

September, 2023



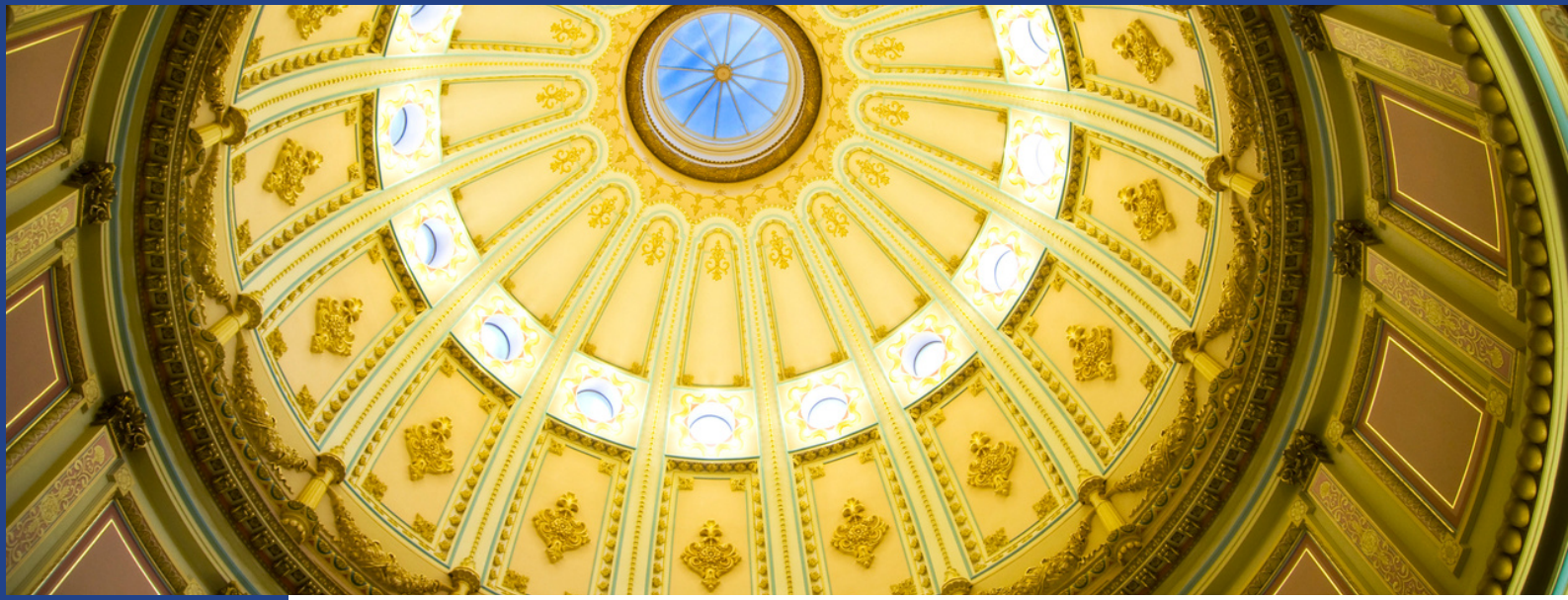
CATCHING UP WITH CARLOS

VILLAPUDUA'S BILL TO COMBAT FENTANYL BECOMES TOP PRIORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE

Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua's [AB 701](#) addresses the fentanyl epidemic that has brought unimaginable grief to every corner of California by cracking down on trafficking and large-scale dealing. The bill brings prison sentences for possessing high quantities of this poison to the sentencing levels we currently impose on possession of high quantities of heroin and cocaine.

This commonsense approach that targets those in possession of a kilogram or more has been used as a tool for our law enforcement to go after traffickers and high-scale dealers.

Legislative Leadership made this bill a priority for both the Assembly and Senate, and 43 co-authors signed on as it received bipartisan, unanimous support. **AB 701 now awaits a signature from Governor Newsom to become state law.**



2023 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS *(CONTINUED)*

AB 376: Financial Aid for Trucking Students

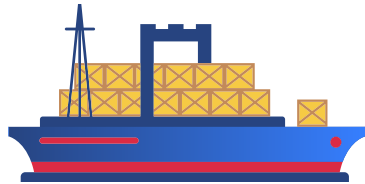
Expands financial aid eligibility for students pursuing a trucking career to help backfill an industry facing a shortage of workers.

While the trucking industry provides stable, high paying jobs, financial barriers have prevented many from being able to pursue this lucrative career.

AB 376 received unanimous, bipartisan support through the Assembly and Senate, and now awaits a signature from the Governor to become law.



