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## Public Policy Priorities

This document serves as a guide to the Tri-County Chamber Alliance, a regional business advocacy organization, and its member chambers in addressing legislative and policy matters so that it can play an influential role in the legislative and regulatory processes.

**Mission Statement:** To foster collaboration among the region's chambers of commerce and to advocate for policies, which promote a friendlier business climate.

1. **JOBS:** The Chamber Alliance is committed to pursuing policies that create and retain good-paying jobs and strengthen the region's economy.
  - a. **Employer Incentives:** The Chamber Alliance supports proposals to protect employers from higher costs and to provide meaningful incentives for employers to create new jobs and to strengthen the region's workforce pool.
  - b. **International Trade:** The Chamber Alliance supports trade and tourism initiatives to spur commerce and to maximize the region's position in the global economy.
  - c. **Labor Standards:** The Chamber Alliance supports improving California's competitiveness with other states; labor standards, particularly as they apply to wages and overtime rules. The Chamber Alliance believes it is critical to balance the rights of employees to "fair play" in the workplace with employers' rights to operate their business successfully.
  - d. **Immigration:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that ensure a predictable and affordable system for accommodating the need for guest worker labor, particularly for local agricultural and hospitality industries.
  - e. **Education /Workforce Training:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies and investments that ensure a strong and well-aligned education system from pre-K through community college, four-year and graduate degree programs. We encourage programs that allow for rapid re-training or upskilling of the existing workforce, and efforts to expand access to advanced training and degrees for all communities.
  - f. **Health Care:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that provide the broadest possible health coverage without placing a disproportionate and undue burden on employers.
2. **BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies which ensure the ability of businesses to operate as they believe maximizes their long-term success.
  - a. **Regulatory Reform:** The Chamber Alliance recognizes that successful communities require rules and acknowledges the important role that public agencies play in setting the frameworks within which communities thrive. The

Chamber Alliance supports efforts to develop regulatory environments which encourage, rather than stifle, growth and productivity through avoidance of excessive regulation, inconsistent or unpredictable procedures, arbitrary requirements, increased exposure to litigation, and special assessments, taxes or fees. Additionally, the Chamber Alliance supports requirements that all new regulations and/or fees be reviewed to ensure costs are outweighed by measurable benefits, and that existing requirements be periodically reviewed to ensure they produce intended results.

- b. **Legal Reform:** The Chamber Alliance opposes any expansion of the Private Attorney General Act and supports the inclusion of policies which allow businesses time to “cure” problems.
  - c. **Environment:** The Chamber Alliance embraces the idea that a successful and vibrant community requires a shared responsibility of stewardship over our natural resources, and supports efforts to strike a balance between environmental improvement goals and sustaining economic vitality, including policies related to sustainable practices, waste reduction, air and water quality, and water supply.
  - d. **Cannabis Operations:** The Chamber Alliance supports federal legislation to decriminalize cannabis or reclassify it as a lower than "Schedule I" drug to allow the industry to establish normal banking relationships.
3. **INFRASTRUCTURE:** The Chamber Alliance supports further investments into the region’s infrastructure in partnership with the private sector and by securing the region’s fair share of state and federal allocations.
- a. **Water:** The Chamber Alliance supports proposals for a long-term, comprehensive state water plan, that is reliable and includes conservation, new supply, storage and conveyance that is equitable for all Californians.
  - b. **Transportation:** The Chamber Alliance supports innovative funding allocations to accommodate increased mobility on the region’s highways and overall transportation system, including goods movement.
  - c. **Energy:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that encourage reliable sources of affordable and diverse energy supplies, and ensure any disruption of energy supply is based on adequate public notice.
  - d. **Waste Management:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that encourage realistic, fair and consistent water discharge requirements as well as policies on solid waste management so that the collection, transport, processing and disposal of solid waste is conducted with minimal impacts on our environment and on our businesses.
  - e. **Communications:** The Chamber Alliance supports uniform state and federal policies that encourage continued investment in telecommunications and improve access to new technologies.

4. **LAND USE:** The Chamber Alliance supports land use policies that balance the needs of meeting affordable housing demands, creating new jobs, protecting industrial, commercial and agricultural zones as well as preserving open space and our quality of life.
  - a. **Housing:** The Chamber Alliance supports strategies that improve the region’s job-housing balance for all income levels throughout the region with conditions that any mandates be balanced with incentives for compliance.
  - b. **Coastal Land Use:** The Chamber Alliance supports policies that permit a mutually beneficial balance of public access and private investment along the coast in non-protected areas, without excessively burdensome legislative and regulatory scrutiny.
  
5. **GOVERNANCE:** The Chamber Alliance continues to support significant reforms to California’s political and budgeting processes as well as the state’s revenue structures.
  - a. **Budget & Taxation:** The Chamber Alliance supports efforts to reform the California budgeting process and structure to encourage long-term fiscal stability and limits on spending growth with excess revenues put into reserves and/or back into local government, including updating taxation policies, which balance with tax revenues.
  - b. **Ballot Initiatives:** The Chamber Alliance, when considering positions on ballot initiatives, supports those that seek to improve the region’s business climate and do not further burden the region’s and state’s fiscal health.
  - c. **Elections:** The Chamber Alliance supports efforts to promote increased business participation in California’s political process.