# Southern California on the Hill ACCESS WASHINGTON, D.C.

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More than **140,000** jobs identified by Southern California municipalities can be created by "shovel-ready" projects while increasing mobility and preserving natural resources in one of the nation's most populous regions.

**400,000** jobs are associated with the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). LAX is working to accommodate the next generation of aircraft. A single daily roundtrip, transoceanic flight of an Airbus A380 is worth 3,900 jobs and \$723 million in economic output annually.

**1.2 million** jobs are related to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. America's gateway to the world, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach together are the world's fifth-busiest port complex. The nation would lose an estimated \$1 billion per day without our ports.

**441,200** jobs are tied to International Trade in Southern California. Southern California has an international economy. The value of two-way trade in the Los Angeles Customs District is \$329.4 billion – the largest in the nation.

**11 million** jobs are generated by U.S. copyright industries. Southern California is the entertainment capital of the world, helping to contribute more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy through movies, television, music, books, videogames and software each year.

More than **80,000** jobs are supported by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The second-largest employer in Los Angeles County, LAUSD educates more than 700,000 students entering college and the workforce each year.

# **Southern California is America's Recovery Engine**

The country's leading center for the entertainment, manufacturing and emerging green industries, Southern California is the engine that will drive our nation's economic recovery. The region is poised to create and preserve more than 1 million jobs and generate significant economic activity through its airports and ports, which serve as the top entry point for all goods and visitors entering the United States. Investments to the region's more than 9,000 miles of freeway lanes spanning across 38,000 square miles will create thousands of new jobs for projects vital to the efficient movement of goods to the rest of the state and the nation.

Southern California on the Hill – Access Washington, D.C. brings together the largest delegation of bipartisan Southern California business and civic leaders to advocate for the region each year. With more than 200 delegates, this year's trip is focused on advancing policies and investments that create jobs and accelerate economic recovery for the nation. Together, we can restore America's prosperity.

# 2009 PRIORITY ISSUES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS AMER

#### **AVIATION**

Provide Increased Funding for Airport Improvements in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Ensure additional funding for the modernization process at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) through the FAA Reauthorization. Allow LAX to collect passenger facility charges as a pilot project to complete capital improvements. Los Angeles is in the process of modernizing facilities and building new infrastructure to revitalize LAX.

Use Federal Stimulus Money to Revitalize LAX Urge Congress to use stimulus money for the billions of dollars worth of shovel-ready projects ideal for stimulus funding at LAX. Projects include a central taxiway, mechanical maintenance in terminal buildings, completion of the Bradley West Terminal and many other infrastructure projects. These projects will create thousands of jobs, infusing millions of dollars into the local and national economy.

Increase Funding for Security Measures at LAX Urge the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to provide additional funding to complete upgrading the in-line baggage handling facilities at LAX to ensure rapid and comprehensive screening of passenger luggage. LAX is a major destination and departure airport, servicing tens of millions of passengers each year.

### Urge Federal Lawmakers to Continue Funding C-17 Production

Urge federal lawmakers to continue ordering C-17s for U.S. military operations. Boeing's C-17 is an important product for military and humanitarian aid missions. In addition, the C-17 production facility in Long Beach, California provides a vital economic stimulus locally and in 41 other states.

#### Resist Restrictions to Flight Times at Burbank Airport

Urge the FAA to resist attempts by Burbank Airport to impose early curfews on commercial and private aircraft operations. This would force permanent relocation of flights and aircrafts to other airports in the region, increasing local congestion and producing disproportionate aircraft noise in other communities. In order to disperse air and ground traffic, airport regionalization is vital in the Los Angeles basin.

# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### **Support Early and Pre-K Education**

Support legislation that promotes quality early education, including the creation of the Early Learning Challenge Grant Program proposed by President Obama, to support states in their efforts to expand access to high quality early education programs. An investment in early education is proven to enhance educational outcomes in later years that will lead our nation's economy for years to come.

#### Improve No Child Left Behind Act

Support adequate funding and regulatory changes to No Child Left Behind. Creating various pathways for success, decreasing year-round focus on standardized testing and reducing dropout rates is instrumental to effectively obtain a skilled workforce. Additionally, support efforts to improve assessment system of student progress to ensure preparedness to compete in our global economy.

Provide Multiple Pathways to College and Career Support programs that integrate rigorous college prep course work with applied learning and Career and Technical Education (CTE) in order to reduce dropout rates and better prepare students for both college and career. The *Promoting Innovations to 21st Century Careers Act* will help strengthen the transition from high school to postsecondary education.

