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CHAMBER'S ANNUAL MEXICO CITY TRIP CHAMPIONS U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP

Trade agreements, border infrastructure, and regional tourism among key issues for binational delegation

SAN DIEGO (March 23, 2017) – With much uncertainty surrounding the U.S. – Mexico relationship, business, community, and government leaders from San Diego and Baja will travel to Mexico City to meet with federal legislators to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties.

The meetings are part of the San Diego Regional Chamber's annual Binational Delegation to Mexico City. The trip is taking place March 26 to 29 and aims to reaffirm our region's commitment to binational collaboration, strengthen diplomatic and economic ties, and advance the policies that benefit both economies.

"This trip and our mission as champions for cross-border commerce are more important than ever," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "Our region is a national model for successful cross-border commerce and it is critical that we bring the voice of our region's business community to leaders in Mexico City to keep moving forward with the projects and policies necessary for economic growth."

Delegates will meet with top Mexican government officials and agencies in support of policies and initiatives important to regional growth and global competitiveness. Policy priorities for this year's delegation are:

- Promoting cross-border commerce and supporting trade agreements that foster a shared economy between the U.S. and Mexico
- Enhancing efficient border infrastructure, in particular, Otay II, PedWest, and the Cross-Border Railroad
- Leveraging our region for increased tourism

The delegation includes a mix of nearly 90 business and community leaders as well as elected officials from both sides of the border. Taking part in the trip, and illustrating the region's collaborative spirit, are San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastélum, and Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina.

Among the various meetings taking place during the three-day trip are a reception at U.S. Ambassador Roberta Jacobson's residence; a meeting and introduction to the Mexican Senate followed by the signing of an agreement on binational collaboration; and a meeting with Rodolfo Lacy Tamayo, Undersecretary of Planning and Environmental Policy, SEMARNAT where topics will include the recent Tijuana sewage spill that affected South County beaches and San Diego Bay.

Other meetings taking place include:

- Carlos Sada, Undersecretary for North America, SRE
- Ricardo Trevino Chapa, Federal Administrator of Customs, SAT
- Humberto Roque Villanueva, Undersecretary of Population, Migration and Religious Issues, SEGOB
- Juan Ernesto Pardinás Carpizo, Director of Mexican Institute of Competitiveness and former advisor for President Obama's Council on Open Government
- 20 members of Mexico's Congress

Additional notable delegates include:

- William Ostick, U.S. Consulate General, Tijuana
- Marcela Celorio, Mexican Consul General, San Diego
- Aron Davidson, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Ben De Alba, Assistance Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
- California State Assemblymember Rocky Chavez
- San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts
- San Diego City Council members David Alvarez, Georgette Gomez, and Mark Kersey
- Tijuana City Council member Maribel Ivette Casillas Rivera
- And representatives from various businesses and organizations, including: SIMNSA Health Care, San Diego Regional Airport Authority, Baja California Railroad, Sportfishing Association of California, Port of San Diego, and Chevron

This is the 12th annual delegation to Mexico City the Chamber has led. The San Diego Regional Chamber is the only Chamber to lead annual binational delegation trips to the U.S. and Mexico capital cities.

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.

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