Dear Business Partner,

Enclosed for your review is Orange County Business Council’s (OCBC’s) 2017-2018 Legislative Action Guide, which serves as OCBC’s policy platform directing its advocacy programs in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Led by a dedicated Board of Directors and its President and CEO, Lucy Dunn, OCBC serves Orange County’s business community, working with public agencies and academia to ensure the county’s long term economic vitality and quality of life.

To support the efforts by both business and government to promote an environment conducive to job growth and economic prosperity, the OCBC Legislative Action Guide has been developed with significant review and contributions from OCBC members to enumerate OCBC’s positions on major policy issues. This biennial resource includes contact information for the county’s local, state, and federal elected officials to encourage dialogue between business and government.

You may also locate an electronic copy of the Legislative Action Guide online at www.ocbc.org. I encourage you to review the website frequently for up-to-the-minute news on the activities of Orange County businesses, OCBC-sponsored events, as well as legislative tracking and OCBC position statements.

Please consider OCBC a resource throughout the year and do not hesitate to contact our dedicated team with any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryan Starr
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Orange County Business Council

The Leading Voice of Business in Orange County
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ABOUT OCBC

MISSION STATEMENT

Orange County Business Council (OCBC) represents and promotes the business community, working with government and academia to enhance Orange County’s economic development and prosperity in order to preserve a high quality of life.

CORE INITIATIVES

INFRASTRUCTURE: Increase investment in construction, management, and maintenance of Orange County’s infrastructure, which is integral to the region’s long-term viability.

WORKFORCE HOUSING: Increase the supply, choices, and affordability of housing available for a growing Orange County workforce.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Lead the business community’s efforts to further develop a high quality workforce that supports the growing technology-based workplace.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Create a full spectrum of jobs to enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for Orange County residents.

Underpinning the implementation of these initiatives is the expert research of OCBC’s Chief Economic Advisor, Dr. Wallace Walrod. Dr. Walrod and his research team produce in-depth analyses of the state, regional, and local economy, among them the acclaimed Community and Workforce Indicators Reports and the Workforce Housing Scorecard.

Finally, OCBC maintains an aggressive communications program to highlight the organization’s many efforts and accomplishments, and presents high profile events to build awareness and support for OCBC initiatives.

HISTORY

OCBC formed in 1995 through the merger of the 100-year old Orange County Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial League of Orange County, the Orange County Economic Development Consortium, and the public-private think tank, Partnership 2010.

OCBC accomplishes its mission by leading a high-profile, proactive advocacy program at the county, state, and federal level for business interests throughout California and the nation. OCBC focuses on four core initiatives: improving infrastructure, enhancing workforce development, increasing the supply of workforce housing, and advancing economic development.

OCBC’s history of accomplishments includes assisting in reorganizing local governance structures, advancing business-friendly legislation, leading local and regional economic development opportunities, helping charitable partners achieve their financial objectives, promoting high-tech and innovation initiatives, and numerous other programs.

Through its core initiatives, OCBC works to make Orange County a better place to live, work, and raise a family.
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Orange County, CA offers companies the ideal conditions to locate and grow a business.

Jobs and the Economy

OC is a leading global economy

1.51 million people work in Orange County.

If OC were a separate country, it’s economy would rank 45th in the world!

OC’s thriving world exports

OC exports reach over $23.2 billion in 2015 making it the 15th largest U.S. exporting metro area.

Canada and Mexico = 34% of OC’s total exports

Exports to Canada - 2
Exports to Mexico - 1
Exports to Japan - 4
Exports to South Korea - 5
Exports to China - 3

OC is an economic powerhouse leading the region, state and nation

+ 39,000 jobs in last 12 months

One of the lowest unemployment rates at 4.1% in December 2016

Demographics

No one ethnicity is in the majority

- White: 41.1% 1,312,967
- Hispanic: 34.4% 1,089,056
- Asian: 19.6% 621,064
- African American: 1.6% 51,315

6th largest county in the U.S. by population, that’s more people than 20 states in the union!

Lowest overall crime rate in the nation, as well as the lowest violent and property crime

Education

OC’s residents are among the most educated in the nation

84.1% of students finish high school

Over 46% of residents have an associates degree higher

11.3% of undergrad degrees are tech-related

For more stats, data and insights on Orange County, visit www.ocbc.org or LocationOC.org
Abbott Medical Optics
ACEC
Aera Energy LLC
AES Huntington Beach
Affordable Housing Access, Inc.
Alberione, Vons, Pavilions
Allergan, Incorporated
Alzheimer’s Family Services Center
Amcal Multi Housing, Inc.
American Red Cross
Angels Baseball LP
Apartment Association of Orange County
Arts Orange County
AT&T, California
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Atlantic Aviation
Automobile Club of Southern California
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
Bank of America, California
Barclays Capital Public Finance
Best Management Construction, Inc.
BNSF Railway
The Boeing Company
Boy Scouts of America, Orange County Council
Brandman University
Brea Chamber of Commerce
Brookfield Homes
BSH Home Appliances Corporation
Building Industry Association of Orange County
Building Owners and Managers Association
Burns & McDonnell
C.J. Segerstrom & Sons
California Apartment Association Orange County
Cadiz, Inc.
California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC)
California Coastal Communities, Inc.
California Bank & Trust, Orange County
California Housing Consortium
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
CalOptima
Caribou Industries, Inc.
Center Club
Cerrell Associates
Chapman University
Charter Communications
Chevron
Children and Families Commission of OC
CHOC Children’s
Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse
City of Aliso Viejo
City of Anaheim
City of Lake Forest
City of Mission Viejo
City of Santa Ana
City of Tustin
Clearinghouse CDFI
Coast Community College District
Colfoout USA
Colette’s Children’s Home
Competitive Analytics
Concordia University
Cox Business Orange Coast
Curt Pringle & Associates
Discovery Science Center
Disneyland Resort
DMI DIRECT
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
Dot Printer, Incorporated
Edison Energy
The Elite OC
Emerson Process Management
Experian
ExxonMobil
Fidelity National Title Company
First American Title Company
FivePoint Communities, Incorporated
Fluor Corporation
Friendly Hills Bank
FSB Core Strategies
Fujitsu Frontech North America, Inc.
Gallade Chemical, Inc.
GardenWalk Hotel I, LLC
General Motors
Geosyntec Consultants
German American Business Association, Inc.
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Girl Scout Council of Orange County
Golden State Water Company
Goodwill of Orange County
Greenberg Gross LLP
Guida Surveying, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Hewlett Packard
HNTB Corporation
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
Horowitz Management, Inc.
Hospital Association of Southern California
Hotel Irvine
Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce
Ice Energy
Information Management Resources, Inc. (IMRI)
Irvine Chamber of Commerce
The Irvine Company
Irvine Health Foundation
Irvine Ranch Water District
The Island Hotel
JTT Corporation
Jacobs
Jamboree Housing Corporation
Japan Business Association
John Wayne Airport
JP Morgan Chase and Company
Kaiser Permanente of Orange County
KCOMM
Kimberly Clark Corporation
Kofax, Incorporated
KPMG LLP
LA/OC Regional Consortium
Latham & Watkins
Lennar Homes
LSA Associates, Incorporated
LT Global Investment
Lyft
Majestic Realty Company
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP
Mater Dei High School
The Mayer Corporation
MemorialCare Health System
Mesa Consolidated Water District
Metrolink
Metropolitan Water District Southern California
Michael Baker International
MMFX Technologies Corporation
Mobility3, LLC
Municipal Water District Orange County
National Community Renaissance of California
NAWBO
Newport Banning Ranch LLC
North Orange County Community College District
North Orange County Chamber
Nossaman LLP
NRG Energy Inc. – West Region
NRI Secure Technologies, Ltd.
OC Fair & Event Center
OHL USA, Inc.
Olive Crest
R.D. Olson Development
OneOC
Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
County of Orange
Orange County Association of Realtors
Orange County Automobile Dealers Association
Orange County Bar Association
Orange County Department of Education
Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OCLAFCCO)
Orange County Register and Southern California News Group
Orange County Sanitation District
Orange County Taxpayers Association
Orange County Transportation Authority
Orange County Visitors Association
Orange County’s United Way
Orkin Pest Control
Pacific Chorale
Pacific Hospitality Group Ventures, Inc.
Pacific Life
Pacific Symphony
Parsons
PBS SoCal
PIMCO
Poseidon Water
Project Access
Pomona
PTS Staffing Solutions
R.J. Noble Company
Ralphs Grocery Company
Rancho Mission Viejo LLC
Reed & Davidson LLP
Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)
Ring Bender McKown & Castillo LLP
Rutan & Tucker, LLP
Saddleback Memorial Foundation
San Diego Gas and Electric
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce
Santa Margarita Water District
SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union
Scientific Resources Survey, Inc.
Scott Baugh & Associates
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Skanska
Smith Public Affairs
Snell & Wilmer LLP
South OC Community College District
South Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Gas Company
Southwest Airlines Co.
St. Joseph Health System
Strathspye Crown Holdings, LLC
SunPower Corporation
Suzanne’s Catering & Event Planning
Taller San Jose
Taylor Digital, Inc.
THINK Together
Tiger Woods Learning Center
Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc.
Toyota Motor Sales, USA
Transportation Corridor Agencies
U S Bank
Uber Technologies
Union Bank
Union Pacific Railroad
United Parcel Service
University of California, Irvine
VCS Environmental Inc.
Vital Link
Wells Fargo
Western Digital Corporation
Western States Petroleum Association
Whittier Trust
Wildan Group, Incorporated
The Wooden Floor
World Affairs Council
WRAP Media LLC
BACKGROUND

Orange County is one of the most economically competitive and prosperous regions in the world. Maintaining the county’s competitive edge requires an intense commitment to preserving and enhancing a positive business climate in the evolving global economy.

Orange County continues to transform from a traditional manufacturing economy to a high-tech, knowledge-intensive economy. OCBC conducts substantial research on rapidly growing industry clusters, results of which validated this ongoing transformation. A key trend is the significant loss of defense, aerospace, and computer hardware industry activity over the past 20 years and the rise of the health care, business, and professional services clusters.

Whether Orange County will continue on this path will hinge in no small part on its ability to cultivate a workforce fit for an increasingly inter-dependent and competitive global economy. Arguably, the most important economic development tool for Orange County’s future is our education and workforce training system. Creating a skilled workforce will require bold ideas and concerted actions among business leaders, policy-makers, educators, workforce professionals, researchers, and most importantly, parents and students.

Attainable but ambitious short-term goals must be paired with an understanding and vision about Orange County’s long-term prospects to maintain competitiveness. A highly skilled workforce, affordable workforce housing, and efficient transportation networks are of paramount importance to the successful growth and prosperity of the region’s economy.

Workers’ compensation and health care costs, restricted access to capital, and limited tax-based incentives must be addressed in order to discourage businesses from leaving the State or expanding elsewhere.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Orange County business requires State and federal policies enabling businesses to thrive in the global economy and a comprehensive strategy for local governments to achieve each community’s economic goals. OCBC also acknowledges the need for government to allow for advancements in technology and innovation as the economy changes. In support of the sharing/Gig’ economy, discussions are necessary with internal and external partners to explore issues related to independent contractor/dependent contractor status and joint-employer standards. In addition, conducting further research, events, and member outreach relating to the public’s perception of Internet of Things to prepare for possible legislative and regulatory measures related to the debate. Focus will remain on appropriately communicating the broad positive economic impact on both industry and the consumer to federal policymakers and regulators.

