

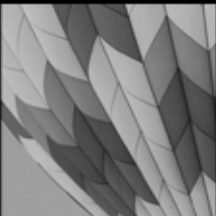
Vision, Policies & Guidelines

NAPA

Chamber of Commerce



- Creating a Strong Local Economy
- Promoting the Community
- Providing Networking Opportunities
- Building a Sustainable Future
- Representing Business to Government
- Political Action



2008
NAPA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

W E F O C U S O N B U S I N E S S

The Napa Chamber of Commerce's Critical Functions are:

STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

PROMOTING THE COMMUNITY