



51<sup>st</sup> Annual

CAPITOL

CA — TO — DC

CAPITOL

2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

*A Metro Chamber Production*

April 22 – 26, 2023





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— TO —  
CAP

# 2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

In the Greater Sacramento Region, the strength of our business community is reflected in the strength of our advocacy efforts. For more than 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 regional impact, the Metro Chamber launched the annual Capitol-to-Capitol Program (Cap-to-Cap), taking business leaders, policy experts and elected officials to Washington, D.C. to propose policies that benefit the business community, drive economic growth,

and improve the quality of life for California's Capital Region. For nearly twenty years now, our Cap-to-Cap program has been recognized as the largest regional chamber delegation that advocates nationally every year.

From April 22 - 26, 2023 our 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

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**Meghan Phillips**

*Honey*  
**2023 Program Chair**

**Andrea Clark**

*Downey Brand, LLP*  
**2024 Program Chair**

**Jim Alves**

*SMUD*  
**2025 Program Chair**

**Councilmember Dawnté Early, PhD**

*City of West Sacramento*  
**2023 Honorary Vice Chair**

**Trish Kelly**

*Valley Vision*  
**2023 Honorary Vice Chair**

**Amanda Blackwood**

*Sacramento Metro Chamber*  
**President & CEO**

**Darrell Teat**

*Safety Center, Inc.*  
**2023 Sacramento Metro Chamber Board Chair**

## Cap-to-Cap Teams

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**Air Quality**

**Flood Protection**

**Public Safety**

**Civic Amenities**

**Food & Agriculture**

**Transportation**

**Community Resources**

**Health Care**

**Water Resources**

**Economic Development**

**Land Use & Natural Resources**

## 4-Point Business Promise

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For 128 years, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has planned for long-term success – not only 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 compass for ensuring that business, along with our region’s leaders, recognizes the value in supporting business through strategic advocacy, partnerships, and flawless execution. Our promise to the Greater Sacramento Region is to align strategy and policy for the continued success of our region and for business.

- **STRONG BUSINESS:** Provide regionwide technical assistance and direct advocacy to start, stabilize, and grow small, mid-sized and large businesses.
- **CONNECTED REGION:** Build authentic relationships, advance pro-business policy, and provide the platform for the community to engage through a variety of remote and in-person events.
- **READY WORKFORCE:** Strengthen local talent recruitment and retention through data and research, direct advocacy and Metro Chamber Foundation strategic initiatives and programs.
- **VIBRANT COMMUNITY:** Act as the leading voice in representing the business impacts of homelessness to improve public safety and spur economic vitality in the region.

## 2023 PRIORITY ISSUES

As the Sacramento Region’s leading advocate for business and economic prosperity, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has identified four critical focus areas for 2023: infrastructure investment, flood and fire protection, healthy communities, and workforce development and education.

These themes reflect a resilient regional economy, and while we continue to make a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of natural disasters, we need more support and investment from the federal government to reach our full potential.

### 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.

#### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Support federal funding for Sacramento Region priority projects which have strong local support and are critical to regional and national economic interests. Priority projects for the

mega-region include:

- I-80 and U.S. 50 Yolo Express Lanes
- ACE: Valley Rail Extension to Sacramento
- Capitol Corridor: Sacramento-Roseville Third Track
- I-5 Sacramento Express Lanes
- Implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law thoughtfully while expeditiously implementing regulations and programs.



- Fund new multimodal mobility programs, invest in the shift to clean transportation, and support innovative projects of regional significance.
  - Ensure that California, and thus the region, receives its fair share of funding for broadband infrastructure, access, adoption, and digital literacy (BEAD and Digital Equity Act funds through the IIJA)
  - Sustainably fund the Affordable Connectivity Program, given the large unmet needs nationally and in the region.
  - Support rural communities by reauthorizing and increasing funding for program priorities of broadband and communications, business and community development, and support for farmworker housing.
  - Direct available infrastructure bill funding for additional Army Corps of Engineers staffing to the district level so that additional hiring can commence to keep up with federal infrastructure investment and economic and growth in the region.
- Fund the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program at \$1 billion, and advocate for the expansion of program principles to include mitigation of risks posed by all hazards, not exclusively natural hazards.
  - Invest in integral pieces of our water future, such as the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank, Groundwater Recharge, a new Temperature Control Device and Sites Reservoir.

## **FLOOD AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Warmer temperatures and drought have made record-setting wildfires commonplace, with 18 of the California's 20 largest fires ever occurring in the past 20 years. This past year, however, we were reminded that Sacramento is also one of the most flood-prone regions in the nation. Federal funding and flood insurance modernization are badly needed to protect our people and agriculture.