“Arguably, the most important economic development tool for Orange County’s future is our education and workforce training system.”
Positions

OCBC supports:

- Federal research and development investments, manufacturers job credit proposals, and other strategies that will support manufacturing and growth in industry clusters that produce high multiplier effects and strengthen global competitiveness;

- Economic development programs that take into account the current workforce trends, including the need to emphasize bio and high technology training;

- Stable funding through identifiable source(s) and a public policy environment conducive to meeting the region’s transportation, housing, and workforce education needs;

- Effective and timely communication between businesses, workers, and educators, to ensure that education and training programs target the needs of business;

- Economic development programs within educational institutions and other community-based organizations to produce a more qualified workforce;

- State and local government fiscal reform that will result in better land use decisions and provide a more reliable, long-term source of funding for local services;

- Small business access to technical assistance and capital;

- Permanent establishment of the California Competes Tax Credits, Manufacturing/R&D/Biotech Sales and Use Tax Exemption, and the New Employment Credit;

- A more balanced regulatory climate that enables businesses to overcome barriers to economic growth and comply with reasonable regulatory requirements;

- International and domestic business incentives and programs to further expand the county’s economy including logistics/ports industries including multi-year reauthorization of the U.S Export-Import Bank and an expansion of Free Trade Agreements with foreign nations;

- Honoring existing treaties and expanding opportunities with foreign governments;

- Work with internal and external partners to ensure that startup companies are properly represented and equipped to work with venture capitalists, government agencies, and policymakers as their companies grow. Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs);

- Continuation of monitoring action at the federal level and prevent enactment of divergent laws at the state level that would stifle technology development and potentially harm the safety around these technologies;

- Continued advocacy for an open environment to allow for continuing research and the creation of responsible AI technologies. Work with public and private sector leaders to educate the public, media, the business community, and policymakers on the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Financial Technology (FinTech); and

- Urging regulators to avoid regulatory arbitrage and proceed with caution regarding FinTech development and implementation. As with traditional financial services, avoid massive regulatory duplication, unnecessary burdens, and ambivalence to cost benefit analyses to encourage FinTech innovation.
BACKGROUND

Orange County’s thriving economy will continue to expand into global markets, supporting local enterprises and sustaining economic vitality. International trade directly and indirectly accounts for over 202,000 jobs in Orange County, which is the third highest exporter in the state and 15th in the nation, producing $28 billion in export volume. Top exports (in order) are: computer and electronics, transportation equipment, chemical, machinery, and food. Orange County’s top trading partners are Mexico (25 percent), Canada (12 percent), China (10 percent), Japan (8 percent), and South Korea (4 percent). Congress granted President Bush fast track negotiating authority (also called Trade Promotion Authority [TPA]) in 2002, allowing the administration to negotiate trade agreements that Congress can approve or disapprove but cannot amend or filibuster. It was reauthorized by the Trade Act in 2002, which expired in 2007, but remained in effect for agreements made through 2011. The Obama administration sought reauthorization and the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 passed through congress, which also allowed for enhanced power to negotiate major trade agreements with Asia and Europe.

Fast track policies provide an appropriately balanced role for Congress and are clearly in Orange County’s economic interests. Reauthorization of fast track authority will help continue to increase high technology competitiveness and ensure access to foreign markets by eliminating tariffs/duties on Information Technology (IT) products, medical equipment, telecommunications products, and infrastructure.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Public policy and regulatory environments should enhance opportunities for high technology companies and others in global trade.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Unlimited fast track authority for the President in international trade negotiations and U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and adherence to its precepts for the promotion of fair standards;
- Removing barriers that hinder U.S. companies in foreign markets and the elimination of unfair trading practices;
- Negotiations in the U.S. and other countries to protect patents, trademarks, copyrights, and intellectual property;
- Agreements and standards facilitating the development of a port security strategy to secure movement of goods and services, and long-term strategies to avert work stoppages at West Coast ports;
- Science-based policies concerning electrical and electronic waste and consistency between U.S. and European policies in this area;
- International trade education designed to increase general awareness, understanding, and participation in the growth of international business;
- Opening new markets to international trade; and
- Education and workforce development policies that ensure U.S. citizens remain the highest skilled workers.
TOURISM

BACKGROUND

California’s travel-related businesses employ nearly one million Californians directly and contribute approximately $2.5 billion in local taxes and $4.1 billion in State taxes. The tourism industry is California’s fourth largest employer and fifth largest contributor to the gross state product.

Tourism historically accounts for over 15 percent of Orange County’s workforce—one of the largest employment cluster. While, the economic crisis impacted the tourism industry with a decline in jobs and overall consumer spending, Orange County’s tourism industry has since rebounded. All 158,700 jobs that were lost during the recession have been recovered. In addition, visitor spending in Orange County totaled $11.3 billion in 2015, up from $9.5 billion in 2012.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Legislation should focus on supporting and protecting the County and State’s tourism industry, through responsible advocacy working with elected officials, government agencies, and the public.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Protecting the free market system and allowing businesses to grow;
- Encouraging public private partnerships for increased investment in tourism projects;
- Designation of John Wayne Airport as a Port of Entry by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) so that the federal government is responsible for all costs associated with federal inspection services;
- Investment in infrastructure to support leisure destinations and tourism attractions; and
- Government incentives for attracting private investment for dining, entertainment, and lodging establishments.
BACKGROUND

Since the passing of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved a variety of other corporate governance statutes and regulations to oversee and control the manner in which corporations and similar business entities are managed.

OCBC recognizes the importance of maintaining public confidence in corporate markets through ethical and competent corporate management. At the same time, profits and ethics are not mutually exclusive. Ethical patterns in the boardroom permeate down through the corporation. The best way of ensuring that a corporation’s business will prosper to the benefit of the shareholders, directors, officers, employees, and customers, is to create a corporate culture that encourages everyone in the corporation—from the directors to the officers to the employees—to perform their duties in an honest and competent manner.

Policy Objectives

Public policies should promote standards of corporate governance that guide boards of directors and corporate officers in managing their corporations in a competent and ethical manner.

POSITIONS

OCBC contends that rules regarding the governance and management of corporations, including those pertaining to accounting procedures, should ideally be created and imposed voluntarily by a corporation’s directors and officers, rather than mandated by law. OCBC realizes, however, that in some cases, mandatory laws are preferable in order to ensure uniform compliance or to foster public confidence.

OCBC supports:

• Establishing a climate that encourages competent, qualified, honest, and ethical people to commit the time and effort necessary to become corporate directors;
• Protecting not only a corporation’s majority and minority shareholders, but also its employees, customers, suppliers, creditors, and the public at large;
• Providing safeguards against negligent or incompetent decision-making while still giving directors and officers the freedom to take reasonable business risks;
**General Business Issues**

Background

Public policies and regulatory climates can either boost or negatively impact the ability of California's businesses to compete locally, nationally, and globally. In considering public policies and regulations impacting the workplace, it is important for decision makers and regulators to be mindful of the ramifications of their decisions for California business owners who are striving to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Compensation Issues

Wage and compensation issues have a direct impact on labor costs and therefore; impact a business’ overall competitiveness. California enacted policies and regulations that go well beyond federal protections for employees. This places California businesses at an economic disadvantage when competing nationally and globally with businesses from other states and has the potential to drive businesses to leave California.

The California minimum wage increases to $10.50 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees beginning January 1, 2017, and then increases each year until reaching $15 per hour in 2022. Once the minimum wage reaches $15 per hour for all businesses, wages could then increase each year up to 3.5 percent (rounded to the nearest 10 cents) for inflation as measured by the national Consumer Price Index. Taxpayers also are affected because the companies pass on the higher costs to the cities and or counties with which they have contracts.

Chemical and Environmental Exposure

Businesses inherently need to ensure that workplaces are healthy and safe for all employees. To this end, various regulatory measures protect all workers from chemical exposures (e.g., combustibles, airborne contaminants) and other work environment exposures (e.g., noise, temperature, ergonomics). Businesses must pay a cost impact to comply with these regulatory measures and thus, there is a direct correlation between these types of regulations

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**2 EMPLOYEE/EMPLOYER RELATIONS ISSUES**

**BACKGROUND**

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**CHEMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE**

Businesses inherently need to ensure that workplaces are healthy and safe for all employees. To this end, various regulatory measures protect all workers from chemical exposures (e.g., combustibles, airborne contaminants) and other work environment exposures (e.g., noise, temperature, ergonomics). Businesses must pay a cost impact to comply with these regulatory measures and thus, there is a direct correlation between these types of regulations.
and a business’s competitiveness. To the extent that California enacts policies and regulations that exceed federal standards for employee protection, California businesses are at an economic disadvantage compared to those operating in other states.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS**

Independent contractors serve an important role in the economic development of Orange County by providing expertise, flexibility, quality improvement, and cost savings to all types of businesses. Recent case law is eroding the cost-effectiveness of independent contractors, making their clients liable for health care, unemployment benefits, workers’ compensation, savings plans, pensions, and even stock options. The continuation of this trend will deprive businesses of a vital resource.

**RIGHT TO WORK**

Labor unions are increasingly active in influencing the State legislature on workforce issues. In particular, they are pressing for the expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act’s (FMLA) binding arbitration in labor-management disputes, limitations on employers’ abilities to screen for legal residency status, and for such protections as requiring a janitorial company that has been purchased by a new owner to continue the employment of the existing staff for a 60-day “trial” period. It is important to create a better balance between the employees’ rights to organize and business vitality.

**AVAILABILITY OF LABOR**

The Orange County labor pool will experience significant growth over the next 20 years. However, forecasts indicate a substantial loss of its 25- to 34-year-old demographic. As a result, by 2025, the largest age groups will be in the 0- to 14-year-olds and 65+ demographics. The county must respond to the fact that the population is aging, while we lose the single greatest age group that contributes to the job base.

The most significant reason for this shift in the labor force is a lack of affordable housing opportunities for young families and first-time home buyers, as well as transportation challenges that make it increasingly difficult for this segment of the labor force to commute to and from, as well as within, Orange County for work. Policymakers and business leaders must work to find solutions to these issues and confront the additional challenges that businesses have in finding employees with strong math and science skills.

**MEDICAL/BENEFIT PARITY ISSUES**

Businesses often experience friction with organized labor groups over medical and other employment benefits. Many labor union contracts call for full family medical plans paid totally by the employing company. California businesses will experience continued friction in this regard over the next few years. Additionally, State and local policymakers, including the Orange County Board of Supervisors, must work to reform the current employee pension obligation system, which is in danger of becoming insolvent if administration and contribution reforms are not considered. Refer to the Health Care section of this guide for more information.

**POLICY OBJECTIVES**

Public policies should enable business to respond competitively to new opportunities while promoting safe environments for employees.
Positions

OCBC supports:

• California’s conformity with federal law in the areas of overtime and alternative work schedule flexibility;
• Efforts to keep California from further exceeding federal laws for:
  ◊ Exempt and non-exempt classifications,
  ◊ FMLA, and
  ◊ Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) discrimination (e.g., age discrimination, sexual harassment, etc.);
• The right of employees and employers to enter into agreements for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR);
• A consistent definition of independent contractors, simplified rules regarding independent contractor/client relationships, and the elimination of financial penalties, such as back taxes and benefits obligations, arising from good faith misclassifications;
• Limitations on the activities of unions where the employees of a company have indicated a lack of desire to unionize;
• Limitations on the use of binding arbitration in labor/management negotiations;
• Legislative review of existing statutes with a focus towards a more equitable balance of the rights of employers, employees, and organized labor; and
• A better balance between employee privacy and business responsibility, including limits on business liability where privacy legislation precludes employers from asking or securing employee information.

