

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



To: Members of the California Consular Corps

From: Mrs. Susanne Thorsen Stirling, Vice President, International Affairs
Nikki Ellis, Assistant, International Affairs Specialist

RE: **Welcome to California Information Packet**

Over the past many years, the California Chamber of Commerce International Affairs Department has answered many questions, particularly for Consular Corps and foreign economic partner members newly posted in our state, about how the US and California government work, and what the CalChamber has to offer our international guests.

As a direct result of these inquiries, we have compiled this information into one handy information packet. In it you will find detailed information regarding the California Chamber of Commerce, our international activities, specific operations within the California government directed at international guests, and a guide to understanding the US Government. We hope you will find this information useful.

Detailed information vital to the businesses that make California one of the largest exporting states in the nation and one of the largest economies in the world is available on the international trade section of the California Chamber website: www.calchamber.com/international. The international trade web page outlines the CalChamber's activities to assist members with general export and import needs. The international web page also covers: trade legislation/issues, answers to frequently asked questions, web links to additional international sources, an events calendar and trade statistics.

As you may know, the California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based nonprofit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work toward positive action on key issues that affect California's economic climate.

The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in California. Our members include over 14,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, representing three million jobs – one quarter of the state's private sector workforce, as well as 450 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations. Through its grassroots action program, the California Chamber reaches out to a statewide network of approximately 430,000 small business owners.

The California Chamber also offers a variety of services to help businesses comply with complex laws and regulations, as well as, compete in the international marketplace.

The California Chamber supports expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

Please use the enclosed forms to help us stay in contact and up to date. All best wishes in your international endeavors.