Support Postsecondary and Higher Education Increase investments in Pell Grant and other financial aid, Gear Up and TRIO programs to improve access to postsecondary opportunities for low-income students. Reintroduce and pass the DREAM Act to provide higher education opportunities to immigrant students. Ensure higher education efficiency through an investment in research funding for four-year institutions and resources for community colleges. Support the American Opportunity Tax Credit and implement FAFSA simplification.

Refocus Efforts on Workforce Development
Prioritize investments to create new and green jobs, assist displaced workers, and create pathways to high demand, high growth industries. Advocate for increased funding for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA); pass the Summer Jobs Stimulus Act of 2009 (S. 267, Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA); support appropriations for the Green Jobs Act of 2007 (HR 2847, U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis, D-CA); pass the Green-Collar Youth Jobs, Education, and Training Stimulus Act (S. 268, Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA); fully fund the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act; and encourage mid-career professionals to enter teaching by eliminating the Social Security penalties.

# ICA'S RECOVERY ENGINE



## ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Develop New and Strengthen Existing Clean Technology Incentives

Enable further local investment by extending renewable energy production tax credits, making them available for companies of all sizes. Southern California has an unprecedented investment in renewable and clean energy technology. Amend IRS tax codes to allow solar federal tax credits to be available for businesses and institutions who use local public financing.

#### Help Southern California Weatherize and Retrofit Energy Efficient Buildings

Provide federal stimulus money to energy-efficiency upgrades to new and existing buildings through funding for conservation programs, tax credits, equipment rebates and utility sponsored energy audits. Southern California is a national leader in energy efficiency practices but needs federal support to meet aggressive climate change requirements. Ensure that bill language applies credit fairly for different climates, such as those in warmer western states.

Support Innovative Hollywood Freeway Central Park Support federal funding to begin development of the Hollywood Freeway Central Park, an innovative project that will serve as a national model for the creation of new green space in a dense, urban environment. The park will create a street-level public park in one of the lowest resident-to-park space communities in California by covering a portion of U.S. 101 – the Hollywood Freeway – with a 44-acre regional park as the freeway travels below grade through the heart of Hollywood.

Support Smart Grid Upgrades in Southern California Help Southern California adopt smart grid technologies by providing funding for incentives, tax credits and demonstration projects. \$4.5 billion was provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to help utilities make digital upgrades to their electricity grids. Southern California is well-positioned to make such upgrades to improve efficiency and save millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Reform Emissions Credits**

Support a new emissions credit approach that will allow business to grow and reduce nontraditional sources of pollution. Southern California has cleaned up many of its traditional stationary emissions sources, yet is still struggling to meet its federally mandated clean air requirements.

Support Smart Global Warming Action Plan Develop comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that fights global warming without hurting our economy. Focus on investment in clean technology, renewable energy tax credits, expanding offsets and implementing a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gasses. Also, promote uniform national regulations rather than different state-by-state standards.

#### **GLOBAL INITIATIVES**

Support Free Trade and Open World Markets
Resist the urge to erect barriers or increase protectionism –
such moves would invite retaliation and will not restore the
economy's health. Enforce existing trade rules and obligations
when appropriate and necessary to keep foreign markets open.
Approve pending Free Trade Agreements to increase commerce
for U.S.-based businesses and their employees and bring muchneeded foreign capital into the United States.

#### **Renew Trade Promotion Authority**

Renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) which expired in June 2007, to help kick-start the stalled WTO Doha Round negotiations and give the administration the authority to negotiate free trade agreements that will open new markets in key trading partners to American products. Renewing TPA would show our commitment to expanding trade opportunities and keeping markets open.

Strengthen Protection of Intellectual Property Rights Push our trading partners to protect and enforce intellectual property rights, and subject countries that fail to comply with sanctions under existing multilateral trade rules and bilateral agreements. Intellectual property is the core asset for a majority of U.S. companies. We need to continue to work with trading partners to halt the theft of intellectual property created and owned by U.S. artists, researchers and companies through strong legislative and enforcement efforts.

#### **HEALTH CARE**

#### Prioritize Federal Health Care Reform

Develop a bipartisan approach to federal health care reform to address skyrocketing health care costs. Focus on shared responsibility, cost transparency, preventive care and wellness.

#### Permanently Revise FMAP for California

Permanently revise the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) formula to enable California to maintain or restore the Medicaid coverage that it currently struggles to provide. California has more than 7 million residents on Medicaid, but is shortchanged considerably under the current formula compared to other states.

# 2009 PRIORITY ISSUES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS AMER

#### Maximize Public Health Funding

Increase public health funding, especially at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, to assist local first responders. This is essential to mitigate a flu pandemic or the impacts of terrorism and natural disasters.

