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California API Legislative Caucus Stands in Solidarity with the Siskiyou County Hmong Community

Sacramento, CA -- The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (APILC) is grieving the killing of Sooblej Kaub Hawj by law enforcement and stands in solidarity with the Siskiyou County Hmong community. The APILC supports full transparency by Siskiyou County police in releasing the video footage of the death of Sooblej Kaub Hawj and requests the Attorney General to investigate this incident. The APILC also demands assurance that Siskiyou's Hmong families have equal access to water as all other citizens as the region faces a severe drought. California law (code section 106.3) recognizes a human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.

On June 28, 2021, Hawj was shot and killed by the Siskiyou County Police as he and his family fled the Lava fire. This tragedy follows the passing of a water ordinance in May 2021 by Siskiyou County that discriminates against the Hmong community.

The State of California and the nation as a whole have experienced a rise in anti-Asian hate since the beginning of the pandemic and APILC recognizes that these are failures of the system that reflect a deeper history of racial hate and bias. We cannot turn a blind eye to the hate that has led to the violent loss of a farmer, husband, and father. The discrimination and injustice against Siskiyou County's Hmong community must not be tolerated.

"We call for justice for Sooblej Kaub Hawj and Siskiyou County's Hmong Community," said Chair of the **API Legislative Caucus Dr. Richard Pan, Senator (D-Sacramento)**. "As government officials, we have the responsibility as leaders of our communities to extinguish hate and racial bias, and I urge Siskiyou County officials to make public information regarding the killing of Sooblej Kaub Hawj and to end discrimination toward the Hmong community by county officials and law enforcement. Hate and racism have no place in California."

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The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. It seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government.

Website of the California API Legislative Caucus: <http://apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov>