



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Thursday,
June 26th,
12:00pm

Chair
Mark Dispenza

THE CHAMBER'S FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS CONCERNS

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

- 3 - Board Meeting
Jean Blois
Community Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave., Ste 104
8:00am - 9:30am
- 8 - Issue & Policy
Roundtable
Power of
Partnership
Initiative (POPI)
Jean Blois
Community Room
271 N. Fairview
Suite 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm
- 21 - Executive
Board Meeting
Jean Blois
Community Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave., Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:30pm
- 25 - Business After
Hours
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Alpha Resource
Center
4501 Cathedral
Oaks Road

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

- Sept. 12 - Goleta
Economic
Forecast
8:00 am-10:30 am
Fairview Theater

Goleta Union School District 2008-2009 Outlook

Dr. Kathy Boomer, Superintendent of the Goleta Union School District (GUSD), discusses recent accomplishments at the district as well as the effects of the state budget crisis on the GUSD.

Dr. Boomer will detail how Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget would affect the GUSD as well as the local implications if the current budget stalemate in Sacramento continues into the fall as expected. Dr. Boomer explains how she is planning for the coming school year when faced with fiscal uncertainty.

Additionally, she will go into what is currently happening in GUSD and what students, parents, and faculty are looking forward to in the 2008-2009 academic year.

What does the future hold for GUSD? What challenges lie ahead if the state fiscal crisis is not resolved until October or later? Dr. Boomer answers these questions and more.



**Kathy
Boomer**
Superintendent,
GUSD

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INTEREST ITEMS

Item 1 - Goleta Business License Program
Goleta's City Council voted down the proposed business license program on June 17th. Voting 4-1 against the tax measure, with Roger Aceves the lone vote in favor of the tax, the Council majority stated that they were not keen on establishing a new tax in the current economic climate. The Goleta Valley Chamber had advocated for the tax program as long as a significant portion of the revenue was invested in economic development. Chamber Board Chairman Jim Knight, President/CEO Kristen Amyx, and the director of UCSB's Venture Acceleration Initiative Don Oparah spoke at the hearing to outline a proposal for an economic development program where those funds could be directed. Councilmembers agreed that the city should invest in economic development, but would not support an additional tax this year.

Item 2 - Revenue Neutrality Alternatives
Also at the June 17th hearing, the Goleta Council voted in favor of two measures to address the city's current Revenue Neutrality Agreement (RNA) with the County. Voting 3-2 on both, with Jonny Wallis and Roger Aceves dissenting, the Council directed staff to prepare a ballot initiative modifying the terms of the original RNA as well as a 1/2 percent sales tax measure that would take effect if Measure A were to fail to achieve a 2/3 majority. Measure A is a renewal of the 1/2 percent sales tax for transportation infrastructure replacing Measure D, which sunsets in 2010. There is concern that a Goleta specific sales tax measure on the ballot in November could prevent Measure A from achieving a 2/3 majority countywide by splitting the vote. The Council will take a final vote on the ballot measures at their regular hearing on July 1st. Both ballot initiatives are intended to accelerate negotiations with the County regarding the RNA.



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INTEREST ITEMS

Interest Item 3: US Chamber and National Transportation Investment Initiative

The US Chamber has initiated a renewed push for reinvestment in the nation's highway and transit systems. On June 23, the U.S. Chamber-led highways and transit coalition, Americans for Transportation Mobility (ATM), officially launched the FasterBetterSafer Campaign: a nationwide effort by business, labor, transportation organizations and concerned citizens that supports increased federal investment in the nation's transportation system.

The transportation system in the United States has reached a crisis point. The deterioration of our transportation system threatens the health of our economy and environment, our safety, and our quality of life. Unfortunately, our federal highway and transit programs are out of step with the needs of a 21st century economy and changing demographics. Funding levels have failed to keep pace with the overwhelming maintenance, repair and expansion needs. With the federal highway and transit programs up for authorization next year, the time for action is now.

Moving Congress and the new Administration to effectively reform these programs and provide the necessary investment will be no easy task. ATM will need to educate and engage businesses, laborers, stakeholders, and state and local officials throughout the country. We must demonstrate a groundswell of public support for transportation so our elected officials can make the decisions to put the U.S. transportation system on the road to recovery.

For more information or to join the campaign visit www.fasterbetersafer.org.

Interest Item 4: US Chamber and National Transportation Investment Initiative

Congress Can Ease the Pain at the Pump

In coming weeks, the House of Representatives will have the opportunity to reduce the price of oil and gas, and by extension, the prices of groceries, utilities and other products you use at home. While some on Capitol Hill are attempting to blame oil companies for not producing enough oil and gas, the fact remains that significant domestic oil and gas supplies remain off limits because of Congressional and presidential moratoria. Your Representative and Senators can vote in favor of more affordable DOMESTIC energy by opening the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to oil and natural gas exploration and production.

The OCS is estimated to contain 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and more than 85 billion barrels of oil. To put this in perspective, if all U.S. imports of oil and natural gas were to cease, the natural gas located on the OCS off the lower 48 states alone would satisfy all domestic industrial and commercial needs for almost 30 years. This amount of oil would provide a 35-year supply of gasoline for 81 million cars and heating oil for the millions of residential homes in the U.S. for over 100 years.

If \$4-a-gallon gas is too high for you, let your Members of Congress know. Go to <http://capwiz.com/chamber/issues/alert/?alertid=11533016>

Call your Members of Congress toll free at 866-346-8683 (VOTE) and tell them to support opening the Outer Continental Shelf for energy production and exploration.

LOCAL POLITICAL CALENDAR

July

1- City Council
1:30pm & 6:00pm
Goleta City Hall
130 Cremona Drive, Ste. B

21 - Planning Commission Meeting
6:00pm
Goleta City Hall
130 Cremona Drive, Ste. B

IPR is the Chamber's forum for governmental and business concerns. The IPR committee will endeavor to study and take positions, when appropriate, on local regional and state issues that affect business and commerce in the Greater Goleta Valley.

The Chamber is the largest and most broadly based business representative in the Goleta Valley. It is the Chamber's role to promote a platform of economic health and vitality for the Goleta Valley on behalf of our members. IPR meetings and discussions are open to all Chamber members. When voting on an action item, all members present will be asked to vote. To be valid, votes must include a majority of the committee members listed below:

Kristen Amyx
Jean Blois
Mark Dispenza
Mark Ingalls
Jim Knight
Bill Macfadyen
Tim Mahoney
Bill Redding

THE GOLETA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCE OF VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES
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