



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

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A better L.A. is our business

**September 14, 2011
Noon to 1:30 pm**

1. Welcome and Self Introductions

2. Discussion Item

Green Line Project Overview

Roderick Diaz, Director, Systemwide Planning, Metro

Presentation on the preliminary concepts under consideration, environmental process and study timeline.

3. Informational Items:

- AB 900- Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011
- SB 292- CEQA: administrative and judicial review procedures: City of Los Angeles: stadium

4. SCAG's 2012 Regional Transportation Plan: A vision for transportation investments in our region

Special Guest:

Rich Macias, Director of Transportation Planning, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Upcoming Events:

- Access City Hall- October 5, 2011
- Economy & Infrastructure Council- September 28, 2011 "Competition from the Canal"
- Environmental Sustainability Council- September 30, 2011 'A Conversation with the California Energy Commission Chair'



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Rich Macias
Director, Transportation Planning
Southern California Association of Governments

Rich Macias is the Director of Transportation Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in Los Angeles, the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization. Rich has worked as a professional planner for thirty years. During this time he has worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, the City of Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency, and for the past ten years at SCAG. Over the course of his career, Rich has developed his expertise in planning for large scale infrastructure projects. For the past fifteen years his main area of focus has been on transportation infrastructure development, including aviation, goods movement and logistics, and transportation policy development.

Rich is a proud alumnus of the University of Southern California.



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Roderick Diaz
Director, Systemwide Planning
Metro

Roderick Diaz is the Director for Systemwide Planning for Metro. He has managed the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and currently directs the Metro Green Line to LAX project.

Prior to joining Metro, Roderick had an extended career in transportation planning and management consulting, serving as the West Coast Planning Manager for STV Incorporated in Los Angeles and leading transportation management consulting assignments for Booz Allen Hamilton across the United States and internationally.



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FLOOR ALERT

L.A. Area Chamber Urges Legislature to Pass AB 900 & For the Governor to Immediately Sign Much Needed CEQA Reforms Into Law

LOS ANGELES, CA — Today, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce released the following statement from Joseph A. Czyzyk, 2011 Chair of the Board and Chairman & CEO, Mercury Air Group, Inc.:

From day one, I have made reform of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a top priority during my term as the 2011 Board Chair of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. I was honored to have Governor Jerry Brown and many members of the State Legislature attend my Inaugural Dinner in early February where I said in my remarks: "First, to our friends here tonight in the State Legislature, you need to put the brakes on CEQA lawsuit abuse today. That's right CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act has discouraged investments that create jobs in our City and State. We have to stop the gaming of our judicial system with multiple appeals. This has stopped development projects and jobs for years."

Since then, the Chamber has worked nonstop to promote CEQA reform. Members of the Chamber's Board of Directors and I have met with Governor Brown on numerous occasions as well as his senior staff to discuss our ideas. CEQA plays an important role for California, but now is the time to seek reforms. AB 900 balances environmental protections with streamlining that will stop the gaming of our judicial system for projects that will generate significant economic benefit for California—this means real jobs for the citizens of California.

As AB 900 is debated today, I would ask the Legislature to consider allowing projects of a value of \$50 million or more to be covered under this legislation. As the authors of the AB 900 recognize, with California's unemployment in certain regions of the state exceeding 13 percent, we need development projects today for the creation of construction and permanent jobs.

The current threshold in AB 900 of projects valued at \$100 million and higher leaves too many commercial projects in jeopardy of being subjected to judicial delays. The legislation's 2015 sunset clause provides assurance to those that see AB 900 as weakening CEQA that once Californians are back to work, the rules re-set to today. In the meantime, let's get \$50 million projects moving and people employed.

I want to thank and acknowledge Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg for his leadership on AB 900. I also want to thank my friend, State Senator Ted Lieu for co-sponsoring this legislation. Ted and I have had numerous conversations about the need for CEQA reform. As a former city councilman, Ted knows firsthand the important economic stimulus that development projects bring to a city and region. I hope others in the Senate and Assembly follow their lead and when passed, I ask the Governor to immediately sign AB 900.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.com.



ACCESS L.A. CITY HALL



Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Join business leaders from throughout the region for a networking breakfast and a special City Council meeting on issues vital to L.A.'s businesses. Topics include job creation, prioritizing essential city services, pension reform, fixing the budget deficit and lowering L.A.'s business tax. This event is free and open to the public.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE



Mayor Antonio
Villaraigosa



City Controller
Wendy Greuel



City Council President
Eric Garcetti



City Attorney
Carmen Trutanich

SCHEDULE

- 7:45 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-9:45 a.m. Plenary Session with L.A. Mayor and City leaders
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10-11 a.m. L.A. City Council meeting on jobs and business growth and presentation of the Beacon Economics Los Angeles City Council Districts 2011 Economic Report
- 11-11:30a.m. City Council Discussion
- 11:30 a.m. Public Comment & Adjourn

RSVP now at

www.lachamber.com/accesslacityhall

For more information contact Shannon Cooper, 213.580.7565 or scooper@lachamber.com.

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