

ALERT

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Sacramento Host Breakfast

Governor, CalChamber Chair Offer State Revenue Solutions



Photos by Megan Wood

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. touched upon the challenges California faces and his proposed solutions in an address to business and civic leaders from throughout the state at the 87th annual Sacramento Host Breakfast on May 22.

California Chamber of Commerce Chair Timothy S. Dubois focused his speech around the revenue possibilities the travel and tourism industry can bring to the state.

More than 1,000 people attended the breakfast, an event that offers decision-making leaders in California finance, government, education, agriculture and industry the opportunity to exchange views, establish and renew friendships, and create statewide atmospheres of good will and understanding at a common table.



Timothy S. Dubois

Timothy S. Dubois

Dubois, president of The Edward Thomas Collection, zeroed in on travel and tourism, one of the strongest industries in the state. He urged leaders to stay positive and to leverage the state's resources. Increasing travel and tourism, he said, will spur economic growth.

"I believe this industry may be one way out of our economic troubles and the way into a whole new level of prosperity...for our state as a whole," Dubois said.

The travel industry employs more than 814,000 people in the state and generated \$102 billion in sales revenue last year, Dubois said. He added there still is much potential within the industry if one looks at foreign travel to California.

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Governor Signs Job Creator Bill



A California Chamber of Commerce-supported job creator bill that encourages

job growth by eliminating costly and repetitive permitting for solar thermal projects was signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr on May 23.

AB 1073 (Fuentes; D-Sylmar) promotes the use of cost-efficient energy by allowing a solar facility to convert from solar thermal technology to photovoltaic technology without having to file a new application.

This legislation is consistent with the goals of the CalChamber 2012 Renew Agenda and will help position California for economic recovery.

AB 1073 builds on the streamlining foundation set forth in SB 226 (Simitian; Statutes of 2011, Chapter 469) by clarifying that the California Energy Commission has "opt-in" jurisdiction over specified solar thermal power plants that were challenged in court, but were later dismissed.

Because of this, more solar thermal projects will have the opportunity to convert to photovoltaic, making them more competitive and providing certainty for projects moving forward.

Staff Contact: Amy Mmagu

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Labor Law Corner

Consider Reasons for Absences When Deciding Employee Termination



Sunny Lee
HR Adviser

We hired an employee who has been tardy and absent. Can I terminate an employee for excessive absenteeism and tell her on the phone?

If the absences are not protected by state and federal law then the employer may go by its own policies and practices.

The employer should be cautious, however, if the employee is pregnant,

on workers' compensation, protected under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), California Family Rights Act (CFRA) or Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

If the absence is related to care for a family member, the absence may be protected under FMLA/CFRA and kin care.

Company paid sick leave or paid time off (PTO) time will protect employees from losing their job if they follow company policy related to calling in and providing doctor verification, if required.

If the employee is out of sick leave or PTO, and is out for his/her own illness or that of a family member, the Notice of FMLA/CFRA rights should be given in the event that the employee would qualify for those rights.

FMLA/CFRA will protect an employee for up to 12 weeks within 12 months. If the employee has FMLA/CFRA rights, the employee should be notified of those rights and told that he/she needs to provide verification from a medical provider. The same would apply if the employee is missing work due to care for a parent, child, spouse or domestic partner.

Other Situations

A more difficult situation arises where the employee either does not qualify for FMLA/CFRA or has exceeded those rights.

If the situation involves the employee's own chronic illness, he/she may be covered under the ADA and the state Fair Employment and Housing Act disability protection. These rights can apply to all employees, regardless of hours worked or the amount of time that the employee has been employed.

Often, an employer will need to consult with legal counsel to determine if these rights apply in a given situation.

Call-In/Job Abandonment

Companies generally have policies and practices about call-in provisions an employee must follow when he/she will be out for illness. A typical job abandonment policy would apply when the employee is "no call, no show" for three days.

If you have not heard from the employee within three days, the policy

is in the employee handbook and the employee is aware of the policy, an employer may terminate the employee for failing to follow company policy.

Lastly, it is always good to consider the employee's prior performance, whether prior warning notices have been given, how long the employee has been employed and any other special circumstances.

Pay Immediately

Employees who are terminated need to be paid immediately. For that reason it is recommended that employers terminate in person to ensure that the employee receives his/her final pay at the time of termination.

If an employee has elected direct deposit, the employer may, under Labor Code Section 213, use direct deposit for final pay. Once the funds are in the account, the employer may call and terminate the employee, letting him/her know that the final pay has been deposited to his/her account.