#### **HOMELESSNESS**

#### Reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Reauthorize the act to provide incentives for developing permanent supportive housing and provide dedicated funding for housing renewals. The act increases priority on homeless families with children by providing new resources for rapid re-housing programs, designating funding to permanently house families and ensuring that they are included in the chronic homelessness initiative. This would be the first reauthorization of the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) McKinney programs since 1992. It will provide communities with new resources and better tools to prevent and end homelessness.

Increase Funding for Transitional and Permanent Housing Programs and Support Service Increase the 2009 budget allocations funding the HUD homeless assistance programs and housing renewals, HUD's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Community Development Block Grant. This funding is essential to reduce homelessness nationwide.

Reintroduce Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA) Reform the Housing Choice Vouchers program for the first time in 10 years in order to help the program continue to provide affordable housing to millions of households, while using federal resources more efficiently.

### Increase Funding for Services Linked to Permanent Housing Programs

Increase the FY 2010 budget allocations for the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration (SAMHSA) homeless programs to \$120 million. These critical programs provide services linked to permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families, as well as other housing programs targeted at homeless people.

#### **HOUSING**

#### Support Additional Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funding

Enable local governments to purchase foreclosed homes for the preservation of affordable rentals. This funding should be made available using a revised formula that focuses more narrowly on the number of foreclosures and loans in default and eliminates or reduces the weight given to "abandonment risk" which unfairly shifted funding away from communities in California.

#### **Extend the FHA High Cost Loan Limit**

Raise the High Cost Limit – currently restricted by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) – to more than \$700,000 to assist buyers and sellers in high-cost real estate regions. Update FHA regulations to qualify Joint Live Work and Adaptive Reuse projects for FHA loans. These projects are critical to meeting urban housing needs and thus should qualify under FHA.

#### Resolve LIHTC Crisis

Monetize up to 40 percent of the 4 percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) refunds for investors as was done with the 9 percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*), and allow five-year carry-backs to increase investor demand for housing credit investments. This is essential to strengthening the housing market.

Protect Renters Subject to Property Foreclosures
Enact policies that provide protections for renters – which
make up 40 percent of households losing their homes to
foreclosure – including reasonable notice and transferring
Section 8 contracts to new owners.

### Support Local Public-Private Partnership (P3) Housing Revitalization Efforts

Support the Inland Empire Economic Recovery Corporation's P3 effort to purchase, revitalize and sell foreclosed homes to qualified working individuals and working families with a mix of public and private funding. Southern California's Inland Empire has one of the nation's highest foreclosure and unemployment rates. This model will help alleviate the federal government's financial burden for these mortgages while empowering local stakeholders to lead the region's housing recovery effort.

#### Modify the HUD Allocation Formula

Change the HUD allocation formula from a per-capita basis to a proportional distribution based on actual need. This would end the unfair penalization of high cost, low-income urban areas like Southern California and other communities that face severe housing shortages.

# ICA'S RECOVERY ENGINE



Support Employer-Assisted Housing

Amend the IRS code to allow employers a business tax credit for up to 50 percent of the qualified housing expenses paid for the benefit of their employees. Establish a national clearinghouse to provide information about employer-assisted housing programs to federal, state and local governments and other interested entities.

#### **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Establish a Fair, Reasonable Path to Citizenship
Continue efforts to establish an improved, fair and reasonable
path to citizenship that would provide immigrants the
opportunity to participate fully and proudly in American life.
In the absence of comprehensive reform, focus on specific
improvements to immigration laws including streamlined
border crossing rules, an end to unfair Immigration & Customs
Enforcement (ICE) raids and increased highly-skilled worker
visas to strengthen our economy.

Reform U.S.-Mexico Border Rules and Programs
Reform the multiple layers of ineffective border-crossing
programs to reduce lengthy border-crossing delays,
which increase costs for businesses and create unnecessary
hardships for citizens of both countries without any
justifiable increase in security. Partner with the private
sector to develop programs and policies that improve
border security while promoting trade and commerce.

**End ICE Raids on Good-Faith Employers** 

Stop ICE raids on employers that are making good-faith efforts to comply with the law. These raids disproportionately hurt businesses in Southern California who must compete with companies in other regions that do not face the same challenges. Also, oppose efforts to mandate the use of the E-Verify computer system until that program's many shortcomings are fixed.

