

ALERT

CalChamber Releases Annual Vote Record



The California Chamber of Commerce has released its annual [vote record](#), summarizing key votes of legislators on proposals affecting the well-being of employers and California's small businesses, including votes on CalChamber-tagged job killer bills.

The actions by the Legislature this year were extremely disappointing, with many

policies being passed that will have a detrimental impact on the health and success of small businesses. As the legislative session wrapped up, the CalChamber heard from small businesses throughout the state who voiced frustration about the failure of the Legislature to consider and respond to their concerns as proposals were being deliberated.

Regarding the legislative session, CalChamber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera observed that everyone loses when costly mandates and policies are passed.

Barrera commented, "If California employers have to deal with higher costs,

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Asia-Pacific Leaders Summit in San Francisco: CalChamber Board Firms Play Influential Role



(From left) CalChamber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera; Travis Kiyota, senior vice president and head of global corporate affairs, East West Bank; East West Bank Chairman and CEO Dominic Ng, chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council; and Ambassador Matt Murray, U.S. senior official for APEC, meet at the advisory council's welcome reception on November 12. See [APEC story](#) inside.

CalChamber Backs Circular Action Alliance



The California Chamber of Commerce has announced its support

for the Circular Action Alliance (CAA) to become California's Producer Responsibility Organization in accordance with SB 54 (Allen; D-Santa Monica).

The CalChamber led the business coalition last year in negotiating to remove a costly \$9 billion a year tax and plastic packaging ban initiative from the ballot.

The recycling law enacted in place of the ballot initiative marked a pivotal moment in California's efforts to revamp its recycling program, introduce an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program specifically targeting single-use packaging and avoid the largest tax increase in the state's history.

The EPR program established under the new law requires businesses using single-use packaging to take greater steps to reduce plastic packaging and recycle all single-use packaging rather than sending the material to landfills.

One of the very first compliance obligations for the business community is to form and join a Producer Responsibility Organization, also known as a PRO, that will assist businesses with reducing waste and increasing recycling of their packaging.

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Labor Law Corner

Workers' Comp: Pay for Follow-Up Doctor's Appointments Not Required



Dana Leisinger
Employment Law
Expert

My employee sustained an injury on the job a few months ago. He is claiming that we have to pay for his doctor's and therapy appointments. Is this true?

Generally, an employer is required to pay the employee only on the day of the injury/for time spent waiting for and receiving treatment.

Day of Injury

The U.S. Department of Labor has addressed this issue, stating, "Time spent

by an employee in waiting for and receiving medical attention on the premises or at the direction of the employer during the employee's normal working hours on days when he is working constitutes hours worked."

Employers should not try to dodge this requirement by having the employee seek treatment after their shift. The law is very protective of injured workers, and treatment should be prompt.

Follow-Up Appointments

However, follow-up appointments and therapy appointments are not dictated by the employer, and therefore are not payable as work time for hourly employees.

Employees can use their sick leave, paid time off (PTO) or vacation pay to cover these appointments, like any other doctor's appointment. They also can schedule these actions after their shift, if possible.

It is also important to remind employees to keep these appointments, as failure to do so could result in their claim being terminated.

Lastly, keep in mind that not all injuries require medical treatment at all. Injuries that can be treated with first aid do not require a trip to the doctor or emergency room.

Also, some employees don't want to go to the doctor, and unless their injury is severe, the employer cannot force them to do so. In those situations, it is recommended to have the employee sign an acknowledgement that they do not wish to seek medical attention.

Column based on questions asked by callers on the Labor Law Helpline, a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred members and above. 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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CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

More information at www.calchamber.com/events.

Labor and Employment

2024 Employment Law Updates.

CalChamber. January 5, 2024, Online; January 9, 2024 (9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) and (1 p.m.–4:30 p.m.), Online; January 11, 2024, Santa Clara; January 18, 2024, Costa Mesa; January 23, 2024, Online. (800) 331-8877.

International Trade

X-Culture: A Unique and Proven

Approach to Global Market Research. National Association of District Export Councils. December 5, Online.

Arab Health. GO-Biz. January 29–February 1, 2024. patricia.utterback@gobiz.ca.gov.

California Pavilion at the Singapore Airshow. Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). February 20–25, 2024, Singapore. (916) 447-7946.

Journey to Panama. San Diego Diplomacy Council. April 1–5, 2024, Panama. (619) 291-8105.

Hannover Messe: California Pavilion. GO-Biz. April 22–26, 2024, Hannover, Germany. patricia.utterback@gobiz.ca.gov.

Trade Winds – Europe. GO-Biz and U.S. Commercial Service. May 13–15, 2024 Istanbul, Turkey. Optional: May 9–10, 2024, Denmark or Romania; May 16–17, 2024, Poland or Italy. Register interest. patricia.utterback@gobiz.ca.gov.

CalChamber Calendar

Water Committee:

December 7, San Francisco

ChamberPAC Advisory Committee:

December 7, San Francisco

Board of Directors:

December 7–8, San Francisco

International Trade Breakfast:

December 8, San Francisco

Annual Meeting:

December 8, San Francisco

ChamberPAC Legislative Roundtable:

December 8, San Francisco

Next Alert: December 1

California Works

Amazon's Impact in California: Driving Growth and Opportunity



This article is a part of a series of profiles of CalChamber member companies that are contributing to the state's economic strength and ability to stay competitive in a global economy. Visit [California Works](#) to learn more about this series and read past and future profiles.



In the dynamic business world, Amazon has become a significant player, affecting both shopping and work culture. Its influence on California's economy highlights its dedication to fostering growth, innovation, and sustainable practices in the area.

With numerous fulfillment centers, delivery stations and innovation hubs across the state, Amazon has transformed the shopping experience for Californians while contributing to the growth of the economy. Through job opportunities and technological advancements, Amazon has integrated itself into California's economic and social landscape, contributing to positive changes that resonate throughout every community.

Unveiling Economic and Community Impact

Amazon looks to leverage its scale for good and use its ability to innovate quickly to strengthen communities around the world where its employees live and work.

Since 2010, the company's commitment to California has amounted to more than \$110 billion, significantly bolstering the state's gross domestic product (GDP) by \$106 billion. Beyond the numbers, this has translated into the creation of 162,000+ jobs, complemented by an additional 265,000+ indirect jobs.

Amazon's presence reverberates through 57 fulfillment and sortation centers, 60 delivery stations, and an array

of other strategic infrastructure, breathing life into local communities. Moreover, the company's contribution to California's cultural tapestry is evident through the production of more than 25 Amazon Original movies and series, showcasing diverse stories and talents.

