



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Tuesday,
August 22nd
12:00pm

Chair
Jim Knight

THE CHAMBER'S FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS CONCERNS

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

23 - **Business After Hours & Chamber Ribbon Cutting**
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
5:00pm - 7:00pm

September

1 - **Executive Board Meeting**
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:30pm

7 - **Board Meeting**
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
8:00am - 9:30am

11 - **Ambassadors Meeting**
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:00pm

12 - **Issue & Policy Roundtable**
Life Skills Program
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm

26 - **Issue & Policy Roundtable**
TBD
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm

Urban Forestry

Capital Asset Planning for Future Urban Forests: Ken Knight presented preliminary results from a research project detailing the availability and benefit of future urban forestry in cities, which has national implications, and uses the City of Goleta as a case study.

The study shows how local administrators can plan for and implement an ideal urban forest of the future using readily available computer models and policies. A scientifically based study of the costs and benefits of the urban forest is an integral part of this research.



KENNETH KNIGHT
*Certified
Arborist/Urban
Forester*

*Executive Director,
Goleta Valley Beautiful*

CONTACT INFO:

kennethknight@cox.net
(805) 685-7910

INTEREST ITEMS

ITEM 1: Preceding a Regional Legislative Alliance meeting in September, the IPR has voted on the following issues from November's ballot:

Proposition 1A
GVCoC: SUPPORT
Cal Chamber: SUPPORT
Transportation Investment Fund: would make it more difficult for the Legislature to suspend Proposition 42, which mandates that gasoline sales-tax revenue be spent on transportation, and divert the money for other purposes.

Proposition 1B
GVCoC: SUPPORT
Cal Chamber: SUPPORT
Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006: a \$19.9 billion bond issue to pay for road repairs and expansions, repair bridges, expand public transportation and improve port security.

Proposition 1C
GVCoC: SUPPORT
Cal Chamber: SUPPORT
Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006: a \$2.85 billion bond issue to pay for affordable-housing assistance and housing for farm workers and the homeless.

Proposition 1D
GVCoC: SUPPORT
Cal Chamber: SUPPORT
Education Facilities. Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006: a \$10.4 billion bond issue for school and university construction.

Proposition 1E
GVCoC: SUPPORT
Cal Chamber: SUPPORT
Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006: a \$4.09 billion bond issue to repair levees and flood-control systems.

Proposition 84
GVCoC: To Be Considered
Cal Chamber: To Be Considered
Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection Park Improvements: a \$5.4 billion bond issue to pay for clean-water, flood-control and conservation projects.

Proposition 87
GVCoC: OPPOSE
Cal Chamber: OPPOSE
Alternative Energy. Research, Production Incentives. Tax on California Oil: would impose a 1.6 percent to 6 percent tax on producers of oil extracted in California, depending on the price per barrel, to pay for

research and production incentives for alternative energy vehicles and clean-burning fuels.

Proposition 88
GVCoC: To Be Considered
Cal Chamber: To Be Considered
Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax: would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to pay for kindergarten-through-12th-grade programs, including class-size reduction, textbooks and school safety programs.

Proposition 89
GVCoC: OPPOSE
Cal Chamber: OPPOSE
Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits: would allow political candidates who raise a specified number of \$5 donations to receive money from the state, and would raise taxes on banks and corporations by 0.2 percent to pay for the program.

Proposition 90
GVCoC: To Be Considered
Cal Chamber: To Be Considered
Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property: would prohibit state and local governments from condemning private property for other private uses.