AB 748: Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessels Program



Establishes a program consisting of representatives from local, state, and federal agencies to fund and coordinate the removal of commercial abandoned and derelict vessels (CADVs) from our waterways.

CADVs are expensive to remove, and leak toxic chemicals and pollutants into our water habitats. The longer we wait to remove them, the more costly this will be, and the more dangerous toxins they will be releasing.

AB 748 received unanimous, bipartisan support through the Assembly and Senate, and now awaits a signature from the Governor to become law.



STOCKTON'S MIRACLE MILE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MIRACLE MILE AD HOC WORKGROUP MEETS FOR ORIENTATION, SETS GUIDELINES

The 21-member Miracle Mile Ad Hoc Workgroup had their orientation on September 20 to set expectations and guidelines for the process, and review the charter that will finalize the bylaws of the improvement project.

The Workgroup will be the deciding body on how the \$20 million, which was championed by Assemblymember Villapudua in the 2022-23 State Budget, will be used for the Miracle Mile Improvement Project.

The Improvement Project's first public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11. The Workgroup will be sworn in, vote to approve the charter, and receive input from the public.

MONEY COMING INTO THE DISTRICT

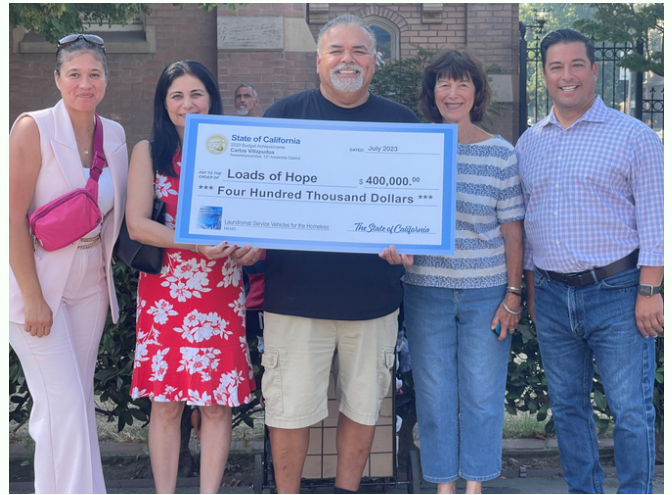
The Stockton East Water District (SEWD) received a \$12.2 million state grant as a part of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) new "Go Golden Initiative" that helps highlight innovative projects local water agencies are leading.



The funds will support the Bellota Weir Modification Project along the Calaveras River to enhance groundwater recharge, water quality, and habitat restoration to help build long-term water resilience for the area.

MONEY COMING INTO THE DISTRICT (CONTINUED)

Carlos Villapudua championed \$400,000 in the [2023-24 state budget](#) for a deserving, local nonprofit, [Loads of Hope](#). This program is operated out of the [Uplift All Foundation](#), and uplifts our unhoused population by providing free laundry, hair cuts, showers, restrooms, case management services, and more.



“Loads of Hope has improved the lives of our homeless community and beyond,” said Assemblymember Villapudua. “With all the services they offer, boots-on-the-ground case management, classes, and more, they provide a better sense of humanity and self-esteem for everyone around. This investment from the state is a recognition of their tremendous impact, and a beacon of hope for a community in desperate need.”



Loads of Hope operates “laundrovans” out of the St. John’s Church parking lot in downtown Stockton five days a week. These mobile vans allow them to go into different areas that are experiencing hardship. Ron Amador, Director of Services, recalled working with FEMA during the floods in early 2023 to serve the communities of Acampo and Manteca. Studies have shown that clean clothes works to prevent disease, and promote positive brain activity, relaxation, a happier mood, and greater self-esteem.

The \$400,000 will go towards the purchase of two new laundrovans.

CARLOS' CONCLUDING COMMENTS

I'm grateful for all of the effort that was put in this Legislative Session to craft policy that will improve the lives of Californians and residents in San Joaquin County. The hard work of my staff and key stakeholders have all contributed to this year being the success it has been.

Over the next few months, I will be getting out into the community to help with resources and discuss the issues that matter most to you. Please keep an eye out for invitations to my future events and for more information on services you may be able to take advantage of.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about resources that may be available to you. My door is open, and my staff are available to assist you. You can contact me through my website or by calling one of my offices.



CAPITOL OFFICE

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 95249-0013
Tel: (916) 319-2013
Fax: (916) 319-2113

DISTRICT OFFICE

4643 Quail Lakes Drive
Suite 200
Stockton, CA 95207
Tel: (209) 948-7479
Fax: (209) 465-5058