## **REQUESTED ACTIONS:**

- Support Community Program Funding requests in Fiscal Year 2024 under investigations to initiate two feasibility studies (the Cache Creek Settling Basin and Upper Yuba River Basin).
- Grant the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget request to continue the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study.
- Support Community Program Funding under Construction on Natomas and provide technical, planning and design assistance under the Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure Program for the Consumnes River.
- Support the USACE budget request for West Sacramento.
- Support additional funding under Construction on Natomas and the budget request for West Sacramento.
- Include provisions in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which ease the requirements of the NFIP that do not make sense when applied to agriculture.
- Perpetuate multi-year stewardship and good neighbor authority contracts to encourage long-term forest stewardship.
- Support strategies that minimize landslides and protects waterways, natural resources, and built infrastructure.
- Fund new multimodal mobility programs, invest in the shift to clean transportation, and support innovative projects of regional significance.
- Provide adequate funding for grant and incentive programs, longer-term incentive programs to aid regional transportation-related emission reductions, innovative voluntary measures for reducing pollution, and other incentive-based funding solutions.
- Fund & Reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Programs, including at least \$360 million in Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grants, \$360 million in Staffing for Adequate

Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, and \$35 million in Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants; and support the regional fire grant applications submitted to FEMA.

- Ensure the 2023 Farm Bill remains committed to developing and supporting robust climate smart agriculture and conservation practices. Increase funding for working lands programs, including Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and easement programs.

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Sacramento region is only as strong as its people. It's essential to ensure that community members have the food, shelter, and healthcare to thrive. In a farm bill year, we have a prime opportunity to ensure that the Sacramento region's people are able to eat the quality, nutritious food that our region's agriculture produces.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Increase equitable SNAP program access by eliminating or simplifying exclusionary policies for unique populations.
- Combine the application process and delivery of WIC, SNAP (CalFresh), and Free and Subsidized School Lunch Programs, which will increase efficiency, reduce the complexity for the recipient, and reduce overall program costs.
- Provide reliable dedicated funding to certified Food Banks, with incentives for local food procurement and to employ food insecure workers.
- Support Nutrition Education, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education - SNAP-Ed.
- Provide resources for innovative community feeding programs such as Family Meal and Great Plates that were led by, and partner with, independent restaurants to provide meals to vulnerable members of the community. These

programs also helped keep workers in the industry employed.

- 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.
- 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.
- Support Sacramento's health care ecosystem by opposing any cuts to Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement.
- Reward the Sacramento Region's innovative environmental stewardship and efforts to address climate change, including investing in the Sacramento Region's Green Means Go program to accelerate infill development.
- Advocate for funding related to improving emergency communication services for our communities and public safety agencies.
- Have polluters pay for the cleanup of PFAS chemicals in our drinking water.
- Support our Voluntary Agreement to address Bay Delta Water Quality in the future.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

A booming job market has caused regional shortages in several critical industries, such as healthcare and teaching. With the Sacramento region's economy showing every sign of continuing to develop, incentives, training, certification, education, and reeducation are essential to make sure our population can meet the job demands of our changing world.

## **REQUESTED ACTIONS:**

- Expand USDA's participation in research and continue support for the University of California's world-class land grant university at Davis, and California State University agricultural research programs.
- Reauthorize and expand the National Apprenticeship Act addressing access to apprenticeships through improved data systems, reduced administrative burdens, and clear connection with existing workforce and education systems.
- Increased funding of Perkins Basic State Grant funds to address the significantly underfunded investment in short term, career-connected certificate programs.
- Federal support for universal, easy access post-secondary training accounts.
- Expand the Teacher Quality Partnership and Grow Your Own programs with added benefits to further recruit, train and retain both CTE and ECE teachers.
- Pass the JOBS Act, expand student eligibility for federal student aid and include high-quality, short-term certificate programs.
- Invest in firefighter workforce development and addressing the federal firefighter pay gap.
- Fully fund/expand funding for Title 1 and IDEA, and reauthorize Child Nutrition (CNR)
- Provide focused funding and/or incentivize expanding mental and behavioral health services for all students including reducing barriers to the integration of education and health care services.

# 400 Participants. 12 Teams. 1 Unified Vision.

Thank you to the Sacramento Metro Chamber for providing our Greater Sacramento Region the opportunity to come together and advocate for a healthier future.



