



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Chairs: Brissa Sotelo-Vargas, Valero
Co- Chairs: Noah Perch-Ahern, Glaser Weil
Frank Lopez, Southern California Gas Company
David Jacot, LA Department of Water and Power
Thomas Wong, Southern California Edison

ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

February 6, 2020

10AM-11AM

1. WELCOME & SELF-INTRODUCTIONS-

2. ADVOCACY (10:10am – 10:55am)

2020 Advocacy Priorities Document

These are lay out our priorities for the year and are a guiding document for staff to develop positions and advocate for members during the year.

ACCESS: DC Policy Agenda

Our council has two agendas during our annual DC trip, one on Water and the other on Energy and Environment. This year we are shortening the advocacy agenda for the leave behind, and expanding on issues in our briefs and talking points.

State-level Issues

Governor Newsom released his initial budget on January 10th, there are a number of chapters that relate to efforts this council works on. We'll review this, and discuss other state-level legislative issues members have for this session.

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Health Care Council (2/7)
- Innovation and Technology Council (2/18)
- Accenture's Pancakes and Politics (2/28)
- Transportation and Goods Movement Council (3/3)
- ACCESS DC (3/9-3/11)

2020 ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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 air quality regulations

The Chamber will work with local, state and federal environmental agencies and the Chamber's Transportation & Goods Movement Council to understand the availability, cost-effectiveness and feasibility of alternative fuels for commercial and personal vehicle use in order to help meet anticipated air quality standards in the region, in addition to following implementation of the Air Quality Management District's 2016 Air Quality Management Plan in order to achieve compliance. The Chamber will advocate for an adequate funding return to the region to address air quality concerns. It will also closely monitor federal environmental standards at the Environmental Protection Agency and the State, specifically AB32 and SB32, while quantifying the impact of these new standards on the economy of California.

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. Recognizing that a reliable water source is critical to Southern California, Metropolitan Water District voted to support California WaterFix in 2018. As a supporter of WaterFix, the Chamber will continue to advocate that the one-tunnel conveyance project in Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio is appropriately sized. The Chamber and its partners 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. Key drivers for local water security that will be taken into account are existing infrastructure investments, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Metropolitan Water District shared objectives of maintaining their existing infrastructure and enhancing the diversity of the region's water supply resources, including recycled, stormwater water, conservation, mitigation and remediation efforts.

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. The Chamber 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. Additionally, with increasingly destructive wildfires, the Chamber will support safe, efficient investments in electric infrastructure, and modernization of wildfire response and liability as the state confronts a "new normal."

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 organizations such as the LA CleanTech Incubator,

PortTechLA and the Chamber's Bixel Exchange to increase collaboration among the 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. Cross-sector and council collaboration with the Chambers' Land Use, Housing and Construction and Transport and Goods Movement Councils on CEQA reform is important to effectively meet housing needs and emission reduction requirements.

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