

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TEAM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The following executive summary is for the Sacramento Metro Chamber,
Cap-to-Cap Food and Agriculture Team.*

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BROADBAND ACCESS

Requested Action: Encourage the expansion of broadband infrastructure to improve access, speed and reliability in unserved/underserved areas; encourage expanded funding and eligibility for grant programs where the private sector has no incentive to do so; expand use of rights-of-way to accommodate broadband infrastructure; support innovative funding solutions.

Summary of Background: With growing urbanized populations and a companion increase in global food production, efficient farming is critical. Rural areas lack adequate broadband to support agricultural economies through efficient use of water, fertilizer and fuels, reduction in groundwater contamination, and smart grid power management. Significant gaps remain in access to broadband in rural areas, despite growing awareness of its importance for economic competitiveness. The Sacramento region is actively addressing this issue and is well-positioned to assist in the deployment of broadband infrastructure in the region.

INVESTING IN MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (IMCP)

Requested Action: Support the Made in America Manufacturing Communities Act; address definition of "rural" so that cities in the AgPlus region can be eligible for programs supporting food and beverage and supply chain manufacturing firms; support and facilitate the Central Valley AgPlus priority projects that address the six pillars of the manufacturing ecosystem.

Summary of Background: The Made in America Manufacturing Communities Act would award a designated community/region preferential consideration for economic development assistance that will provide continuity and sustainability for the IMCP initiative. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has many programs that drive the vitality and economic development in Sacramento's rural areas, but several cities in our region are ineligible for programs because they are contiguous or adjacent to urbanized areas or their population is over 50,000 persons.

COMPREHENSIVE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Requested Action: Support confirmation and assurances of the quantity and quality of access for agricultural products granted in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); support the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) that would remove tariff and non-tariff barriers existing between the U.S. and the E.U.

Summary of Background: TPP is the future of trading in the Pacific Rim and critical to our region's economy. It is the best opportunity for California to increase exports and will establish trade agreements for the next generation of farmers, processors and shipping businesses in the region. The T-TIP involves the elimination of tariffs, which will expand market opportunities in the E.U. for U.S. agricultural products.

SITES RESERVOIR

Requested Action: Support Sites Reservoir qualification for RIFIA funding (Reclamation Innovation Finance Investment Act), which would reduce the financing costs of this project.

Summary of Background: A number of efforts continue to be advanced to help alleviate the impacts of what is likely to be the state's 5th year of drought. In the Sacramento Valley, Sites Reservoir is uniquely positioned to provide additional water for the environment, urban uses and allow the continued success of agriculture.

RIFIA funding would reduce the cost of the project and reduce the cost of the water developed through its low interest rates and payment timing, which begins only when the project is completed.