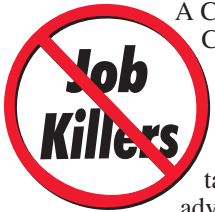


ALERT

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 12 • APRIL 19, 2013

 **CalChamber**
CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

10-Year Tax Credit Sunset Awaiting Action by Senate



A California Chamber of Commerce-**opposed** “job killer” bill that imposes an arbitrary maximum 10-year sunset on all future tax credits has advanced and already

awaits action by the entire Senate.

SB 365 (Wolk; D-Davis) creates uncertainty for California employers making long-term investment decisions by requiring tax incentives end 10 years after their effective date.

The CalChamber supports efforts of the state to consider the effectiveness of tax policies and programmatic expenditures.

SB 365, however, attempts to address

this periodic review and good government structure related to tax policy by mandating a maximum 10-year sunset on all future tax credits. This would have the adverse effect of creating uncertainty about the future of the state’s tax structure.

Stability Key to Decisions

When businesses choose to locate in a state, factors such as the availability of a skilled workforce, infrastructure, regulatory environment, and tax structure all play a significant role. Businesses evaluate whether they can rely on these factors to remain relatively stable and consistent in the long term.

Furthermore, for capital-intensive

See Tax Credit: Page 6

Legislation to Prevent Prop. 65 Drive-By Lawsuits Passes Assembly Committee



A California Chamber of Commerce-**supported** bill that aims to stop

drive-by lawsuits passed an Assembly policy committee this week.

AB 227 (Gatto; D-Los Angeles) is a job creator that protects small businesses from drive-by lawsuits by providing a 14-day right to cure for allegations of a failure to post a Proposition 65 warning.

Proposition 65

Proposition 65, approved by voters in 1986, enacted “The Safe Drinking Water

See Legislation: Page 4

Governor Brown Leads Successful Trade/Investment Mission to China

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. returned this week from a successful eight-day mission to China including the opening of California’s first foreign office in nearly a decade.

Joining the Governor was a 75-member business delegation that included a number of California Chamber of Commerce members.

The goal of the mission was to expand trade and investment between California and China by identifying opportunities of mutual benefit.

With more investment deals from China than any other state, California is positioned to capture China’s growing foreign investment.

The Governor’s schedule included high-level meetings with government officials—including China Premier Li Keqiang—meetings with current and

See China Trade: Page 7



Photo Courtesy AmCham China

CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremberg speaks with Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. at a luncheon hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in China last week during the Governor’s successful trade mission to China.

Labor Law Corner

When Payday Falls on a Holiday, Wages Can Be Paid Next Business Day



Gary Hermann
HR Adviser

If a payday falls on a holiday, when is an employer obligated to pay?

If you are closed on a payday that falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday listed in the California Government Code, you can pay wages on the next business day.

Holidays

The following holidays are listed in the California Government Code:

- January 1 — New Year's Day;

- Third Monday in January — Martin Luther King Jr. Day;
- February 12 — Lincoln's Birthday;
- Third Monday in February — Washington's Birthday;
- Last Monday in May — Memorial Day;
- July 4 — Independence Day;
- First Monday in September — Labor Day;
- Second Monday in October — Columbus Day;
- November 11 — Veterans Day;
- Fourth Thursday in November — Thanksgiving Day;
- The day after Thanksgiving;
- December 25 — Christmas;
- Other days appointed by the Governor for a public fast, Thanksgiving or holiday.

If a listed day falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is considered to be the holiday. If November 11, Veterans Day, falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is the holiday.

State law does not require private employers to provide holidays. The

payday exception applies only if the business is closed.

Enforcement

The State Division of Labor Standards Enforcement has established an enforcement position that relies on the provisions of Sections 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the California Civil Code and on Section 12a of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Those sections define holidays as Saturdays, Sundays and those days specified in the Government Code as set forth above.

Those sections also provide that when an act required to be performed on a certain day, such as a payday, falls on a holiday, the obligation to perform the act moves to the next regular work day.

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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CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

More information: calchamber.com/events.

Labor Law

HR Boot Camp Seminar. CalChamber.
May 8: Sacramento; June 6: Santa Clara. (800) 331-8877.

Leaves of Absence: Making Sense of It All. CalChamber. May 9, Sacramento. (800) 331-8877.

