

CAP TO CAP

SACRAMENTO, CA TO WASHINGTON, DC

2025 RECAP



A SACRAMENTO METRO CHAMBER PRODUCTION

PRESENTED BY  **Sutter Health**

AIR QUALITY

The 2025 Air Quality team defended critical provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act to protect public health while promoting American energy independence through innovation. They also championed clean bioenergy as a driver for rural economic growth and biomass utilization. Despite limited resources, they made meaningful progress engaging new federal leaders.

Biomass Solutions Gained Support

Key federal offices, including the U.S. EPA, CEQ, and Senate EPW Committee, expressed strong interest in biomass-to-market strategies that reduce wildfire risk, bolster energy resilience, and support rural economic development. Regional air districts are now pursuing federal opportunities to advance agricultural biomass utilization. Additionally, the Department of Energy Loan Programs Office showed interest in supporting the Cal-EPIC program as a national model for energy and mobility innovation.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

The Business Climate team advocated for federal policies that encourage investment, foster innovation, and enhance competitiveness. Their efforts also supported downtown revitalization and rural development, highlighting the need for a strong business environment to fuel broad economic growth.

Emphasized Support for Manufacturing, Exporting, & Emerging Tech Sectors

This year the Business Climate team landed a key meeting with HUD officials, including a recent appointee, who shared plans to streamline policies and encouraged engagement during upcoming public comment

periods. The team emphasized preserving two-year Continuum of Care funding for efficiency, noted the Administration's strong support for Opportunity Zones ahead of their sunset.

CIVIC AMENITIES

The Civic Amenities team underscored the essential role small businesses play in delivering the majority of civic amenities that enrich the Capital Region. They highlighted unique challenges small businesses face, such as limited marketing and workforce retention, and called for tailored support to sustain their impact.

Advanced Small Business Investment

For the first time, the Civic Amenities team hit the Hill, engaging with staff from the House Small Business Committee as well as leaders from the Small Business Administration. Their discussions focused on current SBA programs and initiatives, including the Small Business Development Centers and the Office of Entrepreneurial Development's work to expand support at the state level.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Community Resources team worked to protect funding for key housing and homelessness programs and preserve tax incentives aimed at increasing housing supply and reducing child poverty. They also pushed for continuation of Medicaid waivers and better coordination of federal benefits to prevent gaps that harm families.

Pushed for Continuation of Medicaid Waivers

During meetings on the Hill, policy support was gained for maintaining the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, private activity bonds, and Build America Bonds, a key ask for the Community Resources team.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS:

53 Years
of Impact

5 Days
in Washington,
D.C.

7
Signature
Events

450
Business and
Community Leaders

Over 125
Regional Elected
Attendees

14
Policy Teams

207
Meetings on
Capitol Hill

6 Counties,
22 Cities
Engaged

FLOOD PROTECTION

The Flood Protection team urged ongoing federal investment to reduce flood risks in both urban and rural areas of the Capital Region. They stressed the importance of maintaining funding for the National Weather Service's Weather Tracking Program and engaged agencies on changing the National Flood Insurance Program as it relates to agriculture.

Support for Locally Led Protection

During a meeting with the Office of Management and Budget, the Flood Protection team championed a receptive conversation around alternative delivery models that would allow federal resources to support locally led flood protection implementation.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

The Food and Agriculture team promoted building a resilient food system through institutional procurement, infrastructure investment, and innovation partnerships. They emphasized passing the 2025 Farm Bill to sustain SNAP and conservation efforts and advocated for broadband expansion to support agricultural technology.

Elevated Region as Global Center for Food & Agriculture

The Food and Agriculture team broke new ground taking meetings on the Hill with Agriculture Committees from both sides of the aisle, advancing dialogue on SNAP, the Farm Bill, and rural food systems. Hill staff showed strong interest in the Sucre Grace Juice case, underscoring the local impact of federal investments. Additionally, conversations with USDA, FCC, and OAS laid the groundwork for future regional and international partnerships.



