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**Jobs Coalition Announces Signature Drive Campaign to Stop the Jobs-Killing Tax**  
*Business community unites to pledge financial support, collect signatures*

**SAN DIEGO (December 11, 2013)** – Earlier today, the Jobs Coalition – an organization that includes the San Diego Chamber, EDC, BIA, NAIOP, BOMA and dozens of other regional organizations representing jobs creators in the City of San Diego - announced a signature drive campaign to overturn the council’s action on the linkage fee.

“At a time when our economy is still fragile, we cannot afford a tax on job creation that could easily push San Diego back into a recession,” said Jerry Sanders, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Other vested interests would lead you to believe the City Council has made compromises and exemptions to the Linkage Fee, but that is simply not true. Nonprofits, hospitals, small businesses and larger companies alike will be faced with this huge job-killing tax increase.”

To protect San Diego's economy and ensure that the city remains competitive, the business community has come together to pledge financial support for the *Stop the Jobs-Killing Tax* campaign. During the press conference, the speakers emphasized several of the tremendous impacts of the jobs-killing tax.

Local small business owner, Stephen Lew, who spoke at the press conference saying, “The restaurant industry was one of the hardest hit during the recession and we are just now beginning to bounce back. This tax will devastate our more diverse neighborhoods – the areas that need investment and job creation the most.”

The Coalition is dedicated to collecting the 34,000 valid signatures needed to force the Council to either reconsider this attack on the economy and middle class jobs or place it on the June 2014 ballot so voters can defeat this ill-conceived measure.

“This jobs tax increase will not help provide more affordable housing and will ultimately hurt our members and our communities because it will hurt job creation and construction,” said Abdur-Rahim Hameed, president & CEO of the Black Contractors Association of San Diego during the press conference. “The same people who are purporting that this tax will help, are the ones who will ultimately be hurt the most.”

On Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the City Council cast its final vote to adopt the 400%-900% increase in the “Linkage Fee” (aka Jobs Tax) charged to non-residential projects.



***About The Jobs Coalition***

*The Jobs Coalition is an informal organization that was originally created in 2011 to oppose the proposed increase in the linkage fee and support robust funding alternatives that would actually provide a more stable source of revenue for affordable housing. Under the leadership of then Council President Tony Young, that proposed increase was defeated. Today the Coalition has reconvened and represents more than 50 companies and groups across the San Diego region that oppose the Linkage Fee increase.*

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