



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Thursday,
February 13th
12:00pm

Chair
Jim Knight

THE CHAMBER'S FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS CONCERNS

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 14 - Annual
Membership
Meeting
Holiday Inn
5650 Calle Real
11:30am - 1:30pm
- 19 - Office Closed
In observation of
President's Day
- 21 - Executive
Board Meeting
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:30pm
- 22 - Issue & Policy
Roundtable
Chamber Conference
Room
271 N. Fairview Ave,
Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm
- 28 - Business After
Hours
Timbers Farm
10 Winchester Canyon
Road
5:00 - 6:45pm

March

- 5 - Ambassadors
Meeting
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:00pm
- 8 - Lemon Festival
Committee
Meeting
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave, Ste 104
8:00am - 9:00am

Old Town

The Old Town Revitalization project hangs on the balance of controlling the flooding of the San Jose Creek. Roughly every five years or so, the creek floods, and businesses on the Hollister corridor sustain substantial water damage. Sand bags and road signs are common clutter along the Old Town business district during these difficult times.

The new Council majority has indicated that the City's existing plans for this work will be moved to the top of their priority list. The first step in beginning this project is securing financing through bond funds. Redevelopment Agency Director Vyto Adomaitis will explain this process and describe the project today.



**Vyto
Adomaitis**

RDA &
Neighborhood
Services

Director, City of Goleta

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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INTEREST ITEMS

ITEM 1: Goleta City Council Calls for Process to Review General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan

February 7, 2007, City of Goleta: In Monday afternoon's City Council session, the Goleta City Council directed staff to initiate - at the earliest opportunity - a review of the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan.

"The Council believes strongly the General Plan needs to be relooked at," said City Manager, Daniel Singer. "The City Council has asked Planning Staff to prepare a report for the March 5, 2007 City Council meeting setting up a process for considering possible changes to the City's General Plan. This will be an open process in which members of the community and other interested parties will be encouraged to participate," Singer elaborated.

As more information becomes available it will be posted on the City of Goleta website at www.cityofgoleta.org.

ITEM 2: Employee Free Choice Act

Last week, Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, introduced the "Employee Free Choice Act" (H.R. 800, which we'll call the "card check" bill here). Below is an article from Congress Daily that outlines some key points of the bill and how it could affect your members.

The concept behind the bill is simple: unions want to be certified as the bargaining agents for workers once they get a majority of eligible employees to sign authorization cards. This system would replace secret ballot elections. The new process would be open-ended in terms of time, leaving unions as long as they need to collect signatures. That is, it would remain open until they win. There would seem to be endless ways to get workers to sign cards for reasons other than wanting a union to represent them, from having close personal friends solicit workers to more heavy-handed tactics.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill and supports the current system of secret ballots as the best way to ensure that employees' wishes are met. Secret ballots have served this country well since its founding as a way to make important decisions. They allow the people affected to decide between competing options on the merits rather than in response to outside pressure. They also have the benefit of finality: when the issue is settled, it is done.

ACTION TAKEN:

- APPROVED
- DISAPPROVED

PLANNING COMM.

After five years, the wheels have finally turned and Goleta will see its first planning commission successfully initiated. On January 15th, the Goleta City Council met on this hot topic and completed the next step when Mayor Pro Tempore Michael Bennett appointed Doris Kavanagh, and Councilman Eric Onnen appointed Brent Daniels. On February 5th and after much consideration, Councilman Roger Aceves appointee, Julie Kessler Solomon, Goleta marketing consultant, as a commissioner.

PROP 1B

With the clock still ticking on the transportation bond package funds, it was vital to act quickly to reserve funds for the Highway 101 widening project. Assemblymember Pedro Nava has requested the support of the Goleta City Council and Mayor in a formal letter, a positive step forward for both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. As Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Pedro's full support and actions will be key.

GOLETA TTF

The California Traffic Commission (CTC) will be meeting on February 28, 2007, to consider requests for the Prop 1B funding. SBCAG has been working together with many local chambers, including the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, to weigh in our urgent need for the highway expansion funds. A multitude of letters written to both the CTC and local legislators, along with the presence of RLA at the meeting, will stress the importance of this project to decision makers.

With only \$4.5 billion available in funds, against the \$11.3 billion in requests, it is vital we secure our Prop 1B funding quickly.

If the Santa Barbara and Ventura counties region is to remain viable as an economic competitor in California we need to invest in transportation to better connect housing to jobs and to facilitate timely goods movement. The Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funds are the best opportunity available to quickly advance the 101 widening project.



