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CHAMBER DELEGATION CHAMPIONS REGIONAL PRIORITIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The binational group is in the nation's capital to advocate on behalf of CaliBaja businesses and meet with federal leaders as policy takes shape under the new Administration.

SAN DIEGO (April 7, 2025)- From April 6 to 9, more than 140 business and civic leaders from across the binational region are in the nation's capital as part of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's 17th [Annual Mission to Washington, D.C.](#) The three-day trip focuses on key regional priorities, including trade, housing, infrastructure, border efficiency, tourism, and healthcare. The visit comes at a pivotal moment, as policymakers begin shaping their agendas under the new Administration.



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"This delegation is more than just showing up to meetings, it's about advocating for the resources, policies, and partnerships that help make our binational region the best place to live and work," said **Jessica Anderson, Interim President and CEO at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**. "The decisions made in Washington have a direct impact on our business community's ability to grow, thrive, and remain competitive. By engaging directly with federal leaders, we're making sure our priorities are part of the national conversation."

The 140+ member delegation represents a diverse mix of leaders from the San Diego and Baja-California region. Representing different industries, organizations, and publicly held offices, the delegation members include:

- State of Baja California Congresswoman Ana Santana
- State of Baja California Assemblymember Adrian Valle
- Consul General of the United States in Mexico Christopher Teal
- National City Mayor Ron Morrison
- Tecate Mayor Roman Cota
- San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava
- San Diego Councilmembers Marni Von Wilpert and Stephen Whitburn
- Chula Vista Councilmember Micheal Inzunza
- Tijuana Councilmembers Gina Arana, Heriberto Ramirez, Melissa Pacheco, Michel Garcia, Monica Padilla, and Pablo Yañez
- Tecate City Councilmember Isaac Conteras López

"Federal support of San Diego's binational, housing, environmental, and business initiatives strengthens not only our city and the region but the country," said **San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava**. "The Chamber's annual trip to Washington D.C. ensures our voice is heard and sets the stage for alignment in our goals and collaboration in our solutions."

“This delegation trip offers the appropriate setting to build a binational dialogue for incentives and infrastructure that can not only minimize the economic damage, but also turn this crisis into an opportunity to consolidate and strengthen the CaliBaja region and position it as a key destination in nearshoring and the reconfiguration of global value chains,” said **State of Baja California Congresswoman Ana Santana**.

During the three-day trip, the packed agenda includes:

- Senator Adam Schiff
- Congressmembers Ami Bera, John Garamendi, Sara Jacobs, Jay Obernolte, Scott Peters, and Juan Vargas
- Mexican Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán
- Pete Flores, Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Brenda Johnson-Turner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy
- Katherine Dueholm, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mexico and Canada, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State
- Lisa Shimkat, Associate Administrator for the Office of Field Operations and Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of International Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration
- Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Acting Director, NOAA Climate Prediction Center
- Trevor Kellogg, Acting Under Secretary for the Department of Commerce
- Joshua Meltzer, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution
- Nagesh Rao, Acting Director, National Institute of Standards & Technology, Department of Commerce
- Rodney Davis, Head of Government Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Sara Yun, Director, Bureau of Energy Resources, Department of State
- Leadership at the Department of Transportation
- [See complete trip agenda here](#)

“When we as policy makers are 3000 miles from the decisions being made at the Federal level, it is vitally important to have as much direct face to face interaction as possible to be up to date and properly be able to represent the needs of our region,” said **National City Mayor Ron Morrison**.

The Chamber also hosted a [LIVE Press Conference](#) this morning to discuss these ongoing efforts. Featured speakers included San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Interim President and CEO Jessica Anderson, San Diego Council President and SANDAG Vice Chair Joe LaCava, State of Baja California Congresswoman Ana Santana, National City Mayor Ron Morrison, and San Diego Councilmember Marni von Wilpert.

“The Chamber’s annual Washington, D.C. trip is a key opportunity to advocate for the needs of our San Diego region. From securing investments in infrastructure to advancing policies that support our local workforce, conversations with our federal leaders are essential to ensuring San Diego continues to thrive,” said **San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert**. “With Washington D.C.’s threats to cut vital funding and programs from everyday families in California, it is critical that San Diego have a strong voice in championing policies that enhance our economy, bolster public safety, and improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.”

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the only chamber leading annual binational delegation trips to the U.S. and Mexico's capital cities.

For more information or to set up an interview with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Interim President and CEO Jessica Anderson, please contact Hayley Marting at HMarting@SDChamber.org or 559-514-1649. Please follow along the Mission to Washington DC using the hashtag “#SDinDC”.



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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.