

WESTERN HEALTH ADVANTAGE PRESENTS

CAPITOL

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CAPITOL

49TH ANNUAL PROGRAM | MAY 4-8, 2019

Executive Summaries

# CAPITOL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TO ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CAPITOL

For the last 48 years, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has led a delegation of business, community, and elected leaders to Washington, D.C. to advocate on issues critical to economic growth and development for California’s Capital Region with key members of Congress, committee staff, and administration personnel. The Sacramento Metro Chamber’s Capitol-to-Capitol program

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## Executive Summaries 2019

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(“Cap-to-Cap”) is the largest chamber of commerce advocacy effort of its kind in the nation. In our 49th year, the Metro Chamber will host more than 325 delegates from the six-county Capital Region in Washington, D.C. from May 4 to May 8. The delegation is divided into 12 policy teams who focus on issues important to economic growth and improved quality of life for our growing and diverse region.

### CAP-TO-CAP PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

**Mac Clemmens**  
Digital Deployment  
2019 Program Chair

**Kierstan DeLong**  
Edelman  
2020 Program Co-Chair

**Brian King**  
Los Rios Community College District  
2020 Program Co-Chair

**Meghan Phillips**  
Honey  
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**Hon. Bonnie Gore**  
Supervisor, Placer County  
Honorary Vice Chair

**Hon. Rick Jennings**  
Councilmember, City of Sacramento  
Honorary Vice Chair

**Amanda Blackwood**  
Sacramento Metro Chamber  
President & CEO

**Alex Taghavian**  
Capitol Impact  
Sacramento Metro Chamber Board Chair

### CAP-TO-CAP TEAMS

**Air Quality**

**Civic Amenities**

**Community Resources**

**Economic Development**

**Flood Protection**

**Food & Agriculture**

**Health Care**

**Land Use & Natural Resources**

**Public Safety**

**Transportation**

**Water Resources**

**Workforce Development & Education**

## 4-POINT BUSINESS PROMISE

As the Metro Chamber approached its 125th anniversary, executive leadership and board members evaluated the vision and future strategy of the organization, as well as reflected on its many successes. Over time, the Capital Region business community has adapted to become more agile and resilient following recessions, as have the workforce and communities that power our regional economy.

After a two-year process of discussions, research and refinement, the Metro Chamber Board launched the 4-Point Business Promise in 2018. It serves as the strategy and compass to guide us towards our areas of greatest impact: **Strong Business, Connected Region, Vibrant Community and Ready Workforce.**

Our promise to business continues over the next 125 years. We will continue to be the voice and leader for business in the Capital Region.



metrochamber  
**4point**  
business promise

### connectedregion

connect people, place and commerce

### readyworkforce

close the gap between business needs and a skilled workforce

### strongbusiness

cultivate the environment business needs to succeed

### vibrantcommunity

benefit business health through community vitality

## 2019 PRIORITY ISSUES

As the California Capital Region's leading advocate for economic prosperity, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has identified four critical focus areas for 2019 that center around Business and Community Resiliency: **Regulatory Reform, Addressing Barriers to Talent, Coordinated Response to Catastrophic Incidents, and Investment in Infrastructure.** Each of these key themes is designed for inclusive economic development, to improve the environment for business growth, and provide quality job opportunities.

California plays a critical role in our nation's overall prosperity. As the fifth largest economy globally, with the greatest share of total jobs, California drives the domestic economy and leads the nation in manufacturing, agriculture, and innovation. That makes the Capital Region the focal point for economic development, job creation, and increased investment which is vital, not just to California, but the country as well.

### Regulatory Reform

For our region's economy to grow, businesses must have an environment that allows them to expand without the uncertainty of inefficient over-regulation. When businesses thrive, community investment occurs, resulting in a region where people want to work, live, play, and grow. While some level of regulation is necessary to ensure public safety and provide for the common welfare, we have identified several areas where regulatory reform, rollback, and streamlining will unleash our region's

economic potential.

Our regional priorities include:

1. Bringing awareness to differences in state and federal laws relating to wetlands and other jurisdictional features cause complication, delay and increase costs of doing business in California.
2. Addressing poor coordination between Federal agencies also adds to costly delays in project approvals for housing and needed infrastructure.
3. Amend Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act to provide needed clarity and accountability for a timelier permitting process between project proponents and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in developing project specific Habitat Conservation Plans, which is comparable with the timelines that federal agencies currently enjoy under Section 7 of the Act.
4. Support HR 830, the Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019 (Garamendi), which eases the requirements of

the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that do not make sense when applied to agriculture.