OCBC opposes:

• Prevailing and living wage mandates and ordinances.

Litigation Reform

Background

The perception that California does not offer a business-friendly environment is due, in part, to a legal system that is inefficient, expensive, and slow to respond to genuine needs. A virtual legal lottery exists in many different areas of the law; particularly wrongful termination, discrimination, and product liability claims. As a result, employers and their insurers often face the painful choice of settling frivolous lawsuits early as an economic tradeoff to mounting a more expensive—though usually successful—legal defense. Civil litigation reform is critical to California’s economic success.

Policy Objectives

Litigation reform is needed to halt the crippling effects of unwarranted, excessive, and frivolous lawsuits on businesses, consumers, and taxpayers.
OCBC supports:

- Reforms to the legal system to discourage and eliminate frivolous lawsuits, including reasonable limits upon recoveries, particularly in punitive damages and non-economic damages, and prevailing party recovery of litigation expenses in cases of questionable merit;
- Use of arbitration and mediation for prompt and cost-effective dispute resolution in appropriate circumstances, including employment, health care, property, and automobile accident cases;
- Construction dispute litigation reform and other legal strategies to encourage settlement of issues between builders and homeowners;
- The cornerstones of the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA), which place reasonable limits on attorneys’ fees and non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases;
- New laws to ensure consumers are fully informed of their rights and options when hiring a contingency fee attorney;
- Appellate review of rulings granting class action certification, similar to established law providing for appellate review of rulings denying class certification;
- Stricter guidelines for the use of science and hired “experts” in the courtroom;
- Improvements to California’s system for jury service and jury selection to achieve a more representative sample of the community to serve as jurors;
- Preservation of reforms enacted through California’s Unfair Practice Act, intended to reduce excessive litigation and abusive lawsuits targeted at California businesses;
- New laws for disclosure of partnerships between the attorney general and private attorneys pursuing litigation on behalf of the State;
- Reforms to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) legislation that encourages access rather than litigation; and
- Action by the attorney general to stop abusive lawsuits alleging violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

OCBC opposes:

- Attempts to circumvent the workers’ compensation system in the construction area;
- Attempts to publicize confidential business information obtained in the “discovery” process of a lawsuit;
- Attempts by the attorney general to regulate business through litigation instead of the public legislative process; and
- CEQA lawsuits for purposes other than for legitimate environmental litigation.

“Civil litigation reform is critical to California’s economic success.”
Background

Offshore outsourcing is a result of the increasing global economy. For local businesses to be competitive in the global economy, California must reduce the high cost of doing. In the absence of a more competitive business climate in California, offshore outsourcing provides a way to reduce costs and enables California companies to compete globally and grow in California.

Protectionist legislation hurts California’s economy, increases the cost of California government processes, and encourages companies to leave the State — taking jobs with them. The best way for California to protect its job base is to ensure a diverse workforce that will be fit for an increasingly interdependent and competitive global economy.

Policy Objectives

Public policy should promote and maintain a competitive business environment in Orange County, California, and throughout the nation.

Positions

OCBC supports:

• Open markets here and abroad;
• Flexibility for employers in reducing their costs of doing business;
• Contracting governmental services to the private sector when appropriate through the competitive bidding process; and
• An in-depth study of the benefits of offshore outsourcing to the economy of California and the nation.

OCBC opposes:

• Protectionist legislation.

Taxes and Fees

Background

Business taxpayers pay more than their share of the cost of government. Additional tax increases, especially those that target business, will cripple California’s economic growth and job creation.

Policy Objectives

Businesses benefit from simplified tax structures, lower taxes, taxes logically associated with specific government services, and the enactment of incentives supporting economic growth.
OCBC supports:

- Balanced local, State, and federal budgets that reduce spending without shifting costs to or imposing mandates upon other levels of government;
- Federal tax reform, which may include consideration of the flat tax, a national sales tax, or value-added tax to meet overall policy objectives as a replacement for current income tax structure;
- Lower capital gains taxes;
- Tax credits and other incentives for saving and investing, including increased 401(k) percentages and increased ceiling limits on contributions;
- The correction of Orange County's current status as a “donor” county with regard to State and federal transportation funding;
- The use of private sector investment, rather than governmental taxes and spending, where possible, to accomplish public benefits;
- Majority vote approval of tax increases for community infrastructure improvements, coupled with oversight and cost-containment;
- Clear distinctions between taxes and user fees; a direct nexus for fees to an administrative cost or provision of public service;
- Extreme caution in considering the modification or elimination of taxpayers’ ability to have elected officials, as opposed to appointed staff, resolve California tax disputes;
- Tax incentives to maintain and create high-value jobs in the manufacturing sector; and
- Review of public services provided by government, privatization of public services wherever possible, restructuring of governmental agencies for greater efficiency, and streamlining of the tax structures.

“Business taxpayers pay more than their share for the cost of government.”

OCBC opposes:

- Taxes that place California or Orange County at a competitive disadvantage;
- Changes to Proposition 13 (split roll tax);
- Local sales tax measures that do not specify intended expenditures;
- Taxes on services; and
- Federal, State, and local fees imposed by agency/department officials rather than those duly approved by the voters or appropriate elected officials.
BACKGROUND

Privacy is an issue that continues to grow in importance. Due to an increase in paperless transactions, better technology, and new ways to market to consumers, keeping one’s personal history secure is increasingly difficult. In recent years, we have seen a rise in identity theft, which costs consumers, businesses, and financial institutions over $56 billion each year. Federal and State legislators and regulators continue to enact laws to protect consumers.

A federal standard on privacy would create national guidelines that help businesses and commerce between states. Due to privacy limitations set forth by the FMLA and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), it is difficult for businesses to determine the extent to which an employee will be away from his/her job due to injury. This can create staffing issues and make it difficult for businesses to mitigate problematic conditions. Companies need access to the information critical to meeting their obligations of returning injured workers to work and ensuring safe work environments. Privacy needs to equally protect and benefit the consumer, business, and employee. Business understands the need for consumer privacy protection and works closely with government and law enforcement to create a secure climate. With electronic commerce expanding at a high rate, lawmakers must gain a deeper understanding of how consumers benefit from information sharing and allow businesses greater flexibility.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

To advocate for strong consumer privacy protection, while continuing to promote business opportunities.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

• Privacy guidelines set forth in the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act;
• Fair and equitable State and local regulations that align within federal guidelines and don’t interfere with a company’s ability to serve its customers; and
• Legislation that allows businesses to access critical information required to respond to the workplace needs of injured or disabled employees and prevent further injury in the workplace.

OCBC opposes:

• Burdensome privacy regulations that would stifle commerce while providing little protection to the consumer; and
• Local privacy ordinances that attempt to pre-empt State or federal legislation or regulation.
BACKGROUND

Whether paid in the form of insurance premiums or direct expenses for medical treatment and benefits, workers’ compensation is a significant cost of doing business for every public and private employer in California. Despite California employers paying a much higher cost than employers in other states, the outcomes are worse for California’s injured workers. Only after years of exorbitant costs and crippling inefficiency did State leaders begin to make fundamental reforms to the workers’ compensation system, occurring between 2002 and 2004. Unfortunately, the gains made in reforming the workers’ compensation program chipped away over the last few years. A 2010 workers’ compensation cost survey of all states, conducted by the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, found that California, which ranked the ninth highest costs in 2009, has jumped to fifth place, with an average of $2.68 per $100 payroll, which is 31 percent above the national average.

California employers pay 18 percent of national benefits, but employ only 12 percent of the covered workforce. Workers’ compensation costs to employers must be further reduced to ensure that California remains economically competitive in the world market. In addition, the system needs more reforms to ensure an efficient and clear process, allowing employers and employees to resolve workplace accidents without having to navigate the court system, making the process quicker and less contentious.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

California needs an efficient and cost-effective workers’ compensation system that provides fair compensation for legitimate claims while protecting employers from the financial and productivity effects of abuse.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Controlled costs through the elimination of fraud, reduced litigation, and the consistent application of established principles for determining eligibility;
- Best practices in the areas of standards, medical findings, and criteria applied uniformly to the application of workers’ compensation law and the administration of the workers’ compensation system to streamline the determination of disability, delivery of benefits, and decisions concerning the injured worker’s ability to return to work;
- Elimination of financial and other incentives for claimants to seek legal representation;
- The option for employers to combine health care coverage for employees with the medical coverage provided through workers’ compensation; and
- Efforts to address the problem of carrier insolvency consistent with the above principles.

Orange County business opposes:

- Any roll-back or amendments designed to weaken workers’ compensation reform in California.
8

Government Reform

Background

It is prudent to regularly review the role of government and the manner in which public services are provided. Orange County’s population increased 1,400 percent in the past 50 years, growing from 216,000 to over 3 million people. It is the second most populous county in the State and the sixth most populous in the U.S. Orange County has 34 incorporated cities and more than 200 independent agencies providing a myriad of services to its residents. Hundreds of directors serve on the governing boards of special purpose agencies, often hidden from public and/or media scrutiny. While the quality of public services provided by these government agencies is often very good, multiple management layers and overlapping service areas dictate a need for greater efficiency and accountability. At the State level, long-term, stable funding for government services is critical. The lack of stable funding has resulted in many local governments passing numerous (and often burdensome) special fees and taxes, causing local governments to raise revenue by directly competing with the private sector to provide certain services. OCBC urges the Governor, the State Legislature, municipalities and special districts to work for the adoption of stable, long-term, and reliable financing formulas for local governments that will in turn promote land use approvals that are not solely based upon revenue generation. These endeavors will result in a stronger economy for both Orange County and the State.

Policy Objectives

Californians should be able to rely on long-term, stable, reliable, and equitable funding for essential public services.

Positions

OCBC supports:

- State and local government finance reform that provides a long-term, stable financing mechanism for essential public services and infrastructure during both lean- and high-growth economic times;
- Accountability to the voters and other taxpayers that includes a form of funding for public services that is understandable to the voting public;
- Local government term limit reform that will be long enough in term to encourage leadership on governmental association and regional/special district governing boards;
- Services provided at the level of government closest to the people and with funds most closely related to the services, including greater reliance upon property taxes by local governments to provide property-related community services;
- Clarification of State and local governments’ roles;
- Eliminating of unfunded State mandates;
- Equitable redistribution of sales and property taxes to protect cities’ long-term infrastructure, public safety, and human resources investments;
- Contracting governmental services out to the private sector through the competitive bidding process when appropriate; and
- Effective research/market-based pension reforms.
OCBC opposes:

- Wasteful government spending;
- State raids on local government funding;
- Excessive and inconsistent term limits on elected officials;
- Legislation or regulations that are intended to harm or eliminate competition in a free marketplace; and
- Regional governmental bodies reaching beyond their scope or jurisdiction to create or influence policy.

**9 Cybersecurity**

**Background**

The United States is a prime target of massive and sustained cyber-attacks into national computer, banking, and communication networks. What is not abundantly clear and understood is that massive and sustained cyber-attacks pose a threat to U.S. economic competitiveness and to critical infrastructure resources that are central to everyday life. Victims of major cyber-attacks have included Target, J.P. Morgan Chase, UPS, Home Depot, Google, eBay, and U.S. Investigations Services (a federal contractor).