Required Termination Forms

A Notice of Change in Status, the Itemized Wage Statement and the "For Your Benefit" unemployment insurance booklet must be provided to all employees at termination. In this case, those documents may be mailed to the employee.

The Labor Law Helpline is a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.

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Two More ‘Job Killers’ Move Off List

Amendments Remove Most Onerous Aspects; CalChamber Still Opposes



The California Chamber of Commerce removed the “job killer” designation on a bill that increased the cost of development and created project delays by

requiring that general plans incorporate concepts related to healthy food access and urban agriculture, after it was amended on May 17. The CalChamber remains opposed to the bill.

Before the May 17 amendments, **AB 1897 (Campos; D-San Jose)** sought to address the lack of access to healthy and fresh food for low- to moderate-income families in California by allowing the Office of Planning and Research to add a healthy food element to a city or county general plan.

Although the intent of the bill was commendable, the bill stated it will expedite the local and state residential process locating new or rehabilitated grocery stores in “food deserts,” but did not address how the process will be expedited.

AB 1897 also stated it would have ensured that local governments zone sufficient land to include grocery stores, but it didn’t address how that would be done when an area is already developed.

Additionally, the bill stated that local governments would make a diligent effort through land use and development controls to significantly reduce barriers to grocery store development by regulatory concessions and incentives, but did not address how.

Created Hook for Litigation

AB 1897 indicated a link between residential development with the location of a grocery store. This gave the impression that it is OK to place a condition of approval on a residential project. Anyone may question whether the condition was met and sue, thereby creating delays or halting a project.

CalChamber Remains Opposed

In its amended form, AB 1897 seeks to address the lack of access to healthy and fresh food for low- to moderate-

income families in California by allowing the Office of Planning and Research, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, to add healthy food guidelines to a city or county general plan.

Despite the good intentions of the bill, there are already efforts being made to address the issue of access to healthy foods without adding guidelines to a general plan.

Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles) authored AB 581 (Chapter 505, Statutes of 2011), establishing California’s own Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which will be providing recommendations to the Legislature this July on how to address “food deserts,” or a lack of access to healthy food. AB 1897 inappropriately steps in front of that process and tries to address the issue through land use planning rather than waiting for the results of the study.

AB 1897 is awaiting a vote on the Assembly Floor.

Staff Contact: Amy Mmagu

Author Declines to Pursue Forestry ‘Job Killer’ Bill



The author of a California Chamber of Commerce-**opposed** “job killer” bill setting new state goals for forestry has opted not to proceed with

his proposal this year.

A hearing on **AB 2424 (Portantino; D-La Cañada Flintridge)** in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee

was canceled at the author’s request earlier this month.

AB 2424 would have increased costs of timber production by changing the state’s forestry goals to give equal consideration to each public need when reviewing forestry operations, including Timber Harvest Plans.

Existing policy strikes a delicate balance with California’s forest resources and timberlands. That policy has served the state well since its inception in 1973. It has prompted sustainable forestry

management practices in California in a way that is protective of the environment.

The forestry industry in California has been decimated by a myriad of other laws and regulatory burdens that do not exist in other states or countries. Most of the timber and timber products sold in California originate from out of state.

AB 2424 would have put at risk the remaining good-paying jobs in rural California.

Staff Contact: Valerie Nera

Assembly OKs Job Creator Bikeways Bill



A California Chamber of Commerce-supported job creator bill that reduces

regulatory burdens passed the Assembly this week with no opposition.

AB 2245 (Smyth; R-Santa Clarita) maximizes state funding and promotes tourism by exempting bikeways from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

This legislation is consistent with the goals of the CalChamber 2012 Renew

Agenda and will help position California for economic recovery.

CEQA was initially passed to ensure that California’s environment is considered before moving forward with a project. Over time, however, CEQA has become a hook for litigation and a means to delay worthy projects.

Until changes are made to the underlying process, the CalChamber supports legitimate CEQA exemptions that will encourage economic growth and recovery.

AB 2245 would, until January 1, 2017, exempt Class II bikeway projects, within an existing road right-of-way from the

CEQA process, therefore maximizing state transportation funding.

Streamlining CEQA provides certainty for businesses when entering into project agreements and allows projects to be completed without delay. Additional bikeways will promote tourism and benefit the residents of the area where the project will take place.

AB 2245 passed the Assembly on May 21 by a vote of 73-0.

The bill is in the Senate, awaiting assignment to a policy committee.