Increase High-Skilled Worker Visas

Significantly expand visa availability or exempt foreign-born employees with advanced science or technology degrees from the employment-based green card limit. Limits on H1-B and other high-skilled worker visa availability are hurting our economy and global competitiveness. Immigrants have launched one-quarter of all start-up companies that attracted venture capital, thereby creating a multiplier effect for American job creation.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS**

Pass New American Jobs Tax Credit Create a new temporary tax credit to companies that add jobs in the United States. During 2009 and 2010, existing businesses should receive a \$3,000 refundable tax credit for each additional full-time employee hired. The tax credit will benefit all companies creating net new jobs, even those struggling to make a profit.

### Ensure Full Funding For the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Increase maximum loan size to \$3 million and the maximum guarantee to \$2.25 million, with an emphasis on the SBA's flagship 7(a) and 504 loan programs to ensure loan funds are there for small business owner needs. Allow borrowers to combine Section 7(a) and 504 loan program packages in order to maximize the guarantee under both programs. Provide additional funding specifically targeted at reducing Section 7(a) fees, as proposed by the House of Representatives in 2007 veterans outreach programs and other technical assistance programs.

Support Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2009 Protect small businesses by reforming punitive damages actions that lead to expensive, frivolous lawsuits. The act would allow punitive damages against a small business only if the claimant establishes that conduct carried out by the defendant with a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of others was the proximate cause of the harm that is the subject of the action.

# TRANSPORTATION & GOODS MOVEMENT

Ensure Guaranteed, Reliable and Increased Long-term Funding

Pass authorizing legislation this year that increases investment that closes our national transportation infrastructure deficit, ensures funding sources that are stable and predictable over the long-term and keeps our existing infrastructure in good repair. Money should be distributed to states based on funding formulas that prioritize population, congestion and need.

Make Goods Movement a National Economic Priority Urge Congress to adopt a national goods movement policy to address and provide funding for goods movement system as a national network, consider multi-modal concerns, reduce congestion and health impacts and provide for economic and job growth.

Simultaneously Improve Congestion and the Environment

Pass authorizing legislation that gives priority to both improving mobility and the environment. Include policies and funding to dramatically reduce nonattainment pollutants, toxic

## 2009 PRIORITY ISSUES



diesel exhaust, and greenhouse gases that pose a threat to the quality of life for Southern California's 21 million residents.

Provide Safer Transportation Systems
Strengthen the federal commitment to building and maintaining a safe and secure passenger and freight rail network. In Southern California, passenger and freight trains operate on the same tracks on a rail network that is already stretched to capacity and facing growing demands. The new authorization bill must provide safety measures such as upgraded signal technology, grade separations, increased rail network capacity and safety outreach programs.

Implement Technology into our Transportation Infrastructure Systems

Authorize legislation that mandates the implementation of technology into our transportation infrastructure that monitors use, so that we can more accurately address issues of demand and maintenance. This will increase our ability to manage our transportation infrastructure more efficiently, allowing for timely maintenance upgrades that will increase overall safety and infrastructure costs.

#### **WATER**

Contain Quagga Mussel Infestation

Continue to support legislation through congressional authorization and funding vehicles to develop and enhance efforts to contain the quagga mussel. Quagga mussel infestation poses a severe threat to the nation's water supply and distribution systems, including pumping and hydropower generation facilities.

Support Local Jurisdiction for Drinking Water Disinfectants

Oppose legislation or regulation that impedes local jurisdiction over the use or on-site storage of chlorine gas as a drinking water disinfectant. The on-site use of liquid chlorine gas is of critical importance to the safety and quality of drinking water in the region.

Remove Uranium Tailing from Colorado River Urge Congress to fully fund the U.S. Energy Department's project and expedite removal of uranium mine tailings from the watershed of the Colorado River in Moab, Utah.

Support National Water Standard for Perchlorate Support legislation that enables the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set a drinking water standard for perchlorate, a rocket fuel constituent that has caused widespread groundwater contamination throughout the United States, including Southern California.

Prioritize Water in Climate Change Legislation
Support legislation authorizing the EPA to provide grant
funding to conduct research enabling water agencies to
adapt to the ongoing impacts of global climate change. Seek
legislation that would provide funding for water agencies to
reduce greenhouse gases and develop alternative renewable
resources, provide renewable energy credit for hydroelectric
power, provide for sustained distribution system reliability
and efficiency, and contain escalating public power cost.

Invest in Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Restoration
Promote legislation through authorizing and funding vehicles
that would assist California in resolving the complex
environmental issues in the Sacramento-San Joaquin
Delta in a manner that addresses long-term water quality,
conveyance, flood control and ecosystem protection.

Modify Water Agency Tax Credit Bond Financing Support legislation to modify the U.S. Tax Code to facilitate the use of tax credit bond financing by water agencies to plan and build new local water supplies that meet the environmental criteria of water efficiency programs.

#### **Participating Southern California Officials**

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