## Addressing Barriers to Talent

In response to existing and looming workforce shortages, business leaders, workforce agencies, community organizations, and the Sacramento Metro Chamber continue to identify and address opportunities to meet labor demands by improving workforce development programs and ensure connectivity to local education systems. A recent Brookings Institute report found that Sacramento's labor market is changing, as employers are demanding workers with higher education and technology-relevant skills. At the same time, the report made it clear that the region must educate and train a broader, more diverse set of its homegrown population for in-demand jobs. This challenge was compounded in recent years, as many parts of Northern California have been devastated by wildfires, as more than one million acres have burned, 30,900 structures destroyed, and 138 lives have been lost. Rebuilding communities from Redding, to Paradise, to Santa Rosa, requires a deep and talented workforce. In response, our business community is working to strategically grow, adapt to, attract and retain a talented workforce.

Our regional priorities include:

1. Continued funding for high-quality K-12 workforce training, and higher education workforce training programs.
2. A federal policy framework that can adapt to local business needs.
3. Ensure that funding in the Farm Bill for new farmer training is allocated for existing programs that are in need of scaling, and not just for pilot programs.

## Coordinated Response to Catastrophic Incidents

Having a Vibrant Community is about retaining and attracting talented individuals and businesses. In 2018, the California wildfires were the largest and deadliest in the State's recorded history, far surpassing records just set in 2017. It is essential to address the quality of the air, wildfire management and local government disaster response, along with providing adequate housing; and addressing the issue of homelessness which is exacerbated following a natural disaster is necessary.

Our regional priorities include:

1. The need for the federal government to provide essential funding and support policy change to enhance a unified local government response to catastrophic incidents through the support of

integrated, multidisciplinary approaches, proactive response strategies, and community resilience building that incorporates all levels of government.

2. US Forest Service should meaningfully enable 20 year Master Stewardship Agreements, by increasing the number of agreements and the speed by which they are executed.
3. Support the development and operation of "Clean Air Centers" in rural and urban communities in the event of air quality crises such as those created by wildfire smoke.
4. Treat wildfire like other natural disasters and ensure wildfire disasters are eligible for FEMA funding under federal emergency declaration.

## Investment in Infrastructure

Roads, rails, pipes and wires are the platform upon which our economy is built. Because most infrastructure serves regional needs and is a cost burden greater than any one community can support, we rely on the Federal government to play a key role in making sure the infrastructure is well maintained and meets the needs of a growing region. The Capital Region, a diverse community landscape, collaborates for regional success despite differences in local priorities and values.

Broadband is the backbone for enabling access to and use of precision agriculture technologies. Yet in our region — capital of the fifth largest economy in the world — most rural communities, farms and ranches are unserved or underserved. With 21st century rural broadband infrastructure, and increased spectrum for faster mobile data transfer, our farmers and ranchers will be able to utilize the Ag Technologies that will keep our region competitive on a global scale and improve overall economic opportunities for our rural communities.

Further, our transportation sector is at a tipping point for dramatic disruption and transformation. The rise of zero-emission electric vehicles (e.g., batteries and fuel cells), automation, connectivity, and alternative mobility options like transportation network companies (e.g., Uber, Lyft), shareables (e.g., cars, bikes, scooters), and innovative transit (e.g., micro-transit, on-demand shuttles) will have far-reaching implications for the way we build communities and move people and goods.

Our regional priorities include:

1. Supporting the passage of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation funding package, that streamlines project delivery, and increases cooperation among federal agencies to reduce project costs.
2. Expand broadband access in rural areas to enable





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

### **Federal Investments to Advance Mobility and Cleaner Transportation in the Sacramento Region**

#### **Requested Action**

We urge Congress and our federal agency partners to advance multimodal mobility through new funding programs, invest in the shift to clean transportation, and support critical existing safeguards to air quality, including the Clean Air Act. We also encourage adequate funding for grant and incentive programs, and ask that EPA clean air funding be maintained, Section 103 grants be restored, Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (DERA) funding be maintained, longer-term incentive programs to aid regional transportation-related emission reductions be continued, innovative voluntary measures for reducing pollution be funded, and other incentive-based funding solutions continue to be supported.

#### **Background**

Transportation sector emissions are growing and are now the largest source of air and climate pollution. Exposure to hazardous air pollutants from diesel engines and gasoline cars results in an elevated risk several times above the state average in some parts of the 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.

### **Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention, Response, and Recovery**

#### **Requested Action**

We urge Congress and our federal agency partners to support fire prevention and forest health to meaningfully

enable 20-year Master Stewardship Agreements, expand the use of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between federal agencies and non-federal partners, ensure that the US Forest Service meets its commitment to treat 500,000 acres per year of its lands in California, improve the implementation of prescribed burns, streamline National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) approvals, address the problem of widespread insurance coverage cancellation, and increase the use of biomass. We also urge action to support forest response in eliminating the practice of "fire-borrowing," supporting the development of "clean air centers," helping to deploy new monitoring technologies to key areas, and enhancing eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding under federal emergency declaration. We further encourage post-fire recovery by enabling air districts to recoup extraordinary expenses associated with fires, streamlining the EPA's use of "exceptional event" declarations, and incentivizing the use of biomass and other wood removal technologies to treat impacted areas and carbon mass.

