



Chambers of Commerce Alliance

VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES

2011 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 public policy 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 that 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 protecting 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.
 - d. **Workforce Education:** The Chamber Alliance supports a results-oriented approach to public education, workforce training and development to support the region's job sectors.
 - e. **Health Care:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that provide the broadest possible 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, reclamation, 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 and conservation.
 - 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, processing and disposal of solid waste is conducted with minimal impacts on our environment and on our businesses.
- 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:** 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.
 - 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.
 - c. **Open Space:** Recognizing the region's unique character, the Chamber Alliance supports policies that seek to preserve open space for purposes that balance public access, tourism, and recreational activities to enhance our quality of life.
- 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:** 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.
 - b. **Pensions:** The Chamber Alliance supports efforts to curtail the growing unfunded liabilities of public pension plans and supports a more pragmatic approach to the projection of investment returns.
 - c. **Taxation:** The Chamber Alliance supports efforts to update California's tax policies so that tax burdens on employers are reduced and applied equitably so as to be more competitive with other states.
 - d. **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 through additional onuses on employers and taxpayers as well as unfunded mandates.
 - e. **Elections:** The Chamber Alliance supports initiatives and candidates that seek to promote improvements to the region's business climate and a more balanced approach to community development.