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CHAMBER TAKES REGION'S BUSINESS PRIORITIES TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Free trade, homelessness, and veterans are top priorities during 10th annual trip

SAN DIEGO (September 20, 2016) – Business and community leaders from San Diego and Baja California are travelling to Washington, D.C. to advocate for jobs, commerce, and the regional economy as part of the tenth annual San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce “Mission to Washington, D.C.” The three-day trip, Sept. 25-28, is the only such delegation representing binational interests and including leaders from the U.S. and Mexico to visit the nation’s capital on an annual basis.

“In this election season it's more important than ever to remind our nation’s leaders of the policies that are critical to business growth and economic development in the Cali-Baja region,” said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. “This large and diverse group of representatives from both sides of the border gives us a strong, unified voice to raise our region’s profile.”

While in Washington, delegates representing a wide range of industries and business size will meet with key members of Congress, high-level agency officials, and policy influencers concerning international trade and cross-border commerce, transportation, housing and homelessness, military and veterans, small business, healthcare, education and workforce.

“We are bringing the voice of the region’s business community to our nation’s decision makers 3,000 miles away,” Sanders said. “The ability to meet face-to-face with leadership is extremely valuable in ensuring they understand the important issues facing our binational region.”

Key priorities for the delegation include the passage of the free trade agreement, Trans-Pacific Partnership; ensuring that the Department of Housing and Urban Development follows through with amending the funding formula for homelessness so San Diego receives its fair share of aid; as well as advocating for programs to assist veterans with the transition to civilian life and housing.

Throughout the trip the delegation will underscore the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship and the critical role it plays in the mega-region's growth and development.

"This is an opportunity to counter the presidential campaign rhetoric and show legislators how this binational relationship is working and why it's good for the county," said Sanders.

Delegates will meet with global management consulting firm, McKinsey & Company, which is advising both presidential transition teams. The McKinsey team will share insight on what the next President's priorities should be in various industries, the policy issues either camp will likely face early on, and how they will tackle the most pressing issues.

In a session with national campaign experts, delegates will learn how the use of "big data" is changing the way campaigns are run and impacting national politics. A mix of analytics and politics, technology has made information gathering a critical component of today's elections - powering everything from targeting and motivating voters, to determining how campaigns allocate resources of staff and dollars.

The trip itinerary includes meetings with:

- Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez, Department of Transportation
- Deputy Secretary Chris Lu, Department of Labor
- Deputy Secretary Nani Coloretti, Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Administrator Denise Turner Roth, General Services Administration
- Customs and Border Protection
- Recently-appointed Mexican Ambassador Carlos Sada
- Assistant Secretary Alan Bersin, Department of Homeland Security
- Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of State
- San Diego Congress members Susan Davis, Duncan Hunter, Darrell Issa, Scott Peters, and Juan Vargas

The binational delegation consists of business leaders and elected officials from San Diego and Baja, including:

- Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego
- Carlos Bustamante, former Mayor of Tijuana
- Councilmember David Alvarez, City of San Diego
- Councilmember Mark Kersey, City of San Diego
- Councilmember Bill Sandke, City of Coronado
- Councilmember Cody Campbell, City of Vista
- Assemblyman Brian Jones, State of California
- County Supervisor Greg Cox
- County Supervisor Dave Roberts

- County Supervisor Ron Roberts
- William Ostick, U.S. Consulate General, Tijuana
- Randa Coniglio, President & CEO, Port of San Diego
- Gabriel Camarena Salinas, Executive President, Economic Development Council of Tijuana
- Ernesto Arredondo, San Diego Area President, Wells Fargo, Chamber Board Chair
- Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- And representatives from various organizations, including: 2-1-1 San Diego, Baja California Railroad, Petco, SIMNSA Health Care, Sempra Energy, Cox Communications, SANDAG, Qualcomm, UC San Diego Health, Reality Changers, San Diego State University, and Encore Capital Group.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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