#### **Background**

The California wildfires of 2018 were the largest and deadliest in the state's recorded history, far surpassing records just set in 2017. Decades of fire suppression, warmer average temperatures, extended drought, and inadequate vegetation management are contributing to larger, more severe, and more destructive fires. 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.



Business in the Sacramento Region thrives on a talented and diverse workforce and an expanding customer base. Workers and customers alike desire to locate and live in a place with a full and varied complement of quality civic assets and amenities. This year, our team theme is “A Place to Stay: Highlighting Hotels.” We will study the importance of hotels and lodging to the region as they serve both visitors and the local community. We will explore how hotels decide to locate in a community, the impact of hotel inventory to attract events and support facility development and expansion, and current trends in – and disruptors to – different hotel sectors, including full service, boutique and affordable.

### **Hotels to Support Business And Growth**

#### **Background**

Hotels are key to support various sectors of business. They provide necessary facilities for out-of-town guests visiting for business, tourism, recreation, or family. They provide meeting and banquet rooms, restaurants, and nightlife. And sufficient hotel inventory is a prerequisite to attract one-time and recurring regional events (such as arts and music festivals, sporting events, conventions, and tournaments) and necessary to support facility building and expansion (such as sports stadiums, community centers, and theaters). We will have a private tour of the new Audi Field , home to the MLS team DC United, followed by a question and answer session with stadium managers and local hoteliers to hear how they collaborate to support events and the community. We will also visit and tour the iconic full service Watergate Hotel and its on-site restaurants and bars. We will meet with the hotel managers and the local business improvement district (BID) to discuss the Watergate’s market, history, and place in the business community.

### **Hotels for Placemaking and Community**

#### **Background**

Our tour and meeting with the Watergate Hotel will also explore its role in the local and cultural community and placemaking. We will hear how the hotel has expanded, how it embraces its notoriety, and how it helps to promote a regional identity. We will also tour certain hip, cool, boutique hotels and research how off-beat and stylistic hotels seek to brand and market themselves and cater to an ever more selective and diverse clientele through services, style, and substance.

### **The Keys to Hotel Development**

#### **Background**

The Civic Amenities team will once again be hosting and sponsoring a fantastic panel discussion which brings together experts and viewpoints from urban planning, the hotel industry, and the visitor and tourism bureau. The panel will discuss the key considerations and obstacles to hotel development, the economics of hotel inventory to a region, the expanding menu of hotel offerings and services, and the disruptors and competition to the hotel industry, including services like Airbnb and VRBO.



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

### **Ending Homelessness Through Local, State and National Partnerships**

#### **Requested Action**

Support increased funding for federal housing and homeless service programs, as well as any new legislative efforts to direct additional federal funding towards ending homelessness.

#### **Background**

Homelessness on the West Coast has hit a crisis point. For the first time in seven years, despite seeing decreases in 30 states, the number of people experiencing homelessness in America increased to 553,742 in 2017. That represents a nine percent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations, mostly in West Coast cities. Thankfully, the crisis has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels which provides a foundation for a comprehensive joint response.

### **Housing and Homelessness on the West Coast**

#### **Requested Action**

Consider affordable housing as infrastructure and include resources to increase supply of affordable housing in any transportation and infrastructure package.

#### **Background**

California and Oregon have the highest rates of people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered at 68 percent and 57 percent respectively. California, on its own, accounts for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the United States.

Five “major city” Continuums of Care in California and Washington State made the top ten list for largest numbers of people experiencing homelessness. Four “Smaller City, County, and Region” Continuums of Care from California made the list in their category as well.

Sacramento County and the seven cities within, saw a 30 percent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness from 2015-2017. Among people who are unsheltered, the number increased by 85 percent. Approximately 31 percent of people who are unsheltered are chronically homeless, meaning they have experienced prolonged bouts of homelessness and are disabled. In addition to overall increases in homelessness, the report found a 50 percent increase in the number of homeless veterans since 2015.



Continued federal investment in the Sacramento region's flood risk reduction infrastructure along with streamlined processes for local-led improvements are critical to reduce life safety risk, protect tens of billions of dollars of existing infrastructure, and support economic growth. Changes to FEMA's implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program are also essential for California's agricultural industry to continue to drive the economy and provide food for the country.

### **Revolutionize USACE Civil Works Project Delivery by Better Leveraging Non-Federal Sponsors**

#### **Requested Action**

Support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA-CW) mandate to revolutionize US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Work Project delivery by increasing the role of the non-Federal sponsor.

