



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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## **L.A. AREA CHAMBER APPOINTS RONALD GASTELUM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

### ***Renowned regional leader to join Chamber management team***

LOS ANGELES – Russell J. “Rusty” Hammer, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, today announced he has appointed Ronald Gastelum as Executive Vice President. Gastelum, who retired last year as the CEO of the Metropolitan Water District, will be responsible for the daily operations of the Chamber and will work with Hammer and the Chamber leadership on all administrative and policy matters. He takes his post on October 10, 2005.

“I have been searching for an Executive Vice President to be a part of our management team to assist us in an interim period as the Chamber moves through an executive leadership transition. In Ron Gastelum I have recruited one of Southern California’s premiere executive leaders, whose knowledge of the public policy issues impacting our region is of the highest level,” said Hammer. “Ron’s extensive experience will be of tremendous value to the Chamber as we continue to advocate for issues important to business in the region.”

Gastelum’s appointment follows the recent announcement that Rusty Hammer will be resigning his post due to health reasons. Once the Chamber Board chooses his successor, Hammer will become President Emeritus, providing guidance to the Chamber Board and executive leadership for its priority areas. Gastelum will work closely with Hammer during this interim time period to develop the organization’s business and strategic plans.

“I am excited to partner with Rusty Hammer and the Chamber’s Board in providing leadership to one of the state’s leading business organizations,” said Gastelum. I look forward to working with Rusty, helping the Chamber serve its vital role in our community by moving the Chamber’s agenda forward and continuing the strong momentum that the organization has established in recent years.”

A native of Los Angeles, Ron Gastelum was responsible for managing the operations of one of the largest water suppliers in the world at the Metropolitan Water District. An attorney, his experience includes corporate legal experience and private practice in areas including regulatory reform and legislative affairs. He was also a staff attorney for the California Rural Legal Assistance and Denver Legal Aid earlier in his career.

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*The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with more than 1,450 members, represents the interests 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).*