Staff Contact: Amy Mmagu

Governor, CalChamber Chair Offer State Revenue Solutions

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Using one country as an example, Dubois noted that in 2010 alone, the number of Chinese tourists to California increased by 40% and it is anticipated that Chinese tourists will spend more than \$2 billion in the state in 2012. California is a preferred destination for Chinese travelers, he said.

“Forty-nine percent of visitors from China who come to the U.S., voted California their top destination, ahead of New York, Nevada and Washington, D.C.,” Dubois said.

With about 65 million Chinese travelers seeking travel visas, and with the average Chinese traveler spending \$6,800 when visiting the United States, California stands to benefit greatly if the visa process were modernized and streamlined, Dubois said.

“Sixty-five million! That’s an awful lot of heads in beds—and bus tours, retail purchases, meals and meetings—and good jobs for Californians,” he said.

Governor Brown

Brown spoke on some of the most pressing problems facing the state: the budget deficit, water, taxes, pensions, renewable energy, public safety, education and high speed rail.

He reminded breakfast attendees that California is both a leader in the country and around the world, attracting 57% of all venture capital in the country (the most of any state). Among the state’s strengths are biotechnology, entertainment, tourism, agriculture, and trade, thanks to the state’s prosperous ports, he said.

California has a \$1.9 trillion economy, Brown said, and created \$90 billion in new wealth last year and will do about the same this year and better next year.

The Governor acknowledged that small businesses in California contribute much to the state and encounter many obstacles—from competition to regulation. He credited small businesses

with having created 226,000 jobs since he took office.

“I don’t claim the governor creates those [jobs], or the mayor, you [the business community] create those,” he said. “And you got to have the right climate and that’s what we’re working on.”

The Governor recognized that the state is under much pressure and tension, but stressed that a resolution will come soon. A compromise of making budgetary cuts and raising taxes, while not perfect, is the best thing to do practically, he said.

In closing, Brown assured leaders he will bring his best to the table and get the job done, making compromises where he needs to, and restoring the state’s economy.

“We’re going to build for the future, we’re not going to steal from it, and we’re going to know that California once again is the example, is the leader,” Brown said.

CalChamber Positions on June Ballot Propositions

Proposition	Subject	Position
Proposition 28	Limits on Legislators’ Terms in Office	Support
Proposition 29	Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research	Oppose

Remarks by Timothy S. Dubois

Leveraging International, In-State Tourism Can Boost Jobs, Economy, Revenues

Following are remarks presented by 2012 California Chamber of Commerce Chair Timothy S. Dubois at the Sacramento Host Breakfast on May 22. Dubois is president of The Edward Thomas Collection.

Thank you Dale and the entire Host Breakfast Committee for organizing this 87th Annual Breakfast.

And it's a great pleasure to be here and to set the stage for our 34th Governor, and our 39th Governor of this state.

California is an *amazing* place. A truly special state. When I was a kid, growing up in Denver, Colorado, I would watch Annette Funicello movies and wish that I, too, were out on the beach having all that fun. And listen to the Beach Boys and really know that I was missing out, because it seemed that California was a magical place, and even more than that, a state of mind!

And now, having lived here for 30 years, I can, with certainty, say that it truly is!

'Be Positive'

And so, even with the bad economic news, and the current condition of the state's budget, *we have to continue to be positive!*

We, with all our unbelievable natural resources, our world class creative thinkers and doers, our spectacular weather and our "California magic," we can solve our own crises, can create new ways to leverage these resources and, most importantly, can and should continue to be the inspirational and creative light unto the rest of our great country.

But—we have to stay positive.

With all our resources, this state is like one of those souped up, mint condition Shelby Cobras I always dreamed about owning as a kid, that is only taken out on the weekends.

Leverage

We are nowhere near leveraging what we already have.



Photo by Megan Wood

Timothy S. Dubois

We, with all our unbelievable natural resources, our world class creative thinkers and doers, our spectacular weather and our "California magic," we can solve our own crises, can create new ways to leverage these resources and, most importantly, can and should continue to be the inspirational and creative light unto the rest of our great country. But—we have to stay positive.

Most of us know that the entertainment industry, based right here in California, is a major driver of economic prosperity here in California.

But what many don't know is that the travel and tourism industry is as powerful an engine of economic growth—and I'm not saying this because it has been my business, and my love, for 40 years.

New Prosperity/Revenues

To give you a better feel, I want to take you inside this massive industry

infrastructure for a minute because I believe this industry may be one way out of our economic troubles and the way into a whole new level of prosperity for each and every one of you and for our state as a whole—and help you, Mr. Governor, so maybe, just maybe, you won't have to rely on the Legislature, or the voters, to get those revenues the state so desperately needs.

