San Diego Regional Chamber

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CHAMBER'S BINATIONAL DELEGATION ADVOCATES FOR BORDER PRIORITIES IN CDMX

Largest delegation to date will work to strengthen U.S.-MX relationship and advance priorities including border infrastructure, environmental projects, and the economy

SAN DIEGO (October 21, 2022) – Nearly 100 business, community, and government leaders from San Diego and Baja California will travel to Mexico City to champion U.S.-Mexico relations and advance issues critical to the success of the binational business community.

After a two-year pause due to the pandemic, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's 15th annual Binational Delegation to Mexico City is back with a list of priorities to advance the border region. Beginning Sunday, October 23, and running through Wednesday, October 26, the group will meet with Mexican leaders and government officials to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties and discuss opportunities for collaboration in border infrastructure and environmental projects.

"While this is our first trip back to Mexico City since the pandemic, our efforts to support and strengthen our binational voice have been going strong," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "These trips are so important to the Chamber's work to establish a strong relationship with Mexico's leadership and business leaders. This week, we are building on that foundation to tell our region's story and advocate for the projects and policies that are crucial to our binational region."

This year's delegation is the Chamber's largest ever to Mexico City and represents a diverse mix of San Diego- and Baja-based industries, organizations, and elected officials including:

- California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria
- Tijuana Mayor Montserrat Caballero Ramirez
- Congressmember Scott Peters
- Diputada Maite Vargas Meraz
- Baja State Secretary of Economy and Innovation Kurt Honold
- San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chair Nora Vargas
- San Diego Council President Sean Elo-Rivera, and Councilmembers Joe La Cava, Marni von Wilpert, and Stephen Whitburn
- Tijuana City Councilmembers Rogelia Arzola and Juan Carlos Hank
- State Assemblymembers David Alvarez and Chris Ward
- Consul Generals Carlos Gonzales Gutierrez and Oz Kurt
- Coronado City Councilmember Bill Sandke
- La Mesa City Councilmember Colin Parent

Delegates will meet with a variety of Mexican federal agencies and representatives with the goal of strengthening the California-Mexico economic and diplomatic relationship, conveying support and appreciation for binational efforts to address transboundary pollution impacting the Tijuana River Valley in the region, and inquiring about funding resources to advance border infrastructure and efficiency and how the Chamber and the private sector can support.

During the trip, delegates will meet with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar for a special reception. In addition, the delegation with meet with:

- Members of the Mexican Senate to discuss opportunities to strengthen bilateral relationships.
- Mtra. Lydia Antonio de la Garza, General Director of Administration and Supervision of Compliance with Commercial Treaties for the Secretariat of Economy to discuss regional incentives and foreign direct investment opportunities in Mexico
- Roberto Velasco, Chief Officer for the North America Unit of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs for a forum on border infrastructure projects including Otay 2 and efforts to reopen PedWest
- Leadership from the Mexican section of the IBWC and CONAGUA regarding efforts to address transboundary pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.

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 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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