# AIR QUALITY

## WILDFIRE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

The west has suffered record breaking megafires year-over-year in recent history. Decades of fire suppression, warmer average temperatures, extended drought, and inadequate vegetation management are contributing to larger, more severe, and more destructive fires; eighteen of California's largest 20 fires have been in the last 20 years. Climate change modeling predicts an acceleration of this trend. The federal government's policies, programs and funding need to support sustainable forest management at all stages to prevent the dislocation of thousands of people, strained state and federal resources, increased air pollution, impacted water supplies, and the entire offsetting of the state's significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

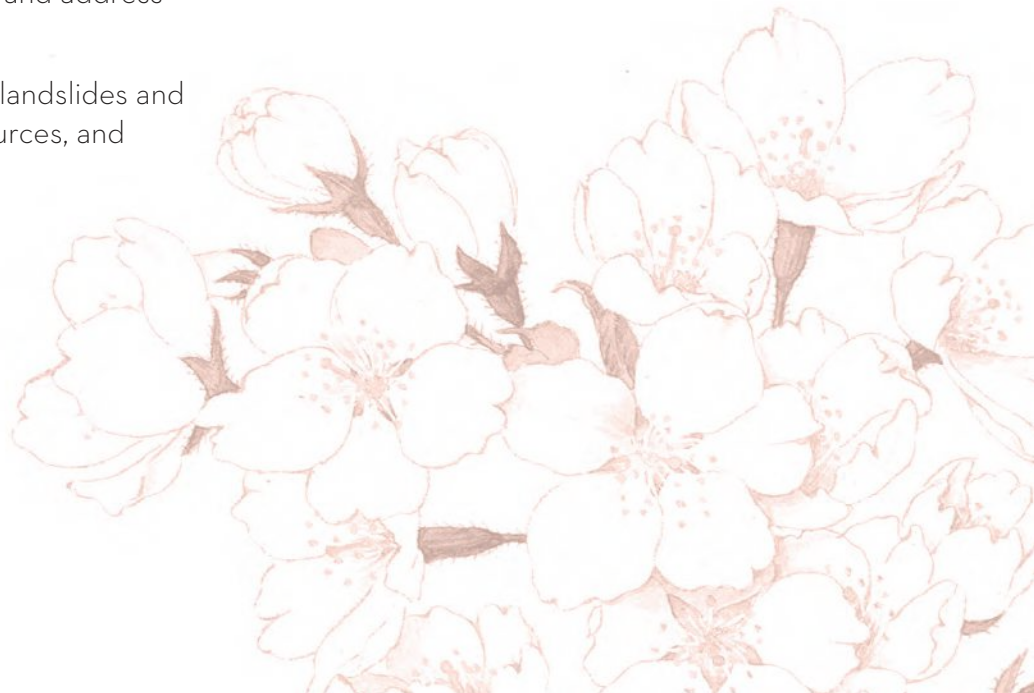
- Expand the pace and scale of forest health projects by easing project implementation, exploring tax credits and other incentives to support private investment.
- Perpetuate multi-year stewardship and good neighbor authority contracts to encourage long-term forest stewardship.
- Invest in workforce development and address the federal firefighter pay gap.
- Support strategies that minimize landslides and protects waterways, natural resources, and built infrastructure.

## FUTURE MOBILITY

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 is several times above the state average in some parts of the 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. We ask for support in securing bold and necessary investments in future-ready transportation systems that lower emissions, improve public health, and ensure equitable access to new mobility options.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Fund new multimodal mobility programs, invest in the shift to clean transportation, and support innovative projects of regional significance.
- Provide adequate funding for grant and incentive programs, longer-term incentive programs to aid regional transportation-related emission reductions, innovative voluntary measures for reducing pollution, and other incentive-based funding solutions.





## CIVIC AMENITIES

### UP ON THE ROOF

Business in the Sacramento Region thrives on a talented and diverse work force and an expanding and robust customer base. Workers and customers alike want to live in a place with a full and diverse slate of quality civic assets and amenities. Our Team, using a “Study Mission” style format, will explore the heights and depths of activating commercial building rooftops into a vibrant and dynamic draw for business and commerce.

We will look into how activated rooftops can attract people to a building where commerce happens through art installations, gardens, or peaceful spaces, and how they can be an integral part of the commerce itself (e.g. through rooftop bars and restaurants, entertainment venues, or recreation spots).



Washington D.C. skyline

## WE BELIEVE IN REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Kaiser Permanente recognizes that health happens all around us. That's why we're proud to sponsor Sacramento Metro Chamber's 51st Annual Capitol-to-Capitol Program. We share a commitment to making our communities healthier places to live, work, learn, and play.

[kp.org](http://kp.org)

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Washington Monument  
with cherry blossoms

### HOMELESS AND HOUSING RESOURCES

We urge Congress and the Biden Administration to increase funding and flexibility, which will streamline delivery across major federal homeless and housing programs to address Sacramento's dire housing crisis and rising homelessness.

#### **REQUESTED ACTIONS:**

- Increase Homeless Assistance Grant (HAG) funding to offset the eroding impact of programs due to inflation and renewal costs.
- Expand flexibility and service funding for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) and HAGs consistent with EHV allowances.
- Standardize rental assistance program flexibility to ensure CoC programs are equally competitive to other new programs and HCV.
- Change HAG cycle to a 2-year funding cycle.