Empowering Employees Through Upskilling Initiatives

The landscape of employment is evolving rapidly, demanding skills that extend beyond traditional boundaries. Understanding this necessity for continuous growth, Amazon is resolutely committed to its Upskilling 2025 Pledge.

With an investment of \$1.2 billion, it is equipping 300,000 employees with the necessary tools and knowledge to transition seamlessly into high-demand roles, both within and outside the realms of Amazon.

The program's focus on emerging sectors such as health care, technology, and sustainable energy ensures that the company's workforce is primed for the opportunities of the future.

Learn more about Amazon's employee upskilling programs [here](#).

Cultivating Careers Through Career Choice

Nurturing the aspirations of its workforce has always been a cornerstone of Amazon values. Its Career Choice program has been instrumental in facilitating the educational pursuits of more than 130,000 employees across 14 countries.

By covering the tuition fees for various educational pursuits, ranging from associate's and bachelor's degrees to high school completion, General Education Diplomas (GEDs), and English-as-a-sec-

ond-language (ESL) proficiency certifications, Amazon is paving the way for diverse career trajectories.

The Career Choice program has enabled employees to embark on paths ranging from aviation mechanics to nursing and beyond, aligning with their professional dreams and aspirations.

Learn more about Amazon's Career Choice programs [here](#).

Championing Small Businesses

Central to Amazon's ethos is its steadfast support for small and medium-sized businesses. With more than 82,000 independent sellers thriving within Amazon's ecosystem in California alone, the platform has emerged as a launchpad for entrepreneurial dreams, providing sellers with unparalleled access to a global customer base.

Through innovative tools and programs like the Small Business badge, Amazon has amplified the visibility and impact of small businesses, reinforcing its position as a catalyst for economic growth and inclusivity.

Learn more about Amazon's commitment to supporting small businesses [here](#).

Pledging to a Prosperous Future

As Amazon continues to deepen its roots in California, the company's commitment to fostering an environment of progress, innovation and inclusivity remains unwavering.

Amazon invites all interested parties to join the company in its mission to build, learn and create a future where opportunities abound and communities thrive.

Together, everyone can continue to sculpt a California that not only thrives but serves as a beacon of resilience and forward-thinking leadership.

New National Test Makes More Entities Joint Employers



Over the last decade, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has a pattern

of overruling itself in how it determines whether an entity can be considered a joint employer of a worker and, thus, be subject to National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) claims from the worker. On October 26, 2023, the NLRB continued this cycle of change, issuing a [final rule](#) that establishes a broad joint-employer test that will make more entities joint employers of workers than previous tests.

Never-Ending Joint-Employer Saga

Looking at how the NLRB's five-person board is formed may give insight into why the NLRB would consistently reverse its own legal standard. Each board member has a five-year term with the terms offset so that one member terms out each year. The current President, with U.S. Senate consent, appoints new members.

So, after the first three years of a President's term, they can guarantee a board made up of a majority of members favorable to their administration's policy priorities. This has played out in dramatic fashion with the joint-employer rule.

In 2015, the NLRB, comprised of a majority of members appointed by President Barack Obama, issued a decision in *Browning-Ferris Industries of California* that broadly expanded which entities may be considered employers, even when the entity has the right to control the terms and conditions of the worker's employment but doesn't exercise this right.

Browning-Ferris upended decades of precedent where an entity could be a joint employer only if it had direct and immediate control over the working conditions.

In 2020, the NLRB — then made up of President Donald Trump's appointees — issued a final regulation that reversed *Browning-Ferris* and returned the joint-em-

ployer standard to a test as to whether both employers share or codetermine the worker's essential terms and conditions of employment, which include wages, benefits, hours of work, hiring, discharge, discipline, supervision and direction, and if each employer possesses and exercises substantial direct and immediate control over these terms and conditions.

Not to be deterred by its own rulemaking, the NLRB — now made of up of President Joe Biden's appointees — has overruled its final 2020 regulation and has returned the joint-employer test to the standard that is rooted in the *Browning-Ferris* decision.

New Joint-Employer Test

This new joint-employer test — effective December 26, 2023 — will examine whether an entity simply has the **ability** to exercise control over several terms and conditions of the worker's employment, including:

- Wages, benefits and other compensation;
- Hours of work and scheduling;
- The assignment of duties to be performed;
- The supervision of the performance of duties;
- Work rules and directions governing the manner, means and methods of the performance of duties and the grounds for discipline;
- The tenure of employment, including hiring and discharge; and
- Working conditions related to the safety and health of employees.

Unlike the final 2020 regulation, an employer does not need to exercise direct control over any of these terms to be found as a joint employer of a worker but, instead, just whether that employer has the authority to control these terms.

As with all joint-employer tests, whether an entity is a joint employer of a worker will be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent upon the case facts.

To assist with understanding the new regulation, the NLRB released an [employer fact sheet](#).

NLRA Affects Employers Regardless of Unionization

Many employers make the understandable mistake of disregarding the NLRA when making employment decisions because their workforce is not unionized.

However, the NLRA doesn't apply only to unionized employers but to any employer involved in interstate commerce — except airlines, railroads, agricultural operations and government entities, which are governed by other federal or state laws (i.e., the Railway Labor Act or the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act).

In other words, if an employer does anything across state lines, such as buying or selling goods or services, they're covered by the NLRA.

The primary NLRA function is to protect an employee's right to join together with fellow employees to improve their wages and working conditions, regardless of unionization. This means that employers can commit NLRA violations if their employment policies and practices infringe upon or interfere with these rights.

As [previously reported](#), we saw this play out this year with the impactful NLRB decision in *Stericycle, Inc.* that has upended employer handbook policies.

As a result of this new rule, more entities than before will be found to be joint employers of workers and, thus, have greater exposure to NLRA claims regardless of unionization. Employers who have contractual rights to exercise control over groups of workers that the employer does not directly employ should consult with legal counsel as to how these contractual rights may have an impact on them under the NLRA.

CalChamber members can read more about [Joint-Employer Liability](#) in the HR Library on *HRCalifornia*.

Not a member? Learn how to power your business with a [CalChamber membership](#).

Staff Contact: Matthew J. Roberts

CalChamber Vote Record: Major Bills 2023



This report for the first year of the 2023–2024 legislative session focuses on California legislators' votes on California Chamber of Commerce priority bills.

