

CAPITOL-TO-CAPITOL

SACRAMENTO, CA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESENTED BY **DIGNITY HEALTH** AND **WESTERN HEALTH ADVANTAGE**
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES
APRIL 13 - 17, 2024



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In California’s Capital Region, the strength of our business community is reflected in the strength of our advocacy efforts. The Sacramento Metro Chamber recognizes that our business community, representing six counties and 22 cities, is stronger when working and collaborating together.

To maximize our collective regional impact, the Metro Chamber launched the Capitol-to-Capitol program (Cap-to-Cap), that takes business leaders, policy experts, and elected officials to Washington, D.C. annually to propose policies that benefit the business community and

workforce, drive economic growth, and improve the quality of life for the greater six-county region. For nearly 20 years, the Cap-to-Cap program has been recognized as the largest regional chamber delegation that advocates nationally every year.

From April 13 – 17, 2024 the Cap-to-Cap delegation, represented through 13 policy teams, will collectively advocate on the most pressing policy needs in the region. This report summarizes those policy priorities that will benefit our region for generations to come.

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2024 PRIORITY ISSUES

As the leading advocate for business and economic growth in California's Capital Region, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has identified three pivotal areas of public policy focus for 2024:

- **Strategic Investments in Infrastructure**
- **Enhancing Regional Resilience and Sustainability**
- **Fostering an Innovative Economic Environment**

California's Capital Region, encompassing of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties, is experiencing a promising resurgence and strong momentum toward its recovery from the economic downturn and public health impacts triggered by the pandemic, impacts even further exacerbated by a series of natural disasters. This resurgence lays a solid foundation to advance catalytic projects and key priorities that can generate needed opportunity and greater prosperity for our regional economy and communities.

However, the geographic region sits on the front line of climate risk, making swift and proactive action critical to avoid, minimize, and mitigate harmful impacts across all levels of infrastructure. Our region must prepare for a climate-ready future by implementing effective adaptation strategies in pursuit of bolstering and sustaining our position as a global center of innovation and sustainability. Continued investment and policy support from the federal government remains crucial to achieving these goals to help safeguard the health, safety, and resilience of our environment, economy, workforce, and communities.

Strategic Investments in Infrastructure

As economies, communities, and technologies change, our infrastructure needs and investments require different responses. This includes both physical infrastructure that moves people, goods, and commerce as well as the backbone infrastructure and foundational systems needed for effective and cohesive public safety, health services, and digital connectivity for the delivery of technology-reliant services. Even given historic federal and state investments in broadband, new funding is needed to ensure that every institution, household, and business is connected and successful.

- **Policy Teams Advocate for:** Supportive infrastructure policies and specific federal investments in our transportation systems, housing, and digital infrastructure.

Enhancing Regional Resilience and Sustainability

While the Capital Region has access to abundant water resources, it remains one of the country's most at-risk regions for destructive flood events. Additionally, climate change has led to intense periods of precipitation, prolonged dry weather and extreme heat spells, freezes, and record-setting wildfires throughout Northern California. Recent studies have identified that a single fire in the Sierra Nevada can release more carbon than the reductions achieved in an entire decade of tailpipe emission regulation. The boom or bust cycles of precipitation have driven significant innovation in our flood and water infrastructure planning, investment, and project development, including through long-standing partnerships with federal agencies and many others. Increasingly, frequent wildfires have spawned innovative partnerships that are tackling landscape scale forest health initiatives, returning resilience of our headwaters, and have challenged the region to implement hardening measures and a re-evaluation of how we build.

- **Policy Teams Advocate for:** Changes in federal policy and additional funding to support our resilience and adaptation strategies in flood protection, forest health, air quality, and water supply reliability are critical to protect residents, valuable agricultural and forest resources, environmental harms, and the overall economy.

Fostering an Innovative Economic Environment

California's Capital Region is at the forefront of innovation for biotechnology, agricultural technology, and clean energy technology, with a global competitive advantage and emerging competitive strengths setting us uniquely apart from other regions. We aim to keep this momentum driving forward in these and other industries of the future by making necessary investments in our education, facilities, and technology assets, leveraging new federal investment in our partnerships to strengthen our economic strategy and our innovation ecosystem.

- **Policy Teams Advocate for:** Ongoing support for innovation and tech hubs to support advancements in transportation, agriculture, and workforce development to ensure the Capital Region keeps a competitive edge and participates effectively in building an innovative economy for today and tomorrow.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

AIR QUALITY

Investments to Reduce Air and Climate Pollution

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 created the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG) that seeks to fund ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and other harmful pollution. Facilitated by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District), the Capital Region Climate Priorities Plan is the seven-county coordinated response to compete for CPRG. The Plan identifies opportunities for three categories of climate action in the region: natural and working lands, transportation, and the built environment.

