

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHAMBER'S REGIONAL JOBS STRATEGY DEVELOPS ROAD MAP FOR JOB GROWTH**

*Unprecedented coalition of business and civic organizations behind cohesive strategy*

**SAN DIEGO** (Feb. 9, 2017) – San Diego is fortunate to have numerous organizations helping to grow our economy and create more jobs. However, there hasn't been a region-wide plan that aligns efforts for leveraging resources and initiatives – until now. Released today, the [Regional Jobs Strategy Final Report](#) is a road map for jobs creation outlining the challenges our region faces and how best to address them which all Regional Jobs Strategy partners can implement.

"This work plan was built together – with our partners in the business and civic community," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "The future success of this truly depends on the degree to which all involved take ownership and put it into action."

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer said, "There are great programs that are proven to create jobs all over our region. When we build on those successes, when we get more of the cities and businesses in the county working together, we can create an environment where our economy is working for all San Diegans."

Organized by the San Diego Regional Chamber and in partnership with the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the Regional Jobs Strategy began last April and has grown into an unprecedented coalition of nearly 70 business, civic, and community organizations from throughout the Cali-Baja region.

"Throughout the creation of the Regional Jobs Strategy key areas have been identified for San Diego to leverage successes and improve areas where we see opportunities for improvement," said Helen Robbins-Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of San Diego. "Now that we are equipped with this information we can use it to collectively influence what we are doing in our region."

Over the course of the development of the final strategy, three dashboards were released identifying San Diego's strengths and weaknesses when it comes to business climate and jobs. One of the areas

where the region lagged behind competitor metros is the workplace gender gap. San Diego has the lowest percentage of women in the workforce compared to competitor metropolitan areas. To address this, the Chamber will soon launch “Advance” a women’s professional development program that aims to elevate women’s careers to the highest level in business through training and mentoring.

While it will likely take time for groups to assimilate this information into their strategy building, some organizations have found ways to transfer ideas and programs. For example, GRID Alternatives, an organization that brings the benefits of solar technology to communities that would not otherwise have access, is exploring a potential partnership for training and employment with the veteran transition program zero8hundred.

“What GRID Alternatives is doing is clearly working and by partnering we could bring great new opportunities for many of our transitioning veterans,” said Sean Mahoney Executive Director of zero8hundred. “If we weren’t a part of this initiative we likely would not have known of each other’s organizations - it’s really raised our awareness of what others are doing in the County.”

To keep the momentum going, the San Diego Regional Chamber will present the final report to each partner organization over the next several months to talk about how each group plans to apply the findings in their own initiatives. And to ensure all are working with accurate information, the Chamber will update the three dashboards on San Diego’s Business and Tax Climate, Affordability, and Standard of Living this year.

To view the Regional Jobs Strategy final report, [click here](#). All previously released dashboards and appendixes can be downloaded from the Chamber website at [sdchamber.org/regional-jobs-strategy](http://sdchamber.org/regional-jobs-strategy).

#### **About the San Diego Regional Chamber Foundation**

The San Diego Regional Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)3 foundation. The Foundation’s mission is to create the most business-friendly region in California through investment in research, education, and leadership. The Foundation focuses its research, education, and leadership cultivation on around the issues that influence San Diego’s business climate: workforce development, cross-border business, veterans employment, infrastructure, and quality of life. Learn more at [SDChamber.org/Foundation](http://SDChamber.org/Foundation).

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