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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BLACK AMERICAN POLITICAL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA TO HOST 37TH
ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO, OCTOBER 16-18**

Convention to Rally Hundreds of Elected Officials and Citizen Leaders Around the
Issues of Civic Engagement and Economic Equality for California's Underserved
Communities

(SAN DIEGO, CA) Thursday, September 24, 2015 --- From October 16th to the 18th,
BAPAC, the Black American Political Association of California, will host its 37th Annual
Statewide Hall of Fame Convention in San Diego, CA at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

This year's convention will marshal BAPAC's statewide membership around an agenda
to actively promote and safeguard the economic, educational, civic and social rights of
California's underserved citizens for 2016 and beyond

"Over 400 elected officials, activists, and citizen leaders will be asked to consider the
question: Is upward mobility into the middle class still a possibility for Black people, and
for all Americans? If not – why not? And, what are the immediate and concrete steps we
can take to get there?" said BAPAC San Diego's Board Chairman, Dr. Willie P. Blair,
whose chapter is organizing the event.

Actor Danny Glover, Congressman Juan Vargas, BAPAC Statewide President Percy
Pinkney, Urban League of San Diego President Cecil Steppe, and Port of San Diego
Commissioner Rafael Castellanos are among this year's invited guests and speakers.

The BAPAC convention comes on the heels of the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights
Act and a blossoming youth civil and social rights movement. This year's convention
theme is "If You Build It – They Will Come," a rallying call inspired by the iconic Kevin
Costner film *A Field of Dreams*.

The three-day convention will feature speeches and workshop sessions on economic
empowerment, healthcare, voting rights, veterans and homeless issues, a special Black-

Brown Dialogue, and a two-day Youth Empowerment Summit. Started in 1978 by 20 visionary California leaders, BAPAC has grown to over 25 active chapters statewide.

“The BAPAC convention will help to educate and mobilize the black community. We’re very excited,” stated Lan Jefferson, BAPAC Statewide Convention Co-Chair. “It’s the best opportunity for the news media to meet and hear directly from local and state elected officials, next-generation leaders, and concerned citizens.”

Journalists are welcomed and encouraged to cover BAPAC’s convention to hear directly from local and state officials on issues concerning Black Americans and all of California’s underserved.. For more information, visit www.bapacsd.org or call Ellen Nash at (619) 665-3878.

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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 25 active 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.