Our Chamber Advocates for Local Businesses

Did you know South County Chambers of Commerce actively and consistently advocates for local businesses in South County? Our Chamber represents the interests of business at government meetings—including City Council sessions—and is willing to take strong political action on behalf of business. When necessary, we will vigorously oppose legislation that threatens the viability of local business as part of the private enterprise system. SCCC encourages a proactive approach to local legislation and supports research, analysis, education, and wide dissemination of proposed legislation that affects local business and the vitality of South SLO County. In conjunction with our stated goals, SCCC supports legislation at all levels of government which insures a sound and healthy local economy.

Here are some of the recent ways we have supported legal actions that affect your business:
- January 2020 Labor Laws and Your Business
- Helped Develop REACH Jobs Plan
- Helped Develop Chamber Values
- Helped develop SMART Guide
- Unifying Recovery Task Force
- Helped Develop SLO County Recovery Website
- Member Local Economic Development Committee (Cal Poly)
- Member Central Coast Coalition of Chambers
- Development Outdoor Operations for Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach
- Helped with development of face-covering ordinances
- Candidates Camp
- State of South County
- Webinar topics: Cal Chamber, League of California Cities, Farm Bureau, Tenet Health, Congressman Carbajal, SB Ax2, Assemblyman Cunningham, US Chamber of Commerce

In addition, our Chamber took a position on these issues that affect local business:
- Oceano Dunes OHV (support)
- Central Coast Blue (support)
- Sentinel Peak Resources CUP Extension (support)
- Dana Reserve (support)
- US Space Comm (support)
- 1598 El Camino Real GB (support)
- SYU Restart (support)
- Prop 15 (oppose)
- Arroyo Grande Sales Tax (oppose)
- Measure A20 Oceano Dunes Community Services (no action)
- SB 977 (no action)
- Don’t miss our Governmental Affairs Business Meeting on September 25 at 8 am. RSVP for this online meeting on our website.

September SCCC Business of the Month: Café Andreini

Café Andreini, located in the Village of Arroyo Grande, is the place where all the locals meet. They serve European-style coffees, specialty teas, breakfast, lunch, beer, and wine.

Café Andreini works with local vendors including Coastal Peaks Coffee. CPC purchases their beans from small estates and co-ops that provide the ideal altitude, climate, and soil conditions for the coffee. When it comes to open-face sandwiches, Cafe Andreini has endless possibilities. Their extensive options include avocado toast, veggie bruschetta, nutty avocado, chicken bacon ranch, and more. They also provide a unique variety of burritos, steel-cut oats, and fresh acai bowls.

They have plenty of outdoor seating—available in the front or the back. Come check out their new parklet, too.

They are located at 131 E. Branch St. For more information and to view the menu, visit cafeandreinicoffee.com.
COVID-19 Update as of 8/26/2020 from Supervisor Lynn Compton’s Office:

Our county has been relatively unscathed with regard to COVID-19 health issues. Geographically, we are connected to State and rest of the nation, yet our numbers are substantially less than those counties and cities surrounding us. Nationally, COVID-19, for the last six months, is considered the leading cause of death on an annual basis, second only to cancer and heart disease.

Yet our numbers continue to be stable in all ways. On Wednesday, we increase by 24 cases since Tuesday, and there are 13 currently in hospital, with 4 in the ICU. Our last announcement of a death was several days ago (there have been 21 total deaths).

For some reason, our county does relatively well with this disease. However, the case numbers keep us on State’s Monitoring list where we are only allowed 150 cases/150K individuals. There has been lots of frustration for all, to get us off the State’s Watch list. Overall, to get off the list we need decreased case counts, and the only way that can happen is by practicing all of the precautions we have been discussing for months now.

The State is planning on coming up with new “monitoring mechanism” by the end of the week. Rather than being “on” or “off the State monitoring list” this system will likely be more of a color coded (green/yellow/red) system that determines where a county falls on the spectrum? We expect the State will be evaluating counties they determine “green” and possibly “yellow” (meaning there are mitigating factors) as being allowed to move forward with some additional business sector openings that were precluded at this time due to the State’s current monitoring list. We still do not expect schools to open at this time.