This is the 49th vote record the CalChamber has compiled in response to numerous requests by member firms and local chambers of commerce that would like a gauge by which to measure the performance of their legislators.

Partial Picture

No vote record can tell the entire story of a legislator's attitude and actions on issues of importance to business. To fully evaluate your legislative representative, consult the legislative journals and examine your legislator's votes in committee and on floor issues.

You can view these via links at www.calchambervotes.com.

Many anti-business bills were rejected by legislators in policy or fiscal committees, thus stopping proposals before they reached the floor for a vote.

Most bills in this report cover major business issues that are of concern to both small and large companies.

The CalChamber recognizes that there are many bills supported or opposed by business that are not included in this vote record and analysis.

Factors Considered

The CalChamber considers the following factors in selecting vote record bills:

- The bills and votes reflect legislators' attitudes toward private enterprise, fiscal responsibility and the business climate.
- Each bill was a CalChamber priority in a particular field. Priority bills generally have appeared in the "Status Report" sections of *Alert*.

• **For the first time, this year's vote record charts show selected key committee votes where a committee's actions stopped an onerous proposal or prevented legislators outside the committee from having the opportunity to vote on proposals that help California employers.**

- The vote record also covers 13 bills voted on by the full Senate and 12 bills voted on by the full Assembly.

• Unless otherwise noted, final floor votes are shown. Concurrence votes are considered final votes.

When 'Not Voting' Helps

Sometimes a legislator is unwilling to vote against a colleague but is willing to support the CalChamber's opposition to a bill. In such cases, a legislator may abstain from voting, which will hinder passage of a bill, just as a "no" vote does.

To recognize that not voting can aid the CalChamber's opposition to a bill, the vote record includes the number of times legislators did not vote "aye" on a CalChamber-opposed bill in the total for the column listing actions "in accord with" the CalChamber's position, if the legislator was not absent for the day.

Priority Bills

Climate Change

- **SB 253 (Wiener; D-San Francisco) Corporate Climate Accountability Act.**

Imposes a mandatory climate tracking, and auditing on climate emissions that will fall heavily on all California businesses, impacting competitiveness and increasing costs. Passed Senate, May 30, 24-9 (vote shown). Passed Assembly, September 11, 49-20. Senate concurred in Assembly amendments, September 12, 27-8. Signed—Chapter 382. CalChamber Opposed.

Energy

- **SBX1 2 (Skinner; D-Berkeley)**

Windfall Profits Tax. Sets an arbitrary cap on the amount of profits that a refiner operating in the state of California can earn over a quarterly basis. This measure would further diminish supply, discourages operational efficiencies, and would limit the amount of capital a refiner could reinvest into their infrastructure to support California's long-term climate goals. Passed Senate, March 23, 30-8. Passed Assembly, March 27, 58-19. Signed—Chapter 1, Statutes of 2023–24 First Extraordinary Session. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023.**

Elections

- **AB 421 (Bryan; D-Los Angeles)**

Dismantles Referendum Process. Makes unnecessary changes to the state's direct democracy process, which will make refer-

enda more confusing for voters. Passed Assembly, May 31, 60-18 (vote shown). Passed Senate, September 5, 30-9. Assembly concurred in Senate amendments, September 5, 55-17. Signed—Chapter 162. CalChamber Opposed.

California Environmental Quality Act

• **AB 1000 (Reyes; D-San Bernardino) De Facto Ban of Warehouses.** Mandates a statewide setback of 1,000 feet from sensitive receptors for all new or expanded logistics use facilities, regardless of environmental impacts, establishing a *de facto* ban. Also creates a new private right of action in California. Passed Assembly Natural Resources Committee, April 17, 8-3 (vote shown). Failed passage in Assembly Local Government Committee, April 26, 2-1-5 (vote shown). CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023.**

Labor and Employment

- **AB 524 (Wicks; D-Oakland)**

Expansion of Litigation Under FEHA.

Exposes employers to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act by asserting that any adverse employment action was in relation to the employee's family caregiver status, which is broadly defined to include any employee who provides direct care of any person of their choosing and creates a *de facto* accommodation requirement that will burden small businesses. Passed Assembly, June 1, 47-15 (vote shown). Passed Senate, September 12, 26-8. Assembly concurred in Senate amendments, September 14, 49-17. Vetoes. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023.**

- **AB 647 (Holden; D-Pasadena)**

Grocery Workers. Significantly expands statute related to successor grocery employers, including disrupting the ability for independent small stores to join together and creating a significant new private right of action. Passed Assembly, May 30, 58-16 (vote shown). Passed Senate, September 14, 27-11. Assembly concurred in Senate amendments, September 14, 60-15. Signed—Chapter 452. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023.**

- **SB 399 (Wahab; D-Hayward)**

Bans Employer Speech. Chills employer speech regarding religious and political matters, including unionization. Is likely unconstitutional under the First Amendment and preempted by the National Labor Relations Act. Passed Senate, May

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CalChamber Vote Record: Major Bills 2023

From Previous Page

25, 26-7. In Assembly Appropriations Committee, July 11. Failed deadline. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023**.

• **SB 525 (Durazo; D-Los Angeles) Costly Minimum Wage Increase.** Imposes significant cost on health care facilities and any employer who works with health care facilities by mandating increase in minimum wage to \$25. Job killer tag and opposition removed due to September 11, 2023, amendments, which phased in certain minimum wage increases based on hospital size and operations. Passed Senate, May 31, 21-11 (vote shown). Passed Assembly, September 14, 63-13. Senate concurred in Assembly amendments, September 14, 31-9. Signed—Chapter 890. CalChamber Neutral/**Former Job Killer 2023**.

• **SB 592 (Newman; D-Fullerton) Improved Labor Law Compliance.** Requires labor law guidance to be translated into commonly spoken languages in California and protects business owners from being penalized if they relied in good faith on guidance issued by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. Failed passage in Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, April 19, 1-3-1 (vote shown). CalChamber Sponsor/Co-Sponsor/**Job Creator**.

• **SB 616 (Gonzalez; D-Long Beach) Costly Sick Leave Expansion on All Employers.** Imposes new costs and leave requirements on employers of all sizes, by nearly doubling existing sick leave mandate, which is in addition to all other enacted leave mandates that small employers throughout the state are already struggling with to implement and comply. Passed Senate, May 31, 27-9 (vote shown). Passed Assembly, September 12, 52-18. Senate concurred in Assembly amendments, September 13, 27-9. Signed—Chapter 309. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023**.