### UNIVERSAL INCOME

Nearly one third of California households do not earn sufficient income to meet basic needs.\* United Way California Capital Region is part of the nationwide movement offering guaranteed income to individuals to pay for food, housing, childcare and other necessities. In 2021, our first round of guaranteed income provided \$300 a month to 100 Sacramento households. Starting July 1, 2023, another round will launch.

#### **REQUESTED ACTION:**

- The Federal government should remove barriers to guaranteed income, such as counting guaranteed income when determining eligibility for other public benefits.

\*UW California Real Cost Measure



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## GREATER SACRAMENTO REGION PROSPERITY STRATEGY INITIATIVES

The Greater Sacramento Region Prosperity Strategy, the region's EDA-designated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), is focused on equitable economic recovery and resilience. It advances several anchor initiatives which will catalyze the regional innovation ecosystem, accelerate business growth, and drive job creation and skills pathways in high-wage industries.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Secure funding for:
  - The Plant@California (Food and Agriculture), 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.
  - Aggie Square (Life Sciences), a 25-acre innovation zone located adjacent to a federally designated Opportunity Zone. Led by the University of California, 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.
  - The California Mobility Center (CMC) (Future Mobility), an innovation hub for the global development of transportation technology, clean energy and decarbonization. The CMC is public-private nonprofit 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.

## BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

The region's Digital Divide isolates more than 34,000 unserved rural/urban households, thousands more poor underserved households, agricultural areas, minority-owned and economically disadvantaged businesses, and those in older downtowns, commercial corridors, and industrial areas.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Ensure that California and thus the region receive its fair share of funding for infrastructure, access, adoption, and digital literacy (BEAD and Digital Equity Act funds through the IIJA)
- Sustainably fund the Affordable Connectivity Program, given the large unmet needs nationally and in the region.

## BUILDING REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUBS

The Greater Sacramento region is a diverse and developing innovation hub that is nurturing tradable sector-based innovation, venture building, and workforce development through long-term planning efforts like the Regional Prosperity Strategy and the efforts of newer accelerators, incubators, venture funds and ecosystem building efforts. Investment in infrastructure, cross-sector collaboration, and workforce development are necessary to sustain momentum.





Library of Congress interior ceiling

## REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Championing regional proposals aligned with CHIPS Act funding including the NSF Regional Engine and Department of Commerce Regional Technology Hub opportunities.

## IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

International trade creates wealth and high-quality jobs. Regions with strong international trade are more economically resilient than those that are only domestically focused. The Great Recession highlighted the need for the greater Sacramento region to diversify economically and increase business activity in “tradeable goods and services.”

We promote the policies, activities, and organizations that support and expand international business to improve the economy of the Sacramento region. These efforts are aligned with and support the greater Sacramento region Prosperity Strategy, the efforts of the innovation ecosystem and broadband initiatives.



SMUD is pleased to offset 1 tonne of carbon on behalf of each of the 400 Cap-to-Cap participants. This certifies that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions equivalent to one round trip flight from Sacramento to Washington, DC have been used to offset your travel.

Learn about SMUD’s bold journey to eliminate 100% of greenhouse gas emissions from our electric generation by 2030. Visit [CleanPowerCity.org](https://www.cleanpowercity.org)



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Sacramento Municipal Utility District

# FLOOD PROTECTION

The Sacramento Region remains one of the most flood-prone in the Nation. To reduce this risk, there is continued need for federal investment, especially in rural areas and disadvantaged communities. Federal investment decisions need to give fair consideration of comprehensive benefits for all communities in light of environmental justice principles. To support mitigating risk, changing FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program will be essential to support California's agricultural industry, drive the economy, and provide food for the country.

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK IN CALIFORNIA'S CAPITAL REGION

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Support funding requests for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Fiscal Year 2024 under investigations to initiate two feasibility studies.
- Continue the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study.
- Complete preconstruction, engineering and design of the Lower Cache Creek project.
- Support additional funding under Construction on Natomas and the budget request for West Sacramento.
- Support additional Operations and Maintenance funding for the Section 408 Regulatory program.

## MODERNIZE FEMA'S NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE

### REQUESTED ACTION:

- Include provisions in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to ease requirements of the NFIP that do not make sense when applied to agriculture. Specifically: allow umbrella policies where a farmer could bundle multiple low-value agricultural structures under a single policy; and allow limited construction of new agricultural structures in a floodplain when elevation or floodproofing are not practicable. Language addressing each of these issues was included in the bill that passed the House Financial Services Committee in the 117th Congress (H.R. 3167, sections 402 and 210).

## RECOGNIZING COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS IN USACE AND FEMA PROGRAMS

### REQUESTED ACTION:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should work with interested parties to develop detailed and comprehensive policies across the Federal family designed to ensure fair consideration of comprehensive benefits for all communities when developing project cost estimates.

# FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND HEALTH

The region has great agricultural abundance, but high levels of food insecurity which, along with diet-related diseases, skyrocketed during the pandemic. The number of residents served by the emergency food system more than doubled and the need for SNAP greatly increased. Food hardship is increasing as SNAP Emergency Allotments end and inflation persists.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Increase equitable SNAP program access by eliminating or simplifying exclusionary policies for unique populations.
- Combine the application process and delivery of WIC, SNAP (CalFresh), and Free and Subsidized School Lunch Programs, which will increase efficiency, reduce the complexity for the recipient, and reduce overall program costs.
- Support and increase investments in nutrition and food assistance programs to address food insecurity, strengthen local and regional food systems, and increase health:
- Provide reliable dedicated funding to certified Food Banks, with incentives for local food procurement and to employ food insecure workers.
- Support Nutrition Education, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education – SNAP-Ed.
- Provide resources for innovative community feeding programs such as Family Meal and Great Plates that were led by, and partner with, independent restaurants to provide meals to vulnerable members of the community. These programs also helped keep workers in the industry employed.
- Reduce barriers to food recovery.

## FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCY AND INSTITUTIONAL PROCUREMENT

The Sacramento region continues to invest and build upon its existing foundation for a resilient food system that includes investments for strengthening institutional procurement, reducing food and nutrition insecurity, removing barriers to federal programs, and expanding food system infrastructure such as food hubs and incubators to increase farmer and producer access to new markets. The 2023 Farm Bill provides an opportunity to support region's vital food and agricultural industry as part of the California economy: the nation's largest agricultural producer and exporter.

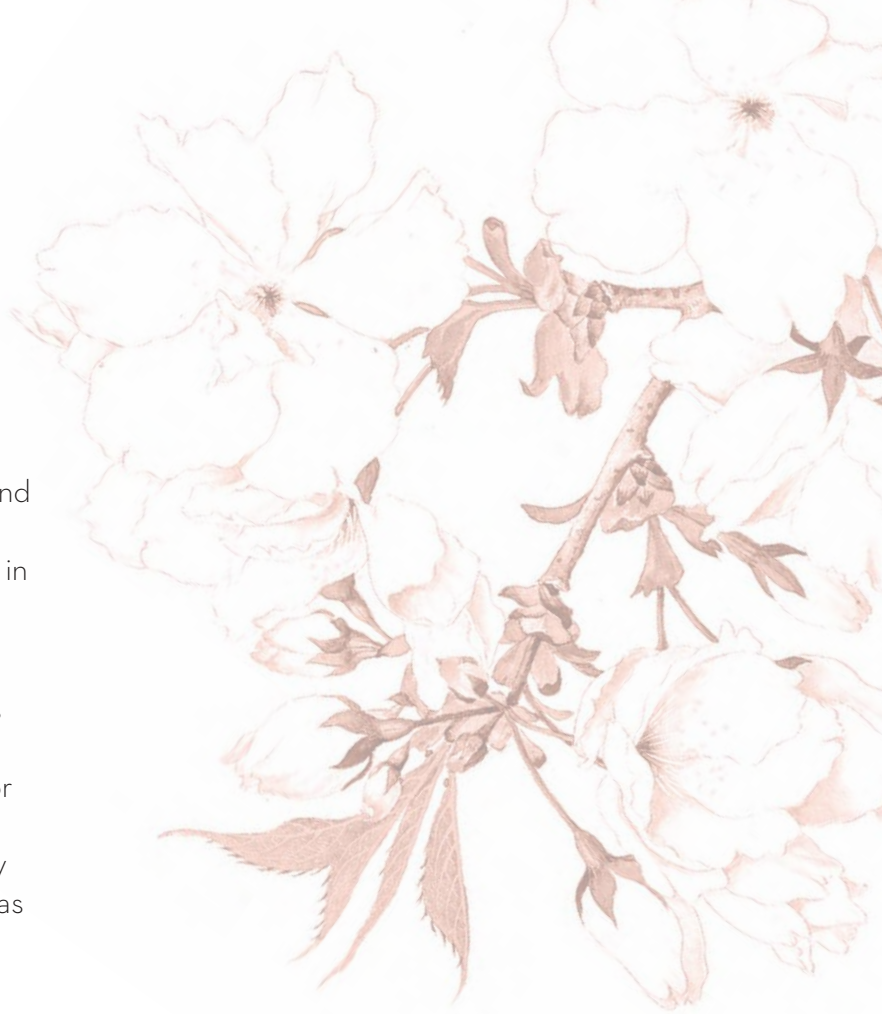
### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- 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.
- Support development of food system infrastructures 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.
- Ensure the 2023 Farm Bill remains committed to developing and supporting robust climate smart agriculture and conservation practices. Increase funding for working lands programs including Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and easement programs.
- Support Beginning and Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers.
- Ensure access for farmers to a stronger, more robust Farm Safety Net to mitigate the increasing impacts of climate risk, including floods, droughts, extreme heat events, catastrophic fires, and market volatility. This



includes improving the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program to cover higher costs.