- Seek to leverage the design, construction, and project delivery expertise of select USACE partners by implementing use of existing authorities that allow non-federal sponsors to lead Civil Works Project design and construction.
- Publish and/or update Implementation Guidance and develop associated model Project Partnership Agreements for the following authorities:
  1. Section 204 (Construction of Projects by Non-Federal Interests) of the Water Resource Development Act of 1986.
  2. Section 1043 (Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, as amended by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

### **Modernize FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program for Agriculture**

#### **Requested Action**

Support HR 830, the Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019 (Garamendi), which eases the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that do not make sense when applied to agriculture. Under this bill, FEMA would:

- Implement a pilot program to use "blanket policies" that would bundle multiple low-value agricultural structures under a single policy.
- Allow limited construction of new agricultural structures in a floodplain when elevation or floodproofing are not practicable.
- Map leveed areas into a new zone that would specifically apply to lands protected by levees, but do not reach the 100-year level of protection.

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

#### **Requested Action**

Secure investment for construction of on-going flood risk reduction projects, to support a new construction start for one project, to initiate new appropriations for one authorized flood project, to complete two feasibility studies, and for design and to support an authorization on one project.





The food and agriculture cluster (production, processing, distribution, and support activities) has more than 34,000 workers and generates more than \$7.2 billion in direct economic impact to the Capital Region. The cluster is in jeopardy with an increasingly short supply of middle-skill jobs. Investment in middle-skill workforce training and expansion of rural broadband is needed to sustain and grow the region's food and agriculture economy. Allowing large institutional buyers, such as school districts and hospitals, to purchase food locally will strengthen the local economy, jobs, and consumer health.

## Agriculture Technology

### Requested Action

Expand broadband access in rural areas to enable agriculture technology solutions that increase agriculture productivity and sustainability.

- Support a pilot program in the Capital Region for on-farm mapping, based on the Yolo AgTech Pilot.
- Adopt a consistent federal standard for definition of underserved and unserved areas, using the FCC definition of broadband (25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream) for fixed broadband service.
- Support broadband legislation to expand broadband deployment and access.

### Background

Broadband is the backbone for enabling access to and use of precision agriculture technologies. Yet in the Sacramento region, most rural communities, farms and ranches are unserved or underserved.

## Agriculture Workforce

### Requested Action

Provide funding for new and innovative workforce training programs in the agriculture sector, such as for registered apprenticeships, AgVet, and up-skill training programs.

- Ensure that new funding in the Farm Bill for new farmer training is allocated for existing programs that are in need of scaling, and not just for pilot programs.
- Support training programs that focus on up-skill training of current farm employees into management roles, as well as for other occupations.

### Background

The sustainability of the food and agriculture industry is in jeopardy as a skilled workforce to fill middle-skill jobs in high demand occupations is in increasingly short supply.

## Institutional Food Procurement

### Requested Action

Enable large institutional buyers, such as school districts, to procure food locally to increase the regional economy, local jobs, and consumer health.

- Implement a five-year school district pilot for cash in lieu of commodities.

### Background

UC Davis Health and Sacramento Kings/Golden 1 Center successfully implemented a local food procurement model for large institutions. The Sacramento City Unified School District serves 45,000 meals a day, and seeks cash in lieu of commodities pilot program to expand partnerships with local growers and food distribution companies, bringing fresh, healthy, and local foods to school cafeterias.



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

### **Not-for-Profit Collaboration Improves Community Health**

#### **Requested Action**

- Protect not-for-profit hospitals' tax-exempt status as way to maintain their ability to address community needs.
- Use the successful and innovative models of care implemented throughout California's Capital Region to improve the health of communities across the country.
- Improve funding and eliminate barriers to bringing such programs to scale.

#### **Background**

With four not-for-profit health systems, twenty-four hospitals, affiliated health plans, other providers across the spectrum of care, a growing bio-science industry cluster, and local community-based organizations, the region's health care sector has played a significant role in improving the overall health of the community for decades. An engaged health care industry strengthens the region's business environment, creating a more vibrant community. Through a longstanding tradition of pooling resources to address the medical, mental health, and social service needs of special populations in California's Capital Region, Dignity Health, Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health Valley Area, and UC Davis Health have created unique collaborative partnerships and shared solutions to reduce community-wide health needs.

### **Coverage: Medicare, Medicaid & Covered California**

#### **Requested Action**

- Sustain Medicare funding to maintain coverage and access to care for seniors.
- Protect Medicaid as an essential program to provide coverage to the most vulnerable in our community.
- Protect the stability of the individual insurance market.

#### **Background**

Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal) are significant payer sources for health systems, hospitals, community clinics, physicians and other providers, all of whom are committed to providing access to affordable, efficient and effective health care, despite operating in a challenging regulatory environment and difficult reimbursement structure. Robust health coverage must exist in a healthy economy. Regardless of age, race or other demographic, everyone is a consumer of health care. Important to individuals as a way to address health care needs and promote financial stability, adequate health coverage is a critical component to a strong business environment by reducing the cost shift from public payers to private contracts, making private coverage more affordable for businesses. This promotes employers' access to a healthy and skilled workforce, and contributes to a vibrant and connected community.

