

SWCLC Southwest California Legislative Council

MEETING AGENDA

Monday January 23, 2023

Presiding: Erik McLeod, 2023 Chair

Legislative Consultant: Chris Collier, Rincon Strategies

More information available at www.southwestca.org

Call to Order, Roll Call & Introductions:

11:30am

Chair Report

Presentation: Adam Eventov, SoCalGas

Legislative Report #1

1. What to expect in 2023
2. Budget Update
 - a. Unemployment Insurance Fund
3. CalFire Mapping
4. AB 257 (2022 fast food bill) Update
5. Bills to consider
 - a. SB 45 (Roth)
 - b. SB 73 (Seyarto)

Chambers/Tribal/Legislative Reps Announcements

Adjourn- Next Meeting 2/27

The Southwest California Legislative Council Thanks our Partners:

Southwest Riverside County Association of Realtors

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Elsinore Valley MWD

Western MWD

CR&R Waste Services

Abbot Vascular

Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce

Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce

Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce

Menifee Valley Chamber of Commerce

Corona Chamber of Commerce

Southwest Healthcare Systems

Temecula Valley Hospital

Economic Development Coalition

The Murrieta Temecula Group

Southern California Edison

The Gas Company

California Apartment Association

Western Municipal Water District

2023 SWCLC Meeting Dates

*All meetings at **11:30am** at 26529 Jefferson Ave, Murrieta, CA 92562*

January 23rd

February 27th

March 20th

April 17th

May 15th

June 19th

July 17th

August 21st

September 18th

October 16th

November 27th (Executive Council only)

2023 Policy Platform (DRAFT)

Labor and Employment (*Job Creation & Retention*)

1. Review and evaluate measures that reform the costs of the state's public pension system for the sake of the state's overall fiscal health.
2. Monitor and review alternatives to (1) any proposed state minimum wage increases and (2) any local or state living wage ordinances.
3. Monitor and provide recommendations to the current workers' compensation reform measures to positively affect businesses.
4. Consider and review responsible healthcare policy proposals that maximize free market forces, minimize mandates upon insurers and providers, and results in increased availability of healthcare coverage affordable for employers, employees and individuals.
5. Monitor and support measures that reform, or enhance, our state's educational system and encourage local workforce preparedness.
6. Advocate against the unwarranted and frivolous lawsuits on our businesses, consumers, taxpayers, and communities.
7. Monitor proposals that undermine the current process of guaranteeing secret-ballot elections for unionization such as card check.
8. Promote rules and regulations regarding employment status that protect workplace flexibility, and protect public safety and consumer choice.

Pro-business Leadership (*Job Creation & Retention*)

1. Expand community outreach for the SWCLC by:
 - a. provide speakers to address City Council meetings and other local groups upon request
 - b. encourage members to participate in Project Leadership and similar efforts to develop future leaders
 - c. include reference to the SWCLC in self-introductions at all Chamber and business functions as appropriate
 - d. drive community, civic and business leaders to SWCLC website and social media updates
 - e. include appropriate groups in SWCLC Calls-to-Action
2. Review and evaluate local, statewide, and when appropriate, federal issues pertaining to the SWCLC's policy priorities and communicate the information to all chambers' membership.
3. Continue to enhance working relationships with local, state and federal representatives and their staffs.
4. Consider and review legislation that promotes standards of corporate governance that guide boards of directors and corporate officers in managing their corporations in a competent, ethical manner.
5. Monitor land use, planning, housing and zoning issues that affect the Southwest California regional business community.
6. Review and evaluate efforts to enhance educational opportunities, expansions and quality in the Southwest California region, including measures to encourage and support entrepreneurial business growth.

