"We’re being surprised. Every year is teaching the fire authorities new lessons. We’re in uncharted territory."

- Governor Jerry Brown on the California wildfires

VICA Advocates on Behalf of Valley Business Community in Sacramento

The VICA delegation joins Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel in Sacramento. From left to right: David Gonzalez (Association of Independent Commercial Producers), Matthew Welsh (Amgen), Ross Pendergraft (Leavitt Group), Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel and Nathan Purkiss (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California).

This week the California Legislature reconvened in Sacramento. VICA delegates traveled to the State Capitol to meet with Assemblymembers Marc Steinorth, Laura Friedman, Timothy Grayson, Adrin Nazarian, Patrick O’Donnell, Jacqui Irwin, Blanca Rubio, Jesse Gabriel and Sharon Quirk-Silva. The delegation also met with the staff of Senator Richard Pan. The delegation shared its concern about the recent Dynamex California Supreme Court Ruling, which will impact every sector of business by severely limiting the definition of independent contractor, far beyond previous tests used to determine if a worker is an independent contractor or employee. VICA also urged legislators to oppose SB 100 (de León), which sets a target for 100% renewable energy and creates increased costs for ratepayers; SB 623 (Monning), which would impose a water tax and further burden underserved communities; and SB 1300 (Jackson), which would expose small and medium businesses to endless lawsuits. The delegation urged the legislature to support SB 905 (Wiener), which would empower local governments to
Oppose Expensive and Unfeasible Mandate on Energy Production

VICA strongly opposes SB 100 (de León), which would increase California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement from 50% to 60% by 2030 and set a goal of 100% clean energy by December 31, 2045. This bill adds expensive and unfeasible mandates on energy production in California. Supporting clean energy is a laudable goal, but government mandates and overregulation are not the best way of achieving this outcome. Low cost, reliable energy is necessary for California's economy to continue robust growth and for California families to have access to affordable energy. Going to 100 percent clean energy will add negative pressures on the grid, ratepayers, and the state by jeopardizing existing affordable energy that has been proven to be reliable.

To oppose Senate Bill 100, click here.

VICA Members Testify at Assembly Small Business Committee

Last week, VICA members Todd Schwartz (Dickey's Barbecue Pit) and Pam Elyea (History for Hire) testified before the Assembly Select Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to share their experiences and challenges as small business owners. Convened by chair Assemblymember Laura Friedman, the committee heard from government agencies and small business owners about resources available and discussed more action which could be taken by the state. The businesses raised issues including rising fees and costs, unintended consequences of labor regulations and how the state could support employers and employees by allowing changes, such as a flexible work week.

Oppose Increased Litigation Against Employers

VICA strongly opposes Senate Bill 1300 (Jackson), which would expose businesses to endless lawsuits over sexual harassment claims, ban resolving issues through settlements, and increase training and compliance costs. It also fails to protect victims by limiting settlement agreements which are beneficial to both parties, forcing cases to go through the legal system. Under SB 1300, a claimant would not need to prove that they were the victim of sexual harassment, only that the employer failed to take all steps necessary to prevent harassment. SB 1300 opens the door to endless lawsuits from opportunistic attorneys on behalf of employees who have not actually suffered any harm. Sexual harassment is insidious, difficult to define, and reflects our wider society and culture. The Legislature has a role to play in this societal conversation, and employers have an (existing) duty to take steps to prevent sexual harassment. However, SB 1300 goes too far and will not address the cultural issues which allow sexual harassment to continue.
Send VICA Your Nominations for the 2018 Harmon Ballin Award

VICA’s Harmon Ballin Community Service Award annually honors an active VICA member who has made an outstanding contribution to our community through their long-term community service activities. A nominee is someone who:

1. Has been an active VICA member and is actively engaged in the organization currently
2. Has significant and long-term involvement in philanthropic and community/public serve organizations or a significant record in that area
3. Is a role model as a community leader

Please submit your nomination to Jessica@vica.com by Friday, August 31.

Join VICA's 2018 Board of Directors

VICA’s 2019 Board of Directors nomination and selection process is underway, and we want your nominations! Board members must be able to attend regular board meetings and be prepared to vote on a wide variety of public policy issues. Board members must also attend regular committee meetings and VICA events. Additional responsibilities may include calling or writing lawmakers, attending press conferences, testifying, authoring editorials, interacting with top opinion leaders and more. For more information on the 2019 Board of Directors guidelines, click here.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating on the board in 2019, please click on the nomination form below and submit to Jessica@vica.com. If you don’t want to serve on the board, but are interested in serving as a committee chair, please let us know that on the nomination form. Applications are due by Friday, August 31.

Click here for the Board of Directors Nomination Form.

Committee Report

Energy, Environment & Utilities Committee (08/10)

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

- Carolina Hernandez from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works presented to the committee on the LA River Master Plan Update.
- The committee heard from WSPA’s Argelia Leon on cap-and-trade regulations and implementation post-AB 398. Alonzo Hill from the California Resources Corporation also presented to committee members on California’s Oil and Natural Gas Industry.
- The committee recommended guiding principles related to AQMD’s proposal to create a local sales tax ballot measure that would raise funds for their Air Quality Management Plan. The intent is for a quarter or half cent sales tax to be placed on the 2020 ballot.
California Legislature is seeking to ban such insurance. SB 910 (Hernandez) would outlaw issuance or renewal of any health plan shorter than 12 months in duration.

Homelessness
The L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to create a pilot program to assist people living in vehicles and to reduce the hazards associated with vehicle dwelling. The program will consist of outreach to people living in their cars, vans and RVs to connect them with social services, money to discourage the use and reuse of dilapidated RVs as dwellings, and solid- and hazardous-waste collection program.

Press
According to a new poll, 43 percent of Republicans believe President Trump should be able to shut down news outlets. In recent months, President Trump has said the “press is the enemy of the American people.”

Member Messages:
Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!
VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for $50 per week or $175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional $5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.

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ABOUT VICA
Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com.

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