, however, does not meet state and federal health-based air quality standards, adversely impacting public health and economic growth. The need for critical progress remains. Federal investments in voluntary incentive programs, innovative and clean modes of transportation, forest resilience, biomass, rural broadband infrastructure, and continuing Environmental Protection Agency grants for state and local air agencies will drive cleaner air, job creation, and economic growth in the region.

Wildfire and Forest Management

As of September 2, 2021, California recorded over 1,942,742 acres burned, compared to the 1,825,176 acres that burned in 2020 (Source: https://www.fire.ca.gov/stats-events/) The California wildfires of 2020 were at the time, the largest in the State's recorded history, far surpassing records just set in 2018. Nearly 19,000 structures were destroyed and 86 people died in 2018's Camp Fire, the State's deadliest fire to date.

Decades of fire suppression, warmer average temperatures, extended drought, and inadequate forest management contribute to larger, more severe, and destructive fires. Fire seasons have been extended, threatening entire towns and suburbs. Climate change modeling predicts an acceleration of current trends. Prolonged impacts of extended fire seasons will dislocate businesses and residents, strain state and federal resources, and lead to increased air pollution, impacted water

supplies, and limit the State of California progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

REQUESTED ACTION

We urge Congress and our federal agency partners to ensure that the U.S. Forest Service meets its commitment to treat 500,000 acres per year of its lands in California, enable 20-year Master Stewardship Agreements, expand the use of Memorandum of Understanding between federal agencies and non-federal partners, improve the targeting and implementation of prescribed burns, streamline NEPA/CEQA approvals, and increase the use of biomass.

We further encourage post-fire recovery by enabling air districts and other local agencies to recoup extraordinary expenses associated with fires, streamlining the EPA's use of "exceptional event" declarations, and incentivizing the use of biomass and other wood removal technologies to treat impacted areas.

Mobility and Electrification

Transportation sector emissions are growing and are now the largest source of air and climate pollution. Exposure to hazardous air pollutants from diesel engines and gasoline cars results in an elevated risk several times above the state average in some parts of the Greater Sacramento Region. The transportation sector is at a tipping point for dramatic disruption and transformation with the rise of zero-emission electric vehicles automation, connectivity, and alternative mobility options.

REQUESTED ACTION

We urge Congress and our federal agency partners to advance multimodal mobility through new funding programs, invest in the shift to clean transportation, and support innovative projects of regional significance like the California Mobility Center. We also encourage adequate funding for grant and incentive programs, longer-term incentive programs to aid regional transportation-related emission reductions, innovative voluntary measures for reducing pollution be funded, and other incentive-based funding solutions continue to be supported.

CIVIC AMENITIES

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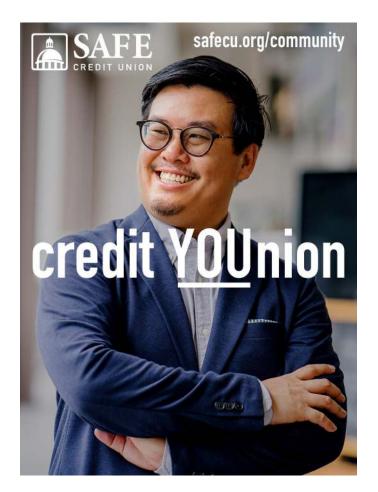
Business in the Sacramento Region thrives on a talented and diverse workforce and an expanding customer base to support their growth. Workers and customers alike desire to locate and live in a place with a full and varied complement of quality civic assets and amenities, too. This year, we look at "The Value of Live Entertainment Venues: How Two Capitol Cities are Re-imagining Success and Supporting the Creative Economy." We will review the importance of these venues to local artists and how they serve both visitors and the local community. Additionally, we will evaluate how these venues impact the local creative economy and how events of the last year have sparked innovative solutions to attract events and support facility development and expansion.

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

As the source of many of the region's leaders, Sacramento State is proud to support the Sacramento Metro Chamber and Cap-to-Cap attendees in their dedicated efforts to continue improving the greater Sacramento region.



