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The Sacramento Asian Chamber and Sacramento Metro Chamber Launch the Rapid Response Business Triage Hotline for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 The hotline provides free resources and counseling in multiple languages for the Capital Region's small businesses struggling to operate in the current economic climate.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (April 8, 2020) – The Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (Sacramento Asian Chamber) and the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (Metro Chamber) earlier today launched the <u>Rapid Response Business Triage</u> <u>Hotline</u>. The hotline is a collaboration between the two chambers to provide a go-to place for business impacted by COVID-19 to navigate the local, state and federal resources available to them. The number for the hotline is 833-391-1919.

"While online resources are incredibly valuable to our business community during these dynamic times, we heard loud and clear that being able to speak to a knowledgeable, trained person is critical to help businesses navigate the menu of options." said Metro Chamber President & CEO Amanda Blackwood. "Each business has to evaluate their individual situation in order to make the decisions that are right for right now and to best position themselves for recovery. We are here to ensure that Sacramento comes back stronger than ever and this essential tool will serve to do that."

"During these unprecedented times our small business community need access to resources now more than ever," said President and CEO of the Sacramento Asian Chamber Pat Fong Kushida. "Being a minority chamber, it is our responsibility to provide opportunity and a collective voice for some of our most vulnerable communities. The hotline will provide our diverse business owners in-language support to help them navigate the impacts COVID-19 has had on their business. We believe small businesses are the lifeblood of our region. Helping them succeed will be critical for our region's economic recovery."

The Sacramento Asian Chamber and Sacramento Metro Chamber will host the no-cost hotline, staffed by people fluent in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Mandarin language to assist the diverse population of business owners in the Capital Region. The hotline has 24/7 voicemail capability allowing staff to follow-up with requests when phone lines are not staffed with operators.

Trained business counselors will assist callers with general business questions, human resources, legal issues and navigating the variety of financing tools, including SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program and Paycheck Protection Program.

This hotline is one of multiple efforts led by the two chambers to help Capital Region businesses. The Sacramento Asian Chamber is assisting in loan packaging and credit enhancing services for city of Sacramento businesses, in addition to their work with Donate4Sacramento.com. The Metro Chamber, also a partner in Donate4Sacramento.com launched the Rapid Response Hub – an online hub for employers and employees throughout the six-county region that provides daily updates and important information and links surrounding COVID-19.

The Rapid Response Business Triage Hotline is made possible through the generous support and investment of City of Sacramento, Golden Pacific Bank, JP Morgan Chase & Co., River City Bank and SAFE Credit Union.

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ABOUT SACRAMENTO ASIAN PACIFIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (SACC) is the largest ethnic chamber in the Sacramento region, dedicated to building sustainable communities through inclusive economic development opportunities. In response to COVID-19 the SACC has established the Business Triage Center to provide direct support and resources to the Asian Pacific Islander and small business communities. To learn more visit sacasiancc.org.

ABOUT SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (Metro Chambe) advocates for and supports the inclusive economic prosperity of our Capital Region by leading efforts for business. Established in 1895, Metro Chamber is the largest, most prominent and established voice for business representing 1,400 members and their workforce in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. The Metro Chamber provides businesses and individuals the programs, services and advocacy needed to build vibrant communities, a ready workforce, connected region and strong business. Learn more at <u>metrochamber.org.</u>