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CHAMBER-LED DELEGATION ADVOCATES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The delegation trip includes more than 140 business and civic leaders from the San Diego region

SAN DIEGO (March 24, 2022) – A group of more than 140 business and civic leaders from San Diego and Baja California is headed to Washington, D.C. to advance key issues related to cross-border commerce, regional infrastructure, and the economy.

This year, the group of delegates– including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria–will be visiting from March 27 through 30 and meeting with federal government officials, agency representatives, and policymakers to enhance understanding and advance policy that creates the best environment for San Diego businesses and neighborhoods to thrive. The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Mission to Washington D.C.”, which brings delegates to the nation’s capital for three days, was on hold for two years due to the pandemic.

“Our delegation is working to advocate for federal funding and support for the projects and policies directly affecting business and the people living and working in the Cali-Baja region,” said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. “With such a large, diverse group we’re not just telling our nation’s leaders that these issues are important to our region, we’re showing them who it matters to and why. It’s a powerful message.”

Earlier this month, the Chamber signed onto a letter to Senators Feinstein and Padilla (D-CA), and Representatives Peters (CA-52), Vargas (CA-51), Levin (CA-49), and Jacobs (CA-53) outlining priority projects that should receive funding through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. Subsequently, delegates will have the opportunity to meet the entire San Diego Congressional Delegation in person to advocate for federal funds and address other regional issues including COVID-19 recovery and updates on the Tijuana River Valley infrastructure projects.

In addition, the [Chamber led a letter](#) on behalf of business organizations and regional stakeholders from both sides of the border urging Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus to address challenges faced by border communities– such as long border wait times and a need for additional staffing– which impact regional and national economies and communities. The letter was also sent to U.S. Senators Feinstein and Padilla (D-CA) along with the entire San Diego Congressional Delegation asking for their support in improving the management of our land ports of

entry. The delegation will have an opportunity to discuss these requests directly with Commission Magnus and U.S. Senator Feinstein during the trip

In full, the three-day agenda includes meetings covering a variety of areas such as infrastructure, transportation, defense and veterans, national security, cross-border collaboration, education and childcare, and regional workforce development.

Additional key priorities for the delegation:

Supporting a workforce that advances our region.
Reconnecting with leadership in Washington, DC.
Leveraging Federal government resources for COVID-19 relief programs.
Strengthening binational relationships and ongoing projects.
Border infrastructure projects including Otay 2.

Delegates will meet with:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Customs & Border Protection, Commissioner Chris Magnus
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Executive Director, Jeff Olivet
Department of Housing & Urban Development Deputy Secretary, Adrienne Todman
United Kingdom's Ambassador to the United States, Dame Karen Elizabeth Pierce DCMG
Mexico's Ambassador to the United States, Esteban Moctezuma
Congressmembers Issa, Jacobs, Levin, Peters, and Vargas
Department of Transportation
Department of State

Additional notable delegates:

San Diego City Councilmembers Jen Campbell, Raul Campillo, Sean Elo-Rivera, Joe LaCava, Marni Von Wilpert, and Stephen Whitburn
Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear
Chula Vista City Councilmember Andrea Cardenas
Imperial Beach Councilmember Paloma Aguirre
Coronado City Councilmember Bill Sandke
La Mesa Councilmember Colin Parent
Mexican Congresswoman Teresita de Jesus Vargas Meraz
City of Tijuana Councilmembers Juan Carlos Hank and Edgar Montiel
Ambassador Carlos Gonzales, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego
Thomas Reott, U.S. Consul General in Tijuana

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the only Chamber to lead annual binational delegation trips to the U.S. and Mexico capital cities. As the largest member-supported business organization in San Diego's binational region, the Chamber serves as the leading voice for the business community and presents a united effort on the community's behalf. The largest local chamber on the West Coast, the San Diego Chamber represents more than 2,000 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs.



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About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce: 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 more than 2,000 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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