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

The binational group is in Washington, D.C. to champion business and empower leaders while advancing CaliBaja priorities with federal decision-makers.

SAN DIEGO (April 27, 2026)- From April 26 to 29, more than 100 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 18th [Annual Mission to Washington, D.C.](#) The three-day trip focuses on key regional [priorities](#), including immigration, trade, housing, infrastructure, border efficiency, energy and water, healthcare, and [more](#).

"This delegation is not a courtesy visit, it is a focused, high-impact effort to deliver real results for our region," said **Chris Cate, President and CEO at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**. "The decisions made in Washington shape the trajectory of the San Diego region's economy, our workforce, and our quality of life. We are here to advocate, both clearly and unapologetically, for federal policies, investments, and partnerships that strengthen our binational economy and champion business across our region."

The 100+ 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 elected members include:

- San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria
- Poway Mayor Steven Vaus
- National City Mayor Ron Morrison
- San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava
- San Diego City Council Pro Tem Kent Lee
- San Diego City Councilmembers Vivian Moreno and Stephen Whitburn
- Escondido City Councilmember Jose Garcia
- Imperial Beach City Councilmember Mariko Nakawatase-Walk
- Tijuana City Councilmembers Georgina Arana Cruz, Michel Garcia Arceo, Monica Padilla Villa Velazquez, Lemeul Ramirez, and Pablo Yanez Placencia
- Consular Officer for Protection, Mexican Consulate in New York David Tejada Perez

"Nothing makes as great an impact as meeting face-to-face with federal officials, sharing our common goals and building a bond of mutual respect," said **San Diego Council President Joe LaCava**. "Our delegation is working for the people of San Diego and the cross-border region to make sure federal resources and funding are invested in our corner of the country and in our residents. "

"This is not a symbolic action - it is a strategic move. Our economies are deeply interconnected, our communities are linked, and our future depends on collaboration," said **Tijuana Councilmember Lemuel Ramirez**. "By participating in this delegation, we ensure that our voice is heard in spaces where key decisions are made and we can deliver results for our community - creating jobs, supporting businesses, and building a more competitive and prosperous region."

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

- Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla
- Congressman Vince Fong
- Max Hamilton, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for North America, Department of State
- Bradley McKinney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Commercial Service Global Markets, Department of Commerce, and Isabella Cascarano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere Global Markets, Department of Commerce
- Dr. Elke Hodson, Acting Principal Deputy Director and Director of Technology Policy, Department of Energy
- Representatives from the offices of Congressmembers Issa, Jacobs, Levin, Peters, and Vargas
- Lisa Shimkat, Associate Administrator, Office of Field Operations- HQ, U.S. Small Business Administration
- Representatives from the Mexican Embassy
- Leadership at Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- [See the full agenda here](#)

The Chamber also hosted a [LIVE Press Conference](#) to discuss these ongoing efforts. Featured speakers included San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Chris Cate, San Diego Council President Joe LaCava, Tijuana Councilmember Lemuel Ramirez, and Prebys Foundation Vice President of Programs Emily Young.

“Over the past few years, leaders across business, philanthropy, community, and government have come together to pursue a lasting solution to the border sewage crisis in the San Diego–Tijuana region,” said **Emily Young, Vice President of Programs, Prebys Foundation**. “This is not just a regional challenge—it is a matter of national security, a threat to our binational economy, and a direct risk to the health and wellbeing of thousands of American families. It must be treated as a federal priority.”



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The San Diego Regional Chamber is the only chamber in the nation leading annual binational delegation trips to the U.S. and Mexico's capital cities. The Chamber will lead this year's delegation to Mexico City in October.

For more information or to set up an interview with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Chris Cate, please contact Hayley Marting at HMarting@SDChamber.org or 559-514-1649. Please follow along the Mission to Washington D.C. on our social media at @sdchamber.

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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 champion business and empower leaders. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.