• **SB 627 (Smallwood-Cuevas; D-Los Angeles) Onerous Return to Work Mandate.** Imposes an onerous and stringent process to hire employees based on seniority alone for nearly every industry, including hospitals, retail, restaurants, and movie theaters, which will delay hiring and eliminates contracts for at-will employment. Passed Senate, May 30, 28-10 (vote shown). Passed Assembly,

September 13, 47-16. Senate concurred in Assembly amendments, September 14, 29-10. Vetoed. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023**.

• **SB 881 (Alvarado-Gil; D-Jackson) Sick Leave Reform.** Significantly improves employers' ability to implement California mandatory paid sick leave and curb attempts to take leave for impermissible purposes. Failed passage in Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement, April 19, 1-3-1 (vote shown). CalChamber Supported.

Legal Reform

• **SB 365 (Wiener; D-San Francisco) Undermines Arbitration.** Discriminates against use of arbitration agreements by allowing trial courts to continue trial proceedings during any appeal regarding the denial of a motion to compel. Passed Senate, May 24, 30-9. Passed Assembly, September 7, 47-22. Signed—Chapter 710. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023**.

Taxation

• **ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry; D-Winters) Lowers Voter Threshold to Increase Property Taxes.** Overbroad constitutional amendment lowers voter approval threshold from two-thirds to 55% to increase taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure, thereby providing increased tax authority for every government agency in California—not just cities and counties, but thousands of potentially overlapping special districts. Passed Assembly, September 6, 55-12. Passed Senate, September 14, 29-10. Resolution Chapter 173. CalChamber Opposed.

Unemployment Insurance

• **SB 799 (Portantino; D-Burbank) Increased Unemployment Insurance Taxes to Subsidize Striking Workers.** SB 799 will allow striking workers to claim UI benefits when they choose to strike. Because the UI Fund is paid for entirely by employers, SB 799 will effectively add more debt onto California employers. Moreover, SB 799 will effectively force employers to subsidize strikes at completely unrelated businesses because the UI Fund's debt adds taxes for all employers, regardless of whether they've had a strike. Passed Assembly, September 11, 59-18. Senate concurred in Assembly amendments, September 14, 27-12. Vetoed. CalChamber Opposed/**Job Killer 2023**.

Key to This Section

Y means voted for bill.

N means voted against bill.

• means not voting.

— means absent.

† means not applicable; no opportunity to vote.

Boldface type indicates votes in accord with CalChamber position.

Red columns are Job Killers.

Green columns are Job Creators.

Water Supply

• **AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan; D-Orinda) Water Rights.** Gives State Water Board broad authority to issue interim relief orders for a wide variety of alleged water use violations, with little or no opportunity to be heard. Prevents judicial review of an interim relief order. Passed Assembly, May 30, 43-20. In Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, June 7. Failed deadline. CalChamber Opposed.

• **AB 1337 (Wicks; D-Oakland) Water Rights.** Gives broad authority to State Water Board to curtail water rights of any seniority or claim of right. Allows curtailments to issue without a hearing, depriving water rights holders of due process. Passed Assembly, May 30, 45-20. In Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, June 7. Failed deadline. CalChamber Opposed.

Workplace Safety

• **SB 553 (Cortese; D-San Jose) Workplace Violence Standard.** Creates workplace violence regulation including training and logging of workplace violence incidents. Opposition removed after considerable amendments to bring bill into accordance with Cal/OSHA's proposal, including removal of various infeasible requirements. Passed Senate, May 31, 29-8 (vote shown). Passed Assembly, September 11, 55-17. Senate concurred in Assembly amendments, September 12, 29-8. Signed—Chapter 289. CalChamber Neutral.

2023 Senate Vote Record

	Climate Change	Energy	Elections	Referendums	CEQA	AB 1000	Labor and Employment	Legal Reform	Taxation	Unemployment Insurance	Water Supply	Workplace Safety	In Accord with CalChamber	Not in Accord with CalChamber	Absent
	SB 253 Emissions Tracking	SBX1 2 Windfall Profits Tax	AB 421 Referendums				AB 524 Litigation Expansion AB 647 Grocery Workers SB 399 Employer Speech SB 525 Minimum Wage Health Workers SB 592 Labor Law Compliance SB 616 Sick Leave Expansion SB 627 Return to Work SB 881 Sick Leave Reform	SB 365 Arbitration	ACA 1 Lower Tax Approval Threshold	SB 799 UI for Strikers	AB 460 Interim Relief Orders AB 1337 Curtail Water Rights	SB 553 Workplace Violence			
Allen, B. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Alvarado-Gil, M. (D)	N	N	N				N N • N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Archuleta, B. (D)	Y	Y	Y				• Y Y Y + Y • +	Y	Y	Y		Y	2	11	0
Ashby, A. (D)	•	Y	Y				Y Y • • + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	3	10	0
Atkins, T. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Becker, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Blakespear, C. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y • Y • + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	2	11	0
Bradford, S. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Caballero, A. (D)	•	Y	Y				— • • • + • • +	Y	Y	Y		•	7	5	1
Cortese, D. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y N Y Y N	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	15	0
Dahle, B. (R)	N	N	N				N N N N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Dodd, B. (D)	•	Y	Y				Y N • N + • Y +	Y	Y	N		Y	6	7	0
Durazo, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y • Y Y N	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	15	0
Eggman, S. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y • + Y Y +	Y	Y	N		Y	2	11	0
Glazer, S. (D)	•	Y	Y				• N • N + • N +	•	Y	N		•	10	3	0
Gonzalez, L. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Grove, S. (R)	N	N	N				• N • N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Hurtado, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Jones, B. (R)	N	N	N				N N N N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Laird, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y N Y Y •	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	15	0
Limón, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
McGuire, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Menjivar, C. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Min, D. (D)	Y	Y	Y				• Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	N	Y		Y	2	11	0
Newman, J. (D)	•	Y	Y				Y Y Y • + Y Y +	Y	•	•		Y	4	9	0
Nguyen, J. (R)	N	N	N				N N N N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Niello, R. (R)	N	N	N				N N N N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Ochoa Bogh, R. (R)	N	N	N				N N N N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Padilla, S. (D)	Y	Y	—				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	12	1
Portantino, A. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Roth, R. (D)	•	Y	Y				• Y • • + • Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	5	8	0
Rubio, S. (D)	•	Y	Y				Y Y Y • + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	2	11	0
Seyarto, K. (R)	N	N	N				N N N N + N N +	N	N	N		N	13	0	0
Skinner, N. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Smallwood-Cuevas, L. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y N Y Y N	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	15	0
Stern, H. (D)	Y	—	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	12	1
Umberg, T. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y • + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	1	12	0
Wahab, A. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Wiener, S. (D)	Y	Y	Y				Y Y Y Y + Y Y +	Y	Y	Y		Y	0	13	0
Wilk, S. (R)	N	•	N				N N N N Y N N Y	N	N	N		•	15	0	0

