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CHAMBER-LED DELEGATION ADVOCATING FOR SAN DIEGO REGION PRIORITIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

More than 170 business and civic leaders from San Diego region are advocating for border infrastructure, trade, healthcare, workforce development, environmental issues, and sustainability



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SAN DIEGO (April 15, 2024) – A group of more than 170 business and civic leaders from across the San Diego and Baja, California region is in Washington, D.C. advocating for issues critical to our environment, business growth, the creation of jobs, and the economy. It is the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce’s 16th annual [Mission to Washington, D.C.](#) which brings delegates to the nation’s capital for three days, April 14 - 17.

The trip presents a valuable opportunity for San Diego business leaders to engage with policymakers, advance key initiatives, and foster relationships crucial to our region's continued growth and success.

"The Chamber's Mission to Washington, D.C. delegation trip is instrumental in fostering relationships with policymakers and advocating for initiatives vital to our region's growth," **said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO.** "San Diego is about as far as you can get from D.C., so when we bring a group this large

representing so many diverse industries and interests it really sends a message that we are invested in these issues and ready to work together to make change happen. It gets the attention that helps us move the needle."

"This mission to Washington D.C. helps bring our region's unified voice — and the wants and needs of San Diegans — to the table in our nation's capital," **said Mayor Todd Gloria.** "Together, we are showcasing our binational and cross-sector cooperation while advocating for the policies and federal support that will help our communities."

"I am grateful to the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce for putting together this annual delegation, which has been instrumental in bringing a broad range of stakeholders together to advocate for the San Diego Region. This chamber has long prioritized advocating for solutions to end the transboundary pollution crisis, and thanks to this advocacy, we have secured \$156 million for border infrastructure upgrades. I look forward to continuing to work with the chamber to ensure a resilient future for all," **said Mayor Paloma Aguirre.**

"The Tijuana River Valley sewage crisis is polluting our coastlines and making our water unhealthy and unsafe, affecting the coastal communities I represent from Coronado to Carlsbad," **said Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.** "I am here to fight for immediate resources to help San Diego County protect our ocean, beaches, and coastlines from toxic pollution. This can be solved by fixing the broken sewage infrastructure.

"The sewage crisis is keeping local families from enjoying the beaches and ocean, making our kids sick, and harming the small businesses and workers in our beach communities," **Supervisor Lawson-Remer continued.** "If people can't get in the water, it prevents people from coming to the coastal areas, which hurts the local economy. This is an environmental catastrophe, and we need federal support to fix it."

During the trip, delegates, including City of San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, will engage in a series of meetings, briefings, and networking events with members of Congress, administration officials, and other influential stakeholders. The agenda will focus on key issues impacting the San Diego region's economy, infrastructure, workforce development, healthcare, and innovation ecosystem.

Key topics of discussion include:

- Mitigating cross-border pollution
- Border infrastructure and efficiency
- Economic development and trade
- Infrastructure Investment
- Workforce development and education
- Healthcare policy
- Innovation and technology

Delegates will meet with:

- Mexico's Ambassador to the United States, Esteban Moctezuma
- San Diego Congressional Delegation including Reps. Issa (CA-48), Jacobs (CA-51), Levin (CA-49), Peters (CA-50), and Vargas (CA-52)
- U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (CA-D)
- Rep. Adam Schiff (CA-30)
- Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mexico and Canada, Rachel M. Poynter
- Embassy of Japan in the United States of America First Secretary of Economic Section, Taro Han
- Environmental Protection Agency Senior Advisor of Office of Water, Zachary Schafer
- Department of Health and Human Services Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Bertha Alisia Guerrero, and Acting Principal Deputy Director Eduardo Cisneros,
- Small Business Administration Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) Associate Administrator Mark Madrid and Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience (ODR&R) Senior Advisor Warren Miller
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Dr. Kimberly McClain
- United States Department of Transportation Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, Evan Wessel
- [See full agenda here](#)

Notable delegates:

- San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria
- Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre
- Chula Vista Mayor John McCann
- County Supervisors Monica Montgomery Steppe, Terra Lawson Remer, and Joel Anderson
- San Diego City Council President Sean Elo Rivera, Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava, and Councilmembers Raul Campillo, Henry Foster, Kent Lee, Vivian Moreno, and Stephen Whitburn
- Tijuana Councilmember Mario Iturrios
- Chula Vista Councilmember Carolina Chavez

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.

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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