HR Strategies Webinars. CalChamber.
May 16: Flexible Work Options; June 20: Multigenerational Workforce Challenge. (800) 331-8877.

California Employers and Workplace Privacy Webinar. CalChamber. July 18. (800) 331-8877.

Ask the HR Compliance Experts Webinar. CalChamber. August 15. (800) 331-8877.

Business Resources

EDD Labor/Tax Seminar. California Employment Development Department. April 30: Santa Clarita; May 13: Redwood City; May 14: Fairfield; May 15: Sacramento and Oakland; May 21: San Bernardino; May 22: Fresno; June 5: Hawthorne and Merced. (415) 703-4810.

Small Business Seminar: Strategies for Success. California Board of Equalization. April 30, Los Angeles. (888) 847-9652.

Branding the Monterey Bay Region. Monterey Bay International Trade Association (MBITA). May 2, Salinas.

See CalChamber-Sponsored: Page 6

CalChamber Calendar

Legislative Briefing:

May 21, Sacramento

International Forum:

May 21, Sacramento

Environmental Regulation Committee:

May 21, Sacramento

Water Committee:

May 21, Sacramento

CalChamber Fundraising Committee:

May 21, Sacramento

Board of Directors:

May 21-22, Sacramento

Host Breakfast:

May 22, Sacramento



Split Roll, Discrimination Litigation Bills Held Pending Reviews of Fiscal Impacts



Two California Chamber of Commerce-**opposed** “job killer” bills were held in committees of their house of origin on April 15, pending reviews of the bills’ fiscal impacts.

- **AB 188 (Ammiano; D-San Francisco)** unfairly targets commercial property by redefining “change of ownership” so that such property is more frequently reassessed, which will ultimately lead to higher property taxes that will be passed on to tenants, consumers, and potentially employees.

- **SB 404 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara)** makes it virtually impossible for employers to manage their employees and exposes them to a higher risk of litigation by expanding the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to include a protected classification for any person who is, perceived, or associated with an individual that provides “medical or supervisory” care to a family member.

AB 188 Boosts Property Taxes

Ultimately, increasing property taxes for commercial property will have

detrimental impacts on the general public, including small businesses, apartment residents, employees, and consumers.

Any higher taxes imposed on companies who own commercial property will likely be passed on to the tenants of such property through higher rent, including businesses as well as individuals who rent apartments in which to live. The increased costs could result in reduced employee benefits, workforce reductions, or even higher prices for consumers.

Moreover, the proposed definition of “change of ownership” under AB 188 will trigger reporting requirements for multiple “owners” of these entities.

Despite the percentage of ownership acquired, an individual or entity will be required to report this change in ownership or face a penalty up to 20% of the assessed fair market value of the commercial property. A penalty for failure to file a statement is imposed even if the county assessor ultimately determines no “change of ownership” has occurred.

This duplicative and onerous reporting requirement that AB 188 seeks to impose creates a potentially unfair monetary trap for a minority owner in a company who is unaware that a 100% change of owner-

ship has even taken place within the previous three years.

Action Needed

AB 188 will be considered by Assembly Revenue and Taxation at the suspense file hearing in May and may be voted off the suspense file at that time and sent to the full Assembly for a vote.

Contact your Assembly representatives and members of Assembly Revenue and Taxation and urge them to **oppose AB 188**.

An easy-to-edit sample letter is available at www.calchambervotes.com.

SB 404 Burdens Businesses

The burden that SB 404 creates will have an impact on small businesses because the FEHA applies to any employer with five or more employees. Accordingly, SB 404 will subject these small businesses to potentially costly litigation based on the allegation that an employee who suffered an adverse employment action provided familial medical or supervisory care, was perceived as providing such care, or was associated with someone providing such care.

See Discrimination: Page 4

U.S. Agency Corrects Date for Use of Form I-9

Starting May 7, employers may no longer use previous versions of the Form I-9 in verifying employment eligibility, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

USCIS published a revised Form I-9 on March 8 and incorrectly described the effective date as being *after* May 7.

In a correction notice published in the *Federal Register*, the USCIS corrected its error and clarified that *beginning* May 7, only the form bearing the 03/08/13 revision date would be acceptable.

All employers are required to complete a Form I-9 for each employee.

