



NEWS RELEASE

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REGIONAL & CITY LEADERS RETURN FROM ONE VOICE® WASHINGTON, DC *Advocating for Regional Transportation & Infrastructure Support*

STOCKTON, Calif. – Elected officials and leaders representing San Joaquin County, regional cities, and other agencies, returned from a week of meetings in Washington, DC, on Friday, May 10, 2024. The annual San Joaquin One Voice® is coordinated by San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), an organization led by a board of county, city, port, and transportation leaders committed to improving transportation infrastructure and access, especially in underserved and disadvantaged communities, through regional policy and sustainability efforts. Participants from the City of Stockton included, Mayor Kevin Lincoln, Vice Mayor Kimberly Warmsley, Councilmember Dan Wright, Councilmember Michael Blower, Councilmember Susan Lenz, Councilmember Brando Villapudua, and City Manager Harry Black, as well as other City department and management leaders.

“Each year this coordinated approach becomes more important for Stockton and communities throughout the county and region,” shared Mayor Lincoln. “Our needs, concerns, and opportunities don’t stop at our city limits. By working together and advocating from a common platform, our federal representatives are in a better position to support and successfully fund projects that help us all achieve our collective goals.”

Vice Mayor Warmsley agreed that a regional approach is essential. “This year’s projects included the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Underpass Rail and Roadway

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Reconstruction, which is a \$60 million project. This is a major truck route between I-5 and SR-99 and an important commercial area shared by cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists traveling to school, shopping, and work. Projects of this magnitude need federal dollars to accomplish. This project is essential to improving air quality, health, and safety for our community; it will also support access to jobs and the movement of goods in and out of the region by Union Pacific Railroad – a huge benefit to logistics and economic development for the entire region.”

Other Stockton projects represented by the Stockton contingency, include Pershing Avenue Road Safety Improvement and Enhancement Project, addressing mobility and safety for biking, walking and motorists; Van Buskirk Park Revitalization, creating a regional park with amenities and recreational activities; Advancing Community Connectivity and Equity for South Stockton (ACCESS), reducing pollution, transportation barriers, and access to jobs and other resources, such as food and healthcare; Linea Verde: Greenlining Stockton’s Trees, restoring and managing our urban forest, combatting heat deserts and improving health outcomes for residents; Wastewater Recovery Center Flood Protection Project, providing flood protection to the sewer treatment facilities that serve the entire City, the Port of Stockton, and the surrounding San Joaquin County community; and Combatting Crime in Real Time, expanding, improving, and enhancing technology used by the Stockton Police Department to prevent and investigate crime and apprehend criminals.

“Our focus locally and regionally is to improve our collective quality of life and community wellbeing, provide safe streets and housing opportunities for all, and grow our local economy,” said City Manager Black. “There is no substitute for developing a better

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understanding of cities and agencies across the county, building relationships, and sitting directly across from our representatives and agency leaders in Washington, DC, sharing our collective priorities.”

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