### **Access to Care**

#### **Requested Action**

We encourage policy makers to improve access to care by supporting policies that sustain and improve payments through Medicare and Medicaid:

- Provide adequate funding for Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs).
- Update Medicare physician payment policies to support investments in technology and encourage innovation and improve quality.
- Pass the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (HR 1763/S 348) to increase the number of Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME) positions.
- Remove barriers to telemedicine to improve access to providers across the region.
- Consider prescription drug proposals that increase price transparency, hold manufacturers accountable,

encourage competition and spotlights the value of a therapy.

- Protect the 340B drug discount program as a critical way to maintain access to services to vulnerable populations.
- Sustain funding for Medicaid programs by guarding against policies that dismantle Medicaid provider fee programs.
- Maintain Medicaid funding levels by rejecting proposals to transition Medicaid programs to block grants or per capita caps.
- Protect payments for the provision of health care in programs to address social determinants of health.

## Background

Despite legislative and regulatory changes to coverage requirements, the level of uninsured continues to remain relatively low at nine percent; in California, it is even lower at seven percent. While coverage gains have provided necessary stability for health care to invest in innovative strategies to transform the care delivery system from volume to value, maintaining access to care for communities requires a combination of steady reimbursement, advanced treatment strategies, contained pharmaceutical pricing and an adequate number of physicians to improve access to care. The largest payer sources for health care providers in the Sacramento Region, Medicare and Medicaid have a significant impact on the health care ecosystem and play a central role in sustaining access to care. A thriving health care sector should have the capacity to address the health care needs of the community, supporting a business environment where workers and community members have access to quality affordable health care.



## LAND USE & NATURAL RESOURCES

**strongbusiness**

The region's balance between land use and the natural environment plays a significant role in our economic well-being. Our concentrations are advocating for clarity in federal law and scope of agency jurisdiction regarding wetlands, seeking ways to increase efficiency by finalizing habit conservation plans, and achieving greater efficiency during consultation on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

### Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

#### Requested Action

Urge the Sacramento District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation with USACE headquarters, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to prioritize the completion of the regional Programmatic Agreement. This is needed in order to guide a more well-defined Section 106 consultation process for individual Section 106 undertakings that involve consultation with tribes and other consulting parties.

#### Background

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The federal agency must consult with the SHPO and Federally-recognized Native American tribes over the potential for its actions to affect historic properties. Recently, the Section 106 consultation process has become increasingly and disproportionately lengthy. These delays are facilitated by current regulation and policy, which would benefit greatly from clarification about reasonable timeframes and good-faith consultation efforts.

## Habitat Conservation Plans

### Requested Action

- Thank the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and USACE for their work completing the South Sacramento and Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan (HCPs) and ask that they focus necessary resources on completing the Placer County HCP and integrated aquatic resource permitting program within the next six months.
- Urge the USFWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA-NMFS) to complete the briefing and listing process for the Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP) immediately to facilitate public review and adoption in 2019.
- Support Section 6 funding to jump-start implementation of regional HCPs.
- Urge the parallel processing of Clean Water Act Section 404 Permitting Strategy, Regional Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA,) Programmatic General Permits, Standard Permits and Letters of Permission so these permits can be easily integrated seamlessly into the HCPs rather than having to wait for approval of the HCPs to begin the process.

### Background

The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office of Region 8 of USFWS is the busiest in the United States, working on over 115 Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including dozens in the Sacramento Valley that are critical to balancing economic development and habitat conservation in the region. Fully integrating wetland permitting and HCPs/NCCPs is critical to the success of the landscape level conservation strategy for each of these plans. Completion of regional HCPs in the next year, development of a streamlined process, and establishment of statutory deadlines will help resolve the backlog and support regional needs for new home ownership and habitat conservation.

## Conflicts Between the Clean Water Act and Waters of the State

### Requested Action

Be aware of the dynamic environment that is leading to changes and conflicts between state and federal laws relating to wetlands and other jurisdictional features. Differences between state and federal jurisdictions and requirements will only further complicate, delay and increase cost of doing business in California.

### Background

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is a federal law that prohibits “the discharge of any pollutant” without a permit into “navigable waters,” which the CWA defines simply as “the waters of the United States.” This law has been subject to a volatile political climate that changes with each Administration. Recently, the Trump Administration rolled back Obama-era rules that define Waters of the United States that are subject to the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Simultaneously, the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is developing a new Waters of the State rule in California, which is creating a wetland definition that differs from the USACE definition in use since 1977, resulting in conflicting alternatives analysis determinations and mitigation requirements between the federal and state government. The inevitable result will be regulatory uncertainty and costly burdens for additional permitting and mitigation placed on public and private projects.

## Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act

### Requested Action

Amend Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act to provide needed clarity and accountability for a timelier permitting process between project proponents and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in developing project-specific Habitat Conservation Plans, which is comparable with the timelines that federal agencies currently enjoy under Section 7 of the act. This will reduce the heavier burden on the US Fish and Wildlife Service and allow critical projects to proceed without delays caused by a lengthy consultation process.