- Expand USDA's participation in research and continue support for the University of California's world-class land grant university at Davis, and California State University agricultural research programs.
- Safeguard marketing and trade programs, including prioritizing and increasing funding and research for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP), maintaining state flexibility in the implementation of the program.
- Support rural communities by reauthorizing and increasing funding for program priorities of broadband and communications, business and community development, and support for farmworker housing. Another long-standing priority is to clarify the definition of "Rural" by census tract for funding resource allocation, as our region is often "locked out."



# clean power grid

The Clean PowerCity<sup>SM</sup> movement is happening. Our commitment to zero carbon by 2030 means we're creating more energy from completely renewable resources, accelerating clean energy with the region's first grid-scale battery farm and setting an example for the rest of the world to follow – all while providing safe, reliable and some of the most affordable energy in California.

Join the charge  
[CleanPowerCity.org](http://CleanPowerCity.org)



# HEALTH CARE

## COLLABORATION IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION

The region's health care sector – which includes four not-for-profit health systems, twenty-four hospitals, affiliated health plans, other providers across the spectrum of care, a growing bioscience industry cluster, and community-based organizations (CBOs) – has played a significant role in improving community health for decades. Through a longstanding tradition of collaborating to address the medical, mental health, and social service needs of the underserved, our system of care has created unique innovative partnerships, joint investments, and shared solutions that bring resources, build infrastructure and develop targeted programs to improve overall community health in the greater Sacramento region.

## PROTECT SACRAMENTO'S HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM

Regardless of industry, the pandemic brought challenges none of us could have imagined. While COVID-19 hospitalizations have decreased, the impacts of this unprecedented and devastating pandemic are still being felt by the health care sector. Between workforce challenges and provider burnout, financial pressures, higher incidents of mental and behavioral health care needs, and increased patient demand, the pandemic has had a ripple effect that puts stress on the entire system of care. Hospital operating margins are down 44% through November 2022 compared with 2021 and since 2019, labor expenses have spiked 16%, pharmaceutical costs have grown by 41%, and medical supply costs have jumped 19%, all while provider reimbursement remains fixed.

California's health care system is on the edge of a cliff. So we need to protect the financial solvency of our region's providers, address workforce burnout and shortages, expand access to mental and behavioral health services, embrace telehealth beyond 2024, continue support for the 340 B program and stabilize Medicare reimbursement.

## REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Support Sacramento's health care ecosystem by opposing any cuts to Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement.
- Delay or eliminate the DSH cuts so that financially struggling hospitals can continue caring for vulnerable communities and low-income individuals.
- Provide stability and sustainability in the Medicare physician fee schedule by stopping the 2% payment cuts and implementing an annual inflation update that keeps pace with the costs to provide care.
- Support legislation that will immediately address our workforce crisis and create more GME slots.
- Give greater recognition of financial hardships of hospitals, health systems and medical providers and support as we continue to recover post-pandemic.

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We're proud to have served as Greater Sacramento's partner in health for nearly a century. And we're honored to continue supporting you in all the years to come. Learn more about our comprehensive services at [DignityHealth.org/Sacramento](https://DignityHealth.org/Sacramento).

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Lincoln Memorial

### ARMY CORPS APPENDIX C AND SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

The Army Corps uses regulations that limit its scope of analysis when looking at effects on historic properties. Construction of housing, transportation and utility infrastructure, critical flood protection facilities, and commercial land use needs clarity and consistency in one aspect of federal permitting with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

#### REQUESTED ACTION:

- Urge the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the California State Historic Preservation Officer, to rescind Appendix C regulations and to develop and adopt clear guidance to implement the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regulations.

### REGIONAL GUIDANCE REQUESTED FOR THE 404 PROGRAM

The Sacramento region is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States, with a high quality of life and housing cost options that

are more reasonable than coastal alternatives. Construction of infrastructure, critical flood protection facilities, housing of all types and retail centers and business parks are affected by the Corps of Engineers' wetland permit processes. Two areas of uncertainty currently exist in the Sacramento Region in administration of the 404 Program: Waters of the U.S. jurisdiction and timing of mitigation implementation.

#### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Clarify guidance on the process that will follow the *Sackett* ruling. We would like to urge the Corps to provide clear guidance to District staff on the impact (if any) on the jurisdiction of wetlands and Waters of the U.S., and on how the Corps will handle existing permits, so we may act in concert with Corps field staff.
- 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.
- Direct available infrastructure bill funding for additional staffing to the district level so that additional hiring can commence to keep up with federal infrastructure investment and economic and growth in the region.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY

Emerging technology can drastically improve safety for first responders and the public alike, but the laws have not evolved as fast as these technologies, such as drones or Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). Further, there is a vital need for funding improvements to our emergency communication services, and investments into workforce development and technological advancements.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Advocate for funding to improve emergency communication services for our communities and public safety agencies.
- Support legislation that allows for enforcement of airspace violations committed while operating drones.
- Support exceptions to airspace regulations when they improve public safety.
- Support workforce development and technological advancements made possible due to the CHIPS and Science Act.

## REGIONAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Regional public safety entities and the Federal Government share a common goal of helping ensure that our communities are safe. Through strategic partnerships, grants and funding opportunities, and an increase in collaboration, we can accomplish just that.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Fund the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program at \$1 billion, and advocate for the expansion of program principles to include mitigation of risks posed by all hazards, not exclusively natural hazards.
- Fund & Reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Programs, including at least \$360 million in Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grants, \$360 million in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, and \$35 million in Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants, and support the regional fire grant applications submitted to FEMA.
- Support full funding for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program.
- Fund the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Program (US&R) at \$50 million. The program has been level funded for the past several years while program costs for equipment and labor have greatly increased. An increase of program funding to FEMA will directly support the sponsoring task forces.
- Provide full funding for the COPS Hiring Grant Program and support regional grant applications.
- Support efforts to allocate funding for Mobile Integrated Health Units and Mobile Crisis Response Teams, and de-escalation training.
- Maintain funding for the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) to help communities identify and close gaps in Housing, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management.

# TRANSPORTATION

## TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES

The Sacramento Region relies on major interstate freeways, passenger and cargo airports, freight and passenger rail lines, light rail, an inland port, transit systems, and human service transportation programs. A key player in the national economy, the region requires a multi-modal transportation system that balances freeway, street, rail, air, and transit to move goods, services, and people throughout. Federal support to further strengthen the Sacramento Region's goods movement infrastructure will pay dividends in fostering economic growth.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Support federal funding for Sacramento Region priority projects which have strong local support and are critical to regional and national economic interests. Priority projects for the mega-region include:
  - I-80 and U.S. 50 Yolo Express Lanes
  - ACE: Valley Rail Extension to Sacramento
  - Capitol Corridor: Sacramento-Roseville Third Track
  - I-5 Sacramento Express Lanes
- Implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law thoughtfully while expeditiously implementing regulations and programs.
- Reward the Sacramento Region's innovative environmental stewardship and efforts to address climate change, including investing in the Sacramento Region's Green Means Go program to accelerate infill development.
- Continue the commitment to funding all modes of transportation, particularly transit services which benefit both urban and rural communities.
- Identify sustainable transportation funding sources.





