

CAP TO CAP

SACRAMENTO, CA TO WASHINGTON, DC

2026 RECAP REPORT



PRESENTED BY  **Sutter Health**

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SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The Sacramento Metro Chamber leads with a collective voice that brings members together for businesses to prosper by providing the opportunity, service, and solutions for a thriving regional economy.

Advocating as one united region, with one collective voice, is essential as we work to secure the federal investments, policy decisions, and strategic partnerships that will shape the next chapter of growth for the Capital Region and strengthen our position in a globally competitive economy.

As the leading advocate for business and economic prosperity in California's Capital Region, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has identified four key areas of policy focus for 2026 — each critical to accelerating economic growth, increasing competitiveness, and delivering long-term impact for our region:

Innovation Ecosystem

Position the Capital Region as a national leader in applied innovation by leveraging its research and technology assets—the region's universities, Aggie Square, Cal EPIC, and The Plant—to drive breakthroughs in biotechnology, agrifood tech, clean energy, water, and advanced manufacturing. Advance policies that expand federal and private co-investment in R&D, streamline regulatory processes, and strengthen partnerships with agencies such as Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DOD), National Institute of Science & Technology (NIST), and National Institutes of Health (NIH). Invest in hydrogen, biomass, and semiconductor innovation—paired with regulatory modernization efforts to accelerate commercialization, attract private investment, and grow high-wage jobs to sustain the Capital Region's innovation advantage.

Government Efficiency & Effectiveness

Advance regulatory reform and efficiency as a regional competitive advantage. Align California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes, streamlining cross-agency permitting, and reduce redundant reviews that delay private and public investment. Federal agencies should coordinate standards, strengthen permitting workforce capacity, and increase transparency in funding distribution. Regional pilot programs can demonstrate how innovation-driven governance accelerates infrastructure, housing, and clean tech projects while improving accountability.

Strategic Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity

Position the Capital Region as a national model for connected, competitive communities by treating infrastructure as the backbone of regional growth. Call on federal partners to align investment, streamline permitting, and provide funding certainty to accelerate delivery of priority broadband, water, energy, housing, and transportation projects. Leverage the region's geographic advantages and bipartisan collaboration to drive federal and private co-investment, connect urban, suburban, and rural economies, and create high wage jobs that strengthen the Capital Region's resilience and sustain its leadership in inclusive, innovation-driven growth.

Workforce Readiness & Industry Competitiveness

Make workforce pipelines and training the cornerstone of regional economic competitiveness through public-private partnerships. Support targeted federal investment in precision manufacturing, biotechnology, working lands, and business services to drive quality jobs and shared prosperity. Expand apprenticeships, career-connected learning, and digital skills training to prepare workers for careers in clean energy, AI, healthcare and infrastructure.



Chair's Reception | The Rooftop at 101 Constitution

2026 HIGHLIGHTS:

54 years
of Impact

5
Day Program

9
Policy Briefings

450
Delegates

93
Regional Elected
Officials

14
Policy Teams
Represented

208+
Meetings on
The Hill

2,000+
Members
Represented

BUSINESS CLIMATE

The Business Climate team advocated for federal policies that accelerate innovation commercialization across the Capital Region, championing expanded R&D investment through DOE, DOD, NIST, and NIH. Anchored by regional assets like UC Davis, Aggie Square, and Cal EPIC, the team made the case that the region is uniquely positioned to convert federal research into high-wage jobs in life sciences, biomanufacturing, and clean energy.

Strengthened Federal Research Partnerships

The team deepened relationships with Senior leaders in National Science Foundation's Technology, Innovation and Partnerships directorate, who identified the Surge program, Tech Accelerator, and Excelerat as strong funding fits for the region. Furthermore, a new strategic relationship with NIST will support biomanufacturing and semiconductor innovation work throughout the region.

CIVIC AMENITIES

The Civic Amenities team set out to explore how public/private partnerships and strategic investment in civic infrastructure, recreation, culture, and the urban core can strengthen regional livability and economic vitality, examining firsthand how anchor venues, cultural campuses, and public spaces work together to attract talent and drive lasting community value.

