The Chamber’s Government Affairs & Public Policy Committee (GAPP) has been extremely active in an ongoing effort to educate and provide resources to get our members engaged and informed. Each month the GAPP Committee connects Legislative Representatives and interested business community members, and legislative updates directly effecting the business community, are discussed at length. Let your voice be heard, join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:30 PM in the Indio Chamber of Commerce conference room.

2013 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Indio Chamber of Commerce is pleased to share our 2013 Legislative Platform, which will allow our Chamber to respond in a timely manner to business issues as they develop.

Agriculture:
• Support and promote research and development of biotechnology use to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Coachella Valley’s agricultural and allied industries.
• Support environmental regulations that do not exceed federal standards for agriculture land use.
• Support public awareness and educational programs of genetically altered crops and food products.
• Support labeling of produce and food products that defines the country of origin.
• Support immigration policies that are congruent with the needs of the agricultural workforce.

Communications:
• Support the free flow of information in business interactions.
• Support fax and e-mail communications and communication by other electronic means where such are agreed upon by all parties.
• Support new technological communications in the Coachella Valley.

Education and Diversity:
• Support and promote workforce excellence.
• Support and promote the welfare- to- work process through legislation that provides for training, tax credits and other incentives that assist local businesses.
• Support legislation that provides incentives that allow for a well-trained flexible workforce.
• Support and promote retraining education programs for displaced workers.

Energy and Utilities:
• Support continuous efforts to recharge the Coachella Valley aquifer.
• Support additional in-state energy generation, infrastructure, and renewable generation.
• Support water conservation and reclamation.
• Support energy efficiency and conservation of natural resources.

Environment:
• Support an atmosphere of cooperation among agencies discussing environment issues including air and water in the Coachella Valley.
• Support viable plans for water use for the future of our Desert’s environment. Promote thoughtful consideration as to the type of development our desert water supplies can reasonably support.
• Support industrial and consumer use of alternative fuels.
• Support evaluating the effectiveness of air quality regulations before implementing any further restrictions: encourage the elimination of duplications with federal law and ensure that rules are cost effective and flexible in their implementation.
• Support the development and use of alternative fuels and policies that will promote alternate methods of travel.
• Support regulations regarding endangered species that are based on sound scientific data, recognizing that a balance must be struck between the need to preserve the species habitat and the need to maintain a robust economy with reasonable growth.
• Support a responsible use of mountain access and areas for recreation, tourism and preservation.
• Support reasonable efforts to make the Salton Sea a viable resource and tourism destination.
• Support recycling compliance and market development programs for recycled and repurposed products.
• Support solid waste recycling management and diversion programs.
• Support land use decision making at the local level.

Economic Development and Business Regulations:
• Support a Business Friendly Environment that will assist in the creation of a competitive and attractive business environment in the Coachella Valley and for the State of California.
2013 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

- **Support** business incentive-based programs for the Coachella Valley on local, state and federal levels.
- **Support** job creation measures across all industry sectors, including Coachella Valley Economic Partnership’s targeted sectors from the Economic Blueprint for the Coachella Valley.
- **Support** time-critical bonds and measures that add infrastructure to the valley, community or school district as necessary with defined sunset clauses.
- **Support** the reform of the burdensome regulatory process of local and state government as a means to attract and encourage new business and retain current business.
- **Support** policies that promote efficiency in government and consolidation of services.
- **Support** Tort reform.
- **Support** CEQA reform for increased and more efficient economic development.
- **Support** market based incentives in lieu of government mandated policies.
- **Support** reasonable government standards of business signage, ordinances and regulations applied uniformly for all businesses.
- **Support** privatization of government services when economically viable.
- **Support** the functions of government to enhance the economic base of private enterprise and city of Indio businesses.
- **Oppose** measures increasing business taxes and fees.
- **Oppose** legislation or OSHA regulations that impose health and safety standards that are not based upon sound scientific and empirical data.
- **Oppose** unfunded government mandates.
- **Oppose** government mandates that unduly regulate or tax business.

