



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

TUESDAY | Aug. 23, 2005

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

# Don't Let Politics Cloud the Air Board



## Coming up at the Chamber

[View all upcoming events on our web calendar.](#)

**WED | Sept. 7**  
Health Care Committee Meeting  
[more info](#)

**TUE | Sept. 13**  
Referral Network  
A Growing Companies program sponsored by Wells Fargo  
[more info](#)

**WED | Sept. 14**  
Member Orientation  
[more info](#)

**WED | Sept. 14**  
New Member Reception  
[more info](#)

**THU | Sept. 15**  
Environmental Quality Committee Meeting  
[more info](#)

**FRI | Sept. 16**  
Accenture Pancakes & Politics  
[more info](#)

**FRI | Sept. 16**  
Education and Workforce Committee Meeting  
[more info](#)

**TUE | Sept. 20**  
Transportation & Goods Movement Committee Meeting  
[more info](#)

**TUE | Sept. 20**  
Trade Briefing: Doing Business with Israel  
[more info](#)

**WED | Sept. 21**  
Business After Hours: Radisson Wilshire Plaza Hotel  
[more info](#)

**THU | Sept. 22**  
Economic Development & Land Use Committee Meeting  
[more info](#)

**TUE | Sept. 27**  
Referral Network  
a Growing Companies program sponsored by Wells Fargo  
[more info](#)

**WED | Sept. 28**  
Entertainment Industry Business Council  
[more info](#)

**THU | Sept. 29**  
Access L.A. City Hall  
[more info](#)

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with more than 1,400 members, is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org)

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One of the pitfalls of the Nov. 8 special election is that a lot of important policy issues are being politicized and held up in attempts to embarrass Gov. Schwarzenegger. One such example is the confirmation of Cindy Tuck, his appointee to chair the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Anyone involved with air quality in this state is surely familiar with Cindy Tuck, who has served many years as general counsel for the California Council for Economic and Environmental Balance (CCEEB). During her tenure at CCEEB, she has been in the middle of many air quality battles, but, true to her organization's name, Tuck has been able to build consensus and reach compromises on dozens of controversial issues.

Cindy Tuck is exactly the kind of person you would want to serve in this role. She is smart, reserved and respectful. And, she is someone who comes to the position without a radical bias one way or the other.

So why is her appointment in jeopardy? It's all about election-year politics. Ordinarily, I suspect that her appointment would be hailed as a commitment to balancing air quality needs with economic and job growth concerns.

Environmentalists have attacked Tuck as a former lobbyist for oil and gas interests (as if that's a bad thing), but they forget that oftentimes in that role she led business interests back to the bargaining table kicking and screaming, ultimately forging compromises with environmental groups.

So far, Tuck has demonstrated this balanced approach at CARB. Just last week, CARB announced that the state will soon begin to require all trucks to carry diagnostic equipment in order to lower nitrogen oxide emissions. The rule will take full effect in 2016. And, oh yes, it will add \$132 to the cost of truck engines at a time when \$3 per gallon prices are bringing many truck operators to their knees.

Tuck also recently endorsed a change in federal law that allows hybrid vehicles to use carpool lanes, even with only one occupant. Like just about every environmental activist I am aware of, she said "allowing clean vehicles into carpool lanes reduces traffic congestion and shows California's commitment to clean vehicle technologies."

Too many people in government have fallen short in their responsibility to protect our environment. James Watt comes to mind as someone who seemed more committed to mining and drilling in national parks than to conservation, when he was Interior Secretary in the early 1980s.

But Cindy Tuck does not fall into that category--in fact, she's far from it. She is more of the Christine Todd Whitman or Bruce Babbitt type, a centrist who works to build consensus and reach compromise on environmental issues.

Even the most proactive air quality officials in California have commended her record in bringing all sides to the table with groups that normally won't allow themselves to be in the same room with each other.

Cindy Tuck's appointment to CARB will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Aug. 31. I urge you to take a moment to contact the Rules Committee members and ask that they support Cindy Tuck as well. They are Senate President pro Tem [Don Perata](#) (D-Oakland), Sen. [Debra Bowen](#) (D-Marina del Rey), Sen. [Gil Cedillo](#) (D-Downtown L.A.), Sen. [Roy Ashburn](#) (R-Bakersfield) and Sen. [Jim Battin](#) (R-Riverside).

In an era of constant partisan bickering--where compromise is associated with political weakness--Cindy Tuck brings some fresh air to the air quality cause.

And that's the *Business Perspective*.

Russell J. Hammer

*The Business Perspective* is an award-winning weekly opinion column by Rusty Hammer, President & CEO, LA Area Chamber

## L.A. Business THIS WEEK

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**In an era of constant partisan bickering, Cindy Tuck's record of forging compromise brings some fresh air to the air quality cause.**

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### TALK BACK TO THE CHAMBER

Please tell us your thoughts on this issue. Include your name, company and email address and your response may appear in next week's *Business Perspective*.

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