These threats can originate from domestic or overseas sources and from the public or private sector. The National Intelligence Estimate identifies China as the country most aggressively seeking to penetrate the computer systems of American businesses and institutions to gain access to data that could be used for economic gain. In theory, however, cyber-attacks can originate from nearly any jurisdiction and with any number of objectives.

Targeted attacks against businesses and governments increased to approximately 30,000 a year in 2012. It is estimated that cyber breaches cost the U.S. from $24 billion to $120 billion and cost the global economy between $300 billion to $1 trillion. Federal officials indicate that in 2013, they notified more than 3,000 U.S. companies that their computer systems had been hacked; marking the first time the U.S. Government has revealed how often it tipped off the private sector to cyber intrusions.

The truth is that hacking is easy—80 to 90 percent of successful breaches of corporate networks required only the most basic techniques. In addition, a total of 96 percent of successful breaches could have been avoided if the victim had put in place simple or intermediate controls. A strong majority of breaches take months to be discovered with the average time of five months and the discovery was usually made by a third party rather than the victim. Currently there are almost 50 million different viruses on the Internet and detection rates for antivirus software average only 20 percent.

One rather challenging factor is that the nature, speed, and sophistication of the threats posed to U.S. companies and institutions continuously evolve. Those devising malevolent intrusions of U.S. networks learn, react, and improvise almost as nimbly as do the safeguards designed to prevent such intrusions. The public-private nature of this phenomenon is clear in that cyber-attacks present national security, public safety, economic sabotage, and law enforcement threats (that is, areas that traditionally involve government’s most basic roles). At the same time, the targets of such cyber-attacks are quite often private companies and individuals. Therefore, the initial defense mechanisms also reside in the private sector.
Federal and state governments are increasingly active in this realm. In 2014, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released its “Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity.” The Framework is an analytical tool for assessing cybersecurity threats and applying risk management best practices to them. The Framework is a set of recommendations and adoption of its content is voluntary. Other federal agencies (including the SEC, FTC, FCC, and FFIEC) increased their focus on cybersecurity and these issues are being addressed by corporate boards, insurance underwriters, and others.

All of this is occurring while more devices increase in interconnectivity in what has been referred to as the “Internet of Things” where things, people, processes, and data are all connected. This era promises great innovation opportunities, but also increased (and different) cybersecurity risks than those that currently prevail.

**Policy Objectives**

A major objective of cybersecurity public policy should be encouraging investments in cybersecurity safeguards (including preparedness and mitigation measures) and their deployment as part of an enterprise’s broader risk management strategy. OCBC fosters the participation of Orange County companies and institutions in cybersecurity policy discussions in Washington D.C. and Sacramento.

**Positions**

**OCBC supports:**

- Continued public-private partnership of the type which led to the 2014 Framework issued by NIST;
- Maintenance of a voluntary approach to cybersecurity practices in the private sector, as opposed to a system of legally mandated practices;
- Passage of the Cyber Information Sharing Act in Congress and similar bills at the federal or State levels that remove barriers to the sharing of information about cyber threats and cyber events;
- Adherence to transparent rule-making procedures by government agencies considering an increase in their oversight of private sector cybersecurity practices in activities falling under their respective jurisdictions;
- Creating either a single federal standard or efforts to harmonize disparate State standards pertaining to data breach notification criteria and procedures;
- Strict consistency with a risk-based approach for further government oversight of private sector cybersecurity practices;
- Efforts designed to make Orange County’s elected representatives at various government levels champions of reasonable and appropriate cybersecurity policies;
- Active engagement by Orange County companies with legislative and regulatory officials and participation in various public-private policy councils on cybersecurity; and
- Increasing awareness in the hands of Orange County companies about government sales opportunities involving cybersecurity goods and services (including technical requirements).
BACKGROUND

More than $70 billion in tax revenue is spent in California each year on government-sponsored programs (i.e., Medicare, Medi-Cal, and County-sponsored health/mental health programs) for the otherwise uninsured. Implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) expand Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) by guaranteeing coverage for the uninsured and moving many of those served in the county's health care program (MSI) into Medi-Cal. Before ACA, 17 percent — or 526,340 — of Orange County residents were uninsured. As of December 2014, it was less than 200,000. This is due in large part to CalOptima, Orange County’s administering agency for the Medi-Cal program, which saw significant growth in its membership as a result of the ACA. As of 2017, over 800,000 Orange County residents and their children were CalOptima members.

The business of health care will rapidly increase over the next five years, which includes replacing retiring workers. In addition to the high demand jobs for registered nurses, home health aides, medical and dental assistants, there is still a large need for radiology technicians, physical therapists and social and human service assistants. Employment growth varies between high-wage and low-wage jobs, and education requirements differ in every field.

The health care industry is also one of the most highly regulated and suffers from unsustainably low reimbursement from the government, as well as unpredictability of funding. In Orange County and throughout California, we must explore new models that will use existing resources more efficiently. The business community must partner with elected and agency officials and influential stakeholders to forge creative, consensus-based solutions to health care access and support the providers.

While the ACA may be modified, repealed or replaced under a new Administration, healthcare shall continue to grow in importance due to our aging population and the growth of technology.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Promote public/private partnerships to expand affordable health care coverage for all citizens; maximize free market options and choices; and minimize mandates upon employers, insurers, and providers. Identify sustainable, reliable funding sources for all initiatives and programs.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Monitoring federal efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to evaluate impacts on health care coverage for Americans and ensure collective accountability, cost transparency, timely reimbursement to health care providers and improved cost and coverage outcomes for employers and employees;

- Competition in the health care market and among private-sector providers as the best means to achieve a more efficient, affordable, and quality-driven health care system;
• Preservation of MICRA in California and adoption of similar policies at the federal level. Restrictions on meritless lawsuits against hospitals and other providers alleging breach of government obligation to provide medical care to uninsured patients;

• Reasonable, cost-based reimbursements to health care providers in voluntary, contracted relationships with governmental entities to provide health care services;

• Emphasis in workforce development initiatives and the direction of workforce development funds toward initiatives that will increase the number of nurses and other health professionals needed in the Orange County workforce;

• Reasonable flexibilities in the California nurse/patient ratio regulations that recognize practical, workplace challenges and are consistent with the provision of quality hospital care;

• State/local fiscal reforms that address property tax distribution inequities in realignment formulas in order to bring Orange County closer to parity with other counties in providing health care services to their residents;

• Adequate funding to assist hospitals and medical personnel in planning for and responding to natural disasters or other mass casualty incidents;

• Seismic mandate relief for hospitals without the imposition of additional, unrelated regulatory burdens;

• The evaluation of current health care delivery models in Orange County, with an eye toward changes and reforms leading to greater efficiencies, better patient care, expanded health care access, and a sustainable system;

• Policies that promote the retention and growth of California's life sciences industry, with particular emphasis on issues that affect Orange County's ability to maintain its leadership in the medical device sector;

• Development of options for employers to combine health care coverage for employees with the medical coverage provided through workers’ compensation; and

• Policies that promote the retention and growth of California's life sciences industry with Orange County's leadership in the biopharmaceutical and medical device sectors.

**OCBC opposes:**

• Disparity in taxes, regulations, or mandated standards applied to private-sector health plans versus public-sector or union plans;

• Mandatory staffing ratios imposed by government agencies;

• Imposition of burdensome and inflexible standards on nonprofit hospitals in order to obtain tax-exempt status and financing;

• Mandates upon employers to procure health care coverage for employees;

• Mandates on hospitals and other providers to provide services at government-imposed rates (de facto, forced contracting);

• Price control legislation or attempts to influence the free market process impacting the biopharmaceutical and medical device sectors; and

• Mandates that require Orange County based companies in the life sciences sector to report proprietary information to any government agency.
INFRASTRUCTURE
Background

OCBC supports a comprehensive approach to addressing the State’s infrastructure needs and will work with the administration, State legislature, municipal and special district officials to ensure that a proportional share of State and federal infrastructure funds are secured for Orange County projects. Comprehensive infrastructure improvements including natural gas and electric transmission and distribution systems, transportation funding to repair roadways, reduce congestion, improve bridge safety, expand public transit, airports and improve port security, as well as transportation policies that promote water storage and improved delivery systems, along with funding for levee repair, and advanced flood control systems.

Investing a portion of State revenues in infrastructure leverages existing dollars and financing mechanisms and fosters public/private partnerships. A solid commitment to infrastructure investment is critical to the State’s economic vitality.

Policy Objectives

Public policies should promote annual State, local, and private investments in infrastructure sufficient to meet the expanding needs of a growing population and a dynamic and healthy economy and to protect existing public and private infrastructure investments.

“Investing a portion of state revenues in infrastructure leverages existing dollars and financing mechanisms and fosters public-private partnerships. A solid commitment to infrastructure investment is critical to the state’s economic vitality.”
OCBC supports:

- Sustainable public and private infrastructure that protects public health, facilitates a well-educated public and workforce, supports a robust economy with reliable multi-modal transportation systems, provides reliable water and waste management systems, provides for reliable natural gas and electric transmission, distribution, and storage systems and supports sufficient “green” and open space infrastructure to promote quality of life;

- Protection for dedicated transportation-related tax revenues, annual funding to maintain and enhance personal mobility, and the movement of goods and services;

- Mileage Based Road Usage Charges to replace gas tax;

- Investment strategies based on sound science and public policy criteria that direct resources into the most needed regional and local infrastructure categories and leverage State and federal dollars, maximizing the return on existing infrastructure investments;

- Contracting government services out to the private sector when appropriate, sustainable, and cost-effective for the construction of public infrastructure, using progressive contracting methods, including design/build, design/build/operate, design/build/own, and public-private partnerships;

- Priority funding or financing tools for joint-use, public-private infrastructure plans and projects;

- Utilization of the “Orange County Infrastructure Report Card” findings to create awareness of Orange County’s infrastructure needs and further the dialogue on asset management and smart public investments in infrastructure;

- Maintaining in-state manufacturing for California’s transportation fuels needs and jet fuel needs to keep the world’s GHG to a minimum, and promote the robust California economy as the most cost effective energy solution for the transportation fuel needs of California;

- Desalination technology to increase water supply reliability;

- Adequate rehabilitation and protection of critical levee and waterway systems in the Bay-Delta and other areas of the State that have critical importance to the long-term and sustained movement of water supplies to their points of use;

- Adequate investment in surface water impounds, recycle and reuse projects, and groundwater storage systems that protect the State from droughts, earthquakes, and other events that would otherwise cause significant economic dislocations, loss of human lives, or the loss of significant natural resources;

- Adequate and dedicated funding on an annual basis at federal, State, and county levels for infrastructure maintenance, rebuilding, and expansion;

- Fair-share federal and State funding to Orange County based on population, urban nature, and the amount of tax revenue contributed to federal and State budgets;

- Design-build authority for infrastructure construction;

- Restrictions on growth control policies and “smart” growth initiatives that may result in unintended consequences such as unreasonably higher housing costs, increased commute times that impact individuals and families, limited housing supplies that impact labor supplies, and unreasonably inflated land values that limit economic expansion; and

- Accelerated project delivery through streamlined environmental delegation and increased authority to local California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Districts and through use of alternative project delivery methods such as design-build, public-private partnerships, etc.
BACKGROUND

Delivery of advanced data services to all Americans is important to the future of the U.S. economy. Some experts believe the internet is the largest single contributor to the growth of the U.S. economy and a powerful influence on the growth of global commerce. The internet helps to disseminate ideas and information anywhere in the world inexpensively and immediately. As the internet develops, it will continue to bring more services and products to more people, often faster, easier, and cheaper than current market mechanisms.

