

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LATINO CAUCUS NEWS



COLLABORATION IS KEY LEGISLATORS & LOCAL LEADERS

Through the years, LCCLC has helped advance Latino leadership throughout California. Today, Latinos leaders make up a growing portion of our state and local government as they work with other leaders toward enhancing the quality of life for all in our State. As Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, who chairs the Senate Committee on Local Government, emphasizes, “Latino families are no different than any other California families. We share the same goals—good schools, safe streets, decent homes, and access to health care. Our issues are California’s issues.”

Indeed, working together on issues of importance to our communities, we can move with greater ease and clarity toward creating a bright future for California. New to her position as chair, Senator Negrete McLeod is “quickly learning that state legislators can be good partners with mayors and city councilmembers.” She and Assembly Member Anna Caballero, who chairs the Assembly Local Government Committee, plan to “work together with other members of the Legislature’s Latino Caucus to remind the rest of our legislative colleagues that our communities care as much about good neighborhoods and being good neighbors as everyone else.”

LCCLC looks forward to bringing you many more opportunities to collaborate and network with Legislators and leaders from all areas of government.

These leaders worked together to create a working dialogue that focused on collaboration and information sharing on key issues while working towards a united goal of making this a great place to live, work and raise a family for all Californians. Several follow-up meetings have taken place since December, which have solidified group goals on issues ranging from Infrastructure to Higher Education to Immigration to Voter Engagement.

At its last meeting in mid-February, the Latino Summit Group invited special guest speakers to address the issues of infrastructure, higher education, naturalization/immigration and voter engagement, to provide an overview of global issues in these specific areas and the impact on Latino communities across California. During this meeting, the Latino Caucus and the California Latino School Boards Association held a joint press conference to oppose the proposed naturalization fee increase. This critically important news conference was picked up by five television news stations, and several radio and print media news outlets.

After receiving an intense overview of voter rolls and the national and statewide impact Latino voters had on presidential and gubernatorial races, it was agreed by the group that the Latino Caucus would host a Voter Engagement workshop at its May Legislative Forum to discuss in greater detail how local elected officials can use voter roll information to determine the demographics of voters in their communities.

The group also received an excellent overview of California’s Infrastructure Bonds recently passed on the November 2006 General Election ballot. The group assigned the Latino Caucus with determining key components and specific language for inclusion in project criteria and guidelines for use when selecting and awarding projects with bond funding.

After learning more about higher education issues, the California Latino School Boards Association agreed to take on the task of identifying the role of local elected officials in working with local school board members and also developing criteria for working in partnership with city councils in development of general plans and land use when taking in consideration developments of new schools. (CONT. ON PAGE 3)

LATINO SUMMIT LEADERS CONTINUE TOWARD CHANGE

2006 was a year of innovation for LCCLC, culminating with the formation of two groundbreaking events: a Southern California Housing Summit and a Latino Summit, which took place in San Jose in December. The two-day Summit brought together an intimate group of influential California leaders comprised of local elected officials, school board members and representatives from the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), Southwest Voter Registration, Mexican American Legal Defense (MALDEF), the California School Boards Association and members from the Legislature’s Latino Caucus.



The Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities serves as a leader to improve the quality of life, advocate on behalf of the Latino community, and provide, promote and develop leadership. The Latino Caucus is an effective voice in the development of public policy affecting our cities, constituents, and all of California.

GRAND PRIX NETWORKING EVENT



APRIL 11, 2007
LONG BEACH

SPRING 2007



LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT:

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANNA CABALLERO

What are your legislative priorities as a newly elected representative of the 28th Assembly District?

I've worked hard during the first few weeks of the 2007 legislative session to craft legislation aimed at strengthening our communities. I am introducing 21 bills to address the 28th Assembly District's most pressing issues, like food safety, violence prevention, early childhood education, and affordable housing.

Several measures I've crafted may help create a violence prevention "tool-kit" that cities and counties can use to solve the growing problem of youth violence in our communities. I've also opened a dialogue with state officials, agricultural organizations, local growers, and local health and agricultural officials to gather

information about the likely causes of last year's E coli contamination of spinach and leafy greens. The most need I have found is the lack of funding for adequate research. That's why I'm authoring legislation that will increase funding for researchers to find the causes of E coli contamination, and management practices to prevent future contamination.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Local Government, how do you anticipate working with local leaders throughout California to improve the quality of life for Latinos?

My service on the Salinas City Council and my experiences working with Partners for Peace sparked my interest in representing my community in the State Assembly. As a former mayor, city council member, and executive director of an organization dedicated to violence prevention, I understand the needs of local governments and I know how to bring people together to get things done.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Local Government, how do you anticipate working with local leaders throughout California to improve the quality of life for Latinos?

I will continue the efforts I undertook as mayor of Salinas to preserve the funding and authority of local officials to protect the quality of life at the local level. I will also work to support local agencies' ability to build urgently needed affordable housing, as well as provide guidance on the distribution of Prop. 13 housing bond money.



DAY LABORER RIGHTS & THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

On January 12, 2007, representatives of the Latino Caucus, including Board Member and League of California Cities President Maria Alegria, attended a meeting with representatives from the Mexican-American Legal Defence & Education Fund (MALDEF) and the League of California Cities legal counsel and lobbyist regarding restrictions on day laborers, specifically in the City of Redondo Beach. Until last year, Redondo Beach legislation barred day laborers from searching out employment until it was rejected by a federal judge who cited that the arrests were in violation of the First Amendment.