ENERGY REBATES

BUSINESS ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM PROVIDES NO-COST, NO-HASSLE OPPORTUNITY FOR IMMEDIATE SAVINGS

The Cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, and Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara, in partnership with Southern California Edison have formed an Energy Efficiency Partnership, called the South Coast Energy Efficiency Partnership (SCEEP) to make our community energy efficient. SCEEP is unveiling an initiative that will save energy, help the environment and lower business's costs.

In February an energy efficiency program will start sweeping through our region that will give businesses up to \$5,000 worth of energy-efficiency upgrades - at completely no cost to the business. If you participate in the Business Direct Install program, new highly efficient lighting and refrigeration equipment will be given to you to lower your energy costs - savings that can go directly to your bottom line.

If we, as a community, take full advantage of this program, we can leverage millions of dollars in local economic development. And for Southern California Edison and the State, our participation can help assure a resilient power system and a healthy environment.

You are eligible if:

- You are a Southern California Edison customer.
- You are a small or medium-sized business with an average monthly demand of less than 100 kW.

You are not eligible if:

- You are a new facility, as these already comply with highly efficient California Title 24 construction standards.
- You are a franchise business, or part of a regional or national chain store. (If your business falls into this category, please contact your company's Edison account manager for programs that may be available to you.)
- You participated in a similar energy efficiency retrofit in the last five years. (If you participated in an Edison audit, but did not act on the recommendations, you may still qualify.)

Here's how the program works:

The program will begin in mid-February in Carpinteria, and over the next 6 to 8 weeks will sweep up the Coast through Summerland, Montecito, Santa Barbara, Goleta and Isla Vista.

In February, letters will be sent to the businesses which are expected to qualify for the program.

We urge you not to miss this opportunity. Southern California Edison estimates that a typical South Coast small business will save about \$5 a day, \$150 a month, and \$1,800 a year!

For more information, please visit the South Coast Energy Efficiency Partnership web site at www.SouthCoastEnergyWise.org. You may also call the program contractors at (800) 332-5483 for technical information about efficiency opportunities and savings for your business.

THE GAS COMPANY OFFERS BUSINESSES RECORD-SETTING \$10 MILLION IN ENERGY REBATES, INCENTIVES

The Southern California Gas Company is encouraging its business customers to apply for more than \$10 million in energy-efficiency rebates and incentives reserved for them in 2007 - the highest level of funding for such programs in its 140-year history.

"These rebates and incentives are only the beginning," said Mark Gaines, The Gas Company's director of customer programs. "Participating businesses save much more money by using less fuel."

The Gas Company's funding for rebates and incentives is at a record high because energy efficiency plays a critical role in meeting the state's energy needs and helping the environment, Gaines added.

The \$10 million is available through the following programs:

- \$3.3 million in rebates from the Express Efficiency Program, which offers up to \$200,000 per customer per year for retrofits on a broad range of qualifying commercial equipment - including boilers, pipe and tank insulation, steam traps, residential washers for commercial (non-coin-op) use, and instantaneous and storage water heaters;
- \$3.4 million in incentives through the Custom Process Improvement and Process Equipment Replacement programs, which offer up to \$25,000 per customer, per year, for improving business processes and installing energy-efficient equipment;
- \$1.2 million in incentives from the Energy-Efficiency Grant Program, which provides up to \$300,000 per customer, per year, on qualifying large energy-efficient equipment retrofits and/or process redesigns;
- \$330,000 in rebates from the Food Service Equipment Rebate Program, which offers up to \$25,000 per account, per year, on qualifying ovens, fryers, griddles and other commercial cooking equipment;
- \$1.1 million in incentives from the Savings By Design program, which improve energy efficiency for customers that design new facilities, expand existing facilities or change business processes; and
- \$770,000 in incentives from the Advanced Home program, which encourages energy-efficient residential construction.

Qualifying business customers can take advantage of these programs by calling 1-800-GAS-2000, by visiting www.socalgas.com/energyefficiency, or contacting their account representatives.

CHAMBER MIXER

WHO:
Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce

WHEN:
February 28th, 5:00pm - 6:45 pm

WHAT:
Business After Hours Mixer great networking, entertainment, food and beverages.

WHERE:
Timber's Farm

COST:
Chamber Members - \$5
Non-Members - \$10

LOCAL POLITICAL CALENDAR

February

20 - City Council

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

21 - Design

Review Board
3:00pm
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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