Regarding Schools ...a few days ago we started working with families, etc., on some additional approaches to how they can deal with the joint responsibilities of going back to work themselves, while trying to educate their kids at home at the same time. The State provided additional guidance on who/where/how many kids could do cohort learning together. This learning could be: Boys and Girls Clubs, child care centers, parent groups, day camps, etc. This guidance allows for 14 students of any age to be in a common setting with 2 adults (maximum numbers)....and these groups are wedged to each other for the foreseeable future and wouldn’t be permitted to co-mingle with any other group. There would still be a waiver requirement and protections required with the plans (health screenings, masks, distancing, etc.) This new guidance doesn’t remove the elementary school waiver. To date we’ve received 13 elementary school waiver applications, and have 11 already approved for elementary schools. This is estimated to be approximately 1200 students...which is a small amount of K-12 students (35K students in the county in K -12). All are private schools. The waiver is a way to get kids back into school, and the new cohort guidance is a mechanism for families to not have to each deal with child care needs individually for their school age children.

We were informed approximately 5K Cal Poly students will be returning to campus. We, along with Cal Poly have put controls in place in preparation for their return, including a requirement these students take a COVID test 72 hours before they return to campus. We have solicited Cal Poly’s help to mitigate this situation for our community, now that there will obviously be more people in community once they return...with likely more wanting to congregate off campus. The message that will be conveyed via President Armstrong, to those students, is if you violate the criteria in place, the end result could be kicking those students out of school. It is a tough situation. We don’t want to trade college students for our elementary schools/business and put those small business owners at more of a disadvantage as we move toward opening more businesses with new students coming back.

Cal Poly slated to begin bringing students on campus on September 3-10th. Cal Poly starts on the 14th. Their overall numbers will be reduced. All lectures will be virtual with only 12% of all class offerings being in person, with some in-lab classes. While Cal Poly can deal with the on-campus students, that doesn’t deal with fact that 9K live off campus and we are seeing an uptick with the virus in this population.

There is a lot of dialog going on right now with Cal Poly about the issue of the off-campus students. Expect to see a lot more community dialog in next few weeks. The state-wide closures for bars and restaurants likely won’t change in the near future. The Governor appears to be somewhat more open to discussions regarding fitness centers and personal care types of businesses, and is now open to dialoguing with the counties on how to re-open and how to do it safely. There will still likely be no movement on the Governor’s part on large gatherings, bar settings, indoor restaurant dining or having patrons going back indoors, even if the weather gets colder.

That’s all for the update. For individual numbers and cases in the county, please visit: readyslo.org.

Please contact my office if you need any assistance at District4@co.slo.ca.us, or call us at (805) 781-4337.

Respectfully,
Lynn Compton
San Luis Obispo County
Supervisor District 4

#love4local
Arroyo Grande News

If you have not seen the Village of Arroyo Grande in a week or two, definitely make a trip. Our parklets are all set up, and our restaurants are vibrant and alive, while keeping the public safe. A special thank you to Pacific Petroleum for providing the k-rails. Those concrete, thinner ones create more space in the parklet, and our restaurants have set up really nice spaces for customers. I am so proud of our council and staff, which have taken such a proactive approach to supporting businesses through this challenging time.

By now you must have heard that we will not be holding an election this fall due to a lack of candidates completing the process. This has happened in 2008 and 2012, and we are grateful to be able to save significant taxpayer money. The best part is that your council and I will be able to keep our eye squarely on the ball of solving as many challenges as possible for you without a hugely time-intensive campaign season, and I want to be sure that we take advantage of the two months that we were gifted to keep rolling forward full steam ahead.

We need to hear from you. What do you want to see us do to support YOUR business? We are committed to help in any way that we can. You have a very motivated group of council members and mayor who sincerely want to expedite everything we can for you, and our staff has been amazing at carrying out that directive. Please email me at crayrusom@arroyogrande.org or call me at 805-234-1270 and let me know what roadblocks you have. Let us brainstorm and help you!