The smooth flow of goods, services, and information into, out of, and within Orange County is critical in this new economy. It demands a well-maintained, well-coordinated communication and global information infrastructure. Private sector innovation and investment is integral to meeting these objectives.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Public policy and regulatory frameworks should promote advanced communications networks to promote the exchange of knowledge, trade, and communications.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Fulfillment of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 to fully open competitive markets and maintain the benefits of competition to Orange County consumers;
- Fair and equitable regulations by local agencies and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to ensure equal treatment for all communications providers and limited regulation by the FCC with regard to advanced communications services;
- Private sector investments to develop state–of-the-art broadband capabilities for businesses and citizens in Orange County;
- Local government support and prompt permitting for the placement of infrastructure leading to expansion, construction, and implementation of advanced broadband networks, including the development of wireless Internet connectivity (Wi-Fi) access Countywide;
- A policy that protects the rights of business and residential consumers to select the communications provider of their choice by providing communications companies the authority to enter buildings and businesses without prejudice;
- Fair and equitable area code relief plans that minimize inconvenience to customers;
- Limiting the municipal rights-of-way fees to the reimbursement of the city’s actual costs of administering the use of the public rights-of-way so that these fees are not used to generate general fund or other special purpose revenues; and
- Protecting the principles of open Internet.
OCBC opposes:

- Taxes, fees, or burdensome regulations that would stifle electronic commerce;
- Government-owned utilities from offering communications services since their powers of taxation and regulation provide an inherent competitive advantage relative to other communications providers; and
- The reclassifying of broadband as Title II common carrier.

“The smooth flow of goods, services, and information into, out of, and within Orange County is critical in this new economy.”
BACKGROUND

ELECTRIC ENERGY

OCBC generally supports the deregulation of the utility industry as a vehicle for opening markets, promoting competition, reducing costs and increasing value to consumers.

California needs a comprehensive approach to fix the energy market. In the short-term, and to minimize the chances of electricity shortages, the State needs to implement a viable demand reduction and conservation program on an accelerated basis. It must ensure that all existing generation plants are ready to operate, if called upon, and find opportunities to accelerate the in-service date of any proposed transmission projects.

In the long-term, adequate generation and transmission capacity is essential to meet current requirements and future growth within the State and to promote a more competitive market. Energy infrastructure must expand to meet capacity needs and maintenance schedules for existing and future generation. Public policy must also produce a more sophisticated grid — one that can manage and integrate increasing sources of distributed generation, micro-grid technology and changing load profiles as a result of new technologies. Businesses must have clear and concise rules (e.g., status of departing load tariffs and standby impacts) for implementing more efficient and reliable distributed and co-generation systems.

A key component of this energy market redesign is the elimination of rate cross-subsidies that hide the true cost of electricity to residential customers, which in turn causes customers to increase their consumption and inflates the cost of electricity to commercial and industrial customers. The State needs to establish rules governing the adequacy of resources to meet retail load that ensure clear accountability for retail supplies and prevent cost shifting and free-riding.

NATURAL GAS

Deregulation of natural gas at the wellhead began when Congress passed the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. This legislation ended federal control over the wellhead price of “new” gas on January 1, 1985, but kept in place price controls for gas produced from wells drilled prior to 1977. In 1989, the Natural Gas Wellhead Decontrol Act lifted all remaining federal wellhead price controls on natural gas.

Since then, the price of natural gas across the United States has been subject to market forces, rising and falling with changes in supply and demand. In this competitive market, the price of natural gas is set between all buyers (including industrial users, power generators, marketers and gas utilities like Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric) and all sellers (including independent producers and major oil and gas companies). Demand for natural gas continues to increase throughout the U.S., but supply production must keep pace with that demand, particularly for low-carbon fuels such as clean natural gas. While forecasts made by different federal agencies may differ in their exact expectation for the increased demand for natural gas, one thing is common across studies: Demand for natural gas will continue to increase steadily for the foreseeable future.

Most recently, technological advances in drilling have accessed new resources that have created a fundamental shift in the natural gas marketplace. The result of the newly accessible resource is an abundance of gas at
affordable prices. According to the Energy Information Agency, the United States has potential natural gas reserves sufficient to supply the country for 110 years. Another benefit of the abundance of natural gas is a road map to energy independence. It offers an incredible opportunity to fuel a renaissance in U.S. manufacturing and help provide a cleaner, less expensive option for vehicles, particularly heavy-duty vehicles.

RENEWABLE-GAS

Renewable gas, including biomethane, has the potential for substantial benefits in the electric generation, residential, and industrial and transportation sectors with the potential to produce a net savings of GHG emissions by avoiding methane emissions. As opposed to other renewables like wind and solar, that is only available intermittently to supply electricity to the grid, renewable gas is always available. OCBC supports the development of biofuels in California to provide jobs and boost the State’s economy while helping the state to meet its environmental goals.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

OCBC and its partners advocate national, State, and local policies that support a diverse supply of renewable energy sources, such as bio-gas, wind, solar and geothermal, provide adequate transmission and distribution infrastructure systems, encourage distributed energy technology such as Combine Heat and Power and Fuel Cells, and promote the efficient use of energy.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

California needs reliable, stable, and competitively priced energy supplies for its businesses and consumers.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Comprehensive and coordinated national, State, and local energy policies that will ensure adequate supplies and reasonable pricing in order to facilitate economic growth and preserve quality of life;
- A market structure that will promote realistic pricing policies, accurate price signals (devoid of cross-subsidies), market stability, and access to competitively priced supplies;
- Restoration and implementation of direct access in a program that avoids cost shifting, ensures that providers are accountable for their share of continued supply reliability, and preserves the financial viability of California’s utilities;
- Improvements in generation, transmission, distribution, and storage infrastructure required to support future Statewide growth and reserve needs (electric and gas);
- Improved grid “intelligence” in order to integrate distributed energy resource technology and micro grid infrastructures into the power grid;
- Support of public-private partnerships to expedite public infrastructure projects, including allowance for design-build and other procurement options to support infrastructure activity, leverage investment, and aid in job creation;
- Removal of unnecessary regulatory impediments and improvement of coordination between regulatory agencies with overlapping responsibilities to eliminate unnecessary obstacles and inconsistent regulatory findings that could negatively impact these future improvements;
• The easing of barriers to maintaining, upgrading, and building natural gas pipelines/storage facilities and electrical transmission lines;

• Easing of barriers to increase in-state production of crude oil to reduce dependency for importing more than 50 percent of the states’ crude oil needs from foreign countries with less stringent environmental controls than California;

• Close coordination between State and local regulatory agencies to ensure responsible protections for the environment while supporting reasonable growth needs;

• Improvements in demand-side energy management and conservation programs for businesses and consumers leading to more predictable load shed capabilities during periods of high energy demand;

• Continued research, development and use of cleaner, alternate power sources such as co-generation/distributed generation, renewable energies, and fuel cell technologies;

• Appropriate policies including incentives to ensure economic volumes of renewable gas remain accessible;

• A more participatory role for business in regulatory processes so as to promote a better understanding of rate structures upon business operations;

• The inclusion of natural gas as an element of clean energy and air quality standards so as to expand the energy choices for California businesses and consumers;

• Employing new and proven natural gas based applications such as combined heat and power technologies to broaden electric generation production;

• The development of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro, and renewable gas;

• Creating a safe environment by supporting an escalated enforcement process, which helps limit the damage to natural gas pipes, on excavators who did not call DigAlert (811); and

• Helping California meet its clean air and GHG goals by supporting incentives that help buy down the initial cost of heavy-duty natural gas vehicles involved in the goods movement. Ensure incentives are funded by appropriate sources and methods, like tax incentives and existing revenue streams (e.g., cap-and-trade revenue) and not by increasing or creating new fees or taxes.
Background

The smooth flow of people, goods, and services into, out of, and within Orange County is critical to Orange County’s expanding economy. Employees must get to and from work efficiently, as personal mobility is integral to a thriving economy and community. It is important that government not constrain citizens’ movements in a way that diminishes their quality of life.

Equally important is the efficient regional movement of goods throughout Southern California. The ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach comprise the fifth largest seaport complex in the entire world and are the largest and second-largest container ports in the U.S. The Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach receive and then distribute 35 percent of the nation’s imported goods and Los Angeles International Airport handles 78 percent of the region’s air cargo. Efficient regional goods movement is dependent upon a well maintained, well-coordinated, and safe transportation system, including a variety of transportation alternatives and adequate access to air cargo, air travel, and ground shipping facilities.

Further, long-term, dedicated, and stable funding is essential for the expansion, improvement, and maintenance of the transportation system. Business community and private sector participation and investment, as well as innovative project delivery, are key to meeting these transportation objectives.

California currently receives a return of approximately 95 percent of what State motorists pay in federal gas taxes as transportation dollars from Washington, D.C. This makes California a “donor” State in respect to the rest of the country. OCBC supports efforts to provide California with a greater return of its taxpayer dollars.

Policy Objectives

Public policy should promote safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of people, goods, and services via air, highway, and rail conveyances.

Positions

OCBC supports:

- An integrated, comprehensive, and efficient multi-modal transportation network in Orange County, meeting the needs of its residents and of a globally competitive Orange County, to include inter-county and intra-county highways, mass transit, passenger and freight rail, and air travel services, facilities, and infrastructure;
- The legal framework for Caltrans and other public agencies to utilize unrestricted alternate project delivery systems, including design-build, for appropriate transportation projects;
- Long-term, dedicated, and consistent funding sources by federal, State, and local governments equitably distributed for new road, highway and transit improvement projects, as well as for maintenance, safety, and capacity enhancements;
• Continued discussions about other options if long-term federal transportation funding and certainty is inadequate;

• Reduced regulatory burdens for project approvals; increasing efficiency in meeting environmental requirements, and eliminating unnecessary duplication;

• Full and efficient implementation of the renewed Measure M, Orange County’s 30-year, half-cent sale tax specifically dedicated to transportation improvements, approved by the voters in November 2006;

• Government agencies contracting services with the private sector for the construction of public infrastructure, using progressive contracting methods (i.e., design/build, design/build/operate, and design/build/own) and public-private partnerships when appropriate, sustainable, and cost-effective;

• Projects that eliminate conflicts between incompatible transportation modes and improve capacity (e.g., grade separations at railroad crossings);

• Support efforts to expand and extend existing design-build and public-private authority for infrastructure investments providing a sufficient timeframe to determine effectiveness, expanded eligibility, and allow the appropriate balance of partnership between State and local agencies;

• Oppose duplicative reporting mandates and efforts to impose additional requirements, beyond what is required in statute, on lead agencies awarding contracts using alternative project delivery mechanisms;

• Mileage based user fees to replace the gas tax;

• Public/private partnerships, including private sector investments in intra-county and inter-county transportation infrastructure projects that do not convert existing facilities to toll facilities;

• Investment in the development and use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies (e.g., smart vehicles, smart corridors, traffic management centers, and real-time traffic data information availability) to maximize use of existing facilities and capacity;

• Implementation of managed lane technology on select new lanes or conversion of carpool lanes to managed lanes to increase mobility and generate highway construction and maintenance revenue;

“Public policy should promote the safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of people, goods, and services via air, highway, and rail conveyances.”