- **Requested Action:** Congressional support for the region's CPRG application, which is composed of 24 distinct measures including 10 Built Environment Measures, eight Transportation Measures, and six Natural and Working Land Measures.

A Climate Resilient Capital Region

The Capital Region faces a range of climate-related threats, which have compounding effects on lives and livelihoods. The region has experienced a series of devastating wildfires, flood events, and other emergencies in recent years. These include the 2017 Oroville Dam crisis, the 2021 Caldor Fire,

and record-breaking heat in the summer of 2022 causing an energy emergency statewide to avoid rolling blackouts. In the winter of 2023, the region faced multiple atmospheric rivers resulting in an urban loss of an estimated 1,000 trees within the city of Sacramento, flooding in the rural areas of the region, and widespread power outages.

A Climate Resilient Capital Region is a new multi-agency collaborative representing six-counties that is developing a coordinated seven-agency multi-benefit approach to climate resilience and that seeks support based on the acknowledgment that the region faces a wide range of climate-related threats. The projects and programs outlined are part of a multi-benefit and multi-agency approach to a resilient region. Many of these projects and programs seek future funding in the next few years.

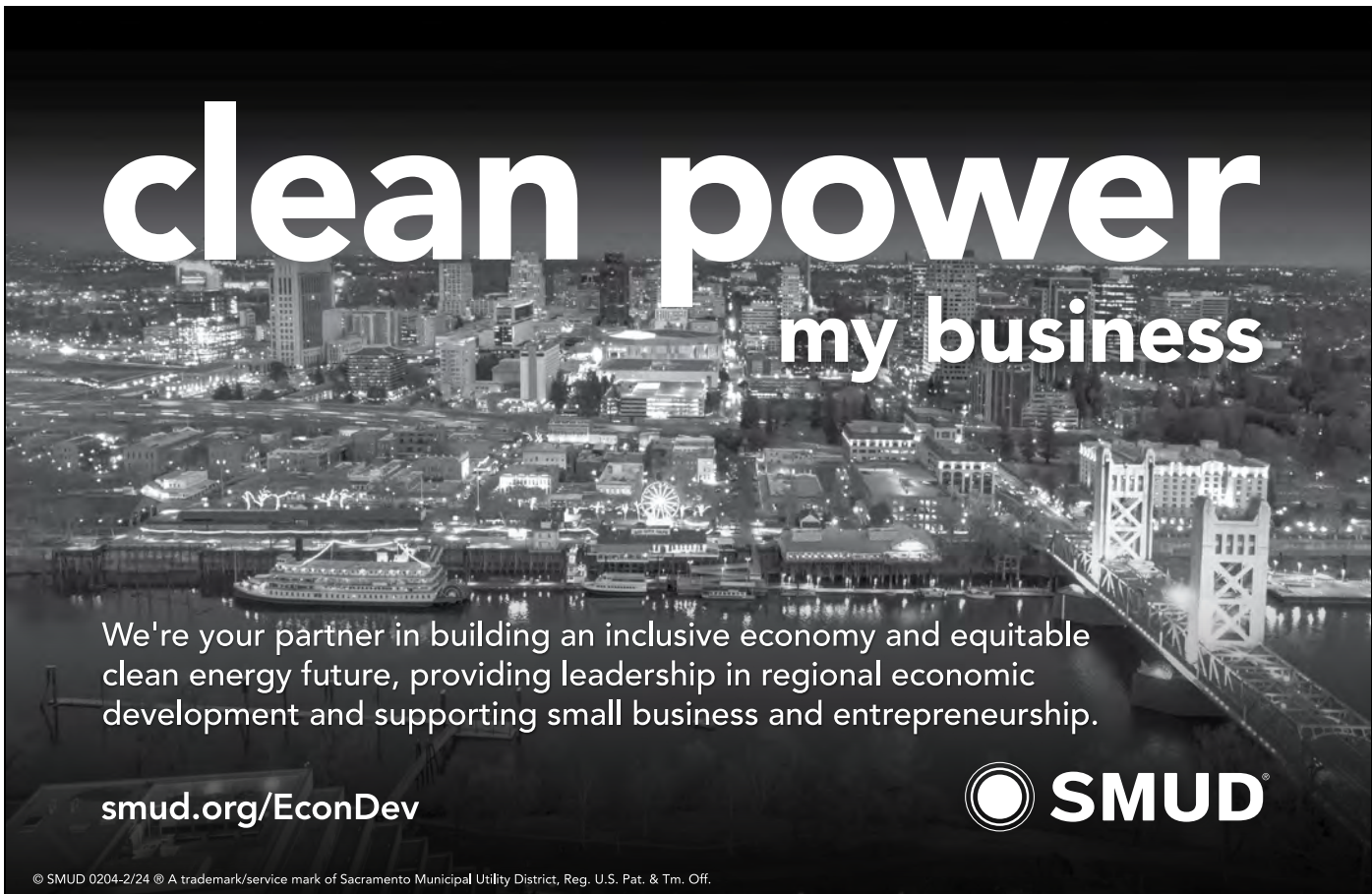
- **Requested Action:** Financial support for actions to protect critical assets (e.g., wildfire mitigation, defensible space, and ignition resistant construction), address our water supply (e.g., Water Bank, Natomas Basin Reconstruction), adjust how we grow (e.g., Green Means Go, low-floor light rail vehicles), and launch new initiatives (e.g., Cool Region Initiative).