Meeting with Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, and Congressman Ami Bera

HEALTHCARE

The Healthcare team, representing a broad network of providers, focused on rejecting cuts to Medicaid funding and reversing cuts to Medicare physician payments. They also advocated for stabilizing Medicare Advantage rates, extending expiring Healthcare Tax Credits, making telehealth waivers permanent, and supporting workforce legislation.

Advocated Against Cuts to Medicare & Medicaid Funding

The Healthcare team met with Congresswoman Matsui and her special guest, Chiquita W. Brooks-LaSure, former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Biden administration from 2021 to 2025. Here, the team gained valuable insight on the current state of healthcare.

2025 PRIORITY ISSUES: The ABC's of Business

- Advancing and Strengthening Infrastructure Investments and Connecting Capital Communities
- Building the Capital Region's Workforce
- Cutting Red Tape to Expedite Projects and Increase Economic Impact



Congressman Ami Bera and Congressman Kevin Kiley at the Opening Breakfast

LAND USE & NATURAL RESOURCES

The Land Use and Natural Resources team sought to streamline federal permitting to accelerate housing, infrastructure, and flood protection projects in the region. They called for clearer timelines, simplified requirements, and better federal agency coordination to reduce delays and costs, aiming to boost housing availability and economic growth.

Advocated to Cut Red Tape

This year, the Land Use and Natural Resources team secured a meeting with the White House Domestic Policy Council, establishing a new pathway for communication with the Administration for California's Capital Region.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety team brought forward issues on emerging technology, first responder wellness, and regional safety programs. They advocated for advanced technology for first responders, prioritization of funding

and legislative measures for the physical safety and mental health of first responders, as well as fully funding key initiatives, grants, and other programmatic funding for public safety.

Elevated Public Safety Infrastructure Needs

The Public Safety team had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Police Executive Research Forum where they discussed guidance on AI policy, officer mental health, and drone operations. Additionally, members of the Public Safety team engaged with PERF to provide ideas for national implementation.

TRANSPORTATION/AVIATION

The Transportation team concentrated on three key issues this year: advocating for a streamlined funding process through greater reliance on formula funds, protecting existing funding commitments, and emphasizing how transportation investments drive economic growth and support the Administration's priorities.

Advanced Regional Transportation Competitiveness

The Transportation team met with 17 congressional offices this year, achieving strong engagement with elected leaders in both California and Nevada. Additionally, our Aviation subteam celebrated major wins, including strengthening the case for TIFIA loans, celebrating SMF's groundbreaking \$36.9M loan that saved \$15M, and keeping critical airport projects like the ATC Tower on track.

WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources team emphasized building relationships while promoting five key priorities, including the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank and PFAS cleanup. They highlighted groundwater recharge as a critical need, requiring sustained federal policy support and funding.

Boosted Water Storage & Long-Term Reliability

Key federal water staff transitions presented new relationship-building opportunities while in D.C. for the Water Resources team. Additionally, Senator Padilla's WRDA language advancing floodwater reuse for groundwater recharge was identified as a valuable policy tool to support regional water priorities.

WILDFIRE & FOREST HEALTH

The Wildfire and Forest Health team urged federal partners to enhance wildfire response, ease barriers to mitigation and recovery efforts, and safeguard investments in long-term resilience. Their goal was to educate lawmakers and lay the groundwork for continued collaboration.

Advanced Response & Resilience Efforts

The Wildfire and Forest Health team met with the House T&I Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management to provide feedback on draft FEMA reform legislation. The team also built support for the Fix Our Forests Act, emphasizing the need for full use of new NEPA exclusions to accelerate forest management.



Meeting with Congressman Mike Thompson

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

The Workforce and Education team focused on the importance of sustained federal investment in literacy and career pathways. They advocated for evidence-based reading programs, workforce development initiatives, and streamlined training aligned with employer demands to strengthen regional economic resilience.

Strengthened Federal Partnerships to Expand Literacy & Career Pathways

The Workforce and Education team elevated successful regional apprenticeship models in discussions with the Department of Labor, aligning with the agency's focus on scalable, performance-based programs and non-traditional career pathways. Additionally, the team gained support for apprenticeship expansion and committed to advancing solutions to improve literacy rates, including a planned hearing and efforts to direct funding to schools and County Offices of Education.



Meeting with Congresswoman Doris Matsui