Sacramento Region Community Foundation and Valley Vision Release First-Ever Regional Food System Action Plan

Partnership to advance a healthy, accessible and vibrant food economy for all

SACRAMENTO, CA — The Sacramento Region Community Foundation (the Foundation) and Valley Vision today released The Sacramento Region Food System Action Plan (the Action Plan), an in-depth report addressing the disconnect between the abundant agricultural output of the Sacramento region and the reality that many in its communities suffer from hunger and limited access to healthy, fresh foods.

“There’s a lot of valuable work happening in the food space across our region, with hundreds of individuals, agencies and groups achieving strong outcomes,” said Bill Mueller, Valley Vision’s chief executive. “But to get to real levels of scale and impact, we need a shared roadmap for working together across the entire region. The Action Plan provides the answer.”

The Action Plan is the first of its kind to document the region’s food system across public and private sectors, exploring practical opportunities to increase access to locally-grown food for the area’s most vulnerable residents and grow new markets for local farms, businesses, and food and agriculture entrepreneurs. Because it highlights the complexity and dynamism of the entire regional food system, new insights from the collaborative report will guide future local efforts to address systemic health and hunger issues throughout the Sacramento region. Among the unprecedented insights in the report:

- The Action Plan’s innovative maps show food deserts overlaid with food access points, clearly identifying fresh food access gaps in urban and rural communities throughout the region.
- The Action Plan catalogs by primary program area the fifty-seven nonprofit organizations working within the Sacramento region to create a healthy food system and identifies where organizational resources and capacities could be refined and strengthened.
- The Action Plan quantifies the opportunity to maximize federal nutrition programs that would help relieve hunger, improve health outcomes and bring an additional $215 million to the local economy annually.

“In keeping with the Foundation’s vision of a community in which there are opportunities for all to live with a sense of dignity and self-worth, the Action Plan contains specific strategies and immediately actionable areas to boost our food economy, train the next generation of growers, greatly increase access to healthy, locally grown foods, improve health, and incubate technologies to make our food system more efficient and sustainable,” said Linda Beech Cutler, the Foundation’s chief executive.
MEDIA RELEASE

The Action Plan was developed as part of the Foundation’s newly launched strategic initiative, Connecting the Regional Food Economy, aimed at creating a healthy and thriving regional food system with access for all. It was prepared through a collaborative effort between the Foundation, Valley Vision and other regional partners, particularly the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. The project also benefited greatly from the guidance and leadership of its Champions Advisory Committee. For more information and to view the entire Food System Action Plan go to www.sacregfoodaction.org.

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Valley Vision is an independent social impact organization headquartered in Sacramento that strengthens our communities through research, collaboration and leadership. Since 1994 Valley Vision has created, managed or supported more than one hundred regional change initiatives to improve the economic, social, and environmental prosperity of the Sacramento Capital Region.

Sacramento Region Community Foundation has been the trusted steward of charitable assets, a community catalyst for meaningful change and the advocate for shaping vital impact through philanthropy since 1983. As the center of philanthropy in the Sacramento Region, the Foundation’s mission is to transform our community through focused leadership and advocacy that inspire partnerships and expand giving. Learn more at www.sacregcf.org.