

**Introduction**

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) is an aggressive advocate for the interests of the area's business community. The TACC seeks to influence policy decisions across all levels of government in order to gain and maintain a pro-business environment.



2015 TACC GAP group

The Legislative Platform establishes the Chamber's policy framework that guides the TACC's Governmental Affairs Policy (GAP) group when determining Chamber policy positions.

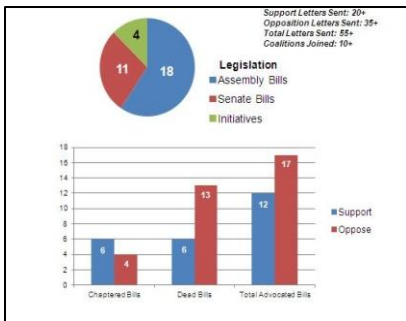
**2015 Policy Issue Areas:**

- Small Business/Jobs
- Aerospace and Defense
- Tax and Fiscal Policies
- Education Funding and Workforce Development
- Jobs, Energy, and the Environment
- Health Care
- Infrastructure/Traffic/Transportation
- Manufacturing and Technology
- Land Use and Development
- Tourism

**Small Business / Jobs**

**Policy Objective:** Improve California's business climate

**Discussion:** Small business is the foundation of the Torrance community. TACC supports legislation that promotes job growth, reforms bad regulatory procedures, and protects businesses from



In 2014, the TACC helped kill 76% of bills that were bad for small business and helped pass 50% of supported bills

an unhealthy business climate. We promote opportunities for small businesses to partner with big business to help growth and expansion, and encourage the State to work on programs that will help build a stronger Small Business alliance to strengthen the local economy.

**Priority Focus Areas**

- High Labor Costs
  - Reform the state's costly workers' compensation system
  - Sustain Minimum Wage in its current form
- New and/or reform of frivolous laws, regulations, and taxes
- ADA compliance

**Aerospace and Defense**

**Policy Objective:** Aerospace and Defense remains one of America's and the South Bay's leading economic sectors.

**Discussion:** Superior technological commercial and defense products play a significant role in the continuance of the U.S. economy and political agenda as a world leader. Given the number of South Bay businesses and workers in these technology intensive industries,



TACC President, Donna Duperron, testified in support of SB 718

the region should continue to support and capitalize on this sector. TACC supports both Federal and State budgets and policies that will keep Aerospace and Defense projects in the South Bay.

**Priority Focus Areas**

- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC): retain the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LA AFB) in the South Bay
- Sequestration and DoD downsizing

**Tax and Fiscal Policies**

**Policy Objective:** Promote growth of employment through balanced and consistent tax rates

**Discussion:** The TACC believes tax policies should promote strong growth of employment and the necessary benefits offered by business. The tax burden

on businesses and its consumers is in direct correlation to growing the economy. We believe tax proposals and policies should be simplistic in nature and taxpayers should be certain as to where their taxes are going and what they are paying for.

We promote tax policies that are consistent for both business and their customers, and should not impede or reduce our local economy in producing viable products that address local needs. Policymakers should have the financial implications of all business in mind when developing policies that affect all producers, services, and consumers in our region. We look for policies that simplify financial institutions' capital access that builds on necessary financing and regulatory credits to help with economic relief. The TACC is opposed to legislation that hides or disguises taxes as fees and tax policies that are developed as last resort for revenues.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Sustain Prop 13 in its current form
- Payroll Taxes
- Local/Regional Government

## **Education Funding and Workforce Development**

*Policy Objective:* California's education system provides the necessary instruction to produce a diverse and qualified workforce.

*Discussion:* With high unemployment and underemployment numbers, educating today's workforce is a necessity. The TACC supports measures and legislation that empowers the state's education system with necessary resources to provide quality learning opportunities for students. Higher Education and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs are vital to producing the skilled technical workforce desired by employers and need to be resourced.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Increasing Veteran Employment in Torrance (iVet) program
- CTE/Re-training Programs: Dedicated funding for Regional Occupation Centers
- Implementation of Measures T and U



*iVet helps employers efficiently access the Veteran workforce*

## **Jobs, Energy, and the Environment**

*Policy Objective:* California provides affordable water and energy reliability, and encourages economic growth through pro-jobs environmental policies.



*The TACC promotes policies that increase jobs and environmental quality*

*Discussion:* The TACC supports the work the City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, and State of California does to enhance and protect both the economy and natural environment. The TACC advocates for regulations that protect long-established jobs, promote job-creating policies, and encourage a balanced approach to meet the needs of economic and environmental interest. We are in support of the policies that guarantee cost-effective water and power delivery to the residents and businesses of the Torrance area. The TACC believes policies should support all forms of energy and opposes regulations that do not protect jobs and the ability for resource companies to deliver the necessary energy needs to the South Bay.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Reform the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Monitor implementation of AB 32 and the Air Resources Board

## **Health Care**

*Policy Objective:* Optimize the health of our communities by improving the health of the population, enhancing the experience and outcomes of the patient, and delivering affordable care.

*Discussion:* The TACC acknowledges the importance of adequate health care coverage for all Californians. We support legislation that helps small businesses effectively integrate the Affordable Care Act and support financial incentives for those small businesses that provide insurance for their employees. We oppose policies or legislation that increases the cost to businesses for additional workers' compensation insurance, unemployment insurance, and paid family leave.