2023 Assembly Vote Record

	Climate Change SB 253 Emissions Tracking	Energy SBX1 2 Windfall Profits Tax	Elections AB 421 Referendums	CEQA AB 1000	Labor and Employment AB 524 Litigation Expansion AB 647 Grocery Workers SB 399 Employer Speech	SB 525 Minimum Wage Health Workers SB 592 Labor Law Compliance SB 616 Sick Leave Expansion SB 627 Return to Work	SB 881 Sick Leave Reform	Legal Reform SB 365 Arbitration	Taxation ACA 1 Lower Tax Approval Threshold	Unemployment Insurance SB 799 UI for Strikers	Water Supply AB 460 Interim Relief Orders AB 1337 Curtail Water Rights	Workplace Safety SB 553 Workplace Violence	In Accord with CalChamber	Not in Accord with CalChamber	Absent
Addis, D. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	13	0
Aguilar-Curry, C. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	11	0
Alanis, J. (R)	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	12	0	0
Alvarez, D. (D)	Y*	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	10	0
Arambula, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	10	0
Bains, J. (D)	N	N	Y	+	•	Y	Y	•	•	Y	N	N	8	4	0
Bauer-Kahan, R. (D)	Y*	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	9	0
Bennett, S. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Berman, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Boerner, T. (D)	Y	Y	Y	•	•	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	11	0
Bonta, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Bryan, I. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Calderon, L. (D)	Y*	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	•	•	3	9	0
Carrillo, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	•	Y	1	11	0
Carrillo, W. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Cervantes, S. (D)	•*	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	•	•	3	9	0
Chen, P. (R)	N	N	N	+	N	•	Y	N	•	N	N	N	12	0	0
Connolly, D. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Dahle, M. (R)	N	N	N	+	•	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	12	0	0
Davies, L. (R)	N	N	N	+	N	N	Y	N	•	N	N	N	12	0	0
Dixon, D. (R)	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	13	0	0
Essayli, B. (R)	N	N	N	+	•	N	Y	N	•	N	N	N	11	0	1
Flora, H. (R)	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	•	N	N	N	13	0	0
Fong, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Fong, V. (R)	N	N	N	+	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	12	0	0
Friedman, L. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	13	0
Gabriel, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	—	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	11	1
Gallagher, J. (R)	N	N	N	+	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	12	0	0
Garcia, E. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Gipson, M. (D)	•*	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	•	•	4	8	0
Grayson, T. (D)	•*	Y	Y	+	•	Y	Y	Y	•	Y	Y	Y	5	7	0
Haney, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Hart, G. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Holden, C. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Hoover, J. (R)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	13	0	0
Irwin, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	•	Y	Y	•	Y	•	Y	Y	5	7	0
Jackson, C. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Jones-Sawyer, R. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	11	0
Kalra, A. (D)	Y	Y	Y	+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	12	0
Lackey, T. (R)	N	N	N	+	N	•	N	•	N	N	N	N	12	0	0

*Members who laid off voting before total reached 41 "aye" votes.

2023 Assembly Vote Record

	Climate Change	Energy	Elections	CEQA	Labor and Employment	Legal Reform	Taxation	Unemployment Insurance	Water Supply	Workplace Safety	In Accord with CalChamber	Not in Accord with CalChamber	Absent
	SB 253 Emissions Tracking	SBX1 2 Windfall Profits Tax	AB 421 Referendums	AB 1000	AB 524 Litigation Expansion AB 647 Grocery Workers SB 399 Employer Speech	SB 525 Minimum Wage Health Workers SB 592 Labor Law Compliance SB 616 Sick Leave Expansion SB 627 Return to Work	SB 881 Sick Leave Reform	ACA 1 Lower Tax Approval Threshold	AB 460 Interim Relief Orders	AB 1337 Curtail Water Rights	SB 553 Workplace Violence		
Lee, A. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Low, E. (D)	•*	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	1	11	0
Lowenthal, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Maienschein, B. (D)	Y*	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	1	11	0
Mathis, D. (R)	N	N	N	N	• N	N	N	N	N	N	13	0	0
McCarty, K. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
McKinnor, T. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Muratsuchi, A. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	13	0
Nguyen, S. (D)	•*	Y	•	†	• •	• •	N	Y	• •	• •	9	3	0
Ortega, L. (D)	Y	—	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	11	1
Pacheco, B. (D)	Y	Y	Y	•	• •	• •	N	Y	• •	• •	8	5	0
Papan, D. (D)	Y*	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	• •	• •	3	9	0
Patterson, Jim (R)	N	N	N	†	N N	N N	N	N	N N	N N	12	0	0
Patterson, Joe (R)	N	N	N	†	N N	N N	N	N	N N	N N	12	0	0
Pellerin, G. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y •	Y •	1	12	0
Petrie-Norris, C. (D)	Y*	Y	Y	†	• Y	• •	•	•	• •	• •	8	4	0
Quirk-Silva, S. (D)	Y*	•	Y	†	• Y	• •	•	Y	• •	• •	7	5	0
Ramos, J. (D)	N	•	Y	•	• Y	• •	N	•	Y Y	Y Y	8	5	0
Rendon, A. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Reyes, E. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Rivas, L. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y •	Y •	1	12	0
Rivas, R. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	13	0
Rodriguez, F. (D)	•*	Y	Y	†	• Y	• Y	•	Y	Y Y	Y Y	3	9	0
Rubio, B. (D)	•*	Y	•	†	• •	• •	N	Y	• •	• •	9	3	0
Sanchez, K. (R)	N	N	N	†	N N	N N	N	N	N N	N N	12	0	0
Santiago, M. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Schiavo, P. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y •	Y	•	Y Y	Y Y	2	10	0
Soria, E. (D)	•*	Y	Y	†	• Y	• •	•	•	N N	N N	7	5	0
Ta, T. (R)	N	N	N	†	N N	N N	N	N	N N	N N	12	0	0
Ting, P. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	• •	• •	2	10	0
Valencia, A. (D)	•*	Y	Y	†	• Y	• Y	•	•	• •	• •	7	5	0
Villapudua, C. (D)	•*	Y	Y	†	• •	• •	•	Y	• •	• •	9	3	0
Waldron, M. (R)	N	N	N	•	N N	N N	N	•	N N	N N	13	0	0
Wallis, G. (R)	N	N	N	†	N N	N N	N	•	N N	N N	12	0	0
Ward, C. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	13	0
Weber, A. (D)	•*	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	•	Y	Y Y	Y Y	2	10	0
Wicks, B. (D)	Y	Y	Y	†	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	12	0
Wilson, L. (D)	Y	Y	Y	•	Y Y	Y •	•	Y	• Y	• Y	4	9	0
Wood, J. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	13	0
Zbur, R. (D)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y Y	0	13	0

*Members who laid off voting before total reached 41 "aye" votes.

