



2013 Positions Taken:

March 12, 2013:

Los Angeles County "Clean Water, Clean Beaches"

The United Chambers of Commerce is pleased that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has postponed any action on the Storm Water Parcel Fee for at least 90 days. The proposed fee was opposed by the United Chambers of Commerce from the very beginning and we were glad to join with others including BizFed who called for reconsideration of the fee.

Our opposition was based on three principals: the unfairness of imposing the cost for cleaning storm water on property owners only and the fact that there were no defined projects and thirdly, that the fee would have imposed \$200 Million per year on county property owners with no sunset provision.

We are most pleased to see that the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 1 for the delay in implementation and we hope the County of Los Angeles will continue to seek our opinion on this matter as they look for other ways to address the storm water issue.

OPPOSE AB 729, by Roger Hernández, the Union Representative Evidentiary Privilege. The Bill if passed would extend confidential privilege exception to union members and union representatives. Historically a privilege applies to attorney-client, priest-penitent and doctor-patient. AB 729 would not only extend the privilege to a union represented member's communication with a union representative but would also extend the privilege to a union representative as well. AB 729 would extend a confidential privilege to any information a union representative acquires in the course of his or her duties and could be exercised even when the union member who had the confidential conversation waives his privilege.

SUPPORT AB 227, by Mike Gatto to amend Proposition 65, the existing "Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986", to provide for a "safe harbor" length of time to remedy a technical violation of statutory public notice and provide a remedy for the nuisance law suits filed by private lawyers. The bill would give the business owner upon notice of the violation 14 days to remedy the violation and would provide that the Attorney General or other authorized law enforcement agent having jurisdiction to determine if the violation has been corrected. It would stop shake down lawsuits while insuring compliance with state law.

SUPPORT AB 1257, as introduced, by Assembly Member Bocanegra. Energy: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: natural gas. This act would require that the state energy commission study and report, as part of its biennial integrated energy policy report, specific information identifying strategies to maximize the benefits obtained from natural gas as an energy source. The findings would become part of the statutory report to the legislature and governor to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SUPPORT the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (COG) and its effort to address transportation challenges facing the Valley. The COG seeks to address transportation challenges and providing consensus support for solutions including improvements to new MetroLink tracks to separate freight from passenger traffic, a new MetroLink stop at Bob Hope Airport, new busway connections, carpool lanes and other forward looking projects.

SUPPORT the continued involvement and renewed leadership of the Valley Economic Alliance (VEA) regarding the new Los Angeles Economic Development effort in the San Fernando Valley.

The Valley Economic Alliance has demonstrated an ability to identify local business needs including employee training and develop programs that meet federal and state funding requirements. We stand with the VEA and endorse it as one of the best Valley-based organization to address local business needs.

April 15, 2013:

SUPPORT HR 300:

This will allow Israel to be part of the visa waiver program who has invested well over \$50 billion in the US since 2000.

SUPPORT AB 1065:

This would require that a person released from State Prison who has served a previous prison term for which he or she was certified as a mentally disordered offender, or mentally disordered sex offender, be subject to parole supervision and to the court in the county in which the parolee is released.

SUPPORT SB 287:

This would prohibit any person released from State Prison who has a prior conviction for a serious or violent felony, a crime for which the person received a third strike, or a crime that resulted in the person being classified as a high risk sex offender, from being released to post-release community supervision.

SUPPORT AB 61:

This legislation amends Section 22508.5 of the Vehicle Code to prohibit local governments from enacting ordinances that ban parking in space with a broken parking meter or a space controlled by a broken parking payment kiosk.

SUPPORT AB 405:

Assemblyman Mike Gatto's (D-Los Angeles) legislation to help increase the efficiency of Los Angeles County's freeway system, one of the nation's most notoriously congested systems, passed its first legislative hurdle today, Assembly Transportation Committee by a vote of 15-1. The bill, AB 405, will create pilot project to help ease traffic congestion during non-traditional

commutes, by permitting single-occupancy vehicles to access the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes (also known as carpool lanes), during non-peak hours.