The TACC supports tort reform that discourages frivolous litigation and opposes trial lawyers' efforts to expand their opportunities to sue businesses and increase private rights of action. We believe universal health care is important and needed for all adults and children living in California, and we encourage the State to work with business and health care experts to examine better ways to insure all Californians, keep costs down for small businesses, and strengthen the healthcare workforce.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Integration of health care reform requirements
- Reducing barriers to affordability and coverage
- Health care workforce development

### ***Infrastructure/Traffic/Transportation***

*Policy Objective:* Improve decaying infrastructure to connect the Torrance area to its region



*With an increase in fuel-efficient vehicles and the sunset of Prop 1B, California is in a transportation crisis*

*Discussion:* Local economic enterprise requires an efficient, state of the art transportation system and infrastructure to succeed and prosper. With a surge in growth we must keep traffic running smoothly. Everything we do, buy, and interact with requires mobility. Without the capacity to move goods, people, and services, the economy will suffer. Public transportation is at the forefront to help bring efficiency to the region by the transportation of employees and business consumers.

We support federal, state, and local government to manage the traffic system to allow businesses to move their product and services, and also manage the funds that support this system. The TACC promotes the policies that will help fuel a strong infrastructure that connects the city to the region. The TACC also advocates the policies that encourage research and development of new and effective ways to reduce pollution and congestion, and increases safety and efficiency. We oppose policies that prevent an infrastructure from helping businesses to produce jobs

and delivery of their product for customers of the South Bay.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Transportation Crisis
  - Prop 1B expiring
  - Decline of Gas Tax Revenues
  - Road Usage Charge Pilot Program (SB 1077 Implementation)
- Facilitate Public/Private Partnerships (P3)
- Torrance Regional Transit Center

### ***Manufacturing and Technology***

*Policy Objective:* Support innovative integration of manufacturing and technology that grow jobs and conserve the environment

*Discussion:* The South Bay is a hub for the manufacturing of goods and services. We support all legislation and policies that promote the research and development of new technology that will help businesses grow and continue to employ a high number of Torrance area residents, and oppose those measures that take away from a company's ability to conduct business in such a way that creates jobs and strengthens the local economy.

The high-tech industry has been established in the Torrance area for a number of years and the TACC supports continued production and employment by



*In 2014, the TACC advocated for the renewal of the Ex-Im Bank and hosted Congresswoman Maxine Waters and several local manufacturers to increase advocacy for the bank's renewal*

many of the high-tech companies. We support IT and Biotech segments to continue to grow through research and implementation of cutting edge technology. All forms of technology, including telecommunications, must have regulations that support growth and job creation within each industry. The TACC supports such policies

and regulations that promote the growth in all areas of bandwidth consumption across all media.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Clean Manufacturing
- Research and Development
- BioTech
- Telecommunications

## **Land Use and Development**

*Policy Objective:* Empower local government to implement public/private economic development strategies

*Discussion:* According to the California State Department of Finance, the state’s population growth is on pace to surpass 50 million residents by 2049. With a growing population and recovering economy, it is crucial for land use policies to promote economic growth and efficient housing solutions. The TACC promotes policies that empower private/public collaboration, enable modest growth and safe neighborhoods, and balance new development with historic preservation of the city’s unique Downtown area.

The TACC supports local government approval of land use development in accordance with its General Plan, zoning code, and development standards and opposes legislative attempts to transfer land use authority to the Legislature or out of the hands of local elected officials through zoning by initiative efforts. The TACC holds local government accountable to update and/or amend its General Plan, as necessary, in a timely manner and to address zoning inconsistencies that may result from updated policy. The TACC is opposed to environmental regulations that do not serve to promote the environment but impede development projects. The TACC supports simplified land use approval and permitting processes for infill development and transit-oriented projects.

### Priority Focus Areas

- Downtown Revitalization
  - Monitor historic preservation ordinance efforts
- Facilitate P3 development strategies

## **Tourism**

*Policy Objective:* Attract increased travel to the state and to the Torrance area by investing in effective marketing strategies and improving tourism infrastructure



*The TACC supports policies that invest in effective advertising strategies that leverage the area’s attractions such as: Torrance Beach and the city’s historic Downtown area*

*Discussion:* The TACC supports policies that will effectively increase travel to and within the state to stimulate economic growth and job creation. We believe effective marketing campaigns and strategies need to be invested in. The TACC supports the Torrance Tourism Business Improvement District (TTBID) and supports Discover Torrance as the private nonprofit organization to administer the TTBID’s activities and improvements to attract visitors to the area. The TACC supports local policies that will effectively move tourists to prominent destinations throughout the city and strategically advertise the city’s unique attractions such as: the Del Amo Fashion Center, the historic Downtown area, and Torrance Beach.

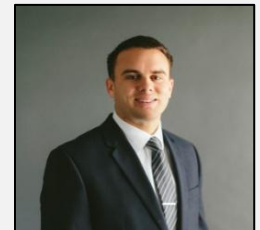
### Priority Focus Areas

- Discover Torrance
- Leverage City’s attractions
  - Remodel of the Del Amo Fashion Center
  - Torrance Beach
  - Historic Downtown area

**For inquiries contact the TACC at:  
310-792-2339**



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*“Our advocacy mission begins & ends with the simple concept that we will connect Chamber members to the policymakers & we will unabashedly advocate on behalf of the business community.” – Rob Van Lingen*