CalChamber Best Business Votes 2023

Legislators are listed in descending order according to how often they voted in accord with the California Chamber of Commerce position (first number) versus how often their votes were not in accord with the CalChamber position (second number) in 2023. Total votes may not match the vote record chart because the tally for absences is not included in this list. Votes when a legislator was absent are not included in calculating percentages.

80% or more with CalChamber

60%-79% with CalChamber

30%-59% with CalChamber

Less than 30% with CalChamber

Senate

Wilk, Scott (R)	15-0
Alvarado-Gil, Marie (D)	13-0
Dahle, Brian (R)	13-0
Grove, Shannon (R)	13-0
Jones, Brian W. (R)	13-0
Nguyen, Janet (R)	13-0
Niello, Roger (R)	13-0
Ochoa Bogh, Rosilicic (R)	13-0
Seyarto, Kelly (R)	13-0
Glazer, Steve (D)	10-3
Caballero, Anna (D)	7-5
Dodd, Bill (D)	6-7
Roth, Richard (D)	5-8
Newman, Josh (D)	4-9
Ashby, Angelique (D)	3-10
Archuleta, Bob J. (D)	2-11
Blakespear, Catherine (D)	2-11
Eggman, Susan Talamantes (D)	2-11
Min, Dave (D)	2-11
Rubio, Susan (D)	2-11
Umberg, Tom (D)	1-12
Padilla, Steve (D)	0-12
Stern, Henry (D)	0-12
Allen, Ben (D)	0-13
Atkins, Toni (D)	0-13
Becker, Josh (D)	0-13
Bradford, Steven (D)	0-13
Gonzalez, Lena (D)	0-13
Hurtado, Melissa (D)	0-13
Limón, Monique (D)	0-13
McGuire, Mike (D)	0-13
Menjivar, Caroline (D)	0-13
Portantino, Anthony (D)	0-13
Skinner, Nancy (D)	0-13
Wahab, Aisha (D)	0-13
Wiener, Scott (D)	0-13
Cortese, Dave (D)	0-15
Durazo, Maria Elena (D)	0-15
Laird, John. (D)	0-15
Smallwood-Cuevas, Lola (D)	0-15

Assembly

Dixon, Diane (R)	13-0
Flora, Heath (R)	13-0
Hoover, Josh (R)	13-0
Mathis, Devon (R)	13-0
Waldron, Marie (R)	13-0
Alanis, Juan (R)	12-0
Chen, Phillip (R)	12-0
Dahle, Megan (R)	12-0
Davies, Laurie (R)	12-0
Fong, Vince (R)	12-0
Gallagher, James (R)	12-0
Lackey, Tom (R)	12-0
Patterson, Jim (R)	12-0
Patterson, Joe (R)	12-0
Sanchez, Kate (R)	12-0
Ta, Tri (R)	12-0
Wallis, Greg (R)	12-0
Essayli, Bill (R)	11-0
Nguyen, Stephanie (D)	9-3
Rubio, Blanca (D)	9-3
Villapudua, Carlos (D)	9-3
Bains, Jasmeet (D)	8-4
Petrie-Norris, Cottie (D)	8-4
Pacheco, Blanca (D)	8-5
Ramos, James C. (D)	8-5
Quirk-Silva, Sharon (D)	7-5
Soria, Esmeralda (D)	7-5
Valencia, Avelino (D)	7-5
Grayson, Tim (D)	5-7
Irwin, Jacqui (D)	5-7
Gipson, Mike (D)	4-8
Wilson, Lori D. (D)	4-9
Bauer-Kahan, Rebecca (D)	3-9
Calderon, Lisa (D)	3-9
Cervantes, Sabrina (D)	3-9
Papan, Diane (D)	3-9
Rodriguez, Freddie (D)	3-9
Alvarez, David (D)	2-10
Arambula, Joaquin (D)	2-10
Schiavo, Pilar (D)	2-10
Ting, Phil (D)	2-10
Weber, Akilah (D)	2-10

Aguiar-Curry, Cecilia (D)	2-11
Boerner, Tasha (D)	2-11
Carrillo, Juan (D)	1-11
Jones-Sawyer, Reggie (D)	1-11
Low, Evan (D)	1-11
Maienschein, Brian (D)	1-11
Pellerin, Gail (D)	1-12
Rivas, Luz (D)	1-12
Gabriel, Jesse (D)	0-11
Ortega, Liz (D)	0-11
Bennett, Steve (D)	0-12
Berman, Marc (D)	0-12
Bonta, Mia (D)	0-12
Bryan, Isaac (D)	0-12
Carrillo, Wendy (D)	0-12
Connolly, Damon (D)	0-12
Fong, Mike (D)	0-12
Garcia, Eduardo (D)	0-12
Haney, Matt (D)	0-12
Hart, Gregg (D)	0-12
Holden, Chris (D)	0-12
Jackson, Corey (D)	0-12
Kalra, Ash (D)	0-12
Lee, Alex (D)	0-12
Lowenthal, Josh (D)	0-12
McCarty, Kevin (D)	0-12
McKinnor, Tina (D)	0-12
Rendon, Anthony (D)	0-12
Reyes, Eloise (D)	0-12
Santiago, Miguel (D)	0-12
Wicks, Buffy (D)	0-12
Addis, Dawn (D)	0-13
Friedman, Laura (D)	0-13
Muratsuchi, Al (D)	0-13
Rivas, Robert (D)	0-13
Ward, Chris (D)	0-13
Wood, Jim (D)	0-13
Zbur, Rick Chavez (D)	0-13

Asia-Pacific Business Leaders Gather in SF for Multiple Meetings on Global Economy



The California Chamber of Commerce was well-represented this week when Asia-Pacific business leaders gathered in San Francisco for their annual summit and related meetings.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit took place from November 14–16, overlapping with the APEC Leaders' Summit. The APEC 2023 theme was "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All."

