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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **JERRY SANDERS TO LEAD CHAMBER THROUGH 2020** *Sanders extends contract as business organization's president and chief executive*

**SAN DIEGO (Feb. 4, 2016)** – Former San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has extended his contract as President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce through 2020. Sanders' current contract was set to expire at the end of 2017.

"Since I joined the Chamber, our board and staff have been able to make real, positive change for the region's business community. It's been gratifying work and I look forward to building on the progress we've made," said Sanders. "This will be an important year for San Diego business and I'm ready to do what it takes to see our goal of making San Diego the most business-friendly region in California become a reality."

John Reilly, Chamber Board Chairman and Park President of SeaWorld San Diego, said: "Jerry has revitalized our organization, reestablishing its position as the leading voice of the business community. Through an emphasis on advocacy for policies and candidates who are good for business, Jerry and his team have unified the business community, and made significant progress toward creating an environment where businesses can grow and thrive."

"We are fortunate to have such a strong, experienced, and trusted leader at our helm," Reilly said.

Sanders' more proactive approach to public policy and advocacy has yielded the organization several successful initiatives against harmful business legislation including AB 504 and referendum campaigns on the linkage fee and minimum wage increase. In addition, the Chamber has supported the successful election campaigns of business-

friendly candidates including Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Councilwoman Lorie Zapf, and Councilman Chris Cate, among others. Such positive momentum for the region's business community has contributed to growing the Chamber's PAC to over \$1 million.

Some of the Chamber's goals for the year include initiating a comprehensive Regional Jobs Strategy, the preclearance/joint inspection facility at Otay Mesa, affordable housing for veterans, and supporting business-friendly policies and candidates. In this year's elections the Chamber has announced endorsements of Congressman Scott Peters, Mayor Kevin Faulconer, County Supervisor Greg Cox, San Diego City Councilmembers Mark Kersey and Scott Sherman, as well as Ray Ellis for San Diego City Council District 1, and Kristin Gaspar for County Supervisor District 3.

#### **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 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](http://SDChamber.org) or call 619-544-1300.

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