



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Thursday,
July 24th,
12:00pm

Chair
Mark Dispenza

THE CHAMBER'S FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS CONCERNS

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 12 - Issue & Policy Roundtable
Dr. Bill Watkins
Jean Blois
Community Room
271 N. Fairview
Suite 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm
- 18 - Executive Board Meeting
Jean Blois
Community Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave., Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:30pm
- 27 - Business After Hours
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Circle Bar B
1800 Refugio Rd.
- 28 - Issue & Policy Roundtable
Santa Barbara Green Business Program
Jean Blois
Community Room
271 N. Fairview
Suite 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm

Sheriff Bill Brown

Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown discusses the latest in public safety and law enforcement in the County, including the Gap Fire, Goleta's Police Services, and the effect of the State's budget woes on local departments. He has been on the job since he was elected in 2006.

Brown will recap the events surrounding the recent Gap Fire and the role played by several Sheriff's Department staff during that operation. In discussing the City of Goleta Police Services, the Sheriff will provide some statistical data (i.e.. Calls for Service, Traffic Statistics, Gang Activity, etc.) of particular interest to the business community. Additionally, he will address the State of California's fiscal crisis and the effect that budget cuts may have on the Sheriff's Department. Finally, Sheriff Brown will touch on other top challenges facing his department in the future.



Sheriff Bill Brown
Santa Barbara
County Sheriff

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sheriff's Department
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Santa Barbara, CA 93160
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INTEREST ITEMS

Item 1 - Draft EIR

Venoco, Inc. (Venoco) is seeking approval from the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) to expand oil production from Platform Holly off the coast of Santa Barbara County, install a new pipeline from the Ellwood Onshore Facility connecting to the existing pipeline at Las Flores Canyon, and decommission the barge Jovalan.

The Chamber supports the project and urges the SLC to proceed with the thorough review process with expediency so that the project is not delayed further. Of particular interest to the Chamber is decommissioning the Jovalan to significantly reduce risks to the environment as well as the potential future economic benefit to the community from increased oil production.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been released for this project and is available on the State Lands Commission website (http://www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/DEPM/DEPM_Programs_and_Reports/Venoco_Santa_Barbara/Venoco_Santa_Barbara.html).

Two public hearings will be held on Wednesday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 5582 Calle Real, Goleta, to receive testimony on the Draft EIR.

Item 2 - US Chamber Energy Institute's Open Letter to Congress

Last week, the U.S. Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, with broad bipartisan support, released a new energy platform to guide our nation toward a safe, secure, and affordable energy future. In an open letter to the next president and Congress, 25 of America's most experienced and influential voices joined Chamber president, Tom Donohue and the Institute's president, General Jim Jones in outlining 13 fundamental pillars for a new, strategic, and long-term energy policy for the United States. Former Members of Congress and Secretaries of Energy, Commerce, Defense, State, and Treasury were among the first to sign the letter at a recent event in Washington, D.C.

The US Chamber is asking us to sign the letter to support increased energy efficiency, investment in cutting-edge technology, and production of more energy at home to sustain our growing economy.

Support Oppose

SAVE THE DATE

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

Oct. 18 & 19 -
California Lemon
Festival in Goleta
at Girsh Park



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

INTEREST ITEMS

Item 3 - November 2008 Ballot Propositions
California Secretary of State Debra Bowen recently released proposition numbers for 12 measures that will appear on the November 4 General Election ballot.

Proposition 7 - The Solar and Clean Energy Act of 2008 requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations. It raises the requirement for all utilities to 40 percent by 2020 and 50 percent by 2025.

The CalChamber Board voted to oppose Proposition 7 due to its potential to substantially drive up energy prices in the state and its unworkable mandates.

Support Oppose

Proposition 11 - The Voters First Initiative creates a 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new district lines for state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts. It requires the state auditor to randomly select commission members from a voter applicant pool to create a commission with five members from each of the two largest political parties, and four members unaffiliated with either political party.

The Goleta Valley Chamber along with the CalChamber has long believed that fair redistricting is the key to meaningful political reform. Proposition 11 will allow the citizens of California, rather than the Legislature, to create legislative districts that will require elected officials to be accountable to the voters. CalChamber Board voted to support Prop 11.

Support Oppose

Item 4 - Natl. 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.

Moving Congress and the new Administration to effectively reform transportation programs and provide 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. For more information or to join the campaign visit www.fasterbettersafer.org.

Support Oppose

Item 5 - AB 2716 (Ma) - Mandated Paid Sick Leave

All employers - both public and private - are targeted by AB 2716 to provide paid sick leave to all employees - full and part time. AB 2716 proposes to impose new costs for sick leave on all public agencies. It would require all local governments including counties and cities to provide paid sick leave to all employees including part time, seasonal, temporary, retired annuitants, student interns, student assistants, graduate assistants, provisional positions and full time. Local governments would be required to bear the cost out of current operating budgets with no reimbursement from the State.

Support Oppose

LOCAL POLITICAL CALENDAR

August

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

19- City Council
1:30pm & 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 Macfadney
Tim Mahoney
Bill Redding

SAVE THE DATE

Goleta Economic Forecast Project

September 12, 2008, 8:30 a.m. Fairview Theater

Dr. Bill Watkins, an analysis of the Revenue Neutrality Agreement and a panel on Commercial Development in Goleta are the topics that will be featured at the Economic Forecast. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. along with breakfast. Program runs from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

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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