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 52nd Annual Capitol-to-Capitol Program. We share a commitment to making our communities healthier places to live, work, learn, and play.

To learn more about how to thrive at Cap-to-Cap, and to register for our Thrive Bike Tour, scan the QR code or visit kpssc.org/cap-to-cap.



clean power my business

We're your partner in building an inclusive economy and equitable clean energy future, providing leadership in regional economic development and supporting small business and entrepreneurship.

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CIVIC AMENITIES

Transforming Underutilized Spaces

Businesses and communities in the Capital Region thrive on a talented and diverse work force, an expanding/robust customer base, and a sense of place. Residents, workers, and customers alike want to live in and visit a place with a full and diverse slate of quality civic assets and amenities. This year, our program theme is “Transforming Underutilized Spaces.”

The Civic Amenities Team will explore once underutilized spaces that have been transformed into economic centers, community assets and areas that are a vibrant and dynamic draw for business. We will visit transformed parking lots, natural spaces, cemeteries, and other land use types that with programming, partners, and creative thinking and strategic planning can be an asset to the community.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Resilience in Action: Expanding Flexibility and Funding to Prevent Homelessness and Meet Housing Needs

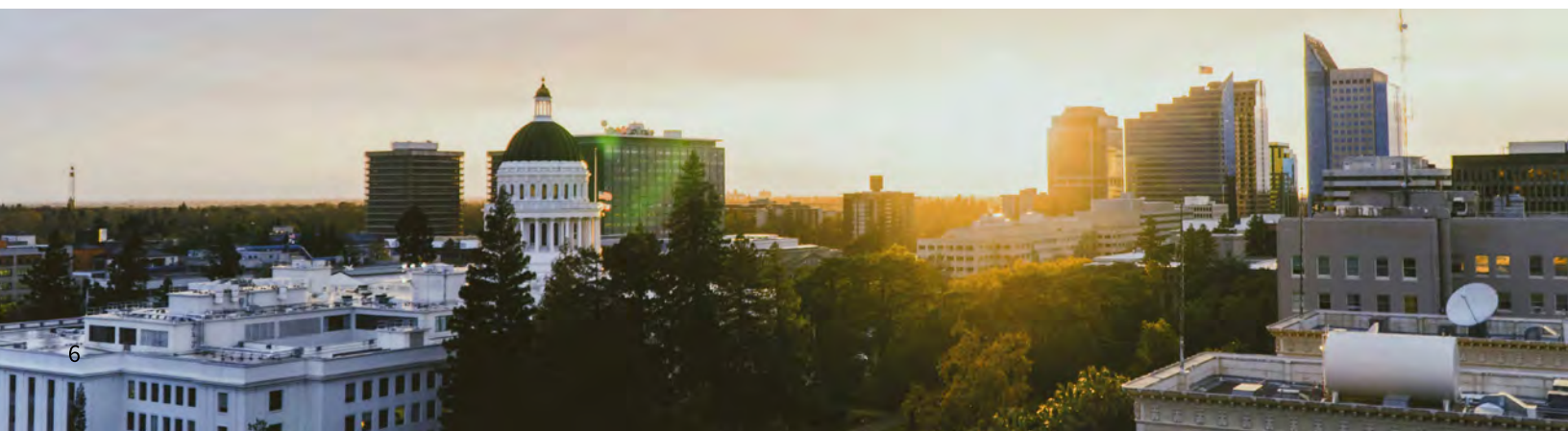
In California, like other states across the country, the continued crises of limited housing supply, growing homelessness, and increasing climate-related disasters validate the imperative to build and retain safe, affordable housing. These compounded emergencies are a call to action for us all to secure a brighter and resilient future for the next generation of Californians. The Capital Region’s severe housing shortages and increasing homelessness illustrate the critical need to retain and expand safety net programs, increase program flexibility to prevent households from experiencing homelessness, and invest in safe, affordable housing.

- **Requested Action:** Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, strengthen connections between health care and housing for homeless families, and continue investments and COVID-era program waivers and flexibility within homeless programs to effectively build stronger community resilience.

