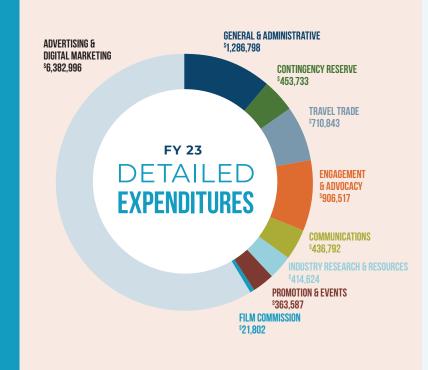
# **Strategic Direction** 2023 Imperatives

Continue to build an engaged, best-in-class team

Advance the SLO CAL brand strategy to achieve increased visitation across the county

Advance resiliency planning initiatives

Increase engagement with investors, partners, stakeholders and communities



## Experience SLO CAL 2050

Visit SLO CAL made strides in FY 23 advancing and launching key Experience SLO CAL (ESC) 2050 recommendations. SLO CAL Welcome, the customer service training developed for the SLO CAL Travel & Tourism Industry launched in November 2022. New thematic routes centered around such topics as major motion pictures that were filmed in SLO CAL were released to promote cross visitation. Finally, a countywide Events & Festivals Strategy was developed in partnership with VSC, key partners and city/ county stakeholders to further advance a countywide strategy.

### **Air Service Development**

In partnership with the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, VSC continued to advance its air service recovery strategy in an effort to grow supply and strengthen demand for regional air service. In October 2022, American Airlines upgauged DFW service to an A319 aircraft increasing seat capacity by 60%. In June 2023, Alaska Airlines announced new daily nonstop service from Las Vegas beginning in December 2023, connecting SLO CAL to its top air service demand market. Beginning in fall 2023, United Airlines will up-gauge service from Denver to an A319 aircraft. VSC will continue to partner with the airport to advance air service connectivity for the region.

### **Events & Festivals Strategy**

In the spring of 2022, VSC, in collaboration with MMGY NextFactor and SLO CAL partners and city/county stakeholders, finalized a countywide Events & Festivals Strategy. The strategic focus is to not only welcome events and festivals that contribute to the experience of SLO CAL visitors and positive economic vitality of communities while respecting the quality of life of our residents, but also to provide tools and resources to assist local communities in growing midweek and off-peak visitation while maintaining and improving resident quality of life.

### **SLO CAL Welcome Customer Service Training**

In the fall of 2022, VSC launched SLO CAL Welcome, a firstof-its-kind, free, online, self-paced customer service training program developed specifically for the travel & tourism industry. The program was made available in both English and Spanish and has seen significant success throughout SLO CAL. Since the program launched, over 700 customer-facing staff have gone through the program and are now considered certified SLO CAL Welcome Experts. Many Travel & Tourism businesses throughout SLO CAL who put the majority of their customer-facing staff through the program, are now recognized as SLO CAL Welcome Experts in Service. The program development was a countywide collaborative effort and will continue as a valuable resource to assist with increased customer satisfaction across SLO CAL.

#### Thematic Routes

In the spring of 2023, the completion of the SLO CAL Film Trail, part of the Thematic Routes ESC 2050 recommendation, was created and will be included in the promotion of current trails through FY 24: Sustainable Wineries, EV Charging Stations, Antiques Trail, Breweries Trail and Mural trail.

## Why Tourism Matters



TRAVEL SPENDING

\$248K

an hour a minute a second

#### **INDUSTRY EARNINGS**



**TOURISM PUTS** 

**RESIDENTS TO WORK EACH DAY** 

## TOURISM CONTRIBUTES

IN TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE

for the community

WITHOUT STATE & LOCAL TAX REVENUE

EACH SLO CAL HOUSEHOLD WOULD

PAY AN ADDITIONAL

GENERATED BY TRAVEL & TOURISM

WITHOUT VISITORS EACH SLO CAL HOUSEHOLD WOULD NEED TO SPEND \$ AN ADDITIONAL

TO CREATE THE SAME ECONOMIC BENEFIT

**TAX REVENUE** 

**SPENDING** 

**CREATED** IN LOCAL

**DIRECT SPENDING** BY SECTOR \$765<sub>M</sub>



which could cover the expenses for

1.757 FIREFIGHTERS

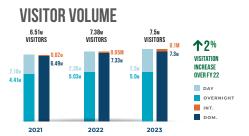
186 MILES OF 2-LANE RESURFACED ROADS

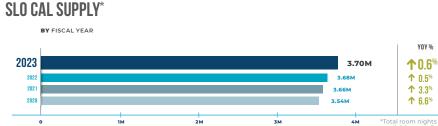
January – December 2022 Sources: Visit SLO CAL, "The Economic Impact of Travel in California" from Dean Runyan Associates, Bureau of Economic Analysis, United States Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Tourism Economics

## HOTEL OCCUPANCY occ **↓** 2.2% **↓** 1.1% **↓** 5.5%



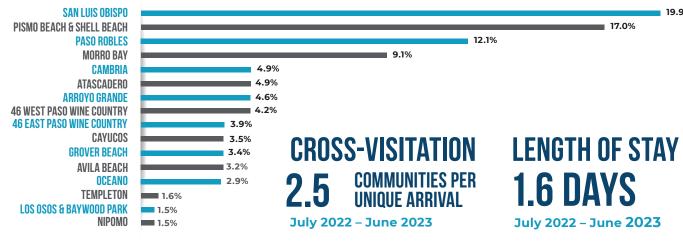












Source: Arrivalist, Tourism Economics

\*Visit SLO CAL's data provider (Arrivalist) had a change in methodology due to changes in privacy legislation in the spring of 2023. As a result, some YOY numbers are inaccurate comparisons. VSC has tried to omit any errant numbers to avoid misrepresei

### PAID MEDIA SNAPSHOT





## **SLOCAL.COM SNAPSHOT**

1.96 M DECREASE YOY SESSIONS PARTNER REFERRALS 36% 131% INCREASE YOY PARTNER REFERRALS E-NEWSLETTER OPEN RATE

3.3k 16.2% 113,891 5.2% AUDIENCE GROWTH TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS ENGAGEMENT RATE

2.2M TOTAL 1,181,523

## PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

SIO CAL 116 CERTIFIED 10 PARTNERS VIDEOS





### PAID MEDIA BY MARKET

**47**%

DALLAS DENVER LAS VEGAS PHOENIX PORTLAND

CALIFORNIA IN-STATE

SAN FRANCISCO SAN DIEGO

**BREAKDOWN BY CHANNEL** 

DISPLAY/

SOCIAL

**SALES** 

218 APPOINTMENTS

**3 TRADE SHOWS** 

**217 LEADS** 

**294 BUYERS TRAINED** 

**EARNED MEDIA** 

**357 ARTICLES** 

**\$27m AD VALUE** EQUIVALENCY

**2.4B IMPRESSIONS** 



FILM SLO CAL

91 PRODUCTIONS

194 FILMING DAYS

49 LEADS

\$1.5M ESTIMATED SPEND IN SLO CAL



**SLOCAL.COM** 805-541-8000