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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The housing and homeless crises have collided on the West Coast where working families and homeless service programs struggle to keep up with rising rents and compounding service needs. We seek support for increased flexible funding for federal housing and homeless service programs, to consider affordable housing as infrastructure and include resources to increase the supply of affordable housing in any transportation and infrastructure package.

Ending homelessness is a regional priority. In addition to the personal struggle for the individual or family in housing crisis, the larger community - businesses, neighborhoods, local government, and community organizations – all experience the impacts of homelessness. These impacts vary from safety to hygiene to mental health needs. In Sacramento County, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased 19% between 2017 and 2019, and the ongoing pandemic continues to place additional pressure on the community to respond and support the homeless community. While the COVID-19 response created new, one-time resources, a need remains for increased flexible housing assistance and homeless response system investments to successfully plan and respond to an increasing complex environment. In an era of extreme weather events, economic uncertainty, decreased housing affordability, and health disparity, more flexibility for all federal funding is needed for communities to be able to adapt and continue to work toward ending homelessness.

Increase Funding and Flexibility to Fight Homelessness

REQUESTED ACTION

The homeless response system needs both additional flexibility and increased funding in order to successfully plan and respond to evolving needs for shelter, housing, and services. Currently, rigid program guidelines fail to acknowledge the complexities surrounding homelessness—especially individuals suffering from chronic homelessness. Our requests include the following policy modifications and increases in program funding.

- Increase and improve investments in housing vouchers, affordable housing, supportive housing services, and coordination of funding and access to housing.
- Support the Biden Administration's proposal for a \$500 million increase in funding for Homeless Assistance Grants as renewal costs and inflation have eroded the impact of the program.

- Expand Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Grants funding to enable critical homeless response system-level improvements.
- Provide a separate funding competition similar to Planning Grants for Coordinated Entry System operations, so that communities do not have to choose between direct service and ensuring the success of this HUD mandated program.
- Support the Biden Administration's proposal for a \$400 billion expansion of Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program and ensure that homeless families and individuals are included.
- Expand flexibility and service funding similar to that provided in the Emergency Housing Voucher program to Housing Choice Vouchers and Housing Assistance Grants Program.
- Standardize flexibility across rental assistance programs so that Continuum of Care programs are not less competitive than other new programs and Housing Choice Vouchers.

Increased Funding

Additional investments are needed for Homeless Assistance Grants, which provide Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solution Grants funding that serve vulnerable individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These programs are impacted by increasing costs to provide shelter, housing, and services, which the proposed additional \$500 million can help offset.

The amount available for CoC Planning Grants should be increased. Planning Grants make system improvements possible and help ensure that community priorities, planning, and evaluation can respond to changing needs, evidence, and technology. For example, responding to COVID-19 placed incredible demands to respond and provide services without any guaranteed funding. Although additional direct service resources have been made possible as part of the COVID-19 response, the funding remains limited in supporting systemwide integration and coordination required to ensure success.

Increased Flexibility

Expanded flexibility of federal funding is also critical. When the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program was released this year, it included provisions not found in other voucher and housing programs, such as flexibility to provide closer to market rents, assistance with deposits and damages, and housing navigation. These elements need to be included in future Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) and Housing Assistance Grant supported programs to level the playing field among different HUD rental assistance programs. In Sacramento region's extremely limited housing market (2.5% rental vacancy rate), providers struggle to obtain housing and find landlords willing to accept clients experiencing homelessness in general. New programs that are more flexible outcompete similar programs burdened with more restrictions.