OPPOSE to AB 162:

This bill would prohibit a local government from denying an eligible facilities request, as defined for a modification of an existing wireless communications facility that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of the wireless telecommunications facility, as specified.

OPPOSE the Education Budget Trailer language to Prop 30:

The trailer bill as explained by school finance expert Bob Blattner on edsources.com "The proposal claims to be restoring basic school funding level for core programs service all students at the 2007-2008 levels, but it actually eliminates about \$2 billion in funding for basic educational necessities: money to buy schoolbooks, train teachers, repair buildings, stock libraries, hire counselors, hold smaller class sizes in high school. While some districts with large numbers of high-need students will get this money back as supplemental aid, districts without those students will forever lose funding for fundamental services to which all students are entitled."

May 20, 2013

OPPOSE ACA8:

Investing in Jobs and Infrastructure

Currently a two-thirds vote is required for local government - counties, cities and special districts to pass general obligation bond measures to fund infrastructure projects. United Chambers opposes any legislation that would lower the voting threshold from two-thirds to 55% specifically ACA8.

June 17, 2013

OPPOSE AB 880 which, among other things, would penalize employers who reduce their workforce below 50 employees or refuse to expand their workforce to 50 or more employees, where the motivation is to avoid health-care provision duties mandated under the federal Affordable Care Act. A prime objection to the bill is that getting into the motivation for employers' workforce hiring/firing decisions is difficult at best and overly intrusive at worst.

SUPPORT AB 1079, by Assemblymember Bradford (Enterprise Zones: Energy Management Plans) Current law authorizes the development of Enterprise Zones targeting economically distressed areas throughout California and providing special incentives designed to encourage business investment and promote the creation of new jobs. This bill would authorize a city, county, or city and county, as part of the administration of an enterprise zone to develop energy management plans jointly with the serving electric or gas utilities in order to reduce air emissions and promote economic development.

August 19, 2013

A motion was made by Rose Goldwater to oppose an agency imposing any fines without due process, motion was seconded.

A friendly amendment was offered by Stephen Holzer for the motion to read as follows: "An agency should not be able to impose a fine without first obtaining a judgment by a Court authorizing such fine." Rose accepted the amendment:

The Committee approved the motion as amended, to wit:

"An Agency should not be able to impose a fine with first obtaining a judgment by a Court authorizing such fine."

October 21, 2013

A motion was made to ask the City of Los Angeles to delay action on approving the proposed LA River plan # 20 or any of the other plans as: (There are 21 plans; the city adopted a resolution endorsing # 20)

- * The Business community was not adequately represented in the study phrase as shown by the fact that only one business group, the L.A. Area Chambers was mentioned in the plan and then only as a recipient in the mailing list of the study
- * The plan requires acquisition of private property, possibly by eminent domain in the plan area
- * It will impose unspecified restrictions on current business activities along the LA River plan area.
- * It will likely impose unknown taxes on every resident to pay for the plan
- * It would require the City of Los Angeles to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in development expense

Based on the preceding, we believe that the plan currently under consideration has not been adequately evaluated and is inadequate.

Therefore the United Chambers of Commerce opposed the accepting any of the proposed redevelopment plans and requests that the City and County of Los Angeles ask that the U.S. Army Corp of engineers restudy their plan and answer the questions raised by United Chambers of Commerce. Further we request that Army Corp of Engineers include more meetings and comments with credible business groups like United Chambers of Commerce.

A motion was made to send a letter to Councilmember Nury Martinez as follows:

SCV Recycling presented to Government Affairs their dilemma of accepting TV's and TV's being dumped outside their facility. A letter will be sent to all City Councilmembers asking for this process to be streamlined. There is concern of toxins getting in our ground once the glass has been broken as there is recyclable metal inside the unit.