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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 8, 2026) – Next week, over 100 business and community leaders from San Diego and Baja California will travel to 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.

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 Sunday, October 11, and running through Wednesday, October 14, the group will meet with Mexican leaders and government officials to help strengthen economic ties and explore new policy opportunities.

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 in Mexico and the U.S., 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.

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"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:

- 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
- 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, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego
- Consul General Lance Hegerle, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana

The trip agenda includes events with:

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- Special reception at U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ronald Johnson's residence
- Representatives from the Mexican Senate
- Representatives from Mexico's House, the Chamber of Deputies
- Water management & infrastructure discussion with Chief Environmental Officer of NADBank, Mexican Section International Boundary and Water Commission (CILA)
- USMCA conversation with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico
- More to be announced

The Chamber will host a LIVE Press Conference, Monday, October 12th at 9:15 a.m. (PST) to discuss these ongoing efforts. Confirmed speakers include Chamber President and CEO Chris Cate, 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.

The press conference will be held live at the Four Seasons and live streamed here.

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.

For more information or to set up an interview, please contact Hayley Marting at HMarting@sdchamber.org or 559-514-1649.

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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.