Right now, guests are waking up in more than 490,000 hotel rooms from Eureka to San Diego.

Waiters are pouring coffee, delivering room service; chefs are scrambling eggs (and egg-white omelets—this is California, after all!); busboys are clearing dishes, and kitchen staffs are prepping for lunch.

Housekeepers are beginning a day of changing towels, making beds and freshening rooms to make guests feel welcome and cared for.

Tour buses are meeting guests for sightseeing at our world-famous attractions, from Yosemite Valley to Muir Woods, Carmel by the Sea, Hearst Castle, Universal Studios, Disneyland and the San Diego Zoo, to name just a few.

Business people are filing into exhibition halls, conference centers and meeting rooms. Deals are being made over coffee and "power breakfasts"—just like this one.

Some guests are checking out and paying their bills at the front desk. That's one picture I

particularly like!

And taxi drivers in every city are taking their fares to the airport.

Thousands of business travelers and happy tourists are departing, taking with them stories, sunburns and new memories to share, business deals closed and—we hope—a new or rekindled love for our glorious state.

Tourism is big business, and it's *good* business for California. The travel industry employs more than 814,000 people

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Leveraging Tourism Can Boost Jobs, Economy, Revenues

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in California alone, and it generated \$102 billion in state revenue in 2011.

Scaling Up

But what if we scaled up beyond that?

What if we *really* took our souped-up California Cobra out for a ride and let it rip, and really leveraged what we've got?

Let's talk about just one country—China.

Did you know that 49% of visitors from China (only a 12-hour flight from Shanghai), 49% of visitors from China who come to the U.S., voted California their top destination, ahead of New York, Nevada and Washington, D.C.

And, according to the California Travel and Tourism Commission, the average spent by Chinese travelers to the U.S. is \$6,800 per person.

In 2010 alone, the number of Chinese tourists to California increased by 40% and it is anticipated that the Chinese tourists will spend more than \$2 billion here in 2012.

But with all that, China still ranks behind the UK, Australia and Japan in the number of tourists that visit California, and that simply doesn't make any sense. They have the people, they have the money (the average household income of the current Chinese tourist is \$120,000–\$180,000 per year) and they have already said this, right here, is where they want to visit.

All international travel executives agree that by modernizing and streamlining the visa process—on *our* end, and on their end—we can significantly increase tourism from China. It shouldn't be easier for a Chinese national to get a tourist visa to France than it is to the U.S., but right now it is!

We can do this and we can—and must—support and push President Obama, who has already recognized the issue and said that he will address it, because the number of outbound Chinese travelers seeking travel visas now is 65 million.

Sixty-five million! That's an awful lot of heads in beds—and bus tours, retail purchases, meals and meetings—and good jobs for Californians.

Every new dollar introduced into the tourist economy has a three to as much as 10 times multiplier. That means that these additional tourists, from one country, could add, not \$6 billion, but a minimum of \$18 billion in taxable revenue to our state.

Tap China Market

Mr. Governor, let's do this! Let's work together—you and all of us here in this room—to tap this incredible market and double or even triple the number of Chinese tourists and Chinese dollars coming into this state.

If our President can fly out here to hang with George Clooney, maybe we can persuade the President to get George and other California celebs to get on a plane with you and go to make a sales call on China! The California Chamber of Commerce will certainly be there and do everything we can to support you!

If we do this, say triple the number of visitors—to a state, a destination that *they already love* (and why wouldn't they!), we can make a *significant* addition to California's prosperity and truly help you raise revenues for our state.

Here's the math:

- The average Chinese tourist spends \$6,800;
- In aggregate, these tourists spend about \$2 billion in our state;
- If we triple the number—really easy

to do, I think—that's \$6 billion.

But it isn't just \$6 billion. We all know Economics 101 from college, and the multiplier. Every new dollar introduced into the tourist economy has a three to as much as 10 times multiplier. That means that these additional tourists, from one country, could add, not \$6 billion, but a minimum of \$18 billion in taxable revenue to our state.

Travel California

But let's not wait for the Chinese to come to California. We have an equally important group that is already here—you! You, the leaders in this room. You and your millions of employees who already live and work right here in the Golden State!

It's May 22nd, and summer vacation is almost here. Let's have fun and let's see if we can work together to have *every* one of your employees' vacation dollars stay in California this summer!

Really.

If we did this one thing (and we all know what an *amazing* state this is, with unlimited places to visit!) the impact would *also* be tremendous.

Seriously, when's the last time you went to Disneyland?

Have you ever walked amongst the tallest trees in the world in the Sequoias?

