

## Chambers Join Together to Promote California-Chile Trade/Investment

Promoting further trade and investment between California and Chile is the goal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed September 28 by the California Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce in Chile (AmCham Chile).

The signing occurred during the California Trade Mission to Chile this week and was witnessed by delegates, who included government and business representatives from North, Central and South America.

In signing the MOU, the chambers agreed to work together, sharing ideas and information about trends and other data affecting the California-Chile trade relationship, to promote and further develop trade and investment between the two economies.

### Trade Mission

The schedule for the September 27-29 trade mission, centered in Santiago, the capital of Chile, included an opportunity for delegates to attend the Americas Competitiveness Forum.



Chile President Michelle Bachelet

Forum speakers included U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, President of Chile Michelle Bachelet and Chilean Minister of Economy Hugo Lavados.

The California trade mission

follows up the June 2008 signing of an MOU between California and Chile by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and President Bachelet. The MOU marked the start of a strategy to promote collaboration in “human capital development,” education, environmental protection, energy, agriculture, information and communication technology, trade and business.

### Trade Mission Blog

While in Chile, CalChamber Vice President International Affairs Susanne Stirling provided information on the trade mission via the California-Chile Trade Mission Blog at [www.calchamber.com/chile/trademissionblog](http://www.calchamber.com/chile/trademissionblog).

### Trade with Chile

Chile is a substantial export partner for California. In 2008, California exported more than \$1.6 billion worth of goods to Chile, including petroleum and coal products, computer and electronic products, machinery and transportation equipment. That number is up from \$880 million in 2007.

California imports from Chile include fresh fruits, forestry products, wines and seafood.

Since the implementation of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement on January 1, 2004, bilateral trade between Chile and the United States has doubled.

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## CalChamber Promotes Trade with Chile



Preparing for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote trade and investment between California and Chile are (from left) Paul Simons, U.S. ambassador to Chile; Susanne Stirling, CalChamber vice president, international affairs; Richard Garcia, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Chile; Carlos Valderrama, senior vice president, global initiatives, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; and Jose Goni, Chilean ambassador to the United States. See story on Page 7.