Building Strong Foundations: Financial Empowerment through Public Benefits Coordination and Innovation

A household with adequate financial resources is equipped to manage expected and unexpected expenses and achieve financial stability. Yet too many households, often communities of color and women, struggle to meet basic housing needs. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, nearly 76 percent of Californians living in poverty under age 65 had at least one working adult. Our region’s safety net community is working to find solutions to financial and housing stability for at risk populations and incentivize them to acquire skills, training, and education that can lead to increased earning potential, meaningful employment, and self-sufficiency.

- **Requested Action:** Support innovative pilot programs that create housing stability for at risk populations with incentives to acquire skills, training, and education that leads to increased earning potential, meaningful employment, and self-sufficiency; Empower federal agencies to implement integrated and flexible rules so that participants receiving SNAP, TANF, Social Security, or other benefits are not penalized for engaging in financially empowering programs; Simplify requirements on local jurisdictions and community-based organizations charged with implementation; and Support the House-passed Tax Bill that would expand the Child Tax Credit for 16 million low-income children.



Proudly serving our patients and region as Sacramento's #1 hospital

We take pride in advancing health and improving lives in new ways, here at home and beyond.

As Sacramento's No. 1 hospital as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, we're honored to bring together research and innovation to understand what makes our patients and region unique — so our communities can be stronger and healthier.

There are many ways that we provide extraordinary care, including:

- World-class expertise from doctors rated 4.8 out of 5 stars by patients
- 150 specialties with nationally ranked care in heart, maternity and more
- Sacramento's only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center, offering early stage clinical trials and the latest diagnosis and treatment options
- 17 convenient clinics with telehealth options for urgent needs and same-day video visits
- Magnet® designation — the nation's highest recognition for nursing excellence
- Home to the region's only nationally ranked, comprehensive children's hospital

Learn more about our services and find a doctor you connect with today!

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Leverage the Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainable Economic Development

California's Capital Region is a hub for economic growth fueled by inclusive economic development and sustainability. The region's well-known research and innovation capabilities in agricultural and biological sciences, driven by UC Davis and the region's agrifood tech and life sciences industries, incubators, labs, and entrepreneurs, offer cross-cutting potential for capturing even greater economic benefit across industries. These innovations are contributing to solutions for strong regional economies, and major global challenges of human, animal, and environmental health. The region's economic strategy includes strengthening this important industry cluster, capitalizing on new innovation assets such as the UC Davis-led Aggie Square in the city of Sacramento, the Woodland Research and Technology Park, and The Plant@ California, led by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and uniting the food, ag, tech, and bio industries; securing funding to advance key projects; and bridging the quality job gap. Emphasizing the need for additional tools and ecosystem cohesion to maximize commercialization and cluster-building, this strategic plan aims to create high-quality jobs and lead the region to the next level of impact statewide and nationally.

- **Requested Action:** Invest in innovation hubs, which will have impacts across the region-wide innovation ecosystem; Invest in regional Entrepreneurial Support Organizations building our food, health, and life sciences innovation ecosystem; Advance our region as a key recipient for federal funding to support tech hubs and other R&D investments and seek appropriations for a second round of EDA-funded tech hubs supported by the Administration and Congress; and Support workforce development and training in plant and life sciences through industry-led partnerships with the region's community colleges and four-year institutions.

Strengthen the Economic Impact of the Food and Agriculture Economy

California's Capital Region is home to a well-established and competitive food and agriculture cluster that encompasses virtually every aspect of food production, processing and manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and wholesale and retail sales. The working lands of the Capital Region have powered the area economy since before California gained statehood in 1850. Core natural assets of abundant fertile farmland, water resources, an advantageous Mediterranean climate, forested expanses, and location as part of the Great Central Valley's global food center are boosted by the presence of UC Davis, the world's

number two leading university for agriculture and forestry. The region's growers produce a large variety of high-value specialty crops, including rice, walnuts, apples, and wine grapes, with a direct farmgate value of \$2.2 billion in 2022. The working lands industry contributed more than \$12 billion to the regional economy in 2018, not including the benefits of the research and technology sector led by UC Davis, hospitality, and agritourism. Promoted as America's Farm to Fork Capital, the region garners a significant and diverse agritourism industry.

- **Requested Action:** Support the development of the Woodland Research and Technology Park for food processing, research, and lab facilities; Invest in the Yolo Food Hub facility; Support investment in the Working Lands Cluster initiatives, including through EDA and SBA Regional Innovation Cluster programs; Support Farm Bill 2024 Titles for investments in agricultural research, development, and extension; and Support federal investments in broadband connectivity for food and agriculture enterprises.