## Background

Recent case law contained language limiting the USACE's responsibility to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) – on certain impacts occurring outside of jurisdictional waters. The result is that in many cases project proponents must pursue two separate ESA permits for their activities: one ESA permit (under Section 7) for activities in wetlands (which occurs through consultation between the USACE and USFWS, resulting in a USFWS Biological Opinion), and a different one for activities in uplands (under Section 10, which requires preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in order to receive an Incidental Take Permit. In addition, if the changes to the definition of Waters of the U.S. proposed

in December 2018 are implemented, the reduction in USACE jurisdiction will mean that a large number of California projects will need ESA permitting through Section 10 instead of Section 7. While the timeline and process for consultation between the USACE and USFWS under Section 7 is defined, Section 10 permitting is not done through consultation with another federal agency, and the process is often arduous – depending on the scale, HCPs can take years or decades to obtain USFWS approval. This leads to an inordinate amount of time for project approval and delays our ability to construct critically needed housing and infrastructure, as well as to preserve habitat for sensitive species. Bringing both consultation processes into alignment will prevent excessive delays to project approval.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

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The Capital Region must continue to focus on eliminating problems that create excessive challenges to the public safety system. Our region, like many others, is facing challenges in response to increased workload, decreased staffing, and ever-emerging critical incidents. Additionally, first responders need increased access to funding sources that will assist in developing valuable partnerships, purchasing needed equipment, and providing critical training opportunities while continuing to meet the needs of our community and the demands of public safety.

### Local Government Response to Catastrophic Incidents

#### Requested Action

Provide essential federal funding and support policy change to enhance local government response to catastrophic incidents through the support of multidisciplinary approaches, proactive response strategies, and community resilience building. Specifically:

- Recognize the central role that local law enforcement and fire protection agencies fill in the statewide mutual aid response system and that this system depends on seamless integration between the state and first responders.
- Understand that natural disasters in California are increasing in frequency, scope, and intensity. These disasters are no longer sporadic and extraordinary but are to be expected as the new normal for all Californians.
- Know these disasters are inevitable, but with an increased awareness and understanding of potential contributing factors, government at all levels can better respond to potentially hazardous conditions as they are developing.
- Partner with the scientific community to engage in predictive analysis of these disasters will be imperative in predicting and responding appropriately to cascading disasters.
- Develop consistent protocols and sustained funding to support community resilience building and help community members become more prepared to function within the immediate aftermath of a disaster pending the arrival of resources.
- Ensure that funding is secure for agencies responding to major events outside their jurisdiction so as not to threaten the local agencies ability to respond.
- Incentivize the formation and strengthening of partnerships between local, state, and federal partners to better serve the public before, during and after a disaster.



## Background

California's unique physical features lend to a wide range of potentially catastrophic incidents. As the population continues to grow and more residents are exposed to these unavoidable disasters, it is imperative that local government be prepared to manage and mitigate these large-scale events. Private sector, governmental, and nongovernmental community organizations must work together to move from response-driven tactics to whole system planning. Stakeholders must support a multi-disciplinary approach that encourages the applied study of natural hazards and their impacts for science-based planning and policy development. Preparation measures must address not only the immediate response to a limited-notice event, but also must infuse innovation and resiliency into communities before these events occur, so those communities suffer fewer losses, recover more quickly and regain economic vitality. Historically, disasters have led to greater social and economic inequities and have not resulted in long term positive outcomes for vulnerable populations. Recovery of the business community should be made a high priority as its strength is critical for successful economic and social healing after a disaster. Recovery was slow in New Orleans, post-Hurricane Katrina, because small and medium-sized businesses – essential for sustaining a returning population, struggled to recover. Catastrophe may be inevitable in California and while communities, commerce and economy can suffer consequences long after the disaster has passed, conversely, with proper preparation, they may also move rapidly towards revitalization.

## Mobile Crisis Response Team

### Requested Action

Provide federal funding to enhance Sacramento County's Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) program which will fund additional teams and training.

- The current number of teams is far too inadequate to properly serve the region's population of individuals who are mentally ill and suffer from a mental health crisis.
- MCRTs should be expanded for law enforcement and include fire personnel/clinician response teams since emergency calls for service are fielded by both law enforcement and fire departments.
- On-going training is a critical component to the success of MCRTs as well as non-MCRT first responders. It ensures we have the most current and comprehensive knowledge and skills necessary to effectively serve our mentally ill population.

## Background

In 2009, the economic downturn in the economy caused a decrease in funding for social programs and mental health support. Since then, homelessness and mental health crises have skyrocketed. Emergency calls for service involving individuals suffering from mental illness are an everyday occurrence. Regional law enforcement has partnered with the Sacramento County Department of Behavioral Health Services to create four MCRTs. These teams partner law enforcement officers and mental health clinicians together in a patrol car to respond to calls for service related to mental health. These responses with clinicians have reduced law enforcement officers' need to use force when encountering an individual in crisis. The use of MCRTs is a wellness and recovery strategy that provides the necessary time and resources required for effective crisis intervention, assessment, and a link to much needed and on-going mental health services.

## Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

### Requested Action

Prevent further reduction in UASI funding levels. By fully recognizing the threat and potential infrastructure consequences to the state, it should be acknowledged that this UASI is not properly funded to adequately protect its economic, commerce, agriculture, and government headquarters. Specifically:

- Prevent the 30 percent, \$680 million reduction in the proposed 2020 federal budget.
- Reevaluate local need and support increased funding to provide training and necessary equipment of multidisciplinary first responders.
- Build a full-time training and research staff to keep pace with curriculum and technology to implement best practices within the region.
- Establish a training facility to support the cross training of multiple disciplines to support an all-hazards approach (e.g. hazardous material, law enforcement, or incident command training).
- Enhance a fully capable and resilient joint emergency operations center to operate stand alone in any environment.

## Background

The reliability of federal assistance to urban areas is essential for homeland security preparedness. However, the Sacramento region's UASI funding has varied from year to year impacting the regions ability to provide for consistent training and equipment. Additionally, funding has diminished to the point that the region finds it difficult, if not impossible, to replace aging equipment, evaluate and implement new and better technology or provide all-hazards training in accordance with updated guidelines and demands.

The Sacramento regional response providers are asking for the prevention of proposed federal reductions and for a reassessment of UASI funding for lower tiered urban areas. Currently, local agencies in the Sacramento area are tasked with protecting their local communities as well as regional key infrastructure but are not provided with sufficient response and mitigation capabilities.

In the last several years, professionals in our region responded to an increasing number of disasters. Each of these incidents was supported by local and regional Sacramento agencies. However, to sustain this level of preparedness, it will take increased future funding to keep up with technology, equipment, and training of local public safety responders and managers.

## Wireless Early Warning Opt-Out

### Requested Action

Provide federal funds and support policy changes for the adoption and implementation of a national "opt-out" standard for local and statewide usage of a wireless emergency alert (WEA) system. Specifically:

- Recognize that the voluntary program the FCC currently has in place for wireless providers is sorely lacking.
- Create statewide standards for emergency alerts that allow for embedded references, graphics, multi-lingual and multi-media formats.
- Create a consistent and mandatory standard for national "opt-out" program.
- Provide training for emergency alerting systems to local authorities.
- Require network capabilities to direct distinct emergency alert messages to specific geographic areas.
- Provide funding to ensure all counties have access to



Sacramento's regional economy relies on getting goods from farms, manufacturing plants, and airports to businesses and homes across the country and throughout the world. With the passage of Senate Bill 1: the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, and recent affirmation of this funding through Proposition 6, the six-county Capital Region is well positioned to leverage federal investments in transportation infrastructure over the next decade. The Metro Chamber is asking our federal partners to pass a comprehensive multi-modal federal transportation funding package by streamlining project delivery, and by increasing cooperation among federal agencies to reduce costs associated with projects.

## Transportation Funding and Policy Priorities

### Requested Action

- Continue the commitment to funding all modes of transportation, including public transportation and passenger rail.
- Fully fund the FAST Act for FFY 2020.
- Support efforts to research and test alternatives to the federal gas tax.
- Support priority projects which have strong local support and are critical to National economic interests.
- Support a federal gas tax Increase.

### Background

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

## Transportation Infrastructure Package

### Requested Action

- Investments to maintain our current system of roads and bridges to protect past investments.
- New investments in Broadband and High Speed Network communications to power cutting edge industries of the future.
- Increase safety, especially on rural roads which have a fatality rate two and a half times higher per mile traveled than on urban highways.
- Investments in innovation at transit agencies, such as route planning to effectively move people and new ideas such as micro-transit.
- The Highway Trust Fund needs a permanent solution to its ongoing revenue shortfall issues.
- Remove the cap on airport passenger facility charges to enable airports to charge airport users to fund their infrastructure.

### Background

The President, Congress, industry leaders, and everyday Americans want the federal government to work on and deliver a bipartisan infrastructure bill. Because the Sacramento region represents a microcosm of the US, spanning from the dense urban city core to rural farmland and forests, our experience can inform the direction of this effort.



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

## Improving the Sacramento Region's Water Future

### Requested Action

- Support legislation that protects and enhances federally-backed financing and other federal funding opportunities for local water infrastructure projects to help implement the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.
- Funding to complete planning efforts including environmental documentation.
- Support H.R.1453 to provide federal support for the construction of Sites Reservoir and related water infrastructure in Colusa and Glenn Counties.
- Support appropriations for the US Forest Service that accelerates the pace and scale of watershed health projects on Federal lands. Support transportation infrastructure spending that includes the National Forest road system.

