

ALERT

Flawed Effort to Rewrite Antitrust Law Rejected



A California Senate committee has rejected a deeply flawed plan to change

the state’s antitrust laws, one that would trigger sweeping consequences for businesses and consumers alike and was identified as a **Cost Driver** on CalChamber’s annual Affordability Agenda.

Senate Bill 1074 (Wiener; D-San Francisco) sought to legislate the design of technology platforms in ways that its supporters argued would level the digital playing field.

But CalChamber and a coalition of business sector opponents made clear that the bill would have a chilling effect on the development of new platforms designed to meet the demands of California consumers and small businesses.

And while backers suggested that SB 1074 would only prohibit conduct that could disadvantage users or rivals, provisions of the bill would impose extensive obligations that dictate product design choices and force successful platforms to share valuable assets and intellectual property with rivals.

“The fundamental problem is that SB 1074 presumes that ill-defined categories of conduct are anti-competitive unless a

platform clearly proves otherwise,” said Julian Kleinbrodt, an attorney representing the business coalition that includes CalChamber.

The bill largely mirrored the American Innovation and Choice Act (AICOA), a federal bill that failed in Congress in 2022 and was opposed by prominent California congressional leaders, concerned about its effect on the Golden State’s economy and global technological leadership.

CalChamber and others pointed out that rival companies could weaponize the provisions in SB 1074 to make wide-ranging demands of covered platforms. Settling private lawsuits from rival companies would be especially difficult. Government enforcers, and courts, may have to scrutinize those future settlements — leading to additional litigation over the settlements themselves.

And contrary to the goals of the bill, SB 1074 would elevate the interests of current competitors above the interests of users, consumers, and the future of dynamic competition.

Meanwhile, CalChamber continues to oppose **AB 1776 (Aguilar Curry; D-Winters)**, another bill aiming to radically revise state antitrust law. That bill is pending before the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Donna Lucas to Lead CalChamber Board for Rest of 2026



Donna Lucas

Public affairs executive Donna Lucas will serve as chair of the California Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, after being selected April 24 to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the year.

Lucas succeeds Maryam S. Brown, who stepped down earlier this month after a 15-month term leading the organization’s governing body, having accepted an offer to become president and COO of Indiana Michigan Power. Brown was formerly president and CEO of the Southern California Gas Company.

Lucas, **one of California’s most experienced and prominent public affairs professionals**, previously served as chair of CalChamber’s Board of Directors in 2021 and has been a board member since 2012. She is CEO and founder of Lucas Public Affairs, a Sacramento-based firm she started in 2006, and a member of Five Star Bank’s Board of Directors.

The CalChamber Board of Directors will choose a new chair when the current term, now filled by Lucas, expires at the end of December.

“I am honored to be selected to serve in this role at such a pivotal moment for strengthening California’s business climate and making our state an even

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*Cal/OSHA Corner***Cal/OSHA Revises Rules to Provide Better Protection to Divers**

Mel Davis
Workplace Safety
Expert

What changes has Cal/OSHA made to regulations for diving operations and when did the new rules take effect?

Revisions to align California diving regulations with federal requirements went into effect on January 1, 2026.

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB) opened the update process on February 28, 2025 by asking for comments on specific sections of the General Industry Safety Orders

(6050, 6051, 6052, 6054 and 6056) as they relate to Group 26: Diving and Pressurized Worksite Operations.

Besides making some California requirements conform better with their federal counterparts, the revised standard clarifies state requirements for which there is no corresponding federal regulation.

Supporting the regulation changes with both written comments and in-person testimony were the marine operations manager for the California Science Center Foundation in Los Angeles, the dive safety officer for the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach and the director of dive programs at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Revisions

The revisions that went into effect include:

- Section 6050 was revised by deleting terms that defined what diving operations were encompassed by the term “diving operations” and a new paragraph was added to define what constitutes a “controlled environment” (for film and

TV operations) and the personal and training required for divers to perform their duties.

- Section 6052, covering general requirements, addresses protective equipment, air supply, training and diving fitness.

- Section 6056, covering basic operation procedures, limits SCUBA diving depths to 130 fsw (40 msw). An exception requires an emergency response dive team be available.

The section also sets out three requirements for conducting SCUBA diving in a confined space.

Exceptions to certain basic operation requirements are spelled out for performing zoo and aquarium exhibit diving operations and TV and film diving operations.