Drive Economic Growth Through Clean Tech, Mobility, and Advanced Manufacturing Innovation

California's Capital Region stands at the cusp of a transformative economic journey, particularly in the clean tech, semiconductor, and advanced manufacturing sectors. The Economic Development Team's objectives include strengthening industry clusters, fostering innovation through workforce development, solidifying regional leadership in clean tech and semiconductors, addressing regulatory concerns, enhancing strategic positioning, securing funding, building collaborative partnerships, and bridging the quality job gap. Our aim is to create more high-quality jobs in those sectors by emphasizing the need for advanced manufacturing and precision manufacturing.

- **Requested Action:** Support the development of an innovation ecosystem to drive research and development in targeted sectors; Pursue federal funding for clean tech and semiconductor initiatives; Advocate for a regulatory framework that supports growth in clean tech and semiconductor industries; Support the development of industry cluster initiatives with a focus on clean tech and semiconductors, emphasizing advanced and precision manufacturing; and Address the quality job gap by prioritizing workforce development programs to meet the specific needs of the clean tech and semiconductor industries.

FLOOD PROTECTION

Modernize FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program for Agriculture

The Capital Region is surrounded by agricultural lands that are protected by levee systems, yet remains one of the most flood-prone in the nation. Agriculture is a huge economic driver for the country and essential from a national security perspective, but the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) interfere with the sustainability of this vital economic driver. Continued federal investment is needed to reduce flood risk. Improvements to existing flood infrastructure and streamlined processes for local-led improvements are critical in reducing life safety risk, protecting tens of billions of dollars of existing infrastructure, and supporting economic growth. Changing FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program will be essential to mitigate risk, support California’s agricultural industry, drive the economy, and provide food for the country.

- **Requested Action:** Include provisions in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which ease existing requirements of the NFIP that do not make sense when applied to agriculture; 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.

Infrastructure Investments to Reduce Flood Risk

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 this flood risk is critical to the social and economic stability of our region but will only be achieved through a streamlined process of improving the existing levee, bypass, and water conveyance system.

- **Requested Action:** Congressional support for federal investment to support projects is essential to reducing flood risk for the urbanized population centers and rural agricultural areas vital to the California’s Capital Region and the nation’s economy. There are eight projects and programs that the Flood Protection Team requests support, either for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 2024 Workplan and/or Fiscal Year FY 2025 appropriations. Briefly, these include: support the FY



Getting better never stops.

Sutter Health is on a mission to expand access to digitally connected, high-quality healthcare. Over the past 10 years, we’ve invested more than \$7.6 billion in new care centers and lifesaving technology, expanding telehealth and critical care in our communities. Sutter is 57,000 people who never stop caring for 3.4 million Californians.

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2025 budget request under Investigations to continue the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study; Support FY 2024 Workplan and/or Community Project Funding request for Cache Creek Settling Basin feasibility study; Support the FY 2025 budget request under Construction for the Natomas Levee Improvement and the West Sacramento projects; Support the FY 2024 Workplan for Sacramento River Bank Protection Program; Support the Community Project Funding request to continue technical, planning and design assistance under the Section 219 Program for Sacramento-San Joaquin

Delta (Cosumnes River); Support additional funding under Operations and Maintenance in FY 2024 Workplan and FY 2025 budget for the Section 408 regulatory program at the enacted FY 2023 level; and Support funding in the FY 2025 budget request for Scheduling Reservoir Operations, California for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) for New Bullards Bar Dam, Yuba River and Oroville Dam, Feather River.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Security and Health

The Capital Region has great agricultural abundance, but high levels of food insecurity and diet-related diseases have skyrocketed since the end of the Emergency Food Allotments in March 2023. Along with increases in food prices and housing costs in 2023, conditions have strained the emergency food system, which has seen a 50 percent increase in residents served since the start of the pandemic. The need for SNAP (Cal-Fresh) and other food assistance programs has greatly increased. At the same time, waivers which improved access to needed programs for eligible residents have ended. The White House Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition has a call to action to end hunger. Regional partners mobilized during the pandemic to pioneer creative and now proven solutions to food and nutrition security challenges, that merit investment in our region and inclusion in national strategies, along with progress on the 2024 Farm Bill and other legislative priorities.

- **Requested Action:** Increase equitable SNAP program access by eliminating or simplifying exclusionary policies, including removing outdated restrictions for higher ed students, and repeal the three-month time limit on SNAP benefits for certain working age adults; Include the Capital Region as a demonstration site for the bi-partisan “Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Pilot Act” (HR 6780); Support and increase investments in nutrition and food assistance programs to address food insecurity, strengthen local and regional food systems, and increase health; Provide full funding for WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program; Provide reliable additional dedicated funding to certified Food Banks for local food procurement, storage and distribution, and edible food recovery; and Provide resources for innovative community feeding programs such as Family Meals, which is led by independent restaurants, to provide nutritious meals to vulnerable community members.

