



# Chambers of Commerce Alliance

VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES

## 2016 Public Policy Platform

This document serves as a guide to the Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties, a regional business advocacy organization, and its member chambers in addressing legislative and policy matters so that it can play an influential role in the legislative and regulatory processes.

**Mission Statement:** To foster collaboration among the region's chambers of commerce and to advocate for policies, which promote a friendlier business climate.

- I. **JOBS:** The Chamber Alliance is committed to pursuing policies that create and retain good-paying jobs and strengthen the region's economy.
  - a. **Employer Incentives:** The Chamber Alliance supports proposals to protect employers from higher costs and to provide meaningful incentives for employers to create new jobs and to strengthen the region's workforce pool.
  - b. **International Trade:** The Chamber Alliance supports trade and tourism initiatives to spur commerce and to maximize the region's position in the global economy.
  - c. **Labor Standards:** The Chamber Alliance supports improving California's competitiveness with other states' labor standards, particularly as they apply to wages and overtime rules. Any proposal to adjust the minimum wage should consider regional differences in the cost of living.
  - d. **Higher Education/Research/Workforce Training:** The Chamber Alliance supports a results-oriented approach to public higher education, research technology and workforce training, to support the region's growing job sectors.
  - e. **Health Care:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that provide the broadest possible health coverage without placing a disproportionate and undue burden on employers.
- II. **INFRASTRUCTURE:** The Chamber Alliance supports further investments into the region's infrastructure in partnership with the private sector and by securing the region's fair share of state and federal allocations.
  - a. **Water:** The Chamber Alliance supports proposals for a long-term, comprehensive state water plan, that is reliable and includes conservation, new supply, storage and conveyance that is equitable for all Californians.
  - b. **Transportation:** The Chamber Alliance supports innovative funding allocations to accommodate increased mobility on the region's highways and overall transportation system, including goods movement.

- c. **Energy:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that encourage reliable sources of affordable and diverse energy supplies, including renewable sources.
  - d. **Waste Management:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that encourage realistic, fair and consistent water discharge requirements as well as policies on solid waste management so that the collection, transport, procession and disposal of solid waste is conducted with minimal impacts on our environment and on our businesses.
  - e. **Communications:** The Chamber Alliance supports uniform state and federal policies that encourage continued investment in telecommunications and improve access to new technologies.
- III. **LAND USE:** The Chamber Alliance supports land use policies that balance the needs of meeting affordable housing demands, creating new jobs, protecting industrial, commercial and agricultural zones as well as preserving open space and our quality of life.
- a. **Housing & Immigration Reform:** The Chamber Alliance supports strategies that improve the region's job-housing balance for all income levels throughout the region with conditions that any mandates be balanced with incentives for compliance. The Chamber Alliance, also supports a regulated mandate to allow undocumented immigrants into California, to perform work for pay, with a strong guest worker policy, in which temporary workers return to their home country, when the job at hand is completed.
  - b. **Coastal Land Use:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that permit a mutually beneficial balance of public access and private investment along the coast in non-protected areas, without excessively burdensome legislative and regulatory scrutiny.
- IV. **GOVERNANCE:** The Chamber Alliance continues to support significant reforms to California's political and budgeting processes as well as the state's revenue structures.
- a. **Budget & Taxation:** The Chamber Alliance supports efforts to reform the California budgeting process and structure to encourage long-term fiscal stability and limits on spending growth with excess revenues put into reserves and/or back into local government, including updating taxation policies, which balance with tax revenues.
  - b. **Ballot Initiatives:** The Chamber Alliance, when considering positions on ballot initiatives, supports those that seek to improve the region's business climate and do not further burden the region's and state's fiscal health.
  - c. **Redistricting:** The Chamber Alliance supports measures to ensure that the Prop. 11 redistricting process will be open and transparent so that Californians from all sectors can fully participate.
  - d. **Elections:** The Chamber Alliance supports efforts to promote increased business participation in California's political process.