

Meeting of the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce

September 1, 2020

The South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (SBACC) had its monthly meeting on September 1, 2020. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

Key Initiatives.

- Thomas Jelenic, Director of Pacific Merchants Shipping Association, requested support for HR7515, the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act. This bill proposes to provide financial relief for the ports, which have been severely impacted by loss of revenue because of COVID-19. Port revenue has been impacted by significant operating losses, as commercial cargo has plummeted and cruises and passenger movements in the ports have virtually ceased. To date, no funding has been provided in any of the COVID-19 legislation to assist ports. The proposed funding will cover costs to revive ports around the country and to keep them in a state of readiness. The bill provides \$ 3 ½ B, and will be administered by the Department of Transportation through an application process. The SBACC voted to support this legislation.
- Jacki Bacharach presented a report on the work of the Quality and Productivity Commission of Los Angeles County and provided its Annual Report. The Commission advises the County on productivity and work measurement. Its mission is to provide advice, innovative ideas, assistance and support to the County's elected officials, managers and employees, to promote the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of County public services. The Commission meets with all 35 departments (1/2 each year) and provides loans and grants to departments for their projects. The Commission holds two annual events, a leadership conference and a luncheon at the Music center where awards are given for the most innovative projects which have saved the County money.
- Kyle Griffith, Political Director of the Yes on Prop 22 campaign, presented a description of the proposition, which would, if passed, make app-based jobs an exception to AB 5, protecting the ability of app-based drivers to choose to work as independent contractors with control over where, when, how long, and for whom they work. Mr. Griffith said that many independent contractors prefer that style and don't want to be employees, as required by AB 5. Those who support Prop 22 believe that AB 5 could lead to the elimination of 80-90% of app-based jobs. The SBACC voted to support this legislation.

Government Affairs Report

- H.R. 7197, the Restaurants Act of 2020. This is a bi-partisan proposal which would, if passed, support hard-hit independent restaurants through a new \$120 B Revitalization Fund. It is expected to be a lifeline to restaurants hard-hit by COVID-19, by helping to secure the employment of 11 million workers across 500,000 small businesses, as well

as the five million more jobs up and down their supply chains. The SBACC voted to support this legislation.

- The SBACC is planning a Virtual Sacramento trip to discuss its priorities with its legislators, in place of the in-person trips that are traditionally made each year. The proposed Virtual Sacramento agenda requested input from the members, such as dates, organization and structure of the meetings, legislators who would be invited, the size of the meetings, and a request for questions and topics to present to the legislators.

Submitted by:

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Chair, South Bay COG