

# indio chamber of commerce

## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2013



**Featured in photo:** (L - R) Patrick Swarthout, Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn, Alisa Emery, Paul Mackay, Margit Chiriaco-Ruche, Nancy Madson, Bob Kambe, Jerry Tack, Kathi Jacobs, Jacquie Bethel, Charles Bennett, Mark Weber, Michael I. Hurwitz, Eduardo Garcia.



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.

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- **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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Valerie Ward**  
**Chairwoman of the Board 2012/2013**  
Burrtec Waste and Recycling Services

**Steve Sanchez**  
**Chairman-Elect 2013/2014**  
Desert Radio Group

**Patrick Swarthout**  
**Immediate Past Chairman**  
Imperial Irrigation District

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**Vice-Chairman**  
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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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Andy Brakebill**  
Coachella Valley Printing Group

**Rodney Chalmers**  
Seecon Management

**Jim Dibley**  
J & L Consulting

## LEGISLATIVE GOVERNMENT

**President Barack Obama (D)**  
Website: [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)

**Gov. Jerry Brown (D)**  
Website: [gov.ca.gov](http://gov.ca.gov)

**U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)**  
Website: [boxer.senate.gov](http://boxer.senate.gov)

**U. S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D)**  
Website: [feinstein.senate.gov](http://feinstein.senate.gov)

**Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D. (D), 36th District**  
Website: [ruiz.house.gov](http://ruiz.house.gov)  
Local Representative: Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn

**Senator Ben Hueso (D), 40th District**  
Website: [sd40.senate.ca.gov/](http://sd40.senate.ca.gov/)  
Local Representative: Eduardo Garcia

**Assemblyman Brian Nestande (R), 42nd District**  
Website: [arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD42](http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD42)  
Local Representative: Marc Troast

**Assemblyman V. Manuel Perez (D), 56th District**  
Website: [asmdc.org/members/a56/](http://asmdc.org/members/a56/)  
Local Representative: Silvia Paz

**Riverside Supervisor John J. Benoit (R)**  
Website: [rivco4.org](http://rivco4.org)  
Local Representative: Noel Loughrin

**Paul Zellerbach, Riverside County District Attorney**  
Website: [rivcoda.org](http://rivcoda.org)  
Local Representative: Sean Lafferty

## INDIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### STAFF

**Joyce Donaldson**  
President/CEO

**Enda Rodriguez**  
Operations Manager

**Jonathan Roberson**  
Business Services Coordinator

**Shawna Trombetta**  
Southwest Arts Festival  
Assistant Manager

**Sherry Winder**  
Bookkeeper

## 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

*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, Jacque Bethel, Margit Chiriaco-Rusche,  
Armando Ehrenzweig, Alisa Emery, Eduardo Garcia, Michael Hurwitz, Kathi Jacobs, Bob Kambe, Ray Madick, Nancy Madson, Silvia Paz, Joseph  
Pradetto, Lupe Ramos-Watson, Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn, Steve Sanchez, Bob Schneider, Marvin Schurgin, Danielle Soto, Jerry Tack,  
Marc Troast and Karen Wikert.*



### 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.

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