Have your employees visited Hearst Castle, ridden cable cars in San Francisco, done wine tasting in Napa Valley, sat a table away from a celebrity at Wolfgang Puck's restaurant Spago, or, dare I say, spent enough time on Santa Monica Beach at some of the most romantic and beautiful hotels anywhere in the United States!?

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Power of Leveraging Tourist Dollars

- The average Chinese tourist spends \$6,800;
- In aggregate, these tourists spend about \$2 billion;
- If we triple the number—\$6 billion;
- Multiplier (minimum 3, maximum 10): minimum \$18 billion taxable revenue.

Senator Rubio Meets with CalChamber Environmental Committee



The May 21 gathering of the CalChamber Environmental Regulation Committee provides an opportunity for committee members to hear from Senator Michael Rubio (D-East Bakersfield) about the California Environmental Quality Act and AB 32, the climate change law. From left are Brenda Coleman, CalChamber policy advocate; committee co-chair Lucinda Starrett, Latham & Watkins, LLP; Senator Rubio; committee co-chair John R. Shiner, Bryan Cave, LLP; and Amy Mmagu, CalChamber policy analyst.

Leveraging Tourism Can Boost Jobs, Economy, Revenues

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And it's not just vacation planning.

Is there a customer in another part of the state that you've been meaning to visit? How about a sales meeting with your top performers? Maybe now's the time. I can certainly recommend a hotel or two.

Beyond Politics

Bottom line, my fellow Californians—

we have to help the Governor. He's been our youngest Governor. He's been our oldest Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Mayor and even served on the State Board of Equalization. He knows this state and is working hard—but he can't do this alone.

We, right here in this room, can make a difference.

We, right here in this room, can—*today*—move beyond politics,

move beyond gridlock and do what Californians do *best* in the entire world—*be creative*.

Let's proactively increase Chinese and other international tourism.

Let's proactively increase *our own* tourism, and before we go out there asking for more money, let's see if we can leverage the awesome and almost unlimited resources that we have in this, the greatest state in our country.

**They won't know unless you tell them.
Write your legislator.
calchambervotes.com**

Fresno Chamber First Up with ChamberPAC Contribution



The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce

is the first to respond to the California Chamber of Commerce campaign with local chambers to provide funding for bipartisan, jobs-friendly office seekers.

The CalChamber continues to urge other local chambers and businesses of all sizes throughout the state to join forces to ensure the business community has sufficient resources to compete against unions and other anti-business special interests in this year's elections.

"In order to be successful in policy, we must first be successful on the politics," says CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremborg.

Political action with a statewide reach is available to businesses of all sizes through ChamberPAC, the bipartisan candidate political action committee (PAC) headed by the CalChamber.

ChamberPAC makes direct contributions to incumbent office holders and selects candidates who promote and

vote for an agenda of private sector job creation.

The 2012 elections could very well determine California leadership for at least the next 12 years due to the cumulative impact of previous and pending reforms.

Competitive Races

Major reforms supported by the CalChamber and approved by California voters have created new opportunities for competitive elections this year:

- Thanks to Proposition 11, candidates will be running for the first time this year in competitive districts drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, rather than ones designed to meet the needs of incumbent politicians.

- The top two candidates open primary will empower voters to choose their representatives in a more competitive general election, rather than a primary election dominated by party extremists.

More Open Seats

In addition, Proposition 28 on the

June ballot reforms term limits to allow legislators elected for the first time this year to serve 12 years in either the Senate or the Assembly.

At least half of the seats in the 80-member Assembly are going to change hands this year due to existing term limits and competitive redistricting.

Due to this combination of factors, at least half the candidates elected to the Assembly this year could be incumbents for the next 12 years.

Track Record of Success

During the 2010 election cycle, ChamberPAC helped elect four pro-jobs candidates to the Senate (two Democrats and two Republicans), while preventing one party from attaining a two-thirds, veto-proof majority in both houses.

Online Contribution Form

The online contribution form for this bipartisan effort is at www.calchamber.com/chamberpac.

Staff Contact: Cathy Mesch

CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

More at www.calchamber.com/events.

Labor Law

Paid or Unpaid—Leaves of Absence for California Employees Webinar. CalChamber. June 21. (800) 331-8877.

Hiring and Onboarding Basics Webinar. CalChamber. July 19. (800) 331-8877.

Conducting Effective Performance Appraisals Webinar. CalChamber. August 16. (800) 331-8877.

Employee Discipline Webinar. CalChamber. September 20. (800) 331-8877.

Business Resources

Small Business "Prep for Primes" Forum. Office of California State Senator Curren D. Price, Jr. June 2, Culver City. (213) 745-6656.

