

**CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC)
AREAS OF CONCENTRATION & POLICY STATEMENTS**

February 2018

Areas of Concentration and Policy Statements

The following Areas of Concentration and Policy Statements are those that the CCC and GAC consider of primary importance and urgency to our local business communities.

The GAC identifies six (6) Areas of Concentration and their Policy Statements as follows:

Economic Development

The Chamber believes there are essential elements necessary for our business communities to thrive and therefore supports:

- Local legislative programs and policies to encourage and foster new businesses and the retention and expansion of existing businesses;
- Cooperative efforts by and with other organizations to support the creation of jobs;
- The reduction and elimination of unnecessary paperwork to streamline permitting and regulatory processes whenever possible;
- Business programs such as grants, loans, workshops, and similar services, specifically for small, disadvantaged, or start-up businesses;
- Efforts to develop public-private partnerships that enhance and promote Peninsula businesses; and
- Efforts to provide adequate infrastructure needed for businesses to thrive.

Environmental and Sustainable Business Practices

The Carmel Chamber of Commerce and its GAC acknowledge that our natural landscapes, which include the ocean, beaches, coastlines, mountains, valleys, and agricultural areas, are part of the unique character of this region and what makes this area a desirable place to live and visit. Therefore, it's important to find a balance between protecting these valuable resources while creating a reasonable and sustainable business environment within our communities. With that background, the Chamber supports:

- Reasonable efforts to balance the interests of the marine economy and the protection of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary;
- Reasonable measures and/or incentives for responsible management of economic development;
- Reasonable and cost-effective methods of implementing sustainable business practices; and
- Efforts and programs that will help educate visitors on environmentally appropriate behaviors and/or practices while visiting the region.

Government Regulation of Business

Local and state economies thrive in environments where citizens have ample and adequate access to natural resources, transportation, energy, education, housing, a trained work force, and an enhanced quality of life. Therefore, the Chamber supports:

- Collaboration between businesses and local government to create programs and/or incentives that encourage new businesses to open or relocate here and existing businesses to grow and/or remain in the region; and
- Removal of unnecessary or excessive government regulation and imposition of unfair taxes and fees on business.

Housing

The Monterey Peninsula's need for housing at the affordable and medium priced levels is essential for our communities to survive. Proper planning and enforcement of maintenance standards by governmental agencies can lead to aesthetically pleasing developments that decrease transportation congestion by placing housing closer to jobs. Therefore, the Chamber supports:

- Reasonable options for further development of more high and medium density housing to include redevelopment projects where feasible;
- Financing opportunities for affordable housing that may include traditional private sector investment as well as public-private partnerships and/or grant opportunities;
- Reasonable development of new ownership and rental housing;
- Streamlining the planning and building permit process for housing; and
- Development of an adequate and sustainable water supply for reasonable growth on lots of record.

Transportation and Traffic

California's roads and highways rank amongst the worst in the nation. Business and its workforce are still most dependent on roads, streets, and highways. Specifically here in our region, our local governmental agencies face challenges with infrastructure design and necessary funding. Our community as a whole lacks the unified support needed between businesses and residents to effectively address the issues. As a result, both residents and businesses struggle with increase traffic congestion.

Therefore, the Chamber supports:

- Identification and support of additional resources needed to mitigate congestion on our highways and traffic corridors;
- Collaboration between Chamber, Government, Businesses, and Residents to encourage the development of a more effective parking program within the

- boundaries of Carmel-by-the-Sea; and
- Reasonable and effective alternative transportation methods/incentives/programs for residents and businesses within our communities.

Water Development Projects

The demand for water for municipalities, businesses, agriculture, and the environment has hit a critical stage in California. More needs to be done to encourage development of new water sources, additional storage, enclosure of water systems to prevent evaporation, conservation, and reuse of water treatment effluent. The Monterey Peninsula needs an independent water supply placed and sized in accordance with adopted general plans and able to take advantage of the abundant seawater resource.

The Chamber supports:

- Establishment of water management policies and procedures for the benefit of the entire community and the environment that focus on expansion of the water supply, conservation programs, and water quality;
- Development of a local governing water agency that would include direct representation from all six Monterey Peninsula cities and Monterey County;
- Balanced rate structure and distribution policies between residential, commercial, and government agencies/facilities so that residential and commercial ratepayers are not subsidizing one another;
- Reasonable storm water runoff and storm water recapturing policies and programs, including recycling and conservation, based on sound science, valid engineering, and fair cost distribution among residential, governmental, and commercial property owners; and
- Diversification of water supply sources and collaboration among regional agencies.

GAC Process

As stated here and also in the GAC Policy Manual, the GAC may:

- Review and discuss legislative measures and issues related to the above areas of concentration;
- Receive and discuss requests brought forth to the GAC by CCC members, local groups, and/or organizations and government officials;
- Determine if any direct or specific action is relevant and necessary from the GAC;
- Take appropriate action in a timely and appropriate fashion; and
- Report and relay the GAC position and/or action taken to its Board, members, and the local communities.

Reminder: If the GAC is asked to take a position, speak to a project, policy issue, or other

matter, or take other action(s) that does not clearly align with the current policy platform, the GAC may either 1) decline to take any action or engage further with regards to the matter or 2) choose to forward the issue/matter and any recommendations to the Board for further review and discussion.