Fostered Regional Vision Through Shared Spaces

The team's efforts spotlighted how great cities knit together the public spaces, cultural institutions, and destinations that define regional quality of life. From how a ballpark can anchor surrounding development to how a cultural campus can embed community education and partnerships, these visits echoed several development efforts already underway across the Capital region. Together, they gave the delegation a working model for how to translate catalytic development into lasting civic and economic value.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Community Resources team focused on protecting low-income residents through expanded workforce participation and stronger housing and homelessness support. They advanced three policy papers this year, addressing financial-support pathways to employment, FY27 housing appropriations, and the reconciliation of House and Senate housing legislation.

Strengthened Ties on Housing & Homelessness

The team successfully advocated for key provisions in the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which was signed into law with most of our delegations asks in tact. The final bill retains the HOME Reform and Choice in Affordable Housing provisions called for, and lifts the Rental Assistance Demonstration program cap by 100,000 units and reauthorizes the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program for three years, directly addressing the flood resilience needs raised for the Cosumnes River communities. Additionally, the Innovation Fund provision was also preserved, providing \$200 million annually in competitive grants for local housing production — further cementing the Capital Region's impact on federal housing policy.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

The Education & Employment team advanced workforce development and work-based learning, sharpening regional focus on Career Technical Education and workforce pathways. They emphasized that strong workforce outcomes begin with K–12 education, calling for sustained federal support connecting learning and career systems from early grades through career entry.

Advanced Workforce Pell Implementation

Workforce Pell Grants are now finalized, opening federal aid to short-term training programs. The team also tracked Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act reauthorization through committee passage, positioning the region to engage as the bill advances toward a floor vote.

ENERGY & INNOVATION

The Energy & Innovation team championed business resilience amid environmental policy change, advocating for federal investment in American energy innovation and new market opportunities for farmers to convert agricultural waste into energy and high-value products.

Connected Regional Biomass Priorities to Federal Funding Pathways

The team learned of new U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development funding for biomass utilization and was referred directly to the agency's California State Director for follow-up. Building on that connection, the team is now coordinating site visits to regional energy-innovation projects to continue highlighting the Capital Region as an innovator in this space.



Meeting with Congresswoman Doris Matsui

FLOOD PROTECTION

The Flood Protection team pressed for continued federal investment to reduce flood risk across the Capital Region, advancing both the Flood Insurance for Farmers Act and the Water Resources Development Act. They also called for faster FEMA review timelines to unlock stalled, shovel-ready mitigation projects.

Secured Support for Regional Flood Protection Projects

The team secured backing from Congressman Kiley, Congressman Thompson, Congresswoman Matsui, and Congressman Bera to push FEMA to complete pending environmental reviews and extend disaster declaration timelines, addressing up to \$150 million in delayed shovel-ready flood projects.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

The Food & Agriculture team championed a resilient food system through the 2026 Farm Bill, advocating for restored SNAP funding, local food infrastructure, and workforce stability for agricultural employers. They elevated the region as a national model for food-system innovation and farm labor policy.

Strengthened Regional Voice in Farm Bill Negotiations

The team engaged directly with Farm Bill negotiators, including Congressman McGovern, Congressman Costa, Senator Schiff and Senator Booker, building staff relationships and securing strong interest in the region's food-system and workforce priorities. New partnerships with the National Grocery Association, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and the American Farm Bureau further expanding the region's policy reach and credibility.



Meeting with Congressman Mike Thompson

HEALTHCARE

The Healthcare team advocated for a stronger healthcare safety net, calling on Congress to streamline program enrollment, protect Medicaid and Medicare funding, and restore provider payments. They also pushed for renewed tax credits and workforce investments to ease mounting pressure on providers.

Advanced Telehealth and Workforce Pipeline Priorities

Congressman Mike Thompson reaffirmed strong support for billable telehealth and requested continued input on H.R. 1's healthcare impacts. Senator Adam Schiff's office highlighted interest in the nursing workforce pipeline and a bipartisan bill to expand Medicaid patient outreach, seen as a tool to ease redetermination pressures.