Resilient Food Systems and Infrastructure

The Capital Region’s vibrant agricultural economy is generating innovative solutions to meet global food challenges while supporting a more resilient and equitable food system locally. With its renowned food and agricultural assets, the region is poised to scale its impact as a global center of innovation-driven sustainable food systems, building upon the successful federal investment. This includes its new leadership role in the USDA-funded Southwest Regional Food Business Center. Priorities to address system food system challenges and accelerate economic recovery include strengthening institutional procurement of local foods and expanding our food system infrastructure to increase economic opportunities for local growers, producers, and communities. The 2024 Farm Bill and proposed legislation are opportunities to support our vital food and ag economy.

- **Requested Action:** Invest in development of food system infrastructure for projects in the pipeline, such as food hubs, research and technology facilities, food processing facilities, innovation centers, incubators, and commercialization facilities; Support Farm Bill and other legislation to include funding for specialty crop mechanization and automation projects, and reauthorize and reduce barriers to make it easier for growers and producers to access Federal funding to invest in local food systems; Direct USDA to shift towards more locally aligned food procurement; Maintain or expand funding for investments in agricultural research and advancing technologies; Support climate programs and investments for working lands on the frontline dealing with climate change; Ensure a more robust farm safety net and expand opportunities for specialty crops; and Clarify the definition of “Rural” used for Federal funding allocations that currently lock the Region out from rural programs.

HEALTH CARE

Collaboration in California’s Capital Region

The Capital Region’s health care sector, which comprises nonprofit health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and other providers, stands as a cornerstone in enhancing community health and well-being. With a rich tradition of collaboration, this network has navigated challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, to address the diverse medical, mental health, and social service needs of the underserved population. The collective commitment of the health care sector underscores a shared vision of improving health outcomes, fostering resilience, and promoting equity across the region. By leveraging collaborative partnerships and innovative solutions, the sector is poised to navigate evolving challenges and continue its mission of serving the diverse needs of the community.

Key Highlights:

- **Community Investment:** The health care entities have invested billions in community benefits bolstering health equity and supporting underserved communities.
- **Workforce Development:** Amidst COVID-19 impacts and looming shortages, initiatives like the Joy of Medicine program and the Future of Medicine program aim to mitigate burnout and rebuild the health care workforce pipeline.
- **FQHCs and Community Care:** FQHCs, with support from health systems, provide integrated care to underserved populations, extending services beyond traditional boundaries.
- **Homelessness Initiatives:** Collaborative efforts like the Sacramento Regional Funders Collaborative aim to address homelessness systematically, with investments in housing placements and supportive services.
- **Mental Health Support:** Despite advancements, gaps persist in the behavioral health treatment system that make enhanced cooperation and communication necessary to ensure accessible, high-quality care.
- **Emergency Care Management:** A public awareness campaign seeks to optimize emergency medical resources by educating the community on appropriate care usage, alleviating strain on the system.

Protect Sacramento’s Health Care Ecosystem

The region’s health care system faces significant challenges, including workforce shortages, financial pressures, and increased mental and behavioral health care needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Telehealth has become essential in providing equitable access to care, and permanent extension of telehealth flexibilities is necessary beyond 2024. Ensuring the safety of caregivers is paramount, with legislation like the SAVE Act needed to deter violence against health care workers. Efforts to improve crisis response, including geo-routing for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, are essential. Lastly, support for programs like the 340B drug discount program is critical for maintaining access to care for the uninsured and underinsured. Failure to address these issues risks compromising health care access for the most vulnerable populations.

- **Requested Action:** We urge Congress to support the Capital Region’s ecosystem of hospitals, health systems, community health centers, and other providers by: Opposing any future cuts to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates; Restoring and maintaining Medicare physician payment cuts; and, Stabilizing Medicare Advantage rates. Additionally, preserving funding for community health centers and opposing any “site neutral” payment cuts to hospital outpatient departments is critical. To address workforce shortages, legislation is needed to increase Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots and support nursing workforce development.

LAND USE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Regional Guidance Requested for Section 404 Program

The timely construction of housing, retail and commercial services, infrastructure, and critical flood protection facilities, among other uses, in the Capital Region can be thwarted by delays in the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permitting program which regulates discharges into “waters of the United States” (WOTUS). Recent changes to the definition of WOTUS and the Sackett v. EPA decision have created additional confusion about the scope and extent of waters and wetlands regulated pursuant to Section 404, creating difficulty to determine the most appropriate and expeditious path of regulatory compliance, and limiting flexibility for implementing mitigation.

- **Requested Action:** Direct the USACE and the USEPA to issue practical guidance to assist project applicants in determining which waters and wetlands qualify as WOTUS after Sackett and provide opportunities for the regulated community to provide input as this guidance is developed; and Direct the USACE to continue honoring jurisdictional determinations issued by USACE before Sackett.