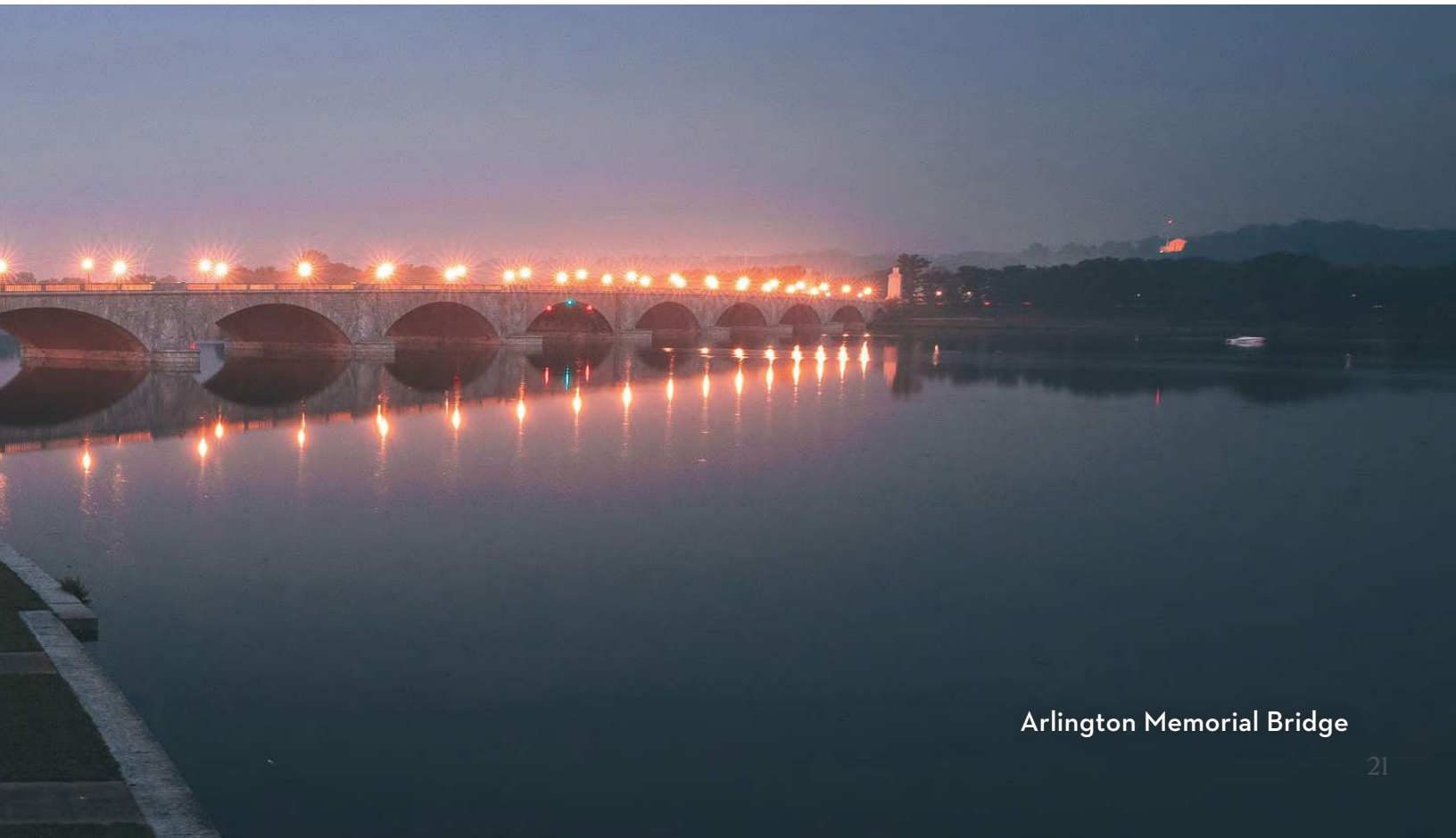
# WATER RESOURCES

## NATURAL DISASTERS ARE AN ONGOING THREAT

Support for water resources infrastructure investment is critical to the Sacramento region being able to adapt to a drier future. Over the last year California has experienced “weather whiplash”, oscillating between heavy rain and snow events to severe droughts, and even setting new records of extreme wet and dry periods in the same year. Managing our water resources has become an incredible challenge. The existing water system that was built in the 20th century does not meet the test of 21st century weather. Without adaptation, that system will be overwhelmed by the wet periods and incapable of withstanding longer, hotter, dry periods.

## REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Invest in integral pieces of our water future, such as the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank, Groundwater Recharge, a new Temperature Control Device and Sites Reservoir.
- Have polluters pay for the cleanup of PFAS chemicals in our drinking water.
- Support our Voluntary Agreement to address Bay Delta Water Quality in the future.



Arlington Memorial Bridge

# WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

## ACCELERATED ALIGNED LEARNING PATHWAYS

The Sacramento Region is a diverse community of more than 2.5 million people with major industries in healthcare, agriculture and technology. Seamless transitions between systems are needed, and accelerated pace of change within occupations and industries requires investment in rapid training, retraining, and certification programs to meet industry demand for skilled workers. Additionally, removing unnecessary regulatory barriers and administrative burdens allows for responsive and flexible learning models to meet the diverse needs of students, jobseekers, and employers.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Reauthorize and thoughtfully reform WIOA at funding levels necessary to address United States worker competitiveness and increase alignment between programs utilizing strategic performance measures across systems.
- Reauthorize, and expand the National Apprenticeship Act addressing access to apprenticeships through improved data systems, reduced administrative burdens, and clear connection with existing workforce and education systems.
- Increased funding of Perkins Basic State Grant funds to address the significantly underfunded investment in short term, career connected certificate programs.
- Federal support for universal, easy access post-secondary training accounts.

## ADDRESSING THE TEACHER SHORTAGE

More than half of school districts in the nation report teacher shortages. The lack of quality and diverse teaching staff severely impacts student achievement, especially for students of color and those with special needs. Additionally, low pay hinders

recruitment and retention of Career Technical Education teachers, causing program closures with STEM, Health Science, and Manufacturing experiencing the largest shortages. Furthermore, the region and nation are experiencing a critical shortage of Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers needed to provide quality education and care for our talent base.

### REQUESTED ACTION:

- Broaden federal support for the education workforce by offering tax relief, fully funding Title II and eliminating bureaucratic barriers.
- Expand the Teacher Quality Partnership and Grow Your Own programs with added benefits to further recruit, train and retain both CTE and ECE teachers.
- Clarify, simplify, and expand loan forgiveness, including for CTE and ECE teachers.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO LEARNING AND SUPPORT

Investment in education through expanding access to learning and support produces extensive benefits for society including increased productivity and creativity. The Greater Sacramento region stands to benefit from ongoing and sustained resources that reinforce a solid foundation of high-quality education and expand access to participation in educational opportunities for all.

### REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Pass the JOBS Act, expand student eligibility for federal student aid, and include high-quality, short-term certificate programs.
- Reauthorize Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- Grant a waiver to California to adopt higher income thresholds for working families to be eligible for Head Start.

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