YBITS 2 Bidder's Conference/Outreach & Networking. Caltrans. June 14, San Francisco. (510) 286-0974.

International Trade

Webinar: Certificates of Origin, Free Trade Agreements, eCertification. U.S. Department of Commerce. May 30. (202) 482-4422.

International Business Partnership Matchmaking Forum. Moscow Government. June 5–6. Moscow.

California Ag Trade Mission to China/South Korea. Fresno Center for International Trade Development (CITD). June 9–16, China and South Korea. (559) 324-6401.

Webinar: Financing Your Exports and Getting Paid. U.S. Department of Commerce. June 13. (202) 482-4422.

U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference. Corporate Council on Africa. June 18–20, Washington, D.C. (202) 835-1115.

California Meets Panama—Trade Conference. Monterey Bay International Trade Association. June 22, San Jose. (831) 335-4780.

Webinar: Temporary Exports. U.S. Department of Commerce. June 27. (202) 482-4422.

California Pavilion at Chile-Expo Hospital 2012. Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and CalChamber. June 27–29, Santiago, Chile. (213) 580-7570.

Food Taipei 2012. Taiwan Trade Center, San Francisco. June 27–30, Taiwan. (408) 988-5018.

2012 India Trade Conference. Port of Los Angeles, U.S. Commercial Service, Quanta Consulting. June 28, Cerritos. (949) 480-9466.

California Pavilion at Farnborough 2012. U.S. Department of Commerce. July 9–15, Farnborough, England. (949) 660-7105.

Intersolar-North America. Northern California Regional Center for International Trade Development. July 10–12, San Francisco. (916) 563-3222.

Webinar: Satisfying International Product Certification. U.S. Department of Commerce. July 11. (202) 482-4422.

Webinar: Website Optimization.

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CalChamber Calendar

Public Affairs Council Workshop:
June 18, Sacramento

Governor's Jobs, Business Adviser Speaks on Growth, Trade at International Forum

Michael Rossi, senior adviser to the Governor for jobs and business development, spoke about the administration's trade efforts at an International Forum hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce Council for International Trade on May 21.

Forum attendees included nearly 150 industry leaders and representatives of California foreign trading partners.

Rossi discussed the state's plans to open a trade office in China, and gave an overview of the administration's efforts to help California's economic recovery.

Reorganization

GO-Biz, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, was formed to be a single point of contact at the highest level of government for large and small businesses, Rossi said.

Under the Governor's reorganization plan, a number of economic development departments were aligned to make efforts more efficient.

These departments, Rossi said, include: the infrastructure bank, travel and tourism commission, small business loan guarantee program, film commission, and small business development centers.

China

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and his administration are currently leading efforts to increase trade and foreign direct investment, Rossi said.

To promote California's economic relationship with China, Governor Brown is set to lead a delegation to Beijing and Shanghai. The administration hopes to open a California-China Trade and Investment office in Shanghai by the end of 2012.

This office will serve as a "two-way portal for California businesses to gain increased access to the Chinese market and for Chinese investors to access California development projects that would benefit from increased investment," Rossi said.

GO-Biz is working with the CalChamber, Bay Area Council and other business groups to facilitate the opening and financing of the office, he added.



Photo by Megan Wood

Michael Rossi (left), senior adviser for jobs and business development, Office of the Governor, answers questions at a May 21 forum hosted by the CalChamber Council for International Trade, chaired by Susan Corrales-Diaz (right).

Creating Jobs

Rossi stressed that the Governor "is committed to fostering an environment where business can create jobs."

He cited Brown's veto of the CalChamber "job killer" bills in 2011 (four of five vetoed) and stated that state government spending is now down to levels under Governor Ronald Reagan.

Because of this, Rossi said, the S&P improved the state's credit rating—upgrading it from negative to positive.

"The Governor understands that California's recovery will require government to operate at its most efficient levels and match the diligence that business owners in this state exude," Rossi said. "That is why we are realigning state government, cutting spending, beginning to review burdensome regulations and increasing our global presence as an example of this focus."

Rossi indicated that the state is on a path to recovery, as California has seen steady job growth. In the last year, jobs have been added in multiple high-paying sectors, such as: business and professions, health care, trade, transportation, finance and even construction, Rossi said.

The state has added 385,900 jobs since September 2009, and more than 220,000 new jobs since Governor Brown came into office, including 181,000 new jobs since March 2011, he said. Also, the state has gotten rid of 56,000 state jobs in the last 10 years, which is more than any other state in the nation, Rossi stated. Nevertheless, Rossi added, recovery is slow.