Endangered Species Act and Streamlined Permitting

General Conservation Plans provide a comprehensive strategy to promote the long-term conservation of identified species while allowing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service to work more efficiently and effectively with landowners in the region to ensure their compliance under the Endangered Species Act.

- **Requested Action:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) should explore the feasibility of developing a General Conservation Plan (GCP) for geographic areas in the Capital Region that are not already governed by an existing habitat conservation plan (HCP) to streamline Incidental Take Permitting under Section 10 of the Federal ESA.

Army Corps Appendix C and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has historically used Appendix C for actions affecting historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of a new rulemaking effort, USACE would instead rely on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulations, in consultation with Tribal Nations and ACHP.

- **Requested Action:** Urge USACE, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, to consult with the regulated community in its development of new procedures to implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regulations.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Emerging Technologies and Public Safety

Businesses benefit when communities are vibrant, healthy, and safe. Ensuring the safety of our region's business owners, residents, and visitors is a top priority for public safety agencies across our multi-county region. Developing policies and federal programs to strengthen emerging technologies that improve first responder safety is crucial for vibrant communities and further allows public safety employees to better serve citizens. The Public Safety team, a coalition of first responders, elected officials, business leaders, and community members, urges our federal partners to fund programs supporting such advancements, alongside advocating for responsible artificial intelligence (AI) policies, and legislation to address drone airspace violations. In addition to regulations surrounding unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), we also urge the establishment of federal guidelines for AI, ensuring its ethical and transparent use, fostering trust and innovation while mitigating potential risks.

- **Requested Action:** Advocate for responsible policies around artificial intelligence that allow for public safety advancement while protecting the community from irresponsible usage; Support legislation that allows for enforcement of airspace violations committed while operating drones; and Support public safety exceptions to airspace regulations when it improves public safety.

Regional Federal Programs

The safety and resilience of our communities rely on robust federal programs and strong federal-state-local partnerships for training, equipping, and education of public safety personnel to better serve its citizens.

- **Requested Action:** The Public Safety team urges Congress to fully fund core initiatives, such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program, Assistance to Firefighter Grant Programs, Community Oriented Policing programs, and State Homeland Security Grant Program. Additionally, support for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Program are vital. Investments in Mobile Integrated Health Units, de-escalation training, and the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program are essential for comprehensive preparedness and response efforts.

First Responder Health and Wellness

Protecting the mental health and well-being of first responders is imperative for safeguarding our communities. Their dedication to duty often exposes them to traumatic events, leading to heightened stress, mental health challenges, and an impact on physical health. Recognizing the importance of prioritizing the well-being of first responders, federal efforts aimed at providing funding for programs that address their physical safety, mental health, and emotional resiliency are essential to ensuring that vital responders are available to protect life and property. The Public Safety team urges the federal government to prioritize funding and legislative support for programs addressing the physical safety, mental health, and emotional resilience of these vital responders.

- **Requested Action:** Endorse the HERO Act and increase funding for the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act; Enhance coordination among federal agencies; and address this crisis both as a policy issue and a moral imperative for ensuring a safer society for all.

TRANSPORTATION

Federal Investment to Build and Maintain a Safe, Equitable, and Resilient Transportation System

Supporting a growing and evolving economy requires broad-ranging mobility options and opportunities for the region's highly skilled workforce and residents. A robust transit network would better connect people to growing job centers and educational opportunities throughout jurisdictional boundaries across the region. The development of Mobility Hubs, where transportation and community resources convene, will enhance mobility options and connectivity while also filling a community void

of shared public space and amenities.

- **Requested Action:** Permanently extend and support new funding programs that reduce barriers to climate-friendly communities; Maintain and grow flexibility in the use of federal transportation funding; and Provide funding support for regionally designated priority projects.

Airport Infrastructure Funding and Thoughtful Transitions into the Future of Aviation

California's Capital Region has more than a dozen public-use airports providing commercial passenger and cargo, flight training, and general aviation services to the community. These airports contribute to national, state, and local economies by supporting well-paying jobs while providing vital air transportation in times of public need, including fire and rescue, medical evacuation, and military support services. Collectively, airports in the United States generated \$0.9 trillion in total economic activity and supported 4.9 million jobs in 2020 alone. We need to ensure we have adequate funding to modernize aging facilities to support our entire aviation infrastructure ecosystem. Additionally, aviation technology is rapidly evolving, and the Capital Region needs to remain at a competitive advantage and critical reforms would benefit not only local airports but would also sustain infrastructure investment, reduce regulatory burdens, support and create good-paying jobs, stimulate the economy, advance environmental goals, and improve the passenger experience for travelers nationally.