Ending Homelessness—Housing Strategies

Home values in California have increased significantly over the past decade, bringing the affordability index for a median income family to below 50%. The median home prices is now at pre-financial crisis levels. Nearly 70% of very low-income families pay more than 50% of their monthly income in rent. Sacramento County is facing a 53,000 - unit shortfall, placing low-income families at greatest risk of finding affordable housing, and therefore limiting the potential to recruit workforce to the region.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support affordable housing development and homeless service programs that help end homelessness for individuals and families every day. Given the growing population of homeless communities in California, any decrease or elimination of funding for critical programs intended to address homelessness will result in increasing the homeless population.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The success of the Greater Sacramento Region is elevated by robust access to digital technologies. The region has documented a digital divide that threatens the prosperity of the region. The ability to secure funding for broadband deployment and full integration of digital inclusion in federal programs will support public private partnerships, ensuring rapid deployment of these necessary technologies. By leveraging recent efforts in the Greater Sacramento Region Prosperity Strategy, the region will benefit from initiatives and investments of the Economic Development Administration to accelerate business growth in high wage industries that will be a model for innovation across the nation.

Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion

The Greater Sacramento Region has documented the persistent Digital Divide across all areas of the region, including unserved households, businesses and agricultural operations in rural areas and underserved communities and businesses in urban and suburban areas. The pandemic has exposed deepening disparities for students, families, workers, businesses and institutions forced into remote work and learning situations, and facing widening gaps in access to health care, essential services, civic life and public safety.

The pandemic elevated the disconnect between employers and employees as it pertained to digital infrastructure, digital skills, and literacy. Small and minority businesses, especially in economically challenged neighborhoods, have suffered from lack of efficient, affordable broadband infrastructure, technology, and tools during the pandemic. Historically, the region has not benefitted from federal funding resources, especially from USDA, due to skewed eligibility standards (such as rural definition), or inaccurate federal mapping. Understanding the gaps that exist in access to digital technology, the Prosperity Strategy prioritizes achieving digital equity.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support Prosperity Strategy Initiatives to build upon existing EDA investments, catalyze inclusive economic recovery, and accelerate business growth and job creation in high wage industries that will be a model for an innovation economy that is in transition to a carbon-free economy consistent with state and federal policies and resources.

Investment priorities include cluster-based anchor initiatives. The three competitive advantage clusters of focus are: Food and Agriculture, Health and Life Sciences, and Future Mobility.

 The anchor initiatives are the California Innovation Institute for Food, Agriculture and Health led by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources in partnership with many local organizations and industry partners. The Aggie Square Innovation Center (Life Sciences), a 25-acre innovation zone located in a federally designated Opportunity Zone, led by University of California at Davis, connected with UC Davis Health in collaboration with the City of Sacramento and Wexford Development.

 The California Mobility Center, created as an innovation hub in the global development of transportation technology, clean energy and decarbonization, in partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, many local partners and national and international companies.

Greater Sacramento Regional Prosperity Strategy

Communities and leaders in the six-county Sacramento Region adopted the Greater Sacramento Region Prosperity Strategy in 2020, which also serves as the region's five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) funded by and approved by the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Prosperity Strategy provides an inclusive economic development framework and is managed through a partnership of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, Valley Vision, Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the Cal Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. EDA is investing in the region's food and ag cluster initiatives and the implementation of the Prosperity Strategy for economic recovery and resilience. The Prosperity Strategy contains several cluster-based initiatives as well as foundational initiatives in areas such as demand-driven workforce development, infrastructure, broadband, digital skills, and the innovation ecosystem.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation, including the U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with a \$65 billion set aside for broadband and digital inclusion.

Integrate digital inclusion into all federal programs; establish
effective programs to assure Internet affordability for all;
promote and support public private partnership models;
award funding to communities with a commitment to rapid
deployment.

There is continued need for federal investment to mitigate the Sacramento region's flood risk. Through flood reduction infrastructure along with streamlined processes for local-led improvements, these critical steps will reduce life safety risk, protect tens of billions of dollars of existing infrastructure, and support economic growth. To support mitigating risk, changing FEMA's implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program will be essential to support California's agricultural industry, drive the economy and provide food for the country.