Revisions

The USCIS previously stated that the revisions to the form include:

- A new field;
- Reformatting to reduce errors; and

- Clearer, expanded, user-friendly instructions for both employees and employers. The Department of Homeland Security published a notice in the *Federal Register* informing employers of the new Form I-9.

According to the USCIS, employers should not complete a new Form I-9 for current employees if a properly completed Form I-9 is already on file.

HRCalifornia has been updated with the new form.

Spanish Version

A Spanish version of Form I-9 (Rev. 03/08/13N) is also available, and *HRCalifornia* is updated with the new form. The Spanish version is for use in Puerto Rico only. Spanish-speaking employers and employees in the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and other U.S. territories may use

the Spanish version for reference, but must complete the English version of the form.

Employer Handbook

The USCIS has updated the *Handbook for Employers: Guidance for Completing Form I-9* (M-274) to correspond to the new form. According to the USCIS, helpful new images have been added to illustrate how employees and employers can complete Sections 1–3 of the new form. The revised handbook is available at www.uscis.gov.

California Chamber of Commerce members can read more on recruiting and hiring, the I-9 form and verifying eligibility in *HRCalifornia's HR Library*, which has been updated to reflect the recent changes.

Staff Contact: Gail Cecchetti Whaley

Discrimination Litigation Bill Held Pending Review of Fiscal Impacts

From Page 3

Employees Already Protected

California already protects employees from discrimination on the basis of sex, pregnancy, medical condition, mental disability, or physical disability.

Similarly, California provides employees with leave to care for the serious medical condition of family members, which may be compensated through California's Paid Family Leave Act.

In addition, California also requires "kin care," mandating that an employee be allowed to use at least half of any accrued sick leave to care for family members.

These various leaves and protections are in addition to those provided by federal law. Given these existing protections, there is no reason to include under California law the broad protected classification SB 404 proposes, other than to increase litigation opportunities.

Costly Litigation

Approximately 19,500 discrimination claims citing FEHA were filed in 2010 with the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing, which was 1,000 complaints more than in 2009.

Notably, more than 4,000 of these complaints were dismissed due to lack of

evidence of any violation. Adding this new expansive classification to FEHA will only cause such cases to increase dramatically, thereby burdening the state agency as well as California employers with costly litigation.

Action Needed

SB 404 will be considered by Senate Appropriations at the committee's next hearing and may be voted off the suspense file and sent to the full Senate for a vote.

Contact your Senate representatives and members of Senate Appropriations and urge them to **oppose SB 404**.
Staff Contact: Jennifer Barrera

Legislation to Prevent Prop. 65 Drive-By Lawsuits Passes Committee

From Page 1

and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986," which is designed to protect California's drinking water from chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects, and to warn members of the public about the presence of those chemicals in their environment to help them avoid exposure.

Since its enactment, Proposition 65 has helped protect the public by incentivizing businesses to renovate their facilities, reformulate their products, and update their manufacturing processes to eliminate the use of listed chemicals.

Proposition 65 requires, among other things, that a private business with more than 10 employees post warnings when it knowingly exposes workers or the public to listed chemicals. These warnings can take the form of placards in business establishments where listed chemicals exist or are released into the environment, or as part of the labeling of a consumer product that contains any of the 774 chemicals currently on the list.

Drive-By Lawsuits

These benefits have not come without a cost to the economy, however. AB 227 addresses one very avoidable cost that results from a handful of law firms

targeting businesses with drive-by lawsuits, alleging the businesses lack the signage required by Proposition 65.

These lawsuits can easily cost thousands of dollars to litigate, causing many small businesses to settle out of court regardless of whether they actually needed to have signage posted at their business establishments, if the failure to post was made in good faith, or if the signage they did have was merely the wrong size.

Lengthy List

The 774 chemicals on the Proposition 65 list range from those that pose limited or no risk based solely on their presence at a business establishment—such as alcoholic beverages and aspirin—to others that pose an obvious and widely known risk, like diesel engine exhaust and tobacco smoke.

Given the range of listed chemicals, it's easy to understand why business owners sometimes fail to realize a warning sign is required.

Further, many business owners rightly determine that signage is not warranted given the exposure levels of a particular chemical at the business establishment, or that no listed chemicals are present at all, but this does not prevent a firm from

making an allegation in a demand letter in order to pressure the business into handing over a small settlement.

Nor does the act of actually posting warning signs. Many small businesses have actually been targeted because the dimensions of their signs did not precisely match the requirements of the law, although they provided adequate warning in compliance with the spirit of the law.