Meeting with Congressman Tom McClintock

LAND USE & NATURAL RESOURCES

The Land Use & Natural Resources team advanced the SPEED and PERMIT Acts, pushing for simplified federal permitting, reduced redundant environmental review, and firm agency deadlines. Overall, the team advocated for a more predictable regulatory framework that accelerates regional housing and infrastructure investment.

Advocated for Federal Permitting Reform

Conversations with Congressional offices reinforced the importance of pairing permitting reform with bipartisan policy solutions capable of advancing through Congress. Members also received valuable guidance on addressing federal workforce capacity challenges that continue to delay permitting and project delivery.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety team focused on strengthening regional resilience through coordinated investment, intergovernmental collaboration, and emerging technology. They advanced modernized emergency response and explored the policy frontier of AI, cybersecurity, and unmanned systems.

Expanded Partnerships on Emerging Public Safety Technologies

The team built new relationships with offices outside the Sacramento delegation, including Sen. Tim Sheehy (MT) and Rep. Young Kim (CA), while advancing discussions on the CARE Act with Congresswoman Matsui and Congressman Bera. A coordinated Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) briefing also explored the intersection of innovation, national security, and regulatory oversight in unmanned systems policy.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation team advocated for more stable, formula-based transportation funding ahead of reauthorization, while putting priority regional grant projects in front of federal decision-makers.

Maintained Momentum on Federal Transportation Reauthorization

Meetings with congressional offices generated continued support for regional transportation priorities, including commitments to provide letters of support for key projects. With federal surface transportation reauthorization still underway, the team also secured commitments to remain engaged as legislation continues to develop.

WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources team worked to garner funding and policy support for key policy and infrastructure priorities in the Sacramento metropolitan region. This included the need for improved water supply reliability, ecosystem support, contaminant remediation, and operational modifications in the face of increased climate variability.

Gained Support for Key Regional Water Priorities

The team secured policy support for the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, the RiverArc Project, and the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, along with backing for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and PFAS remediation under a polluter-pays approach. They also built support for future funding tied to the American, Bear, Cosumnes Watershed Resilience Plan.

WILDFIRE & FOREST HEALTH

The Wildfire & Forest Health team focused on promoting wildfire response, recovery and resilience efforts by advancing and advocating for policies and procedures that strengthen federal wildfire response and recovery capabilities, increase opportunities for cooperative federal/local coordination to better manage federal lands, reduce barriers to post-wildfire recovery work, and expand proactive forest management and fuel reductions strategies.

Built Federal Momentum for Wildfire Resilience

The team established new relationships with the U.S. Wildland Fire Service and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, gaining insight into agency priorities and opportunities to streamline NEPA permitting for wildfire work. They also advanced support for the Fix Our Forests Act, the Western Wildfire Support Act, and the National Prescribed Fire Act across House and Senate committees.

GENERAL TRACK

In its inaugural year, the General Track gave Cap-to-Cap participants a front-row seat to the federal debates shaping the region's future. Delegates explored topics spanning housing, public safety, and workforce development — from the funding fights driving transportation reauthorization, to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce briefing on the trade and tariff outlook. Other sessions spotlighted the region's economic assets, including the growth potential of precision manufacturing and biosciences, and the federal decisions shaping workforce and apprenticeship pathways.

Sessions also brought a regional lens to the table, examining how federal choices on nonprofit funding, grants, and contracting affect service delivery on the ground, and how the region can plan civic amenities strategically to capture collaboration and investment. Taken together, the week left delegates more fluent in the levers driving the region's growth — and better positioned to engage them in the year ahead.



2026 GENERAL TRACK POLICY DISCUSSIONS:

- Better Together: How Civic Amenities Collaborate, Co-Locate, and Build Community
- Mission-Ready: Federal Policy, UAS, and the Future of Public Safety
- Reauthorizing America's Transportation System: Funding, Policy, and Competing Visions
- The Business of Doing Good: How Nonprofits Power the Sacramento Region's Economy
- Housing Attainability at the Crossroads: What our Region's Leaders Need to Know
- Trade and Tariff Update
- From Policy to Practice: What's Driving Change in our Nonprofit Sector
- Advance Economic Opportunities in the Capital Region
- Understanding Workforce Development Through Work-Based Learning and Federal Policy