Modernize FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program for Agriculture

REQUESTED ACTION

Include provisions in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which ease the requirements of the NFIP that are not applicable to agriculture:

- Allow umbrella policies where a farmer could bundle multiple low-value agricultural structures under a single policy.
- Allow limited construction of new agricultural structures in a floodplain when elevation or floodproofing are not practicable.
- Map leveed areas into a new zone that would specifically apply to lands protected by levees, but which do not reach the 100-year level of protection.
- Language addressing each of these issues was included in the bill that passed the House Financial Services Committee in the last Congress (H.R. 3167, sections 402, 210, and 209).

Infrastructure Investments to Reduce Flood Risk in California's Capital Region

California's capital region lies at the confluence of two major rivers, with a combined watershed of 26,000-square miles that includes the Sacramento Valley, and the foothills and mountains of Northern California. During winter storm events, runoff from this large watershed rushes past this region, often surging dangerously close to flood stage, threatening the capitol, surrounding cities, towns, and communities. Reducing the flood risk is critical to the social and economic stability of our region and will only be achieved through a streamlined process of improving the existing levee, bypass, and water conveyance system.

- Support President Biden's new construction start and construction appropriations for the authorized West Sacramento Project.
- Continue support for the Community Program Funding for the Lower Cache Creek project to initiate design.
- Secure investment in the FY 2022 Workplan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 408 Regulatory program, for the construction of on-going flood risk reduction projects.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

In the Greater Sacramento Region, the food and agriculture sector (production, processing, distribution, and support activities) has approximately 34,000 workers and generates more than \$7.2 billion in direct economic impact to the Capital Region annually. To mitigate skilled workforce leaving the region, investment in middle-skill workforce training and expansion of rural broadband is needed to sustain and grow the region's food and agriculture economy. Allowing large institutional buyers, such as school districts and hospitals, to purchase food locally will strengthen the local economy, jobs, and consumer health.

Institutional Procurement and Resilient Food Systems

As America's Farm to Fork Capital, Sacramento's vibrant agricultural economy generates billions of dollars in economic impact each year, and the demand for locally sourced food is growing year over year. We urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to extend to school districts the option of selecting Cash in Lieu of Commodities for use in the National School Lunch Program, just as this option is available in other federal child nutrition programs. This would expand local purchasing and build the foundation to support a resilient food system in the region.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- Increase flexibilities of USDA National School Lunch Program's procurement regulations.
- Support development of food system infrastructure such as food hubs, central kitchens and other facilities and equipment to increase opportunities for farm to institution procurement and increase economic benefit to local growers and the food and ag economy.
- Address SNAP eligibility requirements for college students (especially food insecure students in Sacramento).

Food and Agriculture Cluster Workforce

The Greater Sacramento Region's Food and Ag Cluster, although a major economic driver, is facing significant workforce challenges. Challenges include addressing skills gaps, an aging workforce, a pipeline gap, and challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including worker retention and acceleration of needed skills such as agri-food tech and digital skills. Education and workforce investments will support the next generation of farmers, producers, distributors and other workers in strengthening the regional supply chain and food system.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support Workforce Funding levels in the American Jobs Plan for WIOA and fully fund beyond its FY 2020 authorized levels, including for job training, skills development, industry-based sector partnerships, career pathways and apprenticeships.

- Secure funding for Registered Apprenticeships and training programs for non-traditional sectors such as agricultural, with eligibility to be administered by organizations including nonprofits.
- Support H.R. 1603: Farm Workforce Modernization Action of 2021 to help achieve an earned legal status for Certified Agricultural Workers and improve the H-2A program.
- Support SB 486 and H.R. 2361: Rebuild Rural America Act to modernize infrastructure and investment to support local and regional food systems, creating pathways to high-quality jobs.

The region's health care sector played a vital role in improving community health during the COVID-19 public health crisis and is central to sustaining a strong business environment. We urge policy makers to support community investments made by not-for-profit health systems by protecting their tax-exempt status, to sustain coverage by protecting Medicare, Medicaid and Covered California and to ensure adequate reimbursement from government programs as ways to continue building a vibrant and connected community supported by a healthy and skilled workforce.