### Background

California will continue to face water supply challenges into the future as our climate and hydrology change. Our region has done analysis to identify projects that can help us achieve more reliable water supplies into the future. The following priority projects and actions are necessary to continue to not only serve clean and reliable water to the greater Sacramento region, but to help ensure reliable supplies for all of California. They are a mix of traditional and new infrastructure projects that will serve our region now and for generations to come.

**Sacramento Regional Water Bank:** A Sustainable Storage and Recovery Program: This project will help the greater Sacramento region maintain reliable water supplies by making better use of underground storage.

**RiverArc:** The American River is a critical piece of Sacramento area water supplies, providing nearly 300,000 acre-feet of water to local residents annually. Diversifying supplies by shifting some demand to the Sacramento River can help the Sacramento region achieve greater water supply reliability.

**Sites Reservoir:** Sites reservoir will provide benefits to the north state, and state and federal water systems by reducing pressure on Shasta and Folsom reservoirs.

**National Forest Lands:** Upper American River Watershed: Invest in the long-term resilience of the Tahoe and El Dorado National Forest to restore habitat for fish and wildlife and safeguard water supply and resources.

### Requested Action

- Support federal legislation that allows for the appropriate funding mechanisms for the Voluntary Agreements.

### Background

Regional water suppliers have banded together to develop a comprehensive framework for Voluntary Agreements for the State Water Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The Voluntary Agreements include a portfolio of instream flows and restoration measures for floodplains and habitat. This collaborative approach will benefit ecosystems, wildlife, and communities more effectively than a regulatory approach. Specifically for Sacramento, if the Voluntary Agreements are approved, the American River will be operated in a more sustainable way for the fishery and local water supply reliability.



The economic growth of the Sacramento region is directly related to the strength, skills and growth of our workforce and education systems. We support greater investment in early education, K-12 schools and career technical education (CTE). Additionally, sustained investment in federal financial aid programs and the streamlining of job training programs will allow for those attending college, or going straight into the workforce, to find success and contribute to our economy.

## PreK – 12, College and Career Readiness

### Requested Action

We encourage Congress to provide opportunities for access to robust early education and create an environment whereby all children can get a strong, early start that sets the foundation for success in school and in life. We support flexibility in the Head Start program, fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Act, protecting Medicaid in schools, continuing Secure Rural Schools funding and investing in the CTE workforce. As part of various professional development or programmatic funding streams, we also aim to ensure that school districts and workforce training programs are able to recruit and employ talented teachers.

### Background

Our country cannot achieve sustainable economic development without significant investment in our young people and those seeking to improve their skills in order to remain competitive in the workforce. Substantial and sustained investment in education promotes productivity and creativity and plays a crucial role in securing economic and social progress.

## Ensuring Post-Secondary Success

### Requested Action

We encourage Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act with a focus on affordability, accessibility, and accountability, while preserving the key federal programs. This includes indexing Pell Grants for inflation, simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA,) and reauthorizing mandatory funding for minority-serving institutions (MSI) programs. We request Congress fully fund key financial aid and student service programs, including Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and

the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) grants, which have put a college degree within the reach of thousands of Americans at public and private universities and has helped Sacramento meet its workforce demands.

### Background

Our higher education recommendations are designed to expand opportunities for educational success, and in turn, economic prosperity by directing federal dollars and policies to high-impact investments in the Sacramento region's students and universities. Over 70,000 Sacramento-area residents benefit from federal financial aid each year, while over 25,000 benefit from federally supported student loans. Federal investment has resulted in a remarkable rate of return for our local and national economy.

## Supporting Modern Workforce Development

### Requested Action

We encourage Congress to increase funding for the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) and for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs to address local needs, while requiring evidence of effectiveness for funding renewal. We urge Congress to ensure that the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is done with consideration to financial challenges faced by residents in high-cost states. We support the investment in job training programs, including those that support short-term and high-quality industry recognized certificates.

### Background

In response to existing and looming workforce shortages, business leaders, workforce agencies and the Metro Chamber continue to identify and address opportunities to meet labor demands by improving workforce development programs and ensure connectivity to local



education systems. This work is informed by ongoing collaborations between varying industry sectors, government agencies, and community organizations. Workforce development bottlenecks have sent ripples beyond the traditional labor and education communities and now factor into rising housing costs and other social concerns. In response, our business community is working to strategically and nimbly grow, adapt to, attract and retain a talented workforce.

## **Path to Citizenship for Dreamers**

### **Requested Action**

We encourage Congress to pass legislation protecting undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States at a young age (commonly referred to as “Dreamers”) to be protected from deportation, offered a legal work permit, permanent residence, and ultimately US citizenship.

### **Background**

Of the 800,000 individuals enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, approximately 220,000 reside in California. Our local schools and universities collectively have, and continue, to enroll thousands of Dreamers. If given the opportunity, these students are ready to positively affect and contribute to our workforce, economy and communities for the remainder of their lives. Dreamers already in the workplace are productive, have tax paying jobs, and represent a critical part of our regional and statewide workforce that our employers simply cannot afford to lose.



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