- **Requested Action:** Increase Airport Improvement Program Funding to \$4 billion annually; Oppose Unfunded Federal Mandates; and Help Airports Transition Away to Florine-Free Fire-fighting Foam.

Nonstop Air Service from Sacramento International Airport to Washington-Reagan National Airport

Sacramento International Airport (SMF) serves as the primary commercial service airport for seven counties – El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba – and provides 176 daily nonstop flights to 41 destinations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Although SMF enjoys robust connectivity into nearly every major U.S. city, the region is without a nonstop flight to the closest airport to the nation's capital: Washington-Reagan National Airport (DCA). FAA Reauthorization generates an opportunity for Congress to evaluate and improve air service while providing more equitable access to DCA and modernize the approach to DCA's slot exemptions for beyond perimeter airports to meet passenger demand better — starting with our nation's fastest-growing regions and airports – like Sacramento and SMF whose metropolitan areas remain unserved.

- **Requested Action:** Transportation Team asks Congress to convert 10 percent of the underutilized "Other" slot pairs at DCA to allocate flying beyond DCA's perimeter to non-large hub airports in the United States – including SMF.

WATER RESOURCES

Water Supply Reliability with Adaptation to Climate Change

Climate change is already affecting our region. Over the last five years we have experienced extreme drought and record-breaking rain events caused by atmospheric rivers. Our Sierra snowpack is no longer a reliable source of stored water. To adapt to the climate variability, we must look towards capturing, storing, and efficiently managing water no matter what type of precipitation occurs. Water leaders, suppliers, and engineers are proposing a set of projects and policies that will increase water resilience through sustainable management of water resources. These projects support one another, and when implemented together will achieve substantial benefits for water supply reliability, the environment, flood risk reduction, agriculture, and economic enhancement for communities across the Capital Region.

- **Requested Action:** Federal support for water resources infrastructure is critical for the Capital Region to adapt to a changing climate. The Water Team seeks investment in the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank and aquifer recharge; Support the RiverArc Project by allowing an existing water diversion along the Sacramento River to be used for regional surface water supply; Support the Voluntary Agreement to address Bay Delta Water Quality and habitat restoration; Support Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO); and Have polluters pay for remediation of PFAS chemicals in our drinking water.

WILDFIRE & FOREST HEALTH

Resilience, Response, Recovery

Catastrophic wildfires are increasing in intensity and significantly impact the American west: from claiming lives, engulfing communities, impairing commerce, harming the environment, to destroying critical infrastructure. Western wildfires also have national implications for air quality and public health. The Wildfire & Forest Health Team was created to advocate for the Capital Region, cross-cutting issues that need to be resolved at the federal level to save the region from the impacts of the wildfire crisis. Our priorities are based in public health, public safety, and protection of natural resources. The team advocates for land management, bolstering firefighting capacity, and restoring lands that have succumbed to megafire. The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, was used to establish team priorities.

- **Requested Action:** Resilience of our natural resource landscapes and communities with management of federal forest land, investment in wood utilization, expanding prescribed fire, and investment firefighting water infrastructure in wildland-urban interfaces; Responsiveness of our communities and firefighting forces to wildfire events funded by grants to local firefighting agencies, whom the federal agencies rely upon, and adequate reimbursement of local expenses, such as air district monitoring and public safety response; and Recovery of federal lands that have succumbed to the catastrophic effects of wildfire, including soil stabilization, re-planting, and roadway drainage improvements. There are multiple bills in the current Congress that support this cause.

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WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

Advancing Workforce Development and Education

Building upon the Capital Region's active engagement in the California Jobs First and K16 Collaborative initiatives, this proposal aims to harness federal support for the continued growth of a robust educator workforce pipeline, ensuring alignment with regional employment needs. It outlines a comprehensive framework and advocates for the reauthorization of crucial federal workforce and education legislation. With targeted actions, we seek to create clear, accessible pathways to quality jobs, benefiting both employers and the community. This effort is supported by evidence-based strategies, aiming for measurable improvements in education and employment outcomes. We call for collaborative action to realize these goals, setting a roadmap for immediate and long-term success.

- **Requested Action:** Reauthorize and expand the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the National Apprenticeship Act (NAA), the Preparing and Resourcing Our Student Parents and Early Childhood Teachers Act (PROSPECT), the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act; Support new legislation to enhance the success of every student from cradle to career; Encourage collaborations between educational institutions, industry, and government, including the role of intermediaries, can lead to the development of a robust workforce pipeline; Increase Perkins Grant funds for vocational and technical education, expand childcare funding for working families, and raise the income threshold for Head Start to be able to serve more children; and Boost Title I and IDEA Special Education grants, increase Pell Grant maximums and improve Federal Student Aid.

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