



**(Last Platform Revision Nov. 2017)**

## GCVCC LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce is pleased to share our 2016/2017 Legislative Platform, which will allow our Chamber to respond in a timely manner to business issues as they develop.

### **Agriculture**

#### **Support:**

And recognize the water conservation practices used by farmers in growing of agricultural commodities.

And recognize the relationship between farmers and farmworkers; one cannot exist without the other. A sustainable agriculture community that conforms to stringent California Laws, Regulations, and Standards and embraces the well-being of all its employees.

And recognize the farmer's adherence to the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act's rigorous science based food system that protects public health by reducing potential sources of contamination and establishes a culture of food safety on the farm. The farmer's long term commitment to providing safe food that is verified through government, 3rd party, retail, and self-audits.

The farmer's use of crop protectants used in accordance with Federal, State, County and Local laws and regulations in the production of agricultural commodities.

Control measures in the event of an exotic agricultural or environmental pest outbreak that could pose economic loss to agricultural production.

Environmental regulations that do not exceed Federal standards for agricultural land use.

Promote research and development, public awareness, and educational programs of biotechnology agricultural commodities.

Labeling of food and other agricultural commodities that defines the country of origin.

California Ag Vision 2030; a strategic plan for the future of the state's agricultural and food system which was motivated by the rapidly growing list of challenges facing agriculture from regulations and water suppliers to urbanization and climate change.

### **Communications**

#### **Support:**

Legislation and regulations that will encourage innovative utility and telecommunications infrastructure.

New innovative technology in the utility industry to improve the business climate in the Coachella Valley.



## **Economic Development and Business Regulations**

### **Support:**

A business-friendly environment that will assist in the creation of a competitive and attractive business

environment in the Coachella Valley and for the State of California.

Business incentive-based programs for the Coachella Valley on local, state and federal levels.

Job creation measures across all industry sectors.

Time-critical bonds and measures, with defined sunset clauses, that add infrastructure to the valley.

The reform of the burdensome regulatory process of local, state and federal government as a means to attract and encourage new business and retain current business.

Policies that promote efficiency in government and consolidation of services.

Tort reform.

CEQA reform to eliminate excessive redundancies and promote economic development.

Market based incentives in lieu of government mandated policies.

Reasonable government standards of business signage, ordinances and regulations applied uniformly

for all businesses.

Privatization of government services when economically viable.

The functions of government to enhance the economic base of private enterprise in the Coachella Valley.

Measures that reduce litigation.

### **Oppose:**

Measures increasing business taxes and fees unless such fees/ taxes improve the overall economic viability of business community.

Legislation or OSHA regulations that impose health and safety standards that are not based upon sound scientific and empirical data.

Unfunded government mandates.

Government mandates that unduly regulate or tax business.

## **Education and Workforce Training**

### **Support:**

And promote a Regional Plan for College and Career success.

Regional college and career pathways/linked learning efforts to assure local students a meaningful high-quality work experience and align the efforts with the local workforce needs.

And promote career technical education (CTE) and academy programs in the Coachella Valley.

And promote vocational education, hands-on learning and alternate educational paths.

And promote the welfare-to-work process through legislation that provides for training, tax credits and other incentives that assist local businesses.

Legislation that provides incentives that allow for a well-trained flexible workforce.

And promote retraining education programs for displaced workers.



## **Energy and Utilities**

### **Support:**

Continuous efforts to responsibly recharge the Coachella Valley aquifer.

Additional in-state reliable energy generation, infrastructure/transmission and renewable generation balanced to maintain a robust and economically viable economy.

Water conservation and reclamation.

Energy efficiency programs and conservation of natural resources.

## **Environment**

### **Support:**

An atmosphere of cooperation among agencies discussing environmental issues including air and water quality in the Coachella Valley.

Viable plans for water use for the future of our Desert's environment. Promote thoughtful consideration as to the type of development our desert water supplies can reasonably support.

Industrial and consumer use of alternative fuels that improve the environment without becoming financial burdensome for the business community.

Evaluating the effectiveness of air quality regulations before implementing any further restrictions, encourage the elimination of duplication with federal law, and ensure that rules are cost effective and

flexible in their implementation.

County, City and Tribal Code enforcement.

The development and use of alternative fuels and policies that will promote safe and cost effective alternate methods of travel.

A responsible use of mountain access and areas for recreation, tourist and preservation.

Reasonable efforts to make the Salton Sea a viable resource and tourism destination.

Recycling compliance and market development programs for recycled and repurposed products.

Solid waste recycling management and diversion programs.

Land use decision making at the local level.

## **Health Care and Social Services**

### **Support:**

Efforts to preserve access to high quality healthcare and to lower the burden on employers and taxpayers.

Efforts to ensure and improve access to specialized healthcare services, including but not limited to trauma, behavioral and primary care.

Efforts to develop a sustainable regional healthcare infrastructure that meets the needs of all Coachella Valley residents.

A multi-payer system.

Legislation that preserves human dignity and access to basic services.

Comprehensive Healthcare Reform.



**Housing:**

Adequate housing for all sectors of the Coachella Valley population.  
Appropriate fee structures that are conducive to fostering economic growth through the housing and construction industry.

**Labor**

**Support:**

Comprehensive immigration reform.  
With adequate resources; establishing a guest worker program that takes into consideration the needs of specific industries and determining time limits for certain workers.  
Adequate workers compensation coverage at a reasonable cost to businesses with the objective to rehabilitate and/or train the injured employee to return to the workforce.  
Efforts to reduce workers' compensation fraud and/or to increase system efficiencies.  
Immigration employment laws that are reasonable and not burdensome to small business.

**Oppose:**

New California labor laws or regulations that are overly burdensome to employers.

**Tourism**

**Support:**

The expansion of the customs facility at the Palm Springs Airport to enable international flights to land and clear customs.  
Policies and valley-wide efforts to promote and increase tourism in the Coachella Valley.  
Organizations that promote and enhance the Coachella Valley.  
Cost efficient infrastructure development that supports Coachella Valley tourism without unduly burdening local businesses and taxpayers.  
Efforts to provide enhanced year-round air service and alternate forms of transportation to the Coachella Valley.

**Transportation**

**Support:**

Reliable, useful, sustainable, and cost-effective transportation.  
Sound planning transportation needs for the future growth of the Coachella Valley population.  
Alternative methods of transportation.  
Expansion and development of airport facilities and related industries in the Coachella Valley.  
Cost effective alternative fueled vehicles and the required infrastructure improvement to support such vehicles.  
And monitor Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUPM) and its impact on development.



The Voice of Business in the Coachella Valley

**Tribal**

**Support:**

- And advocate for Tribal sovereignty.
- Tribal economic development.
- A Tribal owned and operated foreign trade zone.

**Veterans/Military:**

**Support:**

- Transition of military to the workforce and community.
- Initiatives related to job creation and development.

**Oppose:**

- Base closures that affect our business community