The CalChamber was represented at the three-day summit by Board members Travis Kiyota, senior vice president, head of global corporate affairs at East West Bank; Margaret Wong, president and CEO of McWong International Inc.; and Sima Patel, CEO of Ridgemont Hospitality, along with CalChamber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera, and Vice President of International Affairs Susanne T. Stirling.

Dominic Ng, of CalChamber-member company East West Bank, is chairing the [APEC Business Advisory Council \(ABAC\)](#). In this role, Ng and his counterparts are advising APEC leaders on issues affecting the continued economic growth of the APEC region.

CEO Summit

The CEO Summit is the most important gathering of Asia-Pacific business leaders each year. Its attendees include CEOs of multinational corporations and leading companies in the Indo-Pacific, as well as

leading figures from media outlets in the region. Private sector speakers included CEOs of Visa, Mastercard, Pfizer, PwC, FedEx, ExxonMobil, and more.

A reception on Tuesday evening kicked off the CEO Summit. On the following two days, approximately 1,500 CEOs, thought leaders and other stakeholders, together with Asia-Pacific political leaders gathered for meetings and conversations.

The summit featured robust dialogue and engagement on global opportunities and challenges that are shaping economic, environmental and societal trends in the region, including sustain-

In an interview session, former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, director of the Hoover Institution, spoke about world conflicts and the need to re-introduce a sense of order.

The California booth at the summit, highlighting the state's innovation, was staffed by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and featured small business.

The [California booth](#) was a gathering spot for business and government delegates, including Governor Gavin Newsom and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis.

The Governor's activities on Wednesday included a fireside chat on leading with vision, particularly on climate change issues.

Highlights of Thursday, the second day of the summit, included sessions on resilience, innovation, and artificial intelligence, and remarks by President Joe Biden. Biden noted that the United States is a Pacific power and Pacific nation currently focused on peace and security in the region together with economic growth while also working on green initiatives and protecting workers.

The closing ceremony on Thursday focused on Peru, the 2025 host for APEC meetings.

2023 Leaders' Meeting

The CEO Summit took place alongside the Leaders' Meeting, which attracted approximately 1,000 media representatives and nearly 20,000 delegates from across APEC's member economies.

The APEC meeting was the largest convening of world leaders in San Francisco since the United Nations Charter was signed in 1945 during the UN Conference on International Organization.

See Asia-Pacific Business: Page 13



(From left) Susanne T. Stirling, CalChamber vice president, international affairs; California Secretary of Government Operations Amy Tong; Margaret Wong, president and CEO of McWong International Inc., a CalChamber Board member and member of the [Committee of 100](#); Ginger Lew, CEO of Three Oaks Investment LLC, vice chair of the APEC Business Advisory Council and a member of the [Committee of 100](#); and Buck Gee, Northern California regional chair of the [Committee of 100](#), the leading organization for Chinese Americans on civic engagement, public policy, arts, culture and philanthropy.

able energy transition, inclusive growth, resilient systems and societies, and the promise of innovation in building a better future world.

Wednesday, the first full day of the summit, included sessions on topics such as "APEC and the World: Global Dynamics, Regional Impacts," "Leveraging Technology to Address Global Challenges," and sustainability. The CEOs also heard remarks from various APEC leaders, as well as CEOs of global companies like Pfizer and Microsoft.

East West Bank CEO Ng Gives Business a Voice at Asia-Pacific Summit



California Chamber of Commerce Board member company East West Bank played a leading role in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in San Francisco.

In July 2022, Dominic Ng, chairman and CEO of East West Bank, was appointed by President Joe Biden as chair of the **APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)** for this year's U.S.-hosted event.

On Sunday, November 12, the ABAC, under Chairman Ng's leadership, hosted an opening welcome reception at San Francisco City Hall. CalChamber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera and CalChamber Vice President for International Affairs Susanne T. Stirling attended the reception at the invitation of CalChamber Board Member Travis Kiyota, who is East West Bank's senior vice president and head of global corporate affairs.

Welcoming and opening remarks were given by Ng, as well as San Francisco Mayor London Breed and California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis.

Kiyota's leadership facilitated the CalChamber's involvement in several APEC events this year, including Sunday's welcome reception.

Business Advisory Council

For more than 30 years, APEC has served as the premier economic platform for the United States to engage regional partners on structural issues to advance a fair, open, sustainable and inclusive economic and trade architecture. A key component to APEC's multi-stakeholder approach is the Business Advisory Council (ABAC). Council members discuss policy recommendations and undertake activities

to promote trade and investment as well as sustainable and inclusive growth.

The ABAC, chaired by Ng, consists of three business advisory members from each of the 21 APEC economies. This group of approximately 60 worldwide business representatives recommend subjects for the APEC government leaders to discuss.



Dominic Ng, chairman and CEO of East West Bank and chair of APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), welcomes attendees to the ABAC reception on November 12.

In 2023, the United States took on the chair of the ABAC, with Thailand and Peru as co-chairs, following the APEC order. Co-chairs represent immediate past and future APEC hosts.

ABAC Recommendations

This year, the ABAC adopted the theme "Equity. Sustainability. Opportunity" by expanding equity through well-designed policies and capacity building; collaborating to promote environmental sustainability and address

climate change; and creating economic opportunity by streamlining regulations and increasing access to markets, technology and capital.

Recommendations submitted to APEC by the council touch on issues of:

- **Economic Integration:** implementing concrete action toward the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific; supporting the rules-based multilateral trading system; enhancing supply chain resilience and connectivity; leveraging trade agreements for better climate outcomes; monitoring carbon border adjustment mechanisms and their impact on the APEC region; liberalizing trade in environmental goods and services; promoting cross-border paperless trade; advancing trade inclusion for groups with untapped economic potential; including women and Indigenous businesses.

- **Digitalization and Innovation:** inclusive growth in the artificial intelligence (AI) age; empowering people, businesses, and economies in APEC; enhancing women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); encouraging responsible AI; facilitating cross-border data flows; developing interoperable open data systems; promoting the development of interoperable wholesale central bank digital currencies; expanding cross-border data sharing and privacy enhancing technologies; improving interoperability of digital identity systems across APEC.

