

## ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The following executive summary is for the Sacramento Metro Chamber,  
Cap-to-Cap Economic and Community Development Team.*

**Team Leaders:** David A. Diepenbrock, Diepenbrock Elkin, (916) 492-5048, [dad@diepenbrock.com](mailto:dad@diepenbrock.com)

Ryan Loofbourrow, Sacramento Steps Forward, (916) 577-9785,  
[rloof@sacstepsforward.org](mailto:rloof@sacstepsforward.org)

Matt Yancey, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, (916) 732-7354,  
[matt.yancey@smud.org](mailto:matt.yancey@smud.org)

Larry Burkhardt, City of Sacramento, (916) 808-1955,  
[lburkhardt@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:lburkhardt@cityofsacramento.org)

---

### SUPPORT FOR EXPORTERS

#### Requested Action:

- Support the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), with the inclusion of all agricultural products, as a critical driver for the region's economy.
- Support development of an internet platform for U.S. small and mid-sized (SME) services exporters designed with functions that include, but are not necessarily limited to, payment processing and dispute settlement.
- Support making permanent the World Trade Organization (WTO) moratorium on customs duties for electronic transmissions.
- Continue federal investment in the Capital Region's transportation system to keep people and goods moving to support a growing economy.
- Express gratitude for supporting Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

**Summary of Background:** Together with the Brookings Institution and dozens of economic development partners, the California Capital Region is building a better export environment for its companies. These efforts are led by the Northern California World Trade Center (NorCalWTC) through implementation of its California Capital Region Metropolitan Export Plan (MEP). Initiated in 2013, the plan is designed to strengthen our region's economy by creating a collaborative global market strategy, developing the local export ecosystem, and helping our region's businesses expand into the international marketplace. The actions requested in this policy paper seek to address the market factors identified by the Capital Region MEP and accelerate implementation of its five key strategies.

## FUNDING FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

### Requested Action:

- Support funding for Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in the amount of \$125 million for FY2017.

**Summary of Background:** The Sacramento Metro Chamber respectfully requests that the Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill allocate funding for the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) in the amount of \$125 million for FY2017. SBDCs nationwide help small businesses and entrepreneurs succeed and drive economic growth and job creation. In 2015, our own Capital Region SBDC counseled 598 clients and generated 51 loans. Its activities helped create 27 new businesses and 93 jobs and retain an additional 75 jobs. In total, the Capital Region SBDC helped companies in our region access over \$8.2 million in capital.

## INCREASED SUPPORT FOR BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH

### Requested Action:

- Support the Administration's proposed increase in federal investments in research.

**Summary of Background:** Recently, federal investment in research has eroded while other nations are pouring enormous resources into research, resulting in an innovation deficit for the U.S. While the impact of this deficit may not be immediately obvious because the research that leads to advances does not happen overnight, the consequences of failure to invest are inevitable: fewer U.S.-based scientific and technology breakthroughs, fewer U.S.-based patents, and fewer U.S. start-ups, products, and jobs. Restoring and expanding the federal investment in basic and applied research is essential to achieving the ambitious goals of the nation and are primary to expanding and diversifying our regional economy, as envisioned by the *Next Economy Regional Prosperity Plan*.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BEAUTIFICATION, AND PLACEMAKING

### Requested Action:

- Support policies that promote comprehensive community development programs that strengthen the quality of life for all and foster social and economic growth.
- Remove legal and bureaucratic barriers to wider broadband adoption.
- Address affordability issues that present a significant barrier to broadband adoption for many Americans.
- Continue federal investment in the Capital Region's transportation system to keep people and goods moving to support a growing economy.

**Summary of Background:** As the Capital Region pursues policies and implements strategies designed to help our people and our companies thrive, we recognize that our success is inextricably tied to developing the place we call home. As we promote company growth in the Capital Region, we must work to ensure we empower people with the tools needed to not only achieve their highest and best selves, but also to craft an environment that inherently fosters innovation. The actions requested in this policy paper seek to complement and accelerate innovative community development and place-making in the Capital Region.

---

## 2016 UPDATE ON SACRAMENTO'S STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

### Requested Action:

- Receive update on status of factors contributing to homelessness in the Capital Region.

**Summary of Background:** Homelessness is a visible and costly issue in the Capital region. Sacramento's system of emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing costs approximately \$45 million a year in federal, state, local, and private funding. Homelessness poses a significant burden to our hospital systems and social services organizations, as well as impacting local businesses. Roughly two dozen nonprofits work alongside several departments within Sacramento County (Human Assistance, Behavioral Health) and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency to provide housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Sacramento Steps Forward is the nonprofit organization that works with these and other partners to lead a coordinated effort to reduce and end homelessness in the region.

---

## PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

### Requested Action:

- Secure \$12 to \$16 million over the next three years to bring to scale the Pathways to Employment Program over three years.

**Summary of Background:** The Pathways to Employment (PTE) program is a project in Sacramento, CA that provided training and permanent employment to individuals who were homeless, long-term unemployed, and had multiple barriers to obtaining employment. This innovative project was the first subsidized employment program to target the unique needs of homeless individuals in Sacramento County. It was implemented through one-time Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) discretionary funding and was highly leveraged with formula CSBG, Workforce Investment Act, and TANF funding. Led by the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA), it succeeded as a result of close collaboration with governmental and local entities, including the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance, Women's Empowerment, Volunteers of America, the State Department of Rehabilitation, Sacramento Steps Forward, and the Sacramento Housing Alliance.

## CREATING PREVENTION AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### Requested Action:

- Recommend the creation of a program to specifically target households before they enter the homeless system of care with the goal of helping the household to retain their current housing or find alternative housing and prevent them from becoming homeless.

**Summary of Background:** In many communities, programs in the homeless system, especially those serving families, have essentially re-created a variety of community social services (mental health, substance abuse treatment, job training, etc.) within the shelter or housing program. In doing this, those in need of supportive services or short-term crisis intervention are forced into homelessness as the pathway to connect with supportive services. Diversion and prevention programs aim to separate these essential services from homeless shelters, and to augment them with short-term housing assistance. In some cases, the household can be assisted in place, through payment of rent arrears or by providing landlord-tenant mediation support. In others, the household may be better off moved to a safer and/or more affordable location.

---

## INCREASED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HOMELESS SUPPORT SYSTEMS TO ACCOMMODATE PRISON POPULATION REDUCTION PLANS

### Requested Action:

- Recommend the increase of funds for homeless services (housing and employment training and placement) to accommodate some of the additional population that will be created from prison population releases.

**Summary of Background:** Data from the 2016 report on the Future of California Corrections shows that California will be unable to meet the federal court's mandate to maintain the prison population at 137.5 % of capacity by February of this year, creating the need to reclassify and provide for the early release thousands of prisoners into the community. This will increase the demand for prevention and diversion and all other homeless services in the region.