The Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council focuses on advancing cost-effective policies and programs that ensure reliable and affordable water and energy delivery, improve air quality and promote economic growth in Los Angeles through the local development of technologies, businesses and jobs.

Secure safe, reliable and affordable water supplies for Southern California

Securing a safe, reliable and affordable water supply is critical to the continued success of L.A.’s economy. The Chamber supports the State’s co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply and storage for California and restoring the Delta ecosystem. As a supporter of WaterFix, the Chamber will continue to advocate for the statewide adoption and implementation of the project with the governor’s new vision. The Chamber will also identify feasible and cost-effective augmentations to imported water in order to secure the long-term water quality and supply of the region, taking into account existing infrastructure investments, and the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power and Metropolitan Water District’s shared objectives of maintaining their existing infrastructure and enhancing the diversity of the region’s water supply resources, including recycled, stormwater, conservation, mitigation and remediation efforts.

Modernize California’s Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must be modernized to preserve the law’s original intent while preventing abuse for purposes unrelated to environmental protection. The Chamber supports substantive improvements and will continue to engage in a statewide coalition effort advocating for a “standards approach,” which will integrate California’s strongest-in-the-nation environmental laws and planning documents into the CEQA process, streamline the project approval and challenge processes and reduce the risk of lawsuits that abuse the intent of CEQA and delay development, jobs and economic recovery. Cross-sector and council collaboration with the Chamber’s Land Use, Construction & Housing and Transportation & Goods Movement Councils on CEQA reform is important to effectively meet housing needs and emission reduction requirements.

Review cost impacts of and responsibly implement air quality regulations

The Chamber will work with local, state and federal environmental agencies to help meet anticipated air quality standards in the region. As part of this effort, the Chamber will closely monitor and participate in continued implementation of SB 375, including the joint meetings between the California Air Resources Board and California Transportation Commission. The Chamber will work with these organizations, and our Transportation & Goods Movement Council, to understand technological feasibility, availability and cost for commercial and personal vehicles to achieve air quality standards. Both councils will coordinate with our Land Use, Construction & Housing Council to address the economic sustainability and feasibility of the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategies.

2019 Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council Leadership

Chair
Brisa Sotelo-Vargas
Valero

Vice-chair
David Jacot
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Vice-chair
Frank Lopez
Southern California Gas Company, a Sempra Energy utility

Vice-chair
Noah Perch-Ahern
Greenberg Glusker

Vice-chair
Thomas Wong
Southern California Edison

Chamber contact: Kendal Asuncion | 213.580.7518 | kasuncion@lachamber.com
350 S. Bixel St. | Los Angeles, CA 90017 | Tel: 213.580.7500 | Fax: 213.580.7511 | lachamber.com
Advocate for technology-neutral, cost-effective, reliable and diverse energy supply
The Chamber recognizes that businesses must have an affordable, diverse and reliable energy supply with storage capacity for the regional economy to remain productive and competitive. The Chamber will work with members and policymakers to understand the options, feasibility and costs for investments in alternative energy supply, including the related infrastructure and operational costs of integrating alternatives into the existing power systems. We will support domestic energy production and maintenance of the region’s existing energy systems and supplies, including the integrity and safety of our regional pipeline infrastructure.

Strengthen Los Angeles’ position as a global leader of clean technology innovation
California is a global leader of clean technology innovation and sustainable business practices. The Chamber will advocate for economic strategies that will continue to help L.A.’s clean technology sector grow. This includes pursuing state and federal funding opportunities, streamlining government processes and working in conjunction with the Chamber’s Bixel Exchange to increase collaboration among the private, public and academic sectors.

Ensure resiliency is built into new and existing infrastructure investments
California continues to plan for and respond to climate change and earthquakes. In recent years, we’ve experienced a growing wildfire season and extreme weather events, from heavy rains to dramatic heatwaves. As we adjust to the “new normal,” it is vital that we build our critical infrastructure systems so they are more resilient to the various natural disasters we will face. The Chamber supports a diverse mix of energy and water supplies and delivery systems to ensure critical services are maintained during and after disasters.