Taxation and Government Reform (*Budget & Tax Reform*)

1. Review and evaluate reform measures to the state budget—that promotes real economic growth and job creation.
2. Encourage cooperation among government agencies, and work to streamline and reduce unnecessary or conflicting requirements of regulatory agencies.
3. Review and evaluate cost effective ways to privatize government services and public contracts while maintaining or improving standards.
4. Review and evaluate state and local fee & tax increases and new fee & tax categories affecting the regional business community.
5. Support and promote, when appropriate, the preparation of cost/benefit analysis ensuring economic impacts are weighed before the imposition of regulatory statutes.
6. Ensure that regulations on business are kept to a minimum and do not put regional businesses at a competitive disadvantage.
7. Encourage the protection of private property rights.
8. Support state programs that secure tax credits for targeted work training programs.
9. Consider and review policies that promote the outsourcing of essential public services by government agencies.
10. Support practical business accounting procedures at the state level when trying to balance the State Budget.
11. Review and evaluate social welfare policies that are expansive and unregulated throughout all levels of government.

Public Safety

1. Support policies that aid law enforcement in their duties to keep our residential and business communities safe.
2. Review policies that will clarify regulatory policies and management of specific public safety issues, i.e. e-cigarettes, homelessness, cannabis, etc.
3. Maintain a working relationship with the Riverside County District Attorney regarding crime prevention, fraud, and threats against businesses either through direct attacks or through employed human resources. Such working liaison might include working with the District Attorney's task force on crime in Riverside County as related to impacts on business.
4. Monitor, and take positions when necessary, on potential legislation that will:
 - a. Create a higher risk, more permissive environment for criminal penalties;
 - b. Decrease control over cyber-attack activities;
 - c. Allow **geographic** release of convicted felons resulting in damage to the business environment and regional quality of life;
 - d. Reduce the ability of businesses to seek protective relief from unwanted misdemeanor level activities of employees [possession of marijuana or certain drugs in the workplace, working while under the influence etc.].

Healthcare

1. Support the attraction and retention of medical technology industry to Southwest California.
2. Monitor and support policies that encourage continued medical discoveries and

- innovations that improve quality of care.
3. Continue efforts to contain the costs of premiums.
 4. Conform to federal law while supporting measures to allow employers to mitigate the impact of providing healthcare coverage.
 5. Work to curb the expansion of litigation in the healthcare system.
 6. Support wellness, disease management/pandemic, and behavioral healthcare programs.
 7. Support reform of the state hospital construction regulatory review process. Work to improve the timeliness of hospital construction and to ensure costs associated with such construction are kept at reasonable rates.

Infrastructure Improvements (*Infrastructure & The Environment*)

1. Review and evaluate policies that ensure the Southwest California region maintains a reputation as an attractive prosperous location for business; to balance employment and housing needs with natural resource preservation; and to plan and construct the community infrastructure necessary to support current and future business needs.
2. Monitor land use, planning, housing and zoning issues that affect the Southwest California regional business community.
3. Review and evaluate development projects within the Southwest California region.
4. Encourage an adequate supply of appropriate housing to meet the needs of the Southwest California region.
5. Review and evaluate reliable, stable, and competitively priced energy supplies for California's businesses and consumers.
6. Review and evaluate water management and flood control policies that improve water quality as the result of comprehensive approaches that will reduce contaminants from water sources in a cost effective manner.
7. Review and evaluate policies that promote safe, clean, high quality, adequate and reliable water supplies supporting the needs of economic growth and quality of life in the Southwest California region.
8. Review and evaluate policies that promote the Southwest California region as the frontrunner of technological advances in any infrastructure improvements throughout the region.

Environment (*Infrastructure & The Environment*)

1. Support policies that recognize the importance of balancing environmental issues including green, solar and water programs and their impacts on the public and private sector.
2. Monitor policies that ensure long-term positive impacts on environmental stability and the economic vitality of the Southwest California region.
3. Encourage responsible environmental regulations and the potential impacts on local governments and agencies.
4. Monitor and support efforts to reform the CEQA, [and/or other regulatory entities](#), that will reduce the regulatory and compliance burden to cities and businesses in Southwest California.

Transportation (*Infrastructure & The Environment*)

1. Review and evaluate public and private sector transportation improvement plans that

impact congestion on freeways, streets and roads, and ensure mobility within the Southern California region.

2. Review and evaluate legislative and regulatory proposals that impact the automobile, trucking, rail, aviation, and maritime industries.
3. Review and evaluate legislation and regulatory proposals that might place the Southern California logistics industry at a competitive disadvantage.

Tourism and Business Expansion *(Job Creation & Retention)*

1. Support a strong relationship with the Economic Development Coalition (EDC) of Southwest California, Visit Temecula Valley, Explore Murrieta, the Southwest California Manufacturing Council, InSoCalConnect and the Cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, and Wildomar in order to promote and enhance the Southwest California region.
2. Support and promote policies to increase travel spending to the Southwest California Region, in order to help stimulate the local economy and provide jobs throughout the region.
3. Review and evaluate policies that ensure that the Southwest California region maintains a reputation as an attractive and prosperous location for doing business.
4. Promote economic development opportunities in the Southwest California region for business retention, expansion and attraction.

Immigration Reform *(Job creation & Retention, Healthcare, Public Safety)*

1. Support efforts that create a guest worker program that is comprehensive, addressing both future economic needs for workers and the status of undocumented workers already in the United States.
2. Support the creation of an effective employment verification system that is fast and reliable while understanding enforcement ramifications at the local, state and federal level.
3. Support policies that ensure all workers enjoy the same labor law protections.
4. Support policies that expand temporary visa programs for essential workers, creating paths to permanent residence for these workers and providing a way to earn legal status for the millions of undocumented workers already in the United States.

Legislative Report #1

[SB 45](#) ([Roth D](#)) **California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund.**

Current Text: Introduced: 12/5/2022 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: 1/18/2023-Referred to Com. on HEALTH.

Location: 1/18/2023-S. HEALTH

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would establish the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund and would continuously appropriate moneys in that fund to the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to provide loans to qualifying county or city and county applicants for the purpose of building or renovating acute care psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric health facilities, or psychiatric units in general acute care hospitals, as defined. The bill would require the authority to develop an application for county or city and county applicants by January 1, 2025. The bill would require initial preliminary applications for projects to be submitted to the authority by April 1, 2025, and would require the authority to approve the project based on specified criteria. The bill would provide for the return of any funds not encumbered by a loan recipient within a specified period and would require a loan recipient to maintain and operate the facility for the life of the loan. The bill would authorize the authority to charge a fee to cover the cost of administering the loan. The bill would also require the authority to provide a report to the Department of Finance and the budget and health committees of the Assembly and Senate by a specified date that would include, among other things, the number of projects that are receiving loans and their geographic distribution.

Recommendation: Support. The bill would provide a zero-interest loan for the on-local match component of an acute care psychiatric hospital project repayable over 30 years. This would help solve California's shortage of psychiatric hospital beds, which is an important tool for fighting homelessness and the ongoing mental health crisis.

Platform Citation: **Healthcare**

6. Support wellness, disease management/pandemic, and behavioral healthcare programs.

[SB 73](#) ([Sevarto R](#)) **Employment policy: voluntary veterans' preference.**

Current Text: Introduced: 1/11/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: 1/18/2023-Referred to Coms. on JUD. and M. & V.A.

Location: 1/18/2023-S. JUD.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would enact the Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act to authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written veterans' preference employment policy, to be applied uniformly to hiring decisions, to give a voluntary preference for hiring a veteran over another qualified applicant. The bill would require a private employer with a veterans' preference employment policy to annually report to the Civil Rights Department the number of veterans hired under the preference policy and any demographic information about those veterans that the employer obtained in response to the department's reporting requirements. Under the bill, failure to submit that report would render any preference granted by the employer ineligible for the protections provided by this bill.

Recommendation: Support. This bill would allow businesses to give a voluntary preference for hiring or retaining a veteran over another qualified applicant or employee. Similar legislation has passed in almost 40 other states. Last year's bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom, despite unanimously passing both chambers.

Platform Citation: **Labor and Employment** (*Job Creation & Retention*)

8. Promote rules and regulations regarding employment status that protect workplace flexibility, and protect public safety and consumer choice.