

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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GREATER SACRAMENTO REGION PROSPERITY STRATEGY INITIATIVES

Business Nexus

Communities and leaders in the six-county Sacramento Region adopted the Greater Sacramento Region Prosperity Strategyⁱ (Prosperity Strategy) in 2020, which serves as the region's five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) funded by and approved by the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Prosperity Strategy has an inclusive economic development framework and is managed in partnership between the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Valley Vision, Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). 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 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 Prosperity Strategy Initiatives, building upon existing EDA investments, to catalyze inclusive and equitable economic recovery, and accelerate business growth and job creation in high-wage industries, including manufacturing and resilient supply chains across all industry clusters. The Prosperity Strategy implementation will be a model for an innovative economy that is leading the transition to a carbon-free economy consistent with state and federal policies and initiatives, along with critical emerging needs and markets. Investment priorities include anchor initiatives in three competitive advantage clusters of focus that will have major regional, statewide, and national impacts: Food and Agriculture, Health and Life Sciences, and Future Mobility.

2022 Capitol-to-Capitol

For additional information, please contact, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, Brandon Black at (916) 468-3509 | bblack@metrochamber.org | www.metrochamber.org

Food and Agriculture

The **Plant@California** is a public-private partnership bringing together world-class industries in agriculture, food, health, technology, and biomanufacturing with university and innovation partners to slingshot innovations and inventions into widespread commercialization. The project will accelerate solutions to the world's agriculture, health and food challenges while strengthening communities across the region and the Central Valley. The project is led by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), in collaboration with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), local communities, and many local organizations and industry partners. It will include an incubator facility to support Ag-Food-Tech start-up commercialization, and technical, laboratory and manufacturing facilities, including biomanufacturing, foods of the future, and Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). Other Prosperity Strategy projects include food system infrastructure projects to strengthen supply chain resilience, institutional procurement, and healthy food access to underserved communities, including the Yolo Food Hub in Yolo County and the Alchemist Public Market in Sacramento.

Life Science

Aggie Square is a 25-acre innovation zone located adjacent to a federally designated Opportunity Zone. Led by UC Davis, in collaboration with the City of Sacramento and developer Wexford Science and Technology, this planned innovation hub will be home to research programs, private industry partners, classrooms, lab facilities, student housing, and public-facing programs that engage local communities and entrepreneurs. Initial findings indicate that the six-county region will receive nearly \$5 billion in new, annual ongoing economic impact, and \$2.6 billion in one-time economic impact from the construction of Aggie Square.

Future Mobility

The **California Mobility Center (CMC)**, established as an innovation hub for the global development of transportation technology, clean energy, and decarbonization, is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation recognized as tax-exempt under IRS 501(c)(3). The CMC is a public-private business partnership that provides qualifying, future mobility start-ups from around the world with a faster path to commercializing their products, services, and technologies in the California market and beyond. The CMC, developed by local and regional leaders including SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utilities District), accomplishes this by orchestrating goal-oriented, meaningful interactions between the promising start-ups in its client base and the ecosystem of members including automotive Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Tier 1 suppliers, top-tier utilities, energy companies, technology companies, fleet owners, government agencies, investors, world-class educational and workforce training colleges and advocacy groups. Areas of focus encompass smart and shared mobility solutions; fueling and charging infrastructure; zero-emissions automated and electric vehicles and robotics, including for agricultural vehicles and infrastructure companies; as well as advanced manufacturing readiness and workforce development.



Brief Background

The Greater Sacramento Region was the hardest hit in California during the Great Recession and was the last region to reach pre-Recession levels of employment. Regional leaders mobilized to develop a strong roadmap for future resilience and shared prosperity, working with the Brookings Institution in 2018 to conduct a comparative national assessment of the region. The assessment identified the region's competitive advantages in the three clusters described above, along with areas that required a strong strategic focus to improve weaknesses, including workforce skills gaps, a Digital Divide, and infrastructure needs. Regional leaders prepared the CEDS to organize the region, align assets and resources, and implement a core set of strategies for both short-term recovery and long-term resilience, with emerging opportunities for leadership in the clean economy. The region received an EDA grant in August 2021 to implement the regional economic recovery strategy through the CEDS.

A food and ag cluster partner organization, AgStart (Ag Innovation Alliance) received an EDA grant in 2020 for a major wet lab and food lab innovation center in Woodland, California. This project is highly successful, supporting a vital network of growing ag-tech start-ups, and already expanding. The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) is leading the feasibility study/business plan for The Plant@California with regional partners through a current EDA grant. In 2015 the region, in partnership with California State University, Chico, and California State University, Fresno, received a designation from EDA as an Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) along with an implementation grant for strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem for the Central Valley AgPlus Food and Beverage Manufacturing Consortium. The region has also received several EDA grants for small business financing, minority business development, and broadband. Public, civic, and private sector partners are working together for a strong regional recovery and future sustainable, equitable prosperity.

<https://www.valleyvision.org/projects/capital-region-prosperity-strategy>