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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Navigating Paid Sick Leave and Time Off Requirements in California. CalChamber. [Webinar recording](#). (800) 331-8877.

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CalChamber Calendar

*California Business Outlook and Dinner:
June 10, Sacramento*

California Travel Industry Continues as Economic Mainstay



economy and communities throughout the state.

California remained the nation's top travel destination in 2025, with total travel spending reaching \$158.9 billion, a 1.7% increase from 2024, even as national travel demand declined.

The confirmation of the travel industry's strength, [released on April 20](#), was a welcome prelude to the start of California Tourism Month on May 1.

"Tourism remains an incredibly resilient pillar of California's economy thanks to the strong foundation built over decades by the state's travel industry," said Caroline Beteta, president and CEO of Visit California. "Despite global

challenges, the state's brand continues to shine, drawing visitors to California's diverse destinations and experiences and boosting local economies."

Jobs and Revenue

The travel industry supported 1.2 million jobs in 2025, a slight increase from the previous year.

Travel-generated state and local tax revenue grew to \$13.6 billion, a 3.6% increase from 2024, helping fund essential public services.

Hotel demand and occupancy exceeded national averages. Spending on accommodations grew to \$35.2 billion, an increase of 2.2%. Spending on food service generated \$38.5 billion, an increase of 4.6%.

Looking Ahead

Visit California says the state's tourism industry is poised for steady growth. California is projected to welcome 276.6

million visitors this year and travel spending is expected to increase to \$164.8 billion.

Major global events, including the FIFA World Cup, will showcase the state to 6 billion viewers worldwide.

In contrast, other geopolitical events may interfere with these positive trends. Recent international conflicts have increased oil prices and may increase the cost of both domestic tourism and international air travel in the near future.

Travel California

Visit California reminds Californians that their travels are critical to sustaining local economies. California's 40 million residents help keep communities lively year-round by visiting nearby destinations, dining locally and supporting small businesses.

Learn more about the [economic impact of travel in California](#).

Donna Lucas to Lead CalChamber Board for Rest of 2026

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better place for businesses to succeed and communities to prosper," said Lucas.

Lucas served in the administrations of former Govs. George Deukmejian and Arnold Schwarzenegger and was later chief of staff for former First Lady Maria Shriver.

Before founding her eponymous public affairs firm, Lucas was the CEO of Nelson Communications. She also served for many years as a board member of the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, including a stint as chair of the organization's board, and is a former chair of the College Futures Foundation.

Lucas has been instrumental in creating CalChamber's Women's Leadership Council and is a founding member of She Shares, a unique conversation series featuring trailblazing women leaders who have made a lasting impact in California and beyond.

CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

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International Trade

European Tech Resilience: Scaling Trusted Technologies in a Changing World. European American Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham). April 28, San Francisco. [Get tickets](#).

EXIM Annual Conference. Export-Import Bank of the United States. April 29–30, Washington, D.C. [Conference website](#).

The World in Motion: Advancing Sports Tourism on a Global Stage. Inland Empire World Trade Conference Committee and San Bernardino International Airport. May 1, Highland. [Get tickets](#).

SelectUSA Investment Summit. Select USA. May 3–6, National Harbor, Maryland. [Event website](#).

East and Central Africa Grid Security Business Briefing. U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). May 5, San Francisco. [Reserve a spot](#).

12th Annual Orange County World Trade Week Forum. District Export Council of Southern California. May 7, Irvine. [Event website](#).

NADEC Annual Trade Conference: Global Trade in Transition. National Association of District Export Councils. May 12–13, Nashville, Tennessee. [Event website](#).

BeautyWorld Saudi Arabia: California Pavilion. Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). May 18–20. [See flyer](#). Tricia.Utterback@gobiz.ca.gov.

Asia Tech x Singapore: California Pavilion. GO-Biz. May 20–22, Singapore.

[Learn more.](#)

Sri Lanka Expo 2026. Sri Lanka Export Development Board. June 18–21, Sri Lanka. [Event website](#).

Farnborough Airshow. GO-Biz to lead delegation of economic developers. July 20–24, London, United Kingdom. [Event website](#).

Semicon Taiwan: California Pavilion. GO-Biz. September 1–4, Taipei, Taiwan. Up to 8 California small businesses in semiconductor supply chain invited to apply. [See flyer](#).

Aquatech: California Pavilion. GO-Biz with U.S. Commercial Service. September 1–3, Mexico City, Mexico. Registration deadline: June 1 or until spaces are filled. [See flyer](#).