Hundreds of businesses are targeted in these lawsuits each year, costing millions of dollars in lost productivity and jobs.

AB 227 will help eliminate the inappropriate use of litigation, while ensuring that the public does receive Proposition 65 warnings when appropriate.

Key Vote

AB 227 passed the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on April 16, 7-0.

Ayes: Alejo (D-Salinas), Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Chesbro (D-North Coast), Dahle (R-Bieber), Donnelly (R-Twin Peaks), Stone (D-Scotts Valley), Ting (D-San Francisco)

The bill now moves to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Staff Contact: Mira Guertin

May 21-22, 2013

Legislative Briefing & Sacramento Host Breakfast

Register today at calchamber.com/2013briefing-hostb

 CalChamber®

Bill Increasing Environmental Litigation Clears Assembly Policy Committee Hurdle

Similar Senate Legislation Scheduled for Consideration in May



A California Chamber of Commerce-**opposed** “job killer” bill that increases California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation passed an Assembly policy

committee this week.

AB 953 (Ammiano; D-San Francisco) invites more litigation over CEQA projects by overturning a recent court decision and allowing project opponents to challenge environmental impact reports (EIRs) that don’t adequately evaluate and mitigate impacts related to conditions and physical features in the environment like sea-level rise and fault lines.

In other words, it would require project applicants to evaluate and mitigate for effects of the environment on their projects, not just the effects their projects might have on the environment.

Similar legislation, **SB 617 (Evans; D-Santa Rosa)**, is scheduled to be considered by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on May 1.

Update Needed

Both AB 953 and SB 617 dramatically expand CEQA’s requirements at a time when the Legislature should be more appropriately focused on updating the 43-year-old law to address legitimate concerns about unnecessary litigation while reinforcing the existing statute’s core purpose of environmental protection and public review.

Attack on CEQA

AB 953 and SB 617 are an attack on the core of the CEQA, namely, that CEQA requires consideration of the impacts of a project on the environment,

not the other way around.

As detailed below, a variety of other California laws already address issues such as floods, fire hazards, and earthquakes (for example, natural issues that may have an impact on projects).

Both bills ignore these robust bodies of law and inject into CEQA further uncertainty and increased litigation costs for projects ranging from affordable housing and hospitals to schools and infrastructure.

Covered by Other Laws

The natural hazards AB 953 and SB 617 seek to address are already covered in a myriad of substantive laws in California:

- Flood hazards are addressed in the Legislature’s package of flood bills in 2007 and building codes. In addition, flood damage prevention measures also are found in the California Building Code.
- Fire hazards are addressed in both the building code and defensible space regulations.
- Seismic hazards (the entire State of California falls within the three worst “seismic design categories”) are addressed in the building codes.

All three of these subjects are covered in the Natural Hazards Disclosure Statement and many more are covered in other disclosure laws. There are a myriad of potential impacts of the existing environment on a project that are required to be addressed in substantive ways outside of, and more effectively than by injecting them into CEQA, in order to protect the occupants of new development.

Court Rulings

Courts have repeatedly held that CEQA is not concerned with the effect of

the environment on proposed projects. As a 1995 appellate court ruling commented, consideration of the effect of the environment on the project is “beyond the scope of CEQA.”

The same appellate court noted in a 2009 decision that the purpose of an EIR is to identify the significant effects of a project on the environment, not the significant effects of the environment on the project.

The review and approval of proposed projects in California are governed by a host of laws to ensure the health, safety, and environmental protection of Californians and the communities in which they live.

AB 953 and SB 617 ignore these laws and assume CEQA is the only law in the land. Ironically, one of the results of AB 953 and SB 617 would be to drive development away from infill sites and toward the urban fringe—a dynamic that flies in the face of SB 375, the 2008 law aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, and a host of smart growth policies throughout the state.

Finally, the requirements of both bills duplicate existing laws that are more effective than CEQA.

Key Vote

AB 953 passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 15, 5-3.

Ayes: Chesbro (D-North Coast), Garcia (D-Bell Gardens), Skinner (D-Berkeley), Stone (D-Scotts Valley), Williams (D-Santa Barbara).

Noes: **Bigelow (R-O’Neals), Grove (R-Bakersfield), Patterson (R-Fresno).**

Absent/abstaining/not voting: Muratsuchi (D-Torrance).

