



State Treasurer John Chiang, will be the guest speaker of our March 21<sup>st</sup> Business Networking Lunch.

Have questions about California? Well, we're happy to provide you the opportunity to ask the state's official banker, State Treasurer John Chiang, as the guest speaker of our March 21<sup>st</sup> Business Networking Lunch.

Mr. Chiang chairs financing authorities that help provide good-paying jobs, better schools, improved transportation, quality health care, more affordable housing and a cleaner environment. He handles those duties while sitting on the governing boards of the nation's two largest public pension funds with combined assets exceeding \$496 billion.

Upon assuming office, Chiang developed a financial blueprint for the state – sixteen ideas designed to help workers, businesses, and communities. These initiatives (half of which were accomplished in his first 18 months in office) are detailed in "Building California's Future Begins Today." A whole chapter of the plan focuses on new approaches to maintaining and building bridges, roads, schools and other critical public infrastructure.

Chiang has made transparency a top priority, believing that sharing information with taxpayers enables them to hold government officials accountable. In November 2015, he unveiled DebtWatch, a powerful new website that offers the public user-friendly access to three decades of data related to debt issued by state and local governments. DebtWatch was named "Best Application Serving the Public" at the 2016 California Technology Forum.

Prior to being elected Treasurer, Chiang served from 2007 through 2014 as State Controller. During the Great Recession he took steps to preserve cash to meet obligations to education and bond holders. His cash management decisions – which included delaying payments and issuing IOUs -- were instrumental in keeping the state's credit rating from plunging into junk status. Chiang's actions saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

He aggressively used his audit programs to identify more than \$9.5 billion of fraud, waste and abuse in government programs, the most by any Controller in California's history.

Chiang was first elected to the Board of Equalization in 1998 where he served two terms, including three years as chair. He began his career as a tax law specialist with the Internal Revenue Service and previously served as an attorney in the State Controller's Office.

The son of immigrant parents, Chiang graduated with honors from the University of South Florida with a degree in finance. He received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Our Business Networking Lunch will be held at the Monterey at Encino at 16821 Burbank Blvd. in Encino.

We begin networking at 11:30 a.m., and the lunch ends at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members with reservations and \$30 for non-members and walk-ups. Call the Chamber office to make your reservations at (818) 789-4711.