"We were in a deep hole, and we're still in a deep hole," Rossi said. "But we are slowly climbing our way out. In order to keep this momentum, California needs to remain competitive on a global scale and continue to diversify its economy."

Staff Contact: Susanne Stirling

CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

From Previous Page

U.S. Department of Commerce. July 25.
(202) 482-3787.

Webinar: New INCO Terms. U.S. Department of Commerce. August 8.
(202) 482-4422.

Export Regulations Seminar. Bureau of Industry and Security, Southern California Regional District Export Council, and U.S. Commercial Service in Southern California. August 8–9, Los Angeles.

Hong Kong Food Expo. Hong Kong Trade Development Council. August 16–20, Hong Kong, China. (310) 973-3175.

CA Cleantech Company Trade Mission to China. El Camino College CITD. August 20–September 2, China. (310) 973-3161.

Green Construction Trade Mission to Brazil. Bay Area CITD. September 9–15, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Future Joint Trade Policy Initiatives Key Topic for District Export Council

Future joint trade policy initiatives were the topic of the day when the District Export Councils (DECs) of California met on May 21 at the California Chamber of Commerce.

DECs counsel businesses on the exporting process and conduct trade education and community outreach.

The DEC members are appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Members attending the DEC meeting included: Fred Latuperissa, director, U.S. Department of Commerce - Inland Empire Region of Southern California; Tim Murphy of Comerica Bank, California Inland Empire DEC; Daniel Odgen Esq., chair, National District Export Council; Paul Oliva with Oliva Global Communications, chair, Northern California DEC; Donald Sovie with Crowell & Moring, LLP, Southern California DEC; Susanne Stirling, CalChamber vice president, international affairs, member, Northern California DEC; and Gregory Mignano, director, U.S. Department of Commerce - Northern California and Pacific Northwest.



Photo by Megan Wood

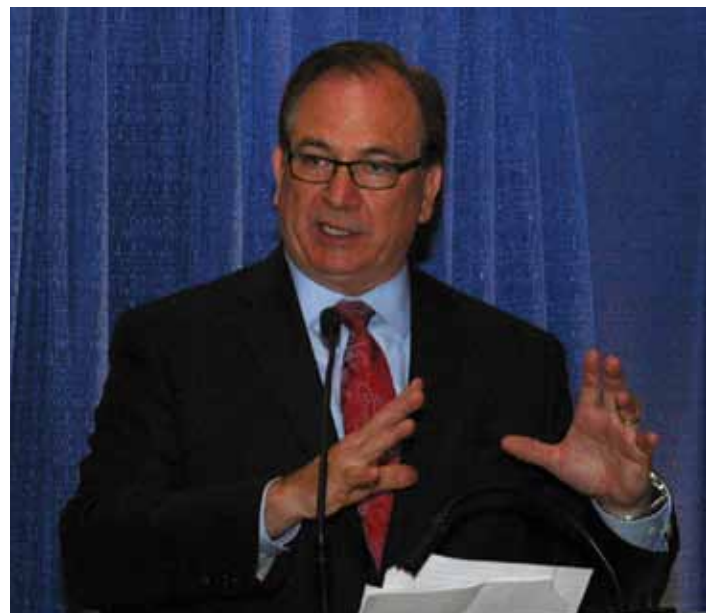
At the meeting of the District Export Councils (DEC) of California are (from left): Fred Latuperissa, Tim Murphy, Daniel Odgen Esq., Paul Oliva, Donald Sovie, Susanne Stirling and Gregory Mignano.

Brigadier General Touts National Guard 'Work for Warriors' Program



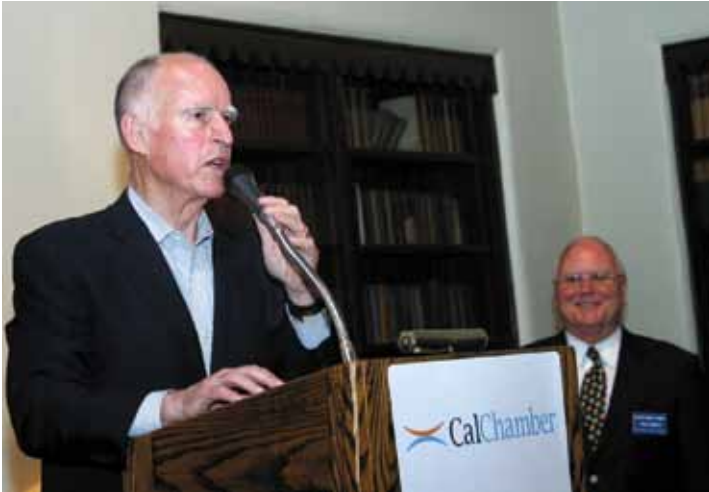
Brigadier General Matthew Beevers explains to the CalChamber Board of Directors the individualized approach the California National Guard 'Work for Warriors' program takes in linking prospective employers and National Guard veterans. Employers interested in hiring a veteran can contact Major Ty Shepard, program director, (916) 854-3722, ty.shepard@us.army.mil.