**Health Care and Social Services:**
- **Support** legislation that does not overburden small businesses with cost and/or regulations.
- **Support** a multi-payer system.
- **Support** legislation that preserves human dignity and access to basic services as a right to all persons.

**Housing:**
- **Support** adequate housing for all sectors of the Coachella Valley population.
- **Support** local fee structures that are conducive to fostering economic growth through the housing and construction industry.

**Labor:**
- **Support** adequate workers compensation coverage at a reasonable cost to businesses with the objective to rehabilitate and/or train the injured employee to return to the workforce.
- **Support** immigration employment laws that are reasonable and not burdensome to small business.
- **Support** efforts to reduce workers compensation fraud and/or to increase system efficiencies.
- **Oppose** new California labor laws or regulations that are overly burdensome to employers.

**Transportation:**
- **Support** a reliable useful, sustainable and cost effective transportation and regulatory system.
- **Support** sound planning for transportation needs of the projected increase of the Coachella Valley population.
- **Support** alternative methods of transportation.
- **Support** expansion and development of airport facilities and related industries in the Coachella Valley.

**Tourism:**
- **Support** and encourage city policy to support tourism to enhance the city of Indio’s image.
- **Support** valley-wide efforts to promote and increase tourism in the Coachella Valley.
- **Support** organizations that promote and enhance the city of Indio and the Coachella Valley.
- **Support** cost efficient infrastructure development that supports Coachella Valley tourism without unduly burdening local businesses and tax payers.
INDIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairwoman of the Board 2012/2013
Burrtec Waste and Recycling Services
Steve Sanchez
Chairman-Elect 2013/2014
Desert Radio Group
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Imperial Irrigation District
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Dr. Frank Curry
Chief Financial Officer
Desert Urgent Care
Joshua Bonner
Secretary
Desert Sun Media Group

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Coachella Valley Printing Group
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Ray Madick
Gold Coast Metals & Supplies
Nicole Middleton
Lamar Advertising
Bob Schneider
Desert Adventures Eco-Tours & Events
Jason Schneider
Osborne Rincon CPA’s
Jerry Tack
ServiceMaster of Coachella valley

LEGISLATIVE GOVERNMENT

President Barack Obama (D)
Website: whitehouse.gov
Gov. Jerry Brown (D)
Website: gov.ca.gov
U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
Website: boxer.senate.gov
U. S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D)
Website: feinstein.senate.gov
Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D. (D), 36th District
Website: ruiz.house.gov
Local Representative: Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn
Senator Ben Hueso (D), 40th District
Website: sd40.senate.ca.gov/
Local Representative: Eduardo Garcia

Assemblyman Brian Nestande (R), 42nd District
Website: arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD42
Local Representative: Marc Troast
Assemblyman V. Manuel Perez (D), 56th District
Website: asmdc.org/members/a56/
Local Representative: Silvia Paz
Riverside Supervisor John J. Benoit (R)
Website: rivco4.org
Local Representative: Noel Loughrin
Paul Zellerbach, Riverside County District Attorney
Website: rivcoda.org
Local Representative: Sean Lafferty

INDIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

STAFF
Joyce Donaldson
President/CEO
Enda Rodriguez
Operations Manager
Jonathan Roberson
Business Services Coordinator
Shawnna Trombetta
Southwest Arts Festival
Assistant Manager
Sherry Winder
Bookkeeper

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Indio Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to the promotion, support and enhancement of a growing economy and quality of life for the community.

A special patriotic thank you to our dedicated Government Affairs & Public Policy Legislative Platform Advisory Members:
Patrick Swarthout-GAPP Chairman, Rodney Chalmers-Vice Chairman, Chris Bennett, Jacqui Bethel, Margit Chiriaco-Rusche,

INDIO CITY OFFICIALS

City Manager Dan Martinez - 760.391.4015
City Clerk Cynthia Hernandez - 760.391.4006
City Treasurer Sharon Ellis - 760.347.4868
Mayor Elaine Holmes - 760.541.4214
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson - 760.541.4218
Council Member Glenn A. Miller - 760.541.4216
Council Member Ascencion "Sam" Torres - 760.541.4215
Council Member Lupe Ramos Watson - 760.541.4217

Mission Statement:
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