• Coordination between local, State, and federal permitting agencies conducting environmental reviews to expedite project delivery and promote cost-effectiveness along with environmental compliance;

• Return of all state transportation funds to transportation, including truck weight fees, requiring the General Fund to repay Proposition 1B bonds, and immediate repayment of all past transportation loans.

• Direct a portion of cap-and-trade revenues to roads. Improving road conditions and traffic flow reduces fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions;

• Ensuring effective projects, efficient project development and delivery, appropriate funding sources, and prioritizing “self-help” states and counties; and
• Strong accountability and reform requirements to protect the taxpayers’ investment. Voters and taxpayers must be assured that all transportation revenues are spent responsibly. Authorizing legislation should:
  ◊ Constitutionally protect transportation revenues for transportation infrastructure only. Time and again (Prop 42, 2002; Prop 1A, 2006; Prop 22, 2010), voters have overwhelmingly supported dedicating and constitutionally protecting transportation dollars for those purposes. We strongly support protections that prohibit using transportation dollars for other purposes.
  ◊ Repay existing transportation loans and end ongoing diversions of transportation revenues, including approximately $850 million in loans to the general fund and the annual loss of approximately $140 million in off-highway vehicle fuel taxes.
  ◊ Establish performance and accountability criteria to ensure efficient and effective use of all funding. All tax dollars should be spent properly, and recipients of new revenues should be held accountable to the taxpayers, whether at the state or local level. Counties and cities should adopt project lists at public hearings and report annually to the State Controller’s Office regarding all transportation revenues and expenditures. Local governments should also commit to ensuring any new revenues supplement revenues currently invested in transportation projects. Both Caltrans and local governments can demonstrate and publicize the benefits associated with new transportation investments.
  ◊ Caltrans reform and oversight. To increase Caltrans effectiveness, provide stronger oversight by the state transportation commission of the programs funded by new revenues and establish an Inspector General office to provide accountability. Reduce Caltrans administrative budgets through efficiency reviews with all savings to be spent on road improvements.
  ◊ Expedite project delivery. More should be done to streamline project delivery, including but not limited to:
    ▪ Establishing timelines for actions required by state agencies and eliminating other permit delays.
    ▪ Increased implementation of alternative delivery systems that encourage more investment from the private sector including P-3 authorization.
    ▪ Reforms to speed project completion including CEQA exemptions.
• Raise revenues across a broad range of options (must be guaranteed by strong accountability and reform measures); and
  ◊ Reasonable increases in Gasoline and diesel excise taxes as well as vehicle registration and vehicle license fees.
  ◊ Dedicating a portion of the cap and trade revenue paid by motorists at the pump to transportation projects that reduce greenhouse emissions.
  ◊ Ensuring existing transportation revenues are invested in transportation-related purposes (i.e. truck weight fees and fuel taxes for off-road vehicles that are currently being diverted into the general fund).
  ◊ User charge for electric and other non-fossil fuel powered vehicles that currently do not contribute to road upkeep.
  • Equal split between state and local projects.
Water Policies

1 Water Supply, Water Quality, and Waste Water Management

Background

California’s economy, jobs, and water are inexorably linked. Job growth cannot continue without an adequate and reliable water supply to support the economy. Orange County’s economic viability as a highly desirable location for homes, commerce, industry and tourism depends on the availability of a safe, reliable, and affordable water supply. To that end, OCBC serves as a resource for educating businesses, elected and appointed officials, and the public at large about programs and projects that will address this need.

A reliable water supply is integral to the state’s economic health. Business, therefore, supports activities leading to a cost-effective, fair, timely, comprehensive, and long-term solution to California’s water challenges. California’s ability to address its water needs and Orange County’s ability to manage its water supplies as efficiently as possible are key determinants in Orange County’s economic prosperity.

Southern California is highly dependent on both Northern California and the Colorado River for its imported water supplies. Almost half of the water consumed in Orange County is imported. The continued reliability of these sources, however, is subject to the success of the California Water Fix and EcoRestore that achieves the co-equal goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability and to continued cooperative approaches to the management of the Colorado River.

It is critical to the Orange County business community that we actively support public policies to ensure the long-term reliability of water supplies from both the State Water Project and the Colorado River, and support public policies that protect local investments in reliable, drought-resilient and those that are consistent with “beneficiary pays” principles. It is time for the state to add cost-effective surface water storage projects and take steps to fix the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta conveyance system. This later item is most important, as more than 22 million Californians receive some or all of their water supply from the Delta. An interruption in the delivery of this supply will have highly predictable adverse effects on the state economy.

Ongoing planning and development of local water supply resources is vital to diversifying Orange County’s water supply portfolio and alleviating potential future water shortages. This includes:

• Current and future expansions of the Orange County Water District’s Groundwater Replenishment System;
• Development of the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Project and the South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project in Dana Point by retail water agencies that voluntarily choose to participate in the projects;
• Expanded recycled water storage capability through the development of the Syphon Reservoir Recycled Water Storage Project and the Trampas Canyon Non-Domestic Water Seasonal Storage Reservoir;
• Improvement of the San Juan Basin for both storage and future potable reuse of recycled water through such projects as the San Juan Watershed Project;
• Expanded use of “purple pipe” recycled water for irrigation and other non-potable uses such as industrial processes and toilet flushing;

• Development of the Second Lower Crossfeeder;

• Additional stormwater capture behind Prado Dam; and

• Water banking and other projects, including those identified in the Municipal Water District of Orange County’s 2004 South Orange County Water Reliability Study.

The completion of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project is another critically important regional water project and a public safety necessity. In the event of a flood, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates that this project could save more than 3,000 lives, lessen the impact on more than two-million people, prevent destruction of 500,000 homes, curtail economic losses of more than $14 billion in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, and save millions of dollars across Southern California in mandated federal flood insurance costs. In addition, the completed project will provide water quality, habitat enhancement, and water supply benefits, as well. The business community recognizes the importance of flood protection to Orange County residents and businesses and supports the completion of the entire Santa Ana River Mainstem Project as originally planned. The project, which began construction in 1989, requires significant federal, state and local funds for its completion.

**POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The Orange County business community seeks to ensure it has safe, clean, high quality, adequate, and reliable water supplies in order to support the needs of economic growth and quality of life in Southern California.

**POSITIONS**

**OCBC supports:**

**STATEWIDE**

• Securing Orange County’s fair share of approved and proposed state water bond funding;

• State and federal funding of public benefits related to the restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta;

• Accelerated development of a secure and reliable alternative conveyance system in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta that will significantly improve water supply reliability and water quality;

• Continued implementation of the 2009 Delta Water Management Legislative Package to help ensure critical milestones are met in a timely manner;

• State and federal cooperation, funding, and policy adoption to ensure balanced implementation of the California Water Fix and EcoRestore to achieve the co-equal goals of Delta ecosystem restoration and improved water supply reliability;

• Continued implementation of, and adherence by, all involved parties to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA);

• Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) programs and projects that increase storage in Lake Mead;

• Development of cost-effective surface and groundwater storage to improve the reliability of water supplies throughout California;
• Implementation of the recommendations of the State Recycled Water Task Force;

• Development of a uniform framework and science-based regulations which would allow for the cost-effective expansion of potable reuse throughout California;

• Simplification of the process of water transfers between all areas of the state and, where possible, pre-approval of these transfers;

• Drinking water regulatory standards that are based on science and can demonstrate cost effectiveness;

• Programs and projects that effect sustainable salt management;

• Reforms to CEQA that improve the efficiency of the environmental permitting process without compromising existing and relevant environmental protections, and also minimize litigation and related delays;

• Consolidation of California codes that codify recycled water as a resource, not a waste; and

• Statutory protection for local investments in drought resiliency and drought-resilient supplies.

“OCBC strongly supports improvement of ocean water quality through widespread public education and the adoption of cost-effective public policies, practices, and facilities that are consistently based upon sound research.”

REGIONAL

• Regulatory frameworks that promote efficient maintenance and management of water resources and infrastructure;

• Efforts to secure a combination of federal, State, regional and local funding for the development of local and regional projects that will improve water reliability through transfers, desalination, water use efficiency, storage, and water recycling;

• Cost-effective expansion of water recycling with a focus on newly developing areas;

• Water use efficiency projects and programs, as well as voluntary conservation, to reduce urban runoff and over-watering;

• Development of cost-effective and sustainable desalination of ocean water and groundwater, including reasonable approaches to the regulation of brine disposal; and

• Projects that make optimum use of groundwater resources.

LOCAL

• Projects and programs that protect the quality, reliability, and sustainability of the Orange County Groundwater Basin, including the current and future expansion of the Groundwater Replenishment System;

• The San Juan Watershed Project which will enhance the quality, reliability and sustainability of the San Juan Groundwater Basin;
As a nation and as a dynamic urban county, we must take adequate and appropriate action to protect public health, water resources, and environmental resources from the harmful effects of point source and non-point source water pollution. While public and private entities have made great strides to significantly reduce the impact of pollutants on these important resources by building facilities to abate these pollutants and by practicing source control practices and other methods, some problems persist and must be addressed. Business and environmental interests often coincide on this broad issue when accurate and timely information is shared and appropriate actions are taken by all responsible parties. We see a trend toward increasing cooperation in Orange County, and we applaud it.

Ocean water quality is vitally important to Orange County business and quality of life. At the same time, the measures available to address near shore pollution are rapidly developing and the alternatives are sometimes very expensive. The protection of beach water quality must therefore be addressed as a collaborative process with the best knowledge from all stakeholders and disciplines brought to bear to prioritize problems and implement rational solutions.

OCBC strongly supports improvement of ocean water quality through widespread public education and the adoption of cost-effective public policies, practices, and facilities that are consistently based upon sound research. We believe society is better served by a reasonable regulatory process that functions cooperatively, uses scientifically-based facts, and establishes water quality objectives that consider the cost of attaining water quality standards.

Federal, State, and local government agencies must address urban runoff issues pragmatically and sequentially. Various methods suggested by private and public entities to address urban runoff must be fairly considered on a case-by-case basis and the permitting authorities must evaluate the site-specific costs, constraints, and other practical matters. Flexibility and cost-effectiveness are principles that all parties must embrace as the collective understanding of this issue evolves. Watershed approaches will lead to more meaningful improvements.
OCBC will play an active role in improving ocean water quality and support the approaches listed below for addressing this important issue:

1. **Orange County’s Storm Water Management Program**: This multi-initiative program of Orange County, its 34 cities, and the Flood Control District engages all stakeholders in finding and maintaining cost-effective and practical methods for reducing pollutants that would otherwise enter the storm water system and impact water quality. Public education and best management practices are important parts of this program and should remain fully funded and supported by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and city councils.

2. **Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Education “Tool Kit”**: Developed by OCSD and sponsored by the Orange County Chapter of the California Restaurant Association, the tool kit educates business, residents, and students about how to keep the waterways clean.

3. **Urban Runoff Treatment**: Urban runoff diversion and treatment systems constructed, operated, and maintained by public entities should remain a key component to an effective and region-wide approach to the sustainable, long-term management of water quality.

4. **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program**: Now in use by the special districts and cities here in Orange County, this program demonstrably reduces sanitary sewer overflows, which is the most important step in protecting beach water quality. The FOG program is business-friendly and provides incentives to businesses that comply with its rules and regulations.

**Policy Objectives**

California must protect, enhance, and sustain ocean water quality using comprehensive, watershed- and science-based approaches that reduce contaminants from point and non-point sources in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. Storm water management should integrate public safety and pollution control in a cost-effective manner.