Yours in service,

Caren Ray Russom
Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

Grover Beach News

Legacy. Can one build a legacy while still alive – in my opinion, yes! Hopefully people will also take the time to appreciate the accomplishments and even build upon what has been started. I’ve had the privilege and the honor to meet, talk and work with people who have devoted their lives and their talents to building businesses and communities. Along this journey, legacies are established and community vision is imparted to others.

Take the recently completed and thoroughly enjoyed “29th Annual Stone Soup Music Festival, Food and Street Fair” that had its origins as (among other names) the Grover Beach Ethnic Street Faire/Stone Soup World Music Festival. This philanthropic legacy for Peter and Carol Keith has drawn thousands of visitors to Grover Beach for many years. Leaders and main points of contact have changed over the years but it continues to be a place for volunteers, businesses and supporters to showcase Grover Beach and what the area has to offer.

How about past legacies? Those people that I’ve never met who shaped Grover Beach and made it the great place we know today. We appreciate those folks and see every day what their efforts have created. I’m looking forward to seeing what future legacies are created…how about restaurant owners Jacob and Brooke Town of The Spoon Trade/Grover Beach Sourdough or Tom Rehder of Mongo’s/3 Fat Guys and Grover Beach United? Or perhaps it will be Erica Andrade/Denise Aguilar of 5 Cities Hope or even Krista Jeffries/Jeff Al-Mashat/Alycia Drube of the Grover Beach Public Arts Group. Perhaps it will be your legacy that people see and help you create…I’m looking forward to the process and the results.

Jeff Lee
Mayor, City of Grover Beach

Pismo Beach News

Our tourism traffic came back strong in August. Our hotels appear to be doing better along with our restaurants and retail. We have had a good response from restaurants to use parklets to expand their outdoor dining and people are enjoying them. Three airstream trailers have arrived! They will be placed on the pier with one for the former bait shack, one for a new food and beverage operation, and one for our tourist information kiosk. We ordered airstreams for that Classic California look. The adjacent Pier Plaza is undergoing final construction punch lists.

Our Council goal of fixing up the down-town is nearly complete. We previously replaced the sidewalks with pavers, installed new lighting, new garbage cans and new smart parking meters. With the new pier and soon the Pier Plaza, we are nearly complete. The next major project is a much-needed parking structure to help alleviate a significant parking shortage in the summer time.

The draft EIR for Central Coast Blue water recycling project is out for final review and the next step is drilling a test injection well. CCB is a joint project with Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach to expand our water supplies.

Ed Waage
Mayor, City of Pismo Beach
This year’s Leadership cohort (Class 2) has been one of challenge, adaptability and perseverance. The group met under the theme of sustainability and reflection. Without taking time to pause and reflect it is impossible to sustain momentum and growth; both personally and professionally. In the leadership learning workshop the group discussed; the benefits of reflection, identified what keeps leaders and/or individuals from reflecting and ways that they can make reflection an important part of their daily, weekly monthly process rather than something to do “when/if we have the time.”

The group was also treated to a tour of The Luffa Farm in Nipomo where they were educated on all things luffa! (Did you know that luffas come from a gourd?).

The group also finalized plans for their Legacy Project. The group will design, fund and build kiosks and benches which will be installed at the new Pismo Preserve allowing places for visitors to sit and rest as well as get an overview of the preserve.

What an extraordinary group of individuals. Our community is, and will continue to be, better because of them.

If you have any questions about the Chamber’s Leadership South County program please reach out to Marty Imes, Leadership South County Director at marty@southcountychambers.com

If you have questions about Organizational and Leadership Development, please contact our partners at CultureStoke at hello@culturestoke.com.
Thank you to our eight Chamber member “MVPs” for their generous support of local businesses and nonprofits as an MVP (Members Valuing Peers) sponsor. Each of these eight Chamber members provided a $1,000 grant for local businesses to receive the benefits of membership with South County Chambers of Commerce.

