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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. CONGRESSMAN JUAN VARGAS AND LEMON GROVE MAYOR PRO TEM RACQUEL VASQUEZ TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERACTIVE VOTING RIGHTS SESSION AT BLACK AMERICAN POLITICAL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA'S 37TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO ON OCTOBER 16TH

(SAN DIEGO, CA) Thursday, October 1, 2015 --- U.S. Representative for California's 51st congressional district, Juan Vargas, and Lemon Grove Mayor Pro Tem Racquel Vasquez are scheduled to participate in an interactive session on disenfranchisement and the future of voting rights at the Black Political Association of California's 37th Annual Statewide Convention in San Diego, CA on Friday, October 16, 2015 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

"As we celebrate the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act, this is a pivotal time in our history," said BAPAC San Diego's Chairman Willie Blair. "There is pending legislation to restore key Voting Rights Act protections for low-income communities, people of color, students, and people with disabilities. We are honored to have Congressman Vargas and Mayor Pro Tem Vasquez share their leadership perspectives with our statewide BAPAC delegates."

The Voting Rights session will kick off the three-day convention, which will be held October 16th -18th under the theme, "If You Build It, They Will Come." The event will feature sessions on economic empowerment, healthcare, veteran's issues, and more. A special African American and Hispanic Dialogue and two-day Youth Empowerment Summit will also take place. Started in 1978 by 20 visionary California leaders, BAPAC has grown to over 25 active chapters statewide.

The convention's aim is to actively promote and safeguard the economic, educational, civic and social rights of California's citizens for 2016 and beyond.

“With the ever increasing injustices occurring towards people of color, Congressman Vargas and Assemblywoman Vasquez’s participation will help to educate and mobilize the black community and all underserved Californians,” stated Lan Jefferson, BAPAC Statewide Convention Co-Chair. “Hundreds of BAPAC leaders, delegates, activists, youth, and supporters will welcome them. We’re very excited.”

For more information, go to **BAPACSD.ORG/convention**.

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BAPAC is a 501c3 charitable organization established in 1978 by 20 key political leaders, including the late Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and former San Francisco Mayor and California Assemblyman Willie Brown. BAPAC’s mission is to ensure full political, social, and economic participation for California’s African American population and has over 40,000 active members in 60 chapters statewide.

For over 20 years the San Diego Chapter of BAPAC has helped reduce the misery index that still exists for San Diego County families and is over 200 hundred members strong, supporting initiatives in early childhood education, employment assistance, and youth intervention. The organization’s registered voters recently helped to elect San Diego County’s first Black State Legislator, Shirley Weber; San Diego’s first Black female City Councilwoman, Myrtle Cole; and Lemon Grove’s first Black Councilmember, Racquel Vazquez.