**Positions**

In addition to the positions set forth in the Environmental Issues policy statement, OCBC supports:

- Compliance with laws and regulations aimed at protecting our coastline and ocean resources from inadequately treated wastewater and sanitary sewer overflows;
- Water quality management programs to reduce, where practical, non-point source pollution as well as improve ocean water quality;
- Science-based programs and projects to manage urban runoff and storm water in a cost-effective and sustainable manner;
- Regulatory reforms that promote efficient maintenance and management of water resources and infrastructure;
- Improvements in water quality testing methodologies to more quickly and accurately determine levels of pathogens, sources of contamination, and health risk, which result in the timely notification of the public;
- Dry weather diversions into the sanitary system for treatment and disposal or reclamation, but only when there is sufficient capacity to do so and other practices of the sanitary sewage system are not negatively impacted;
- Education of business, residents, and visitors regarding pollution prevention practices that reduce urban runoff and of the importance of water quality to the economy and quality of life in Orange County;
- Updates to the Basin Plans to incorporate current scientific understanding and establish appropriate standards that adequately protect water quality in a practical and cost-effective manner;
- Employing risk-based approaches, “use attainability analyses,” and other valid scientifically-based techniques to evaluate bodies of water and their designated uses when setting water quality standards, adopting Total Maximum Daily Loads, and issuing permits that require action by public and private entities;
- The use of technology, best available practices, and “natural treatment” systems to adequately protect public health and the environment from harmful pollutants contained in urban runoff and agricultural runoff with a preference for natural treatment system solutions;
- California policy should be amended to treat storm water and dry weather runoff as a resource wherein flood protection, water quality, and water supply improvements are complementary goals;
- Regional, watershed/subwatershed-specific storm water and dry weather runoff planning efforts that engage key stakeholders in the planning process and allow for consideration of local factors that may impact the appropriateness of storm water and dry weather runoff capture, infiltration and use within a region should be encouraged; and
- Storm water and dry weather runoff management and capture planning should be done regionally and not on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Regional boards should move away from parcel-by-parcel water quality requirements and focus on regional compliance in order to encourage large-scale regional storm water and dry weather runoff capture, retention, diversion, use and recharge.
Housing, Land Use and the Environment
BACKGROUND

A diverse housing market is critical to the long-term success of Orange County. Residents need a broad spectrum of housing products. Whether it’s a single-family detached home or a new high-rise condominium — owned or rented — residents of Orange County need choices, and the cities within Orange County must plan to meet current and future housing needs.

Even with a down market, housing growth has not kept up with demand over the last 15 years. While rising income, job, and population growth are market factors, the regulatory environment has also played a major role. The high regulatory costs associated with housing production is one of the reasons Orange County’s housing production has been so tepid relative to population, employment, and income growth. Each city charges housing permit fees to homebuilders in order to recover environment, planning, and school costs, among other less defined expenses.

Beyond direct, per-unit housing fees, regulations can also slow housing construction. For people wishing to stymie development in their community (also known as “NIMBYs” for “Not in My Backyard”), CEQA has proven a popular and effective tool. Using CEQA, a claim against a developer can delay housing projects by as many as four years.

Land scarcity also affects the cost of housing. While Orange County is commonly characterized as “built-out,” that perception is owed more to local cities’ failure to zone land in a more economical fashion (i.e., more high density) than to actual spatial constraints. The result is an artificial scarcity of developable land. According to University of California Berkeley, Professor John Landis, a 10 percent reduction in supply of available land can increase home prices by 20 percent to 30 percent.

Finally, lost in the planning discussion in most communities are the economic ramifications of an insufficient housing supply. An aging population, high-cost housing, and inefficient transportation infrastructure limits the number and types of businesses that will locate or remain in an area. The only way for a region to plan for its future economic vitality is to link its housing and economic development planning together.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Public policy and regulatory frameworks should promote the highest and best land use practices for meeting California’s housing, community infrastructure, recreation, business facility, and open space needs while preserving the quality of life in California.

“Even with a down market, housing growth has not kept up with demand over the last 15 years.”
**Positions**

**OCBC supports:**

- Incentives to local governments to encourage overall increases to the housing supply, housing affordability, and choices of home types for a variety of families and workers;

- State and local fiscal reform to permit cities and counties to make land use decisions based upon good planning principles, rather than upon potential tax revenue generation or cost of service issues; address funding formulas that are unfair to Orange County; and establish a nexus between sources of funding and services and programs funded;

- Ongoing efforts to ensure that construction disputes are addressed outside of the court system;

- Elimination of so-called “prevailing wage” requirements and other legislative and regulatory barriers to the construction of affordable homes for working professionals and their families;

- Limits on taxes, fees, and assessments that unfairly burden new homes and new homebuyers with costs for community-wide infrastructure (e.g., roads, water, sewer, school) needs;

- Legislative and regulatory incentives for the development of for-purchase and rental housing near existing jobs and high job growth areas;

- Housing bonds within State capacity limits;

- Public/private partnerships to provide affordable, transitional, and emergency housing;

- Fair and economically sensible land use and zoning policies based on the most accurate State, regional, and local housing needs projections to achieve a reasonable balance between residential and commercial uses as well as an appropriate jobs-housing mix that takes advantage of opportunities for transit-oriented development, infill, high-density, and mixed-use development;

- Creative approaches to redevelopment that are consistent with city or county general plans for housing, business, and mixed-use purposes, as well as complementary to the existing neighborhoods and surrounding communities;

- Collaborative land use decision-making processes that permit and encourage business community input; and

- Legislation to develop a permanent source of funding for affordable housing.

**OCBC opposes:**

- Unfair application of zoning laws, including instances when businesses are unreasonably or unfairly treated;

- Urban limit lines, moratoriums, and other measures that stifle housing creation;

- Conversion of industrial-zoned areas to favor upscale housing developments and/or retail centers;

- Any form of rent control;

- State and local adoption of inclusionary zoning; and

- Comprehensive ballot-box land use planning that contradicts “good planning” or contributes to a constrained housing supply for a growing workforce.
BACKGROUND

Reasonable environmental protections are important for sustaining Orange County’s high quality of life. However, conflicting and costly regulations jeopardize the business climate, which supports and finances the essential services contributing to the quality of life enjoyed by our citizens. We need to protect our environment without sacrificing economic prosperity or global competitiveness.

Excessive, conflicting, and overlapping requirements among local, State, and federal jurisdictions and across media (i.e., air, water, solid waste) can create inefficiencies that stifle job creation and divert business dollars away from developing products, investing for growth, and adding value to customers and shareholders.

Policy makers must coordinate their oversight and take into consideration market-oriented approaches and incentives that offer maximum compliance flexibility and achieve cost-effective outcomes.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Regulations should protect the environment without sacrificing economic prosperity or global competitiveness.

“Regulations should protect the environment without sacrificing economic prosperity or global competitiveness.”

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- Environmental regulations based upon sound science (e.g., realistic risk assessments, accurate pollutant inventories, and credible environmental and economic models) and produce achievable, cost effective, and measurable benefits to public health and the environment;
- Improved methods and techniques for modeling and measuring health risks, securing accurate pollutant inventories, assessing environmental impacts, and measuring the effectiveness of control measures;
- Consistency and coordination in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other environmental review processes among governmental agencies to streamline environmental reviews, expand participation by project proponents, and ensure fairness in environmental review fees;
• Efficient environmental analysis through integration of environmental and planning laws and the elimination of CEQA duplication;

• CEQA litigation for compliance issues rather than delay to reduce frivolous, excessive, and costly lawsuits;

• Local access to and accountability from regulators within regional and statewide frameworks that promote statewide consistency;

• Innovative, market-oriented approaches for meeting environmental standards such as emission reduction credit banking and trading, habitat conservation plans, carbon labeling of goods sold within the State, and incentives for voluntary impact reductions;

• Participatory and inclusive processes between the regulated community, regulators, and other stakeholders leading to consensus-based rule making and the correction of deficiencies;

• Environmental justice policies that weigh environmental effects against economic opportunity so that the overall quality of life of the affected populations is not adversely impacted;

• Urban runoff and ocean water quality strategies that include thorough assessments of all sources; prevention of pollution through education; cost-effective regional and watershed-based solutions and treatment options; and public infrastructure improvements;

• Reforms in California's Electronics Recycling Program to clarify requirements in order to better facilitate compliance by both manufacturers and consumers; and

• The evaluation of regulatory impacts upon housing supply, infrastructure development, and other critical land uses, and upon business and the economy.

“Excessive, conflicting, and overlapping requirements among local, state, and federal jurisdictions and across media can create inefficiencies that stifle job creation and divert business dollars away from developing products, investing for growth, and adding value to customers and shareholders.”
BACKGROUND

Governor Jerry Brown has made combating global Climate Change the number one priority of his administration. The Governor and the state legislature have committed much of their legislative and regulatory agenda to achieve aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets. Governor Brown identified key climate change strategy pillars that recognize several major areas of the California economy that will need to reduce emissions to meet his climate change agenda. The pillars include reducing today’s petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent, increasing from one-third to 50 percent our electricity derived from renewable sources, doubling the energy efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings and making heating fuels cleaner, reducing the release of methane, black carbon, and other short-lived climate pollutants, managing farm and rangelands, forests and wetlands so they can store carbon, and periodically updating the state’s climate adaptation strategy. The Governor’s aggressive plan to combat global climate change is being filtered into every level of state government and much of the work is being done far from public view. OCBC recognizes the importance of the issue of global climate change and will continue to engage in the effort to achieve equitable solutions.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The State’s ambitious effort to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is undergoing regulatory implementation by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) without transparency to reduce the State’s one percent contribution to the world’s GHG emissions. Regulations created by CARB should be implemented with stakeholder input from the business community. Current GHG reduction targets appear unachievable without significant behavioral changes of residents and would have severe ramification for the State’s economy. California cannot afford to further lose its businesses, including manufacturing, wholesale trade and logistics, as well as its jobs to other states or countries where GHG regulations are more relaxed or non-existent, however, OCBC does support reasonable efforts to reduce GHG emissions into the atmosphere. OCBC’s position is simple: Protecting California’s economy and the environment for future generations are mutually desirable, goals. Thus, regulatory and legislative solutions must embrace and protect both.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

• Minimizing the compliance costs by actively pushing for measures that effectively reduce carbon while allowing for continued economic growth;

• Creation of a final draft Scoping Plan that includes a fair and equitable consideration of Orange County’s business and transportation needs. We recommend that ARB incorporate cost effectiveness, sector equity, and a consistent path to 2050 as key criteria for the adoption of program measures in the Plan. Cost effectiveness as used here means pursuing lower cost options and not simply placing a cost per-metric-ton price tag on a measure. To the extent that ARB is incorporating the social cost of GHGs in its cost-effectiveness calculations, ARB should also include the impacts on energy affordability. Safety valves should be included in the Plan to ensure that California’s GHG reduction program is continuously monitored based on key variables that will trigger warnings about impacts on California’s residents and businesses;
• Promoting manufacturing in the state for transportation fuels and jet fuels as importing them from locations with less stringent environmental controls only increase the world’s GHGs and the cost of energy for California consumers;

• State sponsored regulatory relief and incentive-based program funding, rather than mandates, for emerging technologies;

• Focusing on GHG reduction strategies that support a pro-growth agenda, including adequate housing and mobility solutions for a growing state population

• Adequate funding for planning and implementation of State mandates at the local level;

• Regulations that are developed in a way that allow for economic growth in California; and

• Policy approaches that recognize and encourage California’s leadership and innovation in the environmental arena and the pioneering of new, low-carbon technologies.