Several local businesses or nonprofits, who have experienced budget restrictions due to COVID-19, can now join the South County Chambers of Commerce for free for their first year of membership. They can now benefit from the marketing, resources, and up-to-the-minute information that the Chamber offers.

If you would like to be our next MVP, please visit our website at southcountychambers.com/store.
Recap of Meeting on August 28:

On the final days of the California State Legislature’s legislative session, the Chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee focused on issues closer to home. The committee heard from the Cities of Grover Beach’s City Manager Matt Bronson, Arroyo Grande’s Mayor Pro Tem Keith Storton, and Pismo Beach Mayor Pro Tempore’s Erik Howell on updates from their cities on ways they are navigating how to serve their businesses and residents in this changing environment.

Chamber CEO Jocelyn Brennan presented a year-to-date review of the Chamber’s governmental affairs work, including formal positions taken by the Board of Directors on issues. The committee further discussed the concerns brought by the local small businesses in the cosmetology industry that are struggling under the current restrictions they are under and how the chamber can advocate to support changes.

— Clint Weirick, Co-Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee of South County Chambers of Commerce

Want to participate in our next Governmental Affairs Business Meeting? Save the date for Friday, September 25, at 8 am. This will be an online Zoom meeting. Please RSVP for at southcountychambers.com to receive the link to login.

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New Chamber Member Highlights

Welcome, Joyfully Joined Events, to the Chamber!

Joyfully Joined Events specializes in affordable day-of-wedding coordination. Business owner Mary has worked in various positions in the wedding and event industry on the Central Coast. She offers an extensive background in venue management at several prestigious properties in the area. She also provides catering consultation and coordination services to many local businesses. Joyfully Joined Events can plan a business meeting, party, a celebration of life service, or any kind of celebration. Any size event is welcome, and they can customize a package for your needs. For more information, please visit joyfullyjoinedevents.com.

Welcome to the Chamber, 8575 Perfetto Caffe!

8575 Perfetto Caffe of Grover Beach offers a traditional Italian taste experience. Everything is handmade with passion and fresh, local ingredients. Try a sweet cake, a savory frittata, or a flavorful rich caffè. Their menu features coffee drinks, smoothies, pastries, panini, salads, and more for your breakfast, brunch, or lunch. Their patio is open for outdoor dining. They are located at 1750 El Camino Real, Suite B., in Grover Beach. For more information, please visit 8575perfettocaffe.com.

Welcome, Hey Gorgeous Formal Wear!

Hey Gorgeous Formal Wear of Grover Beach offers tuxedos as well as affordable dresses for bridesmaids, flower girls, mother of the bride, Quinceanera, and prom. Wedding and party rentals are also available. Their store is located at 960 W. Grand Ave., Suite B. Visit heygorgeousformalwear.com.

PETS Hospital ER/Urgent Care offers extraordinary service and remarkable care for your pet anytime — 24/7. The team's compassion, along with their commitment to respect and continued education, creates an environment where talented employees love to work, owners feel cared for, and pets come to heal. Their office is located at 4854 S. Bradley Rd., Suite 109, in Orcutt. For more information, please visit petsurgentcare.com, or call (805) 250-5600.
Welcome to the Chamber, Sloco Health & Wellness!

Sloco Health & Wellness is a highly rated, eco-friendly wellness business in SLO's Historic Railroad District that offers whole body cryotherapy, private infrared sauna sessions, photobiomodulation (red light therapy), dry salt therapy, SomaDome meditation sessions, and Normatec compression therapy. Sloco is building a new wellness model that helps people optimize their health and well-being by delivering a full range of unique therapies and services designed to maximize relaxation, recovery, mobility, mental clarity, and personal joy. They are committed to building a company that makes a positive difference by helping others and giving forward. Sloco is currently having a membership sale that gives open access to all services for $199 per month (regularly $499). For more information, please visit slocohealth.com.

Welcome, The Boardroom of Pismo Beach!