- **Sustainable Growth:** implementing an ambitious response to climate change; promoting a just, realistic, ambitious and sustainable energy transition; promoting micro, small and medium enterprises' (MSME) participation in sustainable development; ensuring sustainable food security; creating a collaborative framework for financing sustainable transition; financing sustainable innovation; achieving a circular economy.

To read the ABAC's report to APEC economic leaders, [click here](#).

Staff Contact: Susanne T. Stirling

Asia-Pacific Business Leaders Gather in San Francisco

From Page 11

U.S. President Joe Biden and China President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the APEC gathering Wednesday at a private estate south of San Francisco. The [Associated Press](#) reported that the presidents' first face-to-face encounter in a year led to agreements to curb illicit fentanyl production and to reopen military ties.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris gave opening remarks at an APEC leaders welcome reception.

For more information about the APEC 2023 Leaders' Week, visit www.APEC2023SF.org. News highlights appear at www.APEC.org.

APEC Facts

Formed in 1989, APEC serves as a multilateral forum in which Asian and Pacific economies can solve economic problems and cooperate in developing key economic sectors. The APEC economies are: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

The 21 APEC economies represent approximately 60% of world gross domestic product (GDP), nearly 50% of world trade and 40% of the global population.

APEC commitments to promoting regional economic integration and trade, making trade and business easier across borders, supply chain connectivity, energy efficiency and renewables, and making sure growth is inclusive for everyone have seen great benefits for the region thus far as regional trade has increased multifold, with tariffs falling dramatically.

According to APEC, growth has soared in the region with real GDP and

cal machinery, transportation equipment, processed foods and chemicals. California imported \$406.13 billion from APEC in 2022, 30.8% of which was made up of computers and electronic products.

Other top imports included transportation equipment, electrical equipment, miscellaneous manufactured goods, and non-electrical machinery. In 2022, California was the top importing state from APEC and the second largest exporting state to the region.



California's booth at the APEC Summit is the backdrop for business and government delegates, including Governor Gavin Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis.

per capita income increasing, lifting millions out of poverty and creating a flourishing middle class.

California-APEC Trade

In 2022, California exported \$129.89 billion to the APEC economies, 10.4% of the national total. Of total California exports to APEC, 22.8% (\$29.66 billion) consisted of computers and electronics. Other top exports included non-electri-

cals, machinery, transportation equipment, processed foods and chemicals. California imported \$406.13 billion from APEC in 2022, 30.8% of which was made up of computers and electronic products.

The APEC is important as a vehicle for all Asia-Pacific economic integration. This regional group sets a high standard that will enhance the competitiveness of the economies that are part of it and help facilitate trade and promote investment among them, increasing their economic growth and development.

Staff Contact: Susanne T. Stirling

CalChamber Position

The CalChamber, in keeping with longstanding policy, enthusiastically supports free trade worldwide, 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. New multilateral, sectoral and regional trade agreements ensure that the United States may continue to gain access to world markets, resulting in an improved

economy and additional employment of Americans.

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CalChamber Backs Circular Action Alliance

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Need for a PRO

California's new recycling law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to approve one PRO to develop a recycling plan with which all businesses selling single-use packaging will need to comply.

With applications due to CalRecycle by January 1, 2024, the CalChamber believes the Circular Action Alliance is best positioned to be approved and serve the diverse business community with their compliance obligations.

CAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit producer responsibility organization formed in 2021 in response to an increasing number

of states, including California, mandating EPR for packaging.

Earlier this year, CAA became the first PRO in the United States to be approved for administering an EPR program for paper and packaging in Colorado. CAA also was approved as the single nonprofit PRO on the State Producer Responsibility Advisory Council in Maryland. CAA is currently actively seeking approval in Oregon and Maine.

As an increasing number of states mandate EPR for packaging, companies will rely more and more on the assistance of a PRO to navigate the evolving landscape of recycling regulations across the country. This need is particularly pronounced in California, where noncom-

pliance with laws like SB 54 can result in hefty fines and potentially packaging bans for noncompliance.

Unifying Framework

CAA's vision of unifying the PRO framework nationwide as companies contend with EPR in multiple states will provide significant benefits to the business community, including increased efficiencies, lower operating costs and more consistent guidance.

The CalChamber believes that the Circular Action Alliance, with its technical expertise, producer toolkit and established infrastructure, is California's top choice to serve as the state's PRO.

Staff Contact: Adam Regele

CalChamber Releases Annual Vote Record

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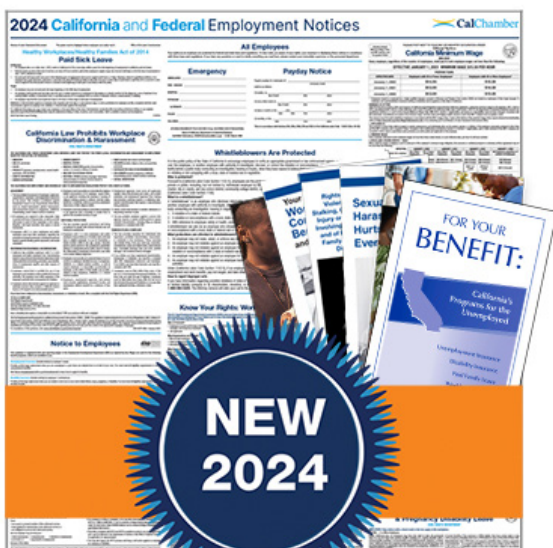
more litigation exposure, and additional bureaucracy... it leaves less resources to invest in things such as clean energy, workers' wages, benefits, and innovation. Bad policies will depress job growth and ultimately lead to less tax revenue to support education, health care, housing, and infrastructure."

To amplify the voices of California small businesses at the State Capitol, the CalChamber has launched the Small Business Policy Center, which will focus on mobilizing the power of small businesses in grassroots advocacy.

It is more important than ever that policy makers fully understand the issues and costs small business employers are experiencing. Small businesses are key

to the growth of our local communities and collectively contribute to the overall success of our state's economy.

Alongside its current advocacy efforts, the CalChamber's Small Business Policy Center will augment the voice of small business leaders in the State Capitol as legislation is being deliberated to make sure their concerns are specifically identified and heard.



Mandatory Updates to Required Employment Notices

Now's the time to preorder your **updated** California and Federal Labor Law posters and pamphlets through CalChamber, as well as applicable California Wage Order posters and local California labor law posters.

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