OCBC opposes:

• Taxes, fees, or mandates that place California or Orange County at a competitive disadvantage in a global economy;

• Federal, State, and local fees that are imposed by non-accountable agency/department officials rather than by the voters or appropriate elected officials;

• Mandates that negatively impact California’s most vulnerable populations (social equity);

• Mandates or regulations not based on a scientifically derived and uniform threshold of significance for GHG emissions used in environmental analysis;

• Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as a way to limit development outside of transit-focused urban cores or impact voter-approved local transportation sales tax expenditure plans; and

• Finally, transparency in the public process concerning development and implementation of the state’s climate change agenda is critical. Public awareness, engagement and acceptance are keys to ultimate success of California’s strategies, California cannot solve climate change alone. Thus, success will make California a leader in global climate change, but failure will be duly noted and throw caution to the global community.
Workforce Development
BACKGROUND

Fostering continued economic growth in Orange County requires a capable workforce that sustains and enhances growth and development. Workforce development and education is the keystone to supplying industry with the necessary pool of talent that drives innovation and prosperity. While the Common Core State Standards, Local Control Funding Formula, and Transitional Kindergarten are important and innovative steps in the right direction, trends suggest that the growing skills gap is intensifying. While Orange County’s public schools perform significantly better than state and national indicators, educational improvements are required to develop a knowledgeable, high-performing workforce for competitive advantage. Specifically, such improvements include:

- Investment in the expansion and upgrade of school facilities at the primary, secondary and collegiate levels;
- Partnering with industry and academia for internships, job shadowing, and externships to provide a global workforce perspective;
- Institutional and business collaboration to bridge the classroom with the work environment;
- Increased teacher development in enriched curriculum, particularly in the STEAM Disciplines (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics);
- Developing innovative strategies and methods to better teach English-language learners and close the Achievement and Opportunity Gaps; and
- Offering guidance and continuous support to students, from pre-K through college with a collaborative environment of school districts, community colleges, and universities.

OCBC research indicates the skills gap is inhibiting Orange County’s established and growing innovation, entrepreneurial, and technology clusters. These gaps occur at all levels but are especially pronounced for college graduates and post-graduates. Systematic research at the regional level is required to both quantify these gaps and craft effective responses. However, significant problems already identified are:

- A worker shortage in occupational categories demanding high-technology skills;
- A lack of STEAM skills in professional and technician level occupations; and
- An absence of basic education among 16 percent of Orange County’s workers over the age of 25-years old who lack a high school diploma.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Orange County needs a highly-qualified and well-educated workforce - and a robust educational system that develops it - prepared for productive citizenship in a knowledge-based economy, supporting the needs of Orange County’s employers in today’s workplace.
OCBC supports:

- Monitoring the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Local Control Funding Formula to ensure students are college and career ready;
- Increased access to early childhood education and Transitional Kindergarten to assist in lowering the Achievement and Opportunity Gaps;
- Public-Private-Partnerships with business to support education programs through non-profits to fill the workforce gaps;
- Ensuring that the arts and humanities are part of an overall wide-ranging K-12 and Higher Education curriculum to increase communication and critical thinking skills and develop problem solving skills;
- Annual assessments of Orange County’s workforce development needs;
- Assisting educational providers and Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) to strategically align available funding with research outcomes and projections that respond to both the current and future employment and training needs of businesses;
- Collaboration between universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools, occupational training programs, businesses, workforce investment boards, and others involved in workforce preparedness, to develop programs that respond to employer and labor market needs and to ease matriculation between educational institutions;
- Sustainable funding for career technical education as well as adult retraining to respond to changes in the economic and workplace environments;
- Expanded English-language programs for employees and job-seekers; universal access to workforce training and job assistance programs for limited English-speaking job-seekers;
- Internships, field studies, service learning, and workplace-centered opportunities for students at all levels, including graduate students;
- Workplace externships for teachers to refresh skills in their discipline;
- Commitment to fund higher education at the appropriate levels to absorb increased enrollment growth and return to a more stable funding policy for students and California’s higher education system, while continued efficient stewardship of appropriated resources and expansion of revenue generating endeavors are achieved;

“Workforce development and education is the keystone to supplying industry with the necessary pool of talent that drives innovation and prosperity.”
• Funding for student support services geared towards timely degree completion;
• Locally-determined priorities and implementation strategies for attaining and exceeding Statewide academic standards;
• Highly trained and appropriately compensated teachers and administrators;
• Streamlining teacher and administrator certification, including alternative avenues to expand the pool of high-quality teachers and administrators;
• State school bonds to match local dollars for school facilities;
• Sustained federal funding for Small Business Innovation Research Programs (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs; and
• Sustained federal funding for critical basic research.
IMMIGRATION

BACKGROUND

Immigration has a significant impact on California’s economy, affecting both the labor force and the movement of goods. Approximately 1 in 10 workers in California is an undocumented immigrant. Immigration, both documented and undocumented, is expected to account for almost all of the growth in the labor force. America’s current immigration system is broken, however, and does not meet the needs of our citizens or businesses. Immigration reform is especially important to California as approximately 1.85 million of the 2.6 million undocumented immigrants in California are working and contributing to the State’s economy. California’s undocumented immigrant population accounts for 23 percent of the nation’s total and about 6 percent of the state’s population—half of whom have lived here for more than 10 years. These individuals have developed roots in this country, leaving little incentive to return to their country of origin. The uncertainty over their legal status is a drag on our economy and, if resolved, would stimulate consumer spending and investment.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

OCBC supports new laws for the controlled admission of immigrant workers, along with a defined path for permanent residency and/or citizenship for unauthorized members of America’s workforce. While OCBC opposes illegal immigration, OCBC also encourages a new federal commitment to enforcing existing laws to gain control of our borders and to better track the immigrant population within the US. Comprehensive immigration reform legislation that includes a carefully monitored guest worker program, which provides Orange County businesses with a skilled and lower-skilled labor pool, is necessary to compete in today’s marketplace. The federal government has primary responsibility for enforcing immigration laws, not the business community. OCBC opposes unfairly burdening employers with penalties and new worker verification requirements that are unreliable and underfunded.

A talented workforce is a key driver of the economy, as such; OCBC seeks to bring increased focus on the critical challenge of improving access to top international talent. Combined with programs to strengthen domestic science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) training, OCBC promotes increased availability of legal immigration and immigrant investment as a way to improve long-term economic competitiveness.

POSITIONS

OCBC supports:

- A bipartisan solution in Congress for borders as lines of defense against those who enter illegally and against those who pose security threats to this country;
- Temporary worker programs to meet the needs of employers for high- and low-skilled jobs that cannot be filled by U.S. workers;
- Enforcement of employment verification has to be combined with 100 percent reliable employment eligibility information (E-Verify); and
- An earned pathway to legal status for undocumented workers.
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The Executive branch

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(As of January 13, 2017)

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Department of Education
SECRETARY BETSY DeVOS
www.ed.gov

Department of Energy
SECRETARY RICK PERRY
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Department of Health and Human Services
SECRETARY TOM PRICE
www.hhs.gov

Department of Homeland Security
SECRETARY JOHN F. KELLY
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SECRETARY BEN CARSON
www.hud.gov

Department of the Interior
SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE
www.doi.gov

Department of Justice
ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA LYNCH
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Department of Labor
SECRETARY ANDREW F. PUZDER
www.dol.gov

Department of State
SECRETARY REX W. TILLERSON
www.state.gov

Department of Transportation
SECRETARY ELAINE L. CHAO
www.dot.gov

Department of Treasury
SECRETARY STEVEN MNUCHIN
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Department of Veteran Affairs
SECRETARY ROBERT McDONALD
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Cabinet Rank Member
Environmental Protection Agency
ADMINISTRATOR SCOOT PRUITT
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*All names are subject to senate confirmation.
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Website: issa.house.gov
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**District Office Phone:** 714.662.6050
# California State Senate Roster

(All addresses are: State Capitol, Room _________ Sacramento, CA 95814)

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Orange County Legislative Delegation: Assembly

The Honorable Phillip Chen (R-55)
Capitol Office, Room 4177, Sacramento, CA 94249
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District Office Phone: 714.668.2100  |  District Office Fax: 714.668.2104
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<td>Lorenzo Gonzalez</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Orange County Board of Supervisors

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The Orange County Department of Education oversees Orange County’s 28 school districts:

**Unified Schools Districts:**
- Brea-Olinda Unified School District
- Capistrano Unified School District
- Garden Grove Unified School District
- Irvine Unified School District
- Laguna Beach Unified School District
- Los Alamitos Unified School District
- Newport-Mesa Unified School District
- Orange Unified School District
- Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
- Saddleback Valley Unified School District
- Santa Ana Unified School District
- Tustin Unified School District

**Elementary School Districts:**
- Anaheim City School District
- Buena Park School District
- Centralia School District
- Cypress School District
- Fountain Valley School District
- Fullerton School District
- Huntington Beach City School District
- La Habra City School District
- Lowell Joint School District
- Magnolia School District
- Ocean View School District
- Savanna School District
- Westminster School District

**Union High School Districts:**
- Anaheim Union High School District
- Fullerton Joint Union High School District
- Huntington Beach Union High School District
**Government Resources**

**Federal Government**

**Legislative Information (federal) / U.S. Library of Congress:** [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov)
Federal legislation, Washington, D.C. tour opportunities, jobs, and fellowships

**President:** [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)

**United States Senate:** [senate.gov](http://senate.gov)
Senate members/directory, committees

**United States House of Representatives:** [house.gov](http://house.gov)
House members/directory, committees

**U.S. Government Official Web Portal:** [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)

**The California Institute for Federal Policy Research:** [calinst.org](http://calinst.org)
Information about federal policy decisions, with specific application to California

**State Government**

**Legislative Information (state):** [leginfo.ca.gov](http://leginfo.ca.gov) or [www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov)
Bill information and hearing schedules, California laws, website resources on legislative issues

**Governor:** [governor.ca.gov](http://governor.ca.gov)

**California State Senate:** [senate.ca.gov](http://senate.ca.gov)
Senators, Senate committees, legislation

**California State Assembly:** [assembly.ca.gov](http://assembly.ca.gov)
Assembly Members, Assembly committees, legislation

**State of California:** [ca.gov](http://ca.gov)
See [ca.gov/Apps/Agencies.aspx](http://ca.gov/Apps/Agencies.aspx) for the online directory to state agencies.
See [calgold.ca.gov](http://calgold.ca.gov) for state and local government permits required to do business.

**Secretary of State:** [sos.ca.gov](http://sos.ca.gov)
Election updates, lobbyist registration, state archives

**Legislative Analyst:** [lao.ca.gov](http://lao.ca.gov)
Analyses of state budget issues, legislative proposals, and state ballot initiatives

**Attorney General (for Statewide Ballot Initiative Text):** [caag.state.ca.us/initiatives/activeindex.htm](http://caag.state.ca.us/initiatives/activeindex.htm)
Text of statewide ballot initiatives under circulation or qualified

**News Summaries/State Updates:** [aroundthecapitol.com](http://aroundthecapitol.com) or [rtumble.com](http://rtumble.com)

**California Performance Review:** [cpr.ca.gov](http://cpr.ca.gov)
Regulatory reform and state government reorganization proposals