Facing COVID-19 as a Community

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health care sector immediately came together to respond to this unprecedented public health emergency. The pandemic has not only caused a severe financial burden on the entire health care system, but also placed intense pressure on the mental health and physical well-being of its workers.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Health Care

Health care providers serve on the frontlines of care. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have placed intense pressure on health care providers and continue to do so as new variants and spikes in cases continue.

- Extend the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and the flexibility for providers to use their COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments through the end of the PHE.
- Urge HHS to expeditiously distribute the approximately \$40 billion remaining in the PRF.

- Identify ways to provide ongoing financial support to providers.
- Extend current telehealth waivers beyond the period of the public health emergency and allow Medicare Advantage plans to capture audio-only telehealth encounters in risk adjustment.
- Stabilize Medicare reimbursements and Medicare Advantage plans so providers can maintain focus on managing the pandemic.
- Support bills that assist with the mental health needs of health care providers.
- Support technical fixes to the Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF).
- Identify opportunities to increase new Medicare-supported GME slots.
- Support health care workforce development programs, such as the HRSA Title VII programs.

The region's balance between land use and the natural environment plays a significant role in our economic well-being. To achieve balance between quality of life and economic well-being in a rapidly growing region, and clarify laws and scope of authority will achieve economic well-being while preserving resources. We advocate for clarity in federal law and scope of agency jurisdiction regarding wetlands.

Enhancing Uncertainty of Permits under the Clean Water Act 404 Program

REQUESTED ACTION

Revise the 2008 Mitigation Rule to be more outcome and performance based such that landowner applicants can easily offer multiple pathways to compliance with wetlands mitigation rules.

Amend the 2008 Mitigation Rule to:

- Allow the Army Corps to review and approve a menu of mitigation options with less specificity if the landowner is required to secure final Corps approval prior to groundbreaking. Use 33 CFR 332.3 k (3) as the basis to allow flexibility for individual permits to meet the standard.
- Allow applicants to obtain Corps approvals when wetlands credits have been purchased in approved (but unbuilt) banks where there are unreleased credits.
- Allow mitigation to be finalized concurrent with construction in exchange for greater assurances if needed. Other state and federal agencies allow this more flexible approach to wetlands compliance.

Facilitate Creation of New Wetland Mitigation Banks

- Allow newly approved wetland banks to release/sell up to 25% of their credits (instead of the current 15%) prior to site work being completed, with requisite assurances if the bank is not completed.
- Mitigation Bank Secondary Phases. Expedite production of mitigation banks by making approval of subsequent phases of bank construction much easier/quicker.
- Adjust Corps staffing and salary levels in the Sacramento
 District to review 404 permit applications. Add additional
 Army Corps staff at the Sacramento office to process 404
 permits and work to retain that staff by adjusting salaries
 levels to compensate for the increasing cost of living in the
 Sacramento region.

Our region, like many others, is facing challenges in response to increased workload, decreased staffing, the COVID-19 pandemic and ever-emerging critical incidents. Additionally, first responders require increased access to funding sources that will assist in developing valuable partnerships, purchasing needed equipment, and providing critical training opportunities while continuing to meet the needs of our community and the demands of public safety.

The following program areas are identified as priority programs for continued and enhanced federal support.

The Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP). The RCPGP supports the building of a secure and resilient nation by providing resources to encourage innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents and building on existing regional efforts.

- The Fire Assistance Grant programs include the Assistance to Firefighter grant program (AFG), which provides grant funding for equipment and training.
- The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program which provides funding for hiring of firefighters.
- The Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) program is a federal program comprised of 28 national task forces that are specifically trained units activated and deployed by FEMA in a variety of emergencies or disasters. Sacramento supports legislation and funding which aids in wildfire prevention and mitigation plans that enable first responders to protect residents and their homes.
- The COPS Hiring grant is important to the region and is a great resource of federal funding. Sacramento was recently awarded \$1.875 million grant to hire 15 police officers, one of the largest awards in the nation.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- Advocate for the RCGPP to help communities identify and close gaps in Housing, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management.
- Fund both the AFG and SAFER grants at \$375 million each, and support the regional fire grant applications submitted to FEMA.
- Fund the US&R Program at \$50 million. Currently the program is funded at \$35 million annually.