Also present at the meeting was the Communications Director for the California Immigrant Policy Center and a Senior Legislative Advocate of the American Civil Liberties Union. The League of California Cities agreed to MALDEF's request that they distribute information to city attorneys regarding this issue.

LCCLC News strives to provide a forum for communication among members. If you would like to include an announcement in an upcoming issue, please contact us at: CallatinoCaucus@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LONG BEACH GRAND PRIX NETWORKING EVENT
APRIL 11, 2007 ~ LONG BEACH, CA

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
MAY 16-17, 2007 ~ SACRAMENTO, CA

LCCLC CO-HOSTS SUMMIT GROUP MEETING AT NALEO ANNUAL CONF.
JUNE 28-30, 2007 ~ ORLANDO, FL

SUMMER CONFERENCE & 6TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
JULY 25-27, 2007 ~ MONTEREY, CA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NORA CAMPOS, SAN JOSE

The Caucus has historically been a resource for Latino leaders throughout California. As a united voice, we have successfully advocated issues that are important to our community. As California continues to be on the forefront of issues that affect our lives as Latinos, we need to ensure that future leaders receive the training they need to succeed. At the local level, I have joined like-minded individuals in founding the Latino Leadership Alliance (LLA). What began last summer through the coordination of a small group of civic leaders in Silicon Valley has laid the groundwork to become a beacon to all.

I'm proud to announce this month the group will elect its inaugural Board Members to push forward towards the bigger goal of a community uniting on vital issues. In pooling our resources together, we work towards the greater good and remove barriers that formerly separated us.

This proactive network allows us to respond immediately as issues arise by expressing our needs and concerns in a singular voice. The group inspires future leaders to come forward from the community by providing a platform during our continued progress while our results start to shape decisions into empowerment instead of control.

As the group continues to establish itself, we hope that a network can start to take shape across the state. The first step has been made by dipping our toe into the water and creating a ripple that will reach others and inspire the next move. Our outreach will continue to various spheres, political, corporate, and community, as we embark upon this path and speak to these issues of our shared priorities for many decades to come.

LATINO SUMMIT (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

The next meeting of the Latino Summit Group is scheduled during NALEO's Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida on June 28-30, 2007. The event will feature presentations from the Latino Caucus and the California Latino School Board Association on each of these two issues. Another large two-day meeting is planned for November 2007. The important work of the Latino Summit group, comprised of distinguished Latino organizations in California, brings innovative leadership through the dialogue of a unified voice. If you are interested in joining the Latino Summit Group, or learning more about the priority tasks being undertaken, please contact our office at 916-669-1343 for more information of how to get involved.

Boosting San Diego's Energy Reliability Benefits All of California

The San Diego region is an energy "cul-de-sac" with a population whose appetite for electricity continues to grow. Both state and federal experts recognize that, as early as 2010, the region could be faced with a situation where more electricity is required than can be imported or generated locally. Clearly, action must be taken today to ensure that tomorrow's energy needs are met. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) has developed a Long Term Resource Plan to ensure safe and reliable power. Working with state and regional leaders, The plan relies on a diversified, balanced and flexible energy portfolio that includes improved energy conservation through innovative programs and business incentives, renewable sources of power, new transmission lines to access lower-priced power and renewable resources, and new power plants to help boost local supplies.

A critical component of this strategy is the planned Sunrise Powerlink transmission line. It would stretch roughly 150 miles from the Imperial Valley to coastal San Diego. It is the only proposed infrastructure project in SDG&E's service territory that satisfies the three critical goals of providing a reliable source of energy; accessing renewable energy resources; and reducing energy costs by lessening the need to run older, less efficient facilities.

The Sunrise Powerlink will allow SDG&E to deliver more than 20% of its energy portfolio from renewable resources, helping the state to reach its renewable energy goals. And with less reliance on inefficient power plants — which cost ratepayers statewide hundreds of millions of dollars annually to keep running, it will save energy consumers throughout the state \$220 million annually.

But San Diego can't depend on transmission alone. So, SDG&E has purchased two new power plants, and locked up electricity for a decade from a third. These will help offset the eventual retirement of the older plants. SDG&E's strategy also includes building modern, cleaner "peaker plants" — smaller generators utilized only when demand is highest. These facilities can be flipped on and off in a matter of minutes, not hours.

With a positive decision from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the Sunrise Powerlink, a crucial piece of the region's — and therefore the state's — energy puzzle will fall into place. This, along with a continued focus on improved conservation and new smart meters for every customer, will produce a balanced and cost-effective energy portfolio capable of sustaining the San Diego region's quality of life, and bolstering energy reliability and cost-effectiveness throughout the entire state.

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SAVE THE DATE!

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



MAY 16-17, 2007
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In 1990, the Latino Caucus was founded to serve as a resource for local elected officials throughout California. Over a decade and a half later, we have grown to become not only a resource for local leaders as they tackle issues of importance in their municipalities and ascend to higher levels of government, but we have become a formidable entity in state and national politics. Through events like those held by the Latino Summit Group, we are strengthening our alliances with other Latino organizations, taking on greater responsibilities, and asserting our voice. A press conference was held at our most recent Summit Group meeting in Los Angeles/Universal City, which allowed us to express to a broader audience our united vision and shared priorities. In the year ahead, we will continue to speak out on issues of importance to our communities in our ongoing efforts to make California a great place for all.



JOHN E. ARRIAGA



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