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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leaders Gather for Day Two of California Economic Summit

MBEP President & CEO Tahra Goraya Featured in Session on Regions-Up Solutions

(Marina, CA. Oct. 28, 2022) - The largest California Economic Summit ever kicked off Thursday, Oct. 27 in Bakersfield for two days of critical discussion, working sessions, networking and more, with close to 1,000 people attending in person.

As California and the rest of the country emerges from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the [California Economic Summit](#) opened with conversations focused on economic, climate and energy, housing and broadband issues facing the state.

“We’re the fourth largest economy in the world, with the highest effective poverty rate,” said Antonio Villaraigosa, infrastructure advisor to Governor Newsom, who also attended the summit. “We have too many people that are working every single day and they’re not making it.”

Labor leader Dolores Huerta, Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh, Kern County Supervisor Zack Scrivner and other leaders also addressed the crowd, before attendees broke into working sessions to shape policy recommendations for the coming year.

Returning to her hometown of Bakersfield, [Monterey Bay Economic Partnership President & CEO Tahra Goraya](#) was among the featured speakers in a plenary session Friday, Oct. 28 on “Regions Up Solutions to Create a Just and Sustainable State” on day two of the California Economic Summit. The discussion focused on regional solutions to help reimagine a California that is more equitable and resilient and helps to redress the racial and economic inequities that have made the California dream increasingly elusive for far too many.

Joining Goraya in the plenary session were State Treasurer Fiona Ma, State Assembly Members Buffy Wicks and Rudy Salas, State Sen. Scott Wiener, California Forward CEO Micah Weinberg, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Mary Barlow, and close to a dozen community, education, business and labor leaders.

Over the last decade, California Forward’s (CA FWD) California Economic Summit has been the flagship event where regional leaders from business, community, government, philanthropy and industry collaborate and move forward an agenda that balances racial and geographic equity, environmental sustainability and economic growth

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About Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP)

[Monterey Bay Economic Partnership](#) (MBEP) is a regional member-supported nonprofit organization consisting of public, private, and civic entities located throughout the counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. Founded in 2015, our mission is to improve the economic health and quality of life in the region.