Staff Contact: **Mira Guertin**

Regulatory Certainty for Carbon Capture Wins Unanimous Senate Committee OK



California Chamber of Commerce-supported legislation that creates

regulatory certainty for carbon capture and storage projects passed a Senate policy committee this week with unanimous support.

SB 34 (R. Calderon; D-Montebello) advances the state's environmental policies and promotes job creation by reducing the regulatory burdens for the permitting process of carbon capturing and storage projects.

Investment Incentive

In addition, by requiring the California Air Resources Board to establish methodologies that would recognize these projects as important compliance instruments under AB 32, SB 34 will provide further incentive for economic investment in this safe and proven method of capture and storage.

California is aggressively working to meet its ambitious environmental goals set forth by AB 32, The California Global

Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 established a goal of returning California greenhouse gas emissions (including carbon dioxide) to 1990 levels by 2020.

SB 34 helps realize these goals by recognizing the important role that carbon capture and storage projects play in achieving overall greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Advancing Projects

Confirming the regulatory framework for the planning, construction and operation of carbon capture and storage projects will enable several projects to move forward that have been stalled due to existing regulatory uncertainties that were identified by the California Energy Commission and the Public Utilities Commission.

Passage of SB 34 will send the confidence signal necessary to spur investment in carbon capture and storage projects.

SB 34 is an important measure that will help lead California toward economic recovery, creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

The bill provides a "win-win" situation

by facilitating California businesses' ability to comply with greenhouse gas emission reductions under AB 32 while also providing much-needed jobs in the state.

Key Vote

SB 34 passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on April 17 on a unanimous vote.

Ayes: R. Calderon (D-Montebello), Corbett (D-San Leandro), Fuller (R-Bakersfield), T. Gaines (R-Rocklin), Hancock (D-Oakland), Hill (D-San Mateo), Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), Leno (D-San Francisco).

Absent/abstaining/not voting: Pavley (D-Agoura Hills).

SB 34 will be considered next by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Staff Contact: Amy Mmagu

Tax Credit Sunset

From Page 1

industries like manufacturing and research and development, investment decisions are made many years into the future. The ability for corporate decision makers in these industries to plan anticipated costs over a span of many years is an important factor when determining locations for these investments.

Establishing an arbitrary maximum 10-year sunset puts the long-term viability of any credit in jeopardy and, in many cases, could ultimately render the credit's value useless in a company's final decision on a location.

Amendments Needed

The CalChamber believes that the arbitrary maximum 10-year sunset requirement should be amended to allow tax credits introduced in the future to be evaluated on their own merit. A reasonable sunset should be applied only if appropriate.

Action Needed

SB 365 is awaiting a vote by the entire Senate. Contact your senator and urge a **vote to oppose SB 365.**

Staff Contact: Jeremy Merz

CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

From Page 2

(831) 335-4780.

Innovation Economy Expo. Innovation Economy Konnect, Inc. May 9, Ontario. (310) 613-4131.

International Trade

China-U.S. Business Summit 2013.

China-U.S. Business Summit Committee. April 28-30, Los Angeles. (562) 437-8885.

World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast. Los Angeles Area Chamber. May 2, Los Angeles. (213) 580-7569.

U.S. Trade Development Agency: Libya Cyber Security. National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce. May 6, San Jose. (202) 289-5513.

China International Technology Fair. Shanghai International Technology Exchange Center. May 8-11, Shanghai, China.

Emerging Markets and the Global Economy. Los Angeles County

Economic Development Corporation. May 15, Long Beach. (213) 236-4812.

Consular Corps Luncheon. Northern California World Trade Center. May 22, Sacramento. (916) 319-4274.

2013 USC Global Conference. University of Southern California. May 23-25, Seoul, Korea. (323) 442-2830.

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Countries Conference. MBITA. May 24, Monterey. (831) 335-4780.

Think Asia, Think Hong Kong. Hong Kong Trade Development Council. June 14, Los Angeles. (212) 838-8688.

Spanish Language/Media Conference. California Leadership Institute and Mentoring Bridges. June 21-22, Los Angeles. (916) 719-1405

U.S.-Saudi Auto Conference. U.S. Saudi Arabian Business Council. June 26, Birmingham, Michigan. (703) 204-0332.

