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Milestone Delegation Celebrates 20 Years of Cross-Border Collaboration and Impact

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce will showcase two decades of binational wins and chart the trip's future.

SAN DIEGO (October 12, 2026) – This week, over 100 business and community leaders from San Diego and Baja California are in Mexico City for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's 20th annual Binational Delegation, marking two decades of measurable results in cross-border commerce, infrastructure, and binational partnership.

DELEGATION PHOTO

TRIP PHOTOS + BROLL

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's 20th Annual Binational Delegation to Mexico City will commence with a list of priorities to advance the border region, such as border efficiency, water management, infrastructure, energy, immigration, and the economic landscape. Beginning yesterday, and running through Wednesday, October 14, the group is meeting with Mexican leaders and government officials to help strengthen economic ties and explore new policy opportunities.

"The border region dynamic is based on strong relationships and a shared will to solve problems. These relationships build trust, and we need to continue to work on developing the institutions and lasting mechanisms that will give that trust continuity: permanent working groups, measurable objectives, shared data, and stronger connections between Tijuana, San Diego and our nations' capitals. We must strive to incorporate the border

perspective earlier into national policymaking to strategically achieve a binational region. The border should not be the place where our two countries end, but where our shared future begins," said **Ambassador Alicia Kerber-Palma, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego.**

This trip marks a milestone: 20 years of delegations to Mexico's capital city. Over the last two decades, the Chamber has secured the modernization and expansion of the San Ysidro and Chaparral ports of entry, championed CBX, brought forward Otay Mesa East, ratified the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, and secured $144 million in federal funding from Mexico to address the Tijuana River Valley sewage crisis, transforming infrastructure on the Mexican side, including the San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant and pump station rehabilitations.

"Twenty years ago, the Chamber had a simple idea: bring together the Cali-Baja region's best and brightest, put them in a room with Mexican decisionmakers, and solve real problems," said **Chris Cate, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**. "That idea has delivered. When you take 100+ business leaders from both sides of the border and sit them down with Mexican senators, cabinet secretaries, and federal officials to have serious conversations about shared challenges, things move. That's what these delegations represent: two decades of proof that binational collaboration works."

The over 100-member delegation represents a diverse mix of leaders from San Diego and Baja-based industries, organizations, and elected officials including:

- San Diego County Supervisor Joel Anderson
- Coronado Mayor John Duncan
- San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria
- National City Mayor Ron Morrison
- Secretary of Economy and Innovation, Kurt Honold, State of Baja California

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- Assemblymember Evelyn Sanchez, State of Baja California
- Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Cesar Fernandez
- Escondido Deputy Mayor Joe Garcia
- Carlsbad City Councilmember Teresa Acosta
- Chula Vista City Councilmembers Carolina Chavez and Michael Inzunza
- Coronado City Councilmember Mark Fleming
- Imperial Beach City Councilmember Mariko Nakawatase
- San Diego City Councilmember Vivian Moreno
- Tijuana City Councilmembers Georgina Arana Cruz, Melissa Pacheco, Lemuel Ramirez, and Pablo Yañez
- Tecate Councilmember Isaac Contreras
- Ambassador Alicia Kerber-Palma, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego
- Consul General Lance Hegerle, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana

"San Diego's relationship with Mexico is not an abstraction—it is part of daily life in our city, reflected in our families, our shared culture and a binational economy that supports jobs throughout our region," said **San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria.** "In Mexico City, we will build on progress to address pollution in the Tijuana River Valley while pressing for full implementation, long-term maintenance and accountability to finally end this decades-long crisis. We will also work to advance the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry to reduce border wait times, improve air quality and expand trade. Together, we can build a healthier, more connected and more prosperous binational region."

The trip agenda includes events with:

- Special reception at U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ronald Johnson's residence
- Representatives from both chambers of the Mexican Congress

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- Water management & infrastructure discussion with Chief Environmental Officer of NADBank, Mexican Section International Boundary and Water Commission (CILA), and the Mexican National Water Commission (CONAGUA)
- USMCA conversation with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico
- Full agenda here

“Baja California's participation in this delegation reflects our commitment to strengthening the economic partnership between our binational region. Through international collaboration and direct engagement with federal partners, we can advance priorities that create prosperity and opportunity for both our communities,” **said State of Baja California Secretary of Economy and Innovation Kurt Honold.**

The Chamber also hosted a LIVE Press Conference this morning to discuss these ongoing efforts. Featured speakers included Chamber President and CEO Chris Cate, Consul Ambassador of Mexico in San Diego Alicia G. Kerber-Palma, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, State of Baja California Secretary of Economy and Innovation Kurt Honold, and Chula Vista Councilmember Carolina Chavez.

"I see firsthand how infrastructure shapes opportunity for our communities. This delegation gives us direct access to federal decision-makers to advocate for the projects that matter, and the results are proof that binational collaboration works,” **said Chula Vista Councilmember Carolina Chavez.** “The modernization of our ports of entry, the $144 million secured for the Tijuana River Valley, and Otay Mesa East aren't just wins on paper. They transform how our communities thrive."

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

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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 one of the largest local Chambers on the West Coast, representing nearly 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.