

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wells Fargo Awards \$50,000 to CalAsian Chamber of Commerce for
Economic Development Program, EMPOWER**

SACRAMENTO, California – The California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (CalAsian Chamber) is pleased to announce it has received a \$50,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation for the EMPOWER economic development program. These funds will support the EMPOWER program, focusing on bolstering workforce development programs in low-to-moderate incomes areas of California’s South San Joaquin Valley.

EMPOWER, is focused on reducing the chronic long-term unemployment rate within the Fresno Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) through an innovative job skills and contractor procurement training program for the regional labor pool leveraging California’s High Speed Rail Authority’s construction of a maintenance facility in the Central Valley.

“The CalAsian Chamber is dedicated in providing the Central Valley the resources their population needs for this future influx of jobs,” said Andy Wong, the Northern California Business Banking President for Wells Fargo. “We are proud to support such an innovative solution to alleviate any stagnant economic growth in California.”

The CalAsian Chamber boasts an impressive record of assisting small emerging businesses — specifically minority, women and disadvantaged owned businesses — in acquiring government contracts at local regional and state levels.

The CalAsian Chamber will use these grant funds to provide training workshops and education, through its vast community network of businesses across the Central Valley, thus closing the skills-gap currently present due to a saturation of low-wage agricultural jobs and too few non-agricultural opportunities.

“We are very honored to receive funding from Wells Fargo for the EMPOWER program,” said Pat Fong Kushida, President/CEO of the CalAsian Chamber. “Their continued support enables us to bring more direct resources to the ethnically diverse small business community in low-to-moderate income areas of the State.”

CalAsian Chamber advocates for programs and policies that foster economic self-reliance and develops opportunity for growth of API businesses and the various communities they reside and serve. For more information on the CalAsian Chamber, please visit: <http://calasiancc.org/>.

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