Senate GOP Leader Offers Perspectives on California Budget, Policy, Politics



Senate Republican Leader Bob Huff (Diamond Bar) comments on his caucus and its approach to the state budget, policy, politics and more at the CalChamber Board of Directors dinner in Sacramento.

CalChamber Hosts Gathering for Consular Corps, Governor to Meet



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. addresses some of the 175 attendees at the second annual CalChamber-hosted reception for the consular corps and representatives of California foreign economic partners. More than 50 countries were represented at the May 21 gathering in Sacramento. At right is CalChamber Chair Timothy S. Dubois.



At the consular corps reception are (from left) Hiroshi Haruki, Fujitsu Management Services of America; Governor Brown; Hideki Oshima, Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.; and Rolando F. Ortega, consul general of Chile in San Francisco.

Japanese Business Executives Meet with CalChamber Leaders

Leaders of Japanese companies with a California presence mingled with colleagues and members of the California Chamber of Commerce on May 21–22 in Sacramento.

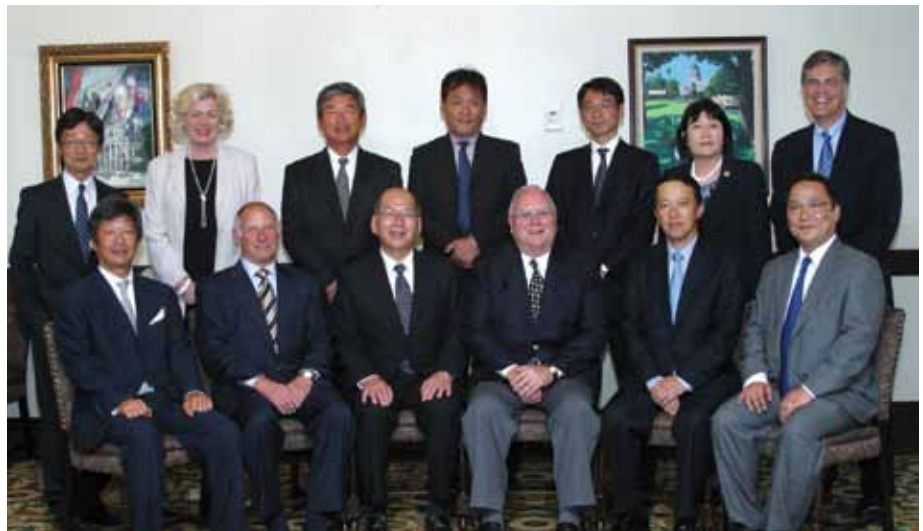
Representatives of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California (JCCNC) and the Japan Business Association of Southern California (JBA) visit Sacramento each year to bring attention to the long-standing economic ties between California and Japan.

Japan, the world's third largest economy, is California's fourth largest export partner and the largest foreign investor in California.

More than 1,300 Japan-affiliated companies have a presence in California, employing more than 100,000, with 96% of employees hired locally.

More information about the Japan-California relationship, including a brochure spotlighting key facts, is available on the CalChamber trading partner portal at www.calchamber.com/japan.

Staff Contact: Susanne Stirling



In photo are *Seated (from left)*: Gosuke Nakae, general manager, Mitsubishi International Corporation; Allan Zaremborg, CalChamber president and CEO; Hiroshi Haruki, president and CEO, Fujitsu Management Services of America, and president of JCCNC; Timothy S. Dubois, president, The Edward Thomas Collection, and CalChamber chair; Masumi Muroi, Western States regional office, Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc., and vice president, JBA; Yusuke Ozawa, general manager, Sumitomo Corporation of America. *Standing (from left)*: Norio Minato, vice president, Mazda North American Operations; Susanne Stirling, CalChamber vice president, international affairs; Masahiro Nakada, president, Salad Cosmo U.S.A. Corporation; Hideki Oshima, vice president (Northwest Region), Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.; Masao Sasayama, general manager, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ; June-ko Nakagawa, executive director, JCCNC; and Scott Keene, Keene Law, San Francisco.

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