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

LOCAL ISSUES

Most Respected Environmental Law Expert: "Goleta General Plan and EIR deeply flawed"

Whitman Manley on "Legal Standard": The DEIR does not identify feasible mitigation measures that would clearly lessen the environmental impacts. The City must correct these shortcomings and re-circulate the DEIR for further public review and comment. (EIR Comment Letter, Page 2)

Whitman Manley on "Lack of Detail": This DEIR provides little analysis of potential impacts and mitigation measures used to lessen impacts. The DEIR also lacks supporting technical documentation

to substantiate the data within the DEIR. For this reason, much of the analysis in the DEIR is not supported by substantial evidence. (EIR Comment Letter, Page 2)

Whitman Manley on "Missing Required Elements": CEQA Guidelines section 15123, subdivisions (a)(2) and (3) require the inclusion of "areas of controversy" and "issues to be resolved." The DEIR does not address either topic. (EIR Comment Letter, Page 3)

Excerpts from Whitman Manley's Comment Letter to City of Goleta Regarding Draft General Plan and EIR.

REGIONAL ISSUES

Central Coast remains least affordable

In a new, revised formula measuring first-time home buyers, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties were the state's least affordable housing markets in the second quarter of 2006, according to the California Association of Realtors.

Unfortunately, local government continues to talk about affordability, but react ineffectively to ideas on creating a wider range of housing opportunities for buyers in the market today on the Central Coast. Home builders talk visionary, big picture items and strategies - increasing density, processing routine projects faster, and zoning more land for housing. Government nods in agreement and remains narrowly focused on small-scale partial solutions, such as inclusionary zoning ordinances and rezoning spots of land in the wrong places. Nevertheless, it is in everyone's best interest for the home building industry to keep educating government and the public to real world solutions to real world problems.

The new Realtor formula, which refutes those who claim the area has always had unaffordable housing since local affordability has steadily and dramatically decreased in the last four years, reflect changes in mortgage lending.

The Realtor association changed its 22-year-old affordability index so it now measures how many first-time home buyers could afford an area's median priced home with a 10% downpayment and an adjustable rate 6.48% loan. First-time home buyers usually buy a home equal to 85 % of the median price, the Realtors reported. The old formula used a 20% downpayment, a fixed-rate 30-year loan, and committing no more than 30% of household income to a payment, including the loan, insurance and property tax.

Under the new formula, only 17% of first-time buyers in San Luis Obispo County could afford the monthly \$3,440 payment and \$103,290 qualifying income to afford the \$504,350 median priced home sold in the second quarter of 2006. That is a steadily decreasing affordability index from 23 % in the second quarter of 2005, 36 % in the second quarter of 2004, and 37 % in the fourth quarter 2003.

Only 14 % of first-time buyers in Santa Barbara County could afford the monthly \$4,340 payment and \$130,170 qualifying income to afford the \$635,600 median priced home sold in the second quarter of 2006. That is down from an affordability index of 18% in the second quarter of 2005, 22 % in the second quarter of 2004 and 38% in the fourth quarter 2003.

Statewide, 23% of first-time buyers could afford the monthly \$3,290 payment and \$98,720 qualifying income to buy the \$482,000 median priced single-family home sold in the second quarter of 2006. That is down from 30 % in the second quarter of 2005, 36% in the second quarter of 2004 and 44 % in the third quarter 2003.

The Gamut - Home Builders Association of the Central Coast

LOCAL POLITICAL CALENDAR

September

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

6 - Design Review Board Meeting
3:00pm
Goleta City Hall
130 Cremona Drive, Ste. B

12 - Board of Supervisors Meeting
9:00am
Betteravia Gov Ctr
511 E Lakeside Pky
Santa Maria

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

CHAMBER MIXER

Chamber Ribbon Cutting & Open House Tomorrow

When: Wednesday, August 23, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Where: Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, 271 N. Fairview, Suite 104, Goleta

Cost: \$5/members, \$10/non-members

Who: Members, guests, friends, and family are all welcome. Walk-ins welcome.

RSVP:

Call: (805) 967-2500 or

Email: info@goletavalley.com

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



THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCE OF VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES
legislativealliance.com
5046 Santa Susana Avenue,
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
p: 805.637.6816



CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
calchamber.com
P.O. Box 1736,
Sacramento, CA 95812-1736
p: 916.444.6670

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
uschamber.com
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062-2000
p: 202.659.6000