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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**COPA Convention to Negotiate 'Shared Prosperity' Agenda with Congressman Farr**

**Delegates from 22 institutions to reclaim politicalness and present agenda for action on gang violence, foreclosures, health care and immigration**

Over 700 COPA delegates will gather on Sunday, November 22 at the Henry Mello Center in Watsonville to reclaim their role in politics by engaging Congressman Farr in a collaborative negotiation around their solutions for preventing foreclosures, gang violence prevention, national health care reform and immigration reform.

"The work of COPA is the work of citizens reclaiming their rightful place in the public square as full participants in politics. This means engaging and negotiating with fellow COPA leaders, with public officials and the private sector around issues affecting our families," according to Jorge Zavala, co-chair of the COPA Convention. "On Sunday, over 700 COPA leaders will come together from both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties to have a public conversation about our Shared Prosperity Campaign."

Sunday's COPA Convention will begin with a roll call of institutions and guests followed by recognition of COPA's recent accomplishments on affordable housing and economic development. Dr. Steven Levy of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy will outline future challenges. COPA leaders will then negotiate proposals for action with Congressman Farr on gang violence prevention, foreclosure prevention, national health care reform and immigration reform. Bishop Richard Garcia will announce the Diocese of Monterey strategy for responding to gang violence.

**Date:** Sunday, November 22

**Time:** 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts, 250 East Beach St. in Watsonville

**About COPA:** Communities Organized for relational Power in Action (COPA) is a multi-issue, nonpartisan organization consisting of 22 member institutions across Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, including congregations, synagogues, schools and nonprofit organizations. Founded in 2003, COPA is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation Network, a network of 60 community organizations nationwide. For more information, contact Joaquin Sanchez, COPA Lead Organizer, 277-3521.