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SAN DIEGO'S ELECTRICITY PRICES HIGHER THAN COMPARABLE CALIFORNIA CITIES

Key finding among those studied in Chamber's new guide to taxes and the economy

SAN DIEGO (August 5, 2015) – It's no secret that California is a tough place to do business. In San Diego, the second largest city in the state, businesses struggle with high tax rates and local governments depend on these revenues to provide the services necessary to support residents.

As part of our mission to provide educational resources and transform the region into a more productive business climate, the Chamber has released the 2015 edition of *San Diego Illustrated – A visual guide to taxes & the economy*. The Guide serves as a tool for Chamber members, business owners, policymakers and the general public, to help explain the dynamics of San Diego's tax and economic climate and the challenges faced by those who live and work here.

"San Diego businesses suffer under the burdensome tax codes levied by our state," said Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"The more we can educate business owners and policy makers on the economic landscape of our region, the better equipped we all are to make sound policy decisions that will continue to drive San Diego business forward."

San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts said: “The unique format of this guide provides a great starting point for an informed dialogue about the most efficient and effective way to use tax revenues.”

Key findings of the guide include:

- San Diego has the [highest residential and industrial average electricity prices](#) when compared to peer cities in California
- Seventy-four percent of San Diego employers have [fewer than 10 employees](#)
- The San Diego metropolitan area [economy relies more on real estate](#) than the U.S. average
- San Diego has one of the [lower combined sales tax rates](#) in California
- [Tax collections in San Diego have risen over time](#), and were dramatically impacted by the real estate bubble and its burst

“We collect billions of dollars in taxes each year and it is incredibly important to collect and manage them in the best interest of the taxpayer,” said Dan McAllister, San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector. “We’re seeing improvements in the housing market with assessed values going up right now.”

San Diego Illustrated utilizes explanatory charts, graphs and maps to provide an in-depth picture of San Diego’s overall tax climate. This new resource serves to inform ways we can improve the tax system and San Diego’s business climate. The guide was funded by a grant from the County of San Diego.

San Diego Illustrated is available online as an interactive platform at <http://interactive.taxfoundation.org/san-diego-illustrated/>.

About The San Diego Regional Chamber

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.