China Trade Mission Builds Relationships

From Page 1

potential investors in the California market, and several events highlighting the Golden State's many resources.

The Governor promoted California tourism, agricultural products, and green technology services and products, among other activities.

CalChamber Participation

The business delegation was organized by the Bay Area Council and included: CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremborg; Susanne Stirling, CalChamber vice president of international affairs; and CalChamber Board members Janet Lamkin, California state president of Bank of America, who also chairs the Bay Area Council; Margaret Wong, president and CEO of McWong International, Inc.; and Thomas Conley, senior vice president of State Farm Insurance Companies.

In addition, 28 member companies of the CalChamber were represented on the delegation, including: Deloitte LLP, FedEx, Harris Farms, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Paramount Farming Company (a part of Roll Global), Siemens, United Airlines, The Walt Disney Company and Wells Fargo.

During the mission, Stirling kept a blog providing daily updates on the activities of the business delegation. The blog updates, including photos and news links, are available at www.calchamber.com/2013ChinaTradeMission.

California-China Office

A highlight of the mission was the April 12 unveiling of the seal for the California-China Trade and Investment Office, a public-private program led by the State of California through the Governor's Office of Economic and Business Development (GO-Biz), the Bay Area Council, and economic development groups and private sector companies across the state.

The office, located in the Yangpu District of Shanghai, will be California's

flagship vehicle for promoting both trade and investment between the state and China.

This is California's first official permanent presence in China in nearly a decade.

More information about the new office is available at www.business.ca.gov/China.aspx.



Associated Press photo

Governor Brown unveils the seal for the California-China Office. At left is First Lady Anne Gust Brown. At right is Wenjun Hu, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

Initial Deals

Following the unveiling of the California-China office seal, there was a ceremony in which representatives of California companies signed deals with Chinese companies.

Among those deals was a \$20 million contract involving Sacramento-based McWong International (a CalChamber member) and Emeryville-based New Logic Research with Inner Mongolia-based ChinaCoal Mengda New Energy Chemical Company and China National Coal Group for a zero-liquid-waste discharge project.

Investment Opportunities

An April 12 reception allowed California delegates to meet with Chinese business and government leaders—and discuss possible investment opportunities.

With government influence, Chinese foreign direct investment into the United States has grown dramatically, from less than \$1 billion in 2008 to an estimated \$6.5 billion in 2012. The Rhodium Group projects that China's cumulative out-bound foreign direct investment will

grow to between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion by 2020; of that, California has the potential to attract between \$10 billion and \$60 billion of Chinese investment.

Tourism Promotion

The Governor and Visit California, a non-profit organization that works in partnership with the state's travel

industry, also launched a consumer marketing campaign in China and announced the appointment of model-actress Miss Gao Yuanyuan as California tourism ambassador.

Energy Innovation

An April 11 forum at the prestigious Tsinghua University (THU) focused on China and California's "shared path toward energy innovation and low carbon development."

As reported in Stirling's blog, Governor Brown "stressed that today climate change is the issue.... The

Governor went on to indicate California's goal of having 1 million electric cars on the road by 2025. And that China could help by making better batteries!"

Past Trade/Investment Missions

Over the years, CalChamber delegations have participated in the state's trade and investment missions to Tokyo, London, Mexico City, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Taipei and Johannesburg.

CalChamber Board members and officials have accompanied five California Governors to various worldwide destinations, including Mexico City, Canada, Japan, Southeast Asia, China and Europe.

In keeping with long-standing policy, the CalChamber supports free trade worldwide. The CalChamber encourages the expansion of trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad and the elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California businesses.

Staff Contact: Susanne Stirling

Simplify your required AB 1825 training.

California companies with 50 or more employees are required to provide two hours of sexual harassment prevention training to all supervisors **within six months of hire or promotion**, and every two years thereafter. CalChamber's online supervisor course meets AB 1825 training requirements and helps your company avoid work situations that put you at risk for costly lawsuits. Regardless of company size, we recommend training for all supervisors and employees. Learners can start and stop anytime because the system tracks their progress.



Online harassment prevention training in English or Spanish features videos covering realistic scenarios.



Get a **\$5 Starbucks eGift Card** for every California Harassment Prevention training seat you purchase by 5/31/13.

Use priority code HPTST3. Preferred and Executive members receive their 20% discount in addition to this offer.

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