This casual pub and sports bar is situated just 50 feet from the beach. Their delicious food menu offers dishes that perfectly complement their extensive, handpicked selection of the finest beers and favorite Central Coast wines. They are located at 160 Hinds Ave. #101 in Pismo Beach. For more information, please visit theboardroompismobeach.com, or call (805) 295-6222.

Welcome to the Chamber, Speak Your Best!

Deborah, a communications coach, has worked with a variety of high-achieving business professionals, scientists, engineers, government staff, and others to reach new levels of effective communication. She is committed to bringing out your best performance in face-to-face sessions or via the Internet to assess your current skills, set achievable goals, evaluate your progress at each step, incorporate new skills, and rehearse consistently until you reach your next level of performance. Deborah can help clients achieve that next level of expertise and success in a matter of weeks. Sign up for a free Speaking Strategy session. For more information, please visit speakyourbest.com.
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Get to Know Your Local Representatives
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 • 6 PM
FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

Meet the candidates and ask your questions. RSVP at southcountychambers.com for these Zoom discussions.
Thank You, From Your County Public Health Department

Thank you for doing all that you can to slow the spread of COVID-19 in SLO County. We are inspired by your resiliency and willingness to adapt in challenging times. We need to see a case rate of less than 100 per 100,000 population over a 14-day period and at the time of this writing we are seeing a case rate of about 150 per 100,000 in our county. This means COVID-19 is spreading here at a rate faster than the California Public Health Department allows. The County is working hard to encourage members of our community to bring our case rate down, so that businesses that have been forced to close again can soon reopen with modifications. It will take some time, and with your help, we can get there.

We know how challenging these closures and limited operations have been for our local business community. All local employers have had to change the way they do business, and some have been forced to close. We commend each of you for doing your part to change the way you do business, not only for your staff but also for your customers.

Many local businesses are already doing what they can to slow the spread of COVID-19 in SLO County, which includes:

- requiring staff and customers to wear face coverings, reminding and requiring staff to wash hands regularly, frequently disinfecting shared items and spaces, and practicing physical distancing as much as possible.
- We know many of you are also sharing prevention measures your business is taking with staff and customers, and that you’re regularly training staff on any new standards for operations. You may also want to have conversations with staff about how your business is keeping them safe at work, ask employees to take their temperature and report symptoms before they come to work, tell employees to stay home when they are not feeling well, and let staff know what they should do if they get sick or are exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

**Can you require employees to be tested?**

While employers can encourage employees to get tested for COVID-19, they cannot require it. Keep staff and customers safe by telling employees to stay home if they are sick and return to work after 24 hours with no fever, symptoms, and it’s been 10 days since symptoms started. Please continue taking steps to protect workers consistent with CDC and EEOC guidance.

**What happens if one of your staff members tests positive?**

Although you are not required to notify staff if a coworker tests positive for COVID-19, you may tell other staff members but should not disclose the identity of the employee. Anyone in close contact with the infected person will be notified directly by the Public Health Department, which may also contact an employer directly to help notify others. You may tell any staff member who is at risk that they will be contacted directly by Public Health and that there are resources available at ReadySLO.org

**What Resources Are Available to Me as a Business Owner?**

The COVID-19 Employer Playbook is the one-stop-shop on guidance that helps them support a safe, clean environment for workers and customers. The guidance and links in each section can give you the tools you need to open safely and mitigate risks associated with COVID-19. Thank you for staying strong and continuing to do your part to protect your staff, your customers, and our entire community. For more information about COVID-19 and the resources available to business owners, please visit www.emergencyslo.org/en/businesses-workplace.

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EXCITING NEWS!
We’re changing our name to
Central Coast Community Energy
★★★ Coming September 2020 ★★★

The new name reflects our expanded service area, which now includes service for areas of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. These communities join our existing service areas in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. This will unify access to clean energy and local control for over 400,000 residential, commercial and agricultural customers on the Central Coast.

CCCE looks forward to serving residents and businesses in Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Pismo Beach in early 2021 as we become the primary electricity service provider delivering lower rates and community re-investment. Our website will redirect you to the new site, 3CEnergy.org beginning September 4th, 2020.

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