Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council

January 17, 2014
9-10:30 am

1. Welcome and Self-Introductions

2. Outlook on L.A.’s Energy, Water & Environmental Policy

   *Special Guest: The Hon. Felipe Fuentes, District 7, Los Angeles City Council*

3. Action Items

   • 2014 Advocacy Agenda

4. Announcements

Upcoming Events:

   • ACCESS DC: Los Angeles on the Hill: March 10th-12th

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 21st, 10-11:30 am
Honorable Felipe Fuentes  
District 7  
City of Los Angeles

Felipe Fuentes has spent two decades working to improve the quality of life for all residents of Los Angeles, especially the diverse communities of the Northeast San Fernando Valley. As Councilmember of the district he and his family have called home for more than 50 years, Felipe will continue these efforts, ensuring that the communities of the Seventh Council District get the services they need and the resources they deserve. He currently serves as Chair of the City Council’s Energy and Environment Committee and Vice Chair of the Housing Committee.

Felipe was elected to the State Assembly in 2007 to represent the 39th District, which includes the majority of the Northeast San Fernando Valley. During his tenure, Felipe passed legislation that spurred economic development, created jobs, improved the quality of schools and increased accessibility to affordable healthcare and housing.

He quickly rose to leadership ranks, chairing the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Utilities and Commerce Committee, Revenue and Taxation Committee, and the Select Committee on Revitalization of the Los Angeles River and Pacoima Wash. He also served on the Banking and Finance Committee.

Felipe’s bills directly impacted Los Angeles, including two signature bills that provided a $300 million extension to the State’s landmark film and television tax credit program. Felipe also addressed the state’s hunger crisis, passing historic laws that helped to bring over $850 million in federal food aid to nearly 7 million low-income Californians. As a parent, Felipe understands the direct correlation between the quality of a child’s education and the quality of their teacher, and he championed efforts to include student test scores in teacher evaluations.

Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Felipe served as Deputy Mayor of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles and later as Chief of Staff to then Los Angeles City Council President Alex Padilla.

Growing up in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, Felipe attended local public schools and graduated from San Fernando High School. He later earned a degree in political science from UCLA and an MBA from Pepperdine University. He currently lives in Sylmar with his wife Lena and their daughter. Felipe likes to spend time with his family working on their garden, tending to their chickens and sharing home-cooked meals.
Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council
2014 Advocacy Agenda

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.

Review cost impacts of and responsibly implement environmental regulations
The Chamber will advocate for policies that improve air and water quality regionally, but that fairly balance regulatory implementation and economic growth. Working with local, state and federal environmental agencies, the Chamber will advocate for market-based and cost-effective regulatory policies that do not place Los Angeles businesses, consumers and the regional economy at a competitive disadvantage nationally and globally.

Secure safe, reliable and affordable water supplies for Southern California
The Chamber acknowledges that securing a safe, reliable and affordable water supply is critical to the continued success of Los Angeles’ economy. The Chamber supports the State’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and restoring the Delta ecosystem by advocating for the implementation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the approval of a water bond measure that will build infrastructure that predictably yields measurable environmental and water supply benefits. The Chamber will also advocate for cost effective local water supply development (e.g., conservation, groundwater protection and recharge, recycled water, desalination, rainwater capture, surface storage and transportation) that is economically feasible, cost-effective and has the potential to enhance regional self-sufficiency during drought periods.

Promote an affordable, reliable and diverse energy supply
The Chamber recognizes that businesses must have an affordable and reliable energy supply for the regional economy to remain productive and competitive. The Chamber will support an all-of-the-above energy strategy and will advocate for investments that improve energy delivery, promote energy-efficiency, lower energy costs and expands the diversity of the region’s energy mix.

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 Los Angeles’ clean technology sector grow. This includes pursuing state and federal funding opportunities, streamlining government processes, and working in conjunction with organizations such as CleanTech LA, the LA CleanTech Incubator, PortTechLA and the Chamber’s Small Business Development Center to increase collaboration among the private, public and academic sectors.

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.
SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 10-12, 2014

ACCESS Washington, D.C.
Los Angeles on the Hill

JOIN US ON OUR MISSION TO MOVE AMERICA FORWARD.

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with local government officials, leading business groups and chambers of commerce, leads an annual delegation of more than 200 business leaders and public officials to Washington, D.C. to advocate for Southern California. Participants meet with members of congress and the president's administration on key issues. The trip includes two breakfasts with high ranking congressional or administration leaders, a marquee reception and a delegation dinner.

RSVP Now at lachamber.com/accessdc

Price & Hotel Information

Early bird registration is $750 per person until Feb. 5. After that date, registration increases to $825 per person.

This fee includes all of the trip's scheduled events, as well as costs associated with meeting planning and delegate materials. Participants are responsible for their own travel and hotel arrangements.

The Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C. is the conference hotel and is offering a group rate of $379 per night. Space is limited, and the group rate expires Feb. 5. Please contact the Willard directly at 202.628.9100. Group name: "ACCESS DC.”

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Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Central City Association
City of Los Angeles

Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Business Council
Los Angeles County Business Federation

Los Angeles Unified School District
Metro
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
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