- Support full funding for the UASI program and changes to the program that allow the FBI to transmit threat data to DHS for accurate threat risk assessments.
- Provide Full Funding for the COPS Hiring Grant program and support regional grant applications.

Sacramento requests Congress fully fund core local law enforcement, firefighter and homeland security programs that enhance the safety of residents and workers and the preservation of life and property. Sacramento strongly supports the listed public safety programs that provide federal assistance for training, equipping and education of public safety personnel to better serve the Sacramento region.

Public Safety Technology: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are proving to be an effective tool for public safety as a means of de-escalation, while increasing safety for officers and the public. In April 2021, an incremental change was made to permit part 107 pilots to fly Beyond Visual Line of Sight under the Operations Over People Rule. However, additional changes are needed to fully utilize this public safety technology.

- Request that non-federal public safety agencies be given the lawful authority to contact and detain operators and pilots for violations of CFR14 Part 107. The FAA has jurisdiction over the National Airspace and current state and local agencies are unable to enforce violations of this section.
- Request that local public safety agencies be allowed to conduct training flights under their existing Certificate of Authority (COA).

Sacramento's regional economy relies on moving goods from farms, manufacturing plants, and airports to businesses and homes across the country and throughout the world. With the passage of the infrastructure legislation, the six-county Capital Region is well positioned to leverage federal investments in transportation infrastructure over the next decade. The Sacramento Metro Chamber requests our federal partners pass a comprehensive multi-modal federal transportation funding package by streamlining project delivery, and increase cooperation among federal agencies to reduce costs associated with projects.

Transportation Funding and Policy Priorities

The Sacramento Region contains major interstate freeways, passenger and cargo airports, an inland port, freight rail lines, and dynamic public transit systems, as well as robust human services transportation programs. As a rapidly growing region of 2.4 million people — larger than 15 states — the Sacramento region is critical to the national economy and has long embraced the dynamic needs for a multi-modal transportation system that balances freeway, street, rail, and transit to move goods, services, and people both inside the region and through it.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Continue the commitment to funding all modes of transportation, including public transportation and passenger rail
- · Approve and fully fund a Transportation Authorization bill.
- Support efforts to research and test alternatives to the federal gas tax.
- Support priority projects which have strong local support and are critical to National economic interests.
- · Support a federal gas tax increase.

Transportation Infrastructure Package

Roughly 7 in 10 voters support the bipartisan infrastructure package that would inject \$1.2 trillion into revamping the nation's roads, bridges and public transit, among other things, according to a new Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll survey (www. thehill.com/homenews/senate/565958-poll-shows-broad-support-for-bipartisan-infrastructure-bill). The diversity of our urban and suburban centers in the Greater Sacramento Region will greatly benefit from a long, overdue infrastructure enhancements.

- Invest in the maintenance of our current system of roads and bridges to protect past investments.
- Approve new investments in Broadband and High-Speed Network communications to support power cutting edge industries of the future.
- Increase safety, especially on rural roads which have a fatality rate two and a half times higher per mile traveled than on urban highways.
- Support investments in innovation at transit agencies, such as route planning to effectively move people and new ideas such as micro-transit.
- Continue development and expansion of funding for transportation to access healthcare.
- Permanently solve funding shortages of The Highway Trust Fund.
- Remove the cap on airport passenger facility charges to enable airports to charge airport users to fund their infrastructure.

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Reliable, quality water supply is key to the continued economic expansion of California, the North State and the Capital Region. Meeting the region's current and future water needs will require continued investment in diversified and interconnected water infrastructure (surface water, recycled water and groundwater), augmented forestry and upper watershed management, coupled with cooperative voluntary efforts to continue good stewardship of the American, Feather and Sacramento Rivers by local agencies and other stakeholders.

REQUESTED ACTION

To increase the pace and scale of collaborative, ecological, landscape-scale forest health efforts, including mechanical thinning and prescribed burning, federal support and funding is needed.

California's forests provide a multitude of benefits including water supply and quality, ecosystem health, and carbon sequestration. However, historical management practices have contributed to thick stands of forests that are explosive tinder in the event of a wildfire. Not only are our state's headwaters and communities increasingly threatened by these fires, but they face other challenges like drought and insect infestation.

Infrastructure and Policy

- Federal support and funding to plan and build the RiverArc project through various water resource programs within the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Federal support and funding for the construction and planning of Sites Reservoir from the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIN).

- Federal support for the Voluntary Agreements from both the Biden Administration and Congress will be critical to its success. Specifically, that:
 - The Biden Administration engage in negotiations with the Newsom Administration and stakeholders to successfully complete the VAs.
 - Resolve the litigation between the federal government, State of California, public water agencies and NGOs regarding the Incidental Take Permit and the Biological Opinion.
 - Support and assist water agencies that have proposed early implementation projects to accelerate improvements for fish and wildlife, including with direct funding, a mechanism to collect fees and streamlined permitting processes.
 - Appropriate \$35 million for the Folsom Dam
 Temperature Control Device. The Temperature Control
 Device is already an authorized project by the U.S.
 Army Corps of Engineers and is awaiting a \$35 million
 appropriation.

WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

The economic growth of any region is directly related to the strength and skill of its workforce, and education is a central factor in that growth. Education can enhance quality of life and produce extensive social benefits for society. A substantial investment in pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) to 12 and higher education programs promotes productivity and creativity, and plays a crucial role in securing economic and social progress. Robust investment in Career Technical Education programs can quickly train and return citizens impacted from the COVID-19 Pandemic into productive careers, while simultaneously providing the essential workforce needed to execute proposed infrastructure programs to repair our nation's crumbling roads, bridges, schools, and other essential infrastructure needed to regain the Sacramento Region's pre-COVID-19 economic boom.

Pre-K-12 Education

Pre-K-12 education leaders across the Sacramento region are urging Members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to adopt thoughtful legislation that complements efforts to support the success of every child from cradle to career.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Support legislation which calls for the federal government to fully support schools impacted by COVID-19 and include any further targeted support for education technology and an expansion of capacity with the E-Rate program to serve public pre-K to 12 schools and communities.
- Focus funding on expanding mental and behavioral health services for all students, especially for students in crisis which interferes with their learning and behavior.
- Support programs that ensure nutritional well-being for our students including consideration of a universal access to school meal programs for all public-school students.
- Increased funding to integrate computer science into all high school industry sector career pathways.

Higher Education

Further federal investments are needed to support college students and the institutions of higher education in the Sacramento Region that collectively enroll more than 100,000 degree seeking students. Moving beyond prioritizing college access and affordability, while intentionally prioritizing student success, expanding the Pell Grant Program and investing in other federal financial aid programs will ensure that our nation has the workforce required for economic growth in the competitive global economy.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Invest further in federal financial aid programs that allow low-income students the financial flexibility to attend college while not relying on large loans. This includes doubling the maximum Pell Grant and further expanding Pell Grant eligibility.
- Support college students and institutions of higher education by prioritizing graduation and student success. This includes funding degree completion efforts and basic needs services that many students rely on.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Investment

Robust investment in CTE programs can quickly train and return citizens impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic into productive careers, while simultaneously providing the essential workforce needed to execute proposed infrastructure programs to repair our nation's crumbling roads, bridges, school, and other essential infrastructure needed to regain the Sacramento Region's pre-COVID-19 economic boom.

- Significantly increase funding for Perkins CTE State Grants in fiscal year 2022.
- Provide \$100 billion for robust COVID-19 relief funds for education and workforce development programs.
- Invest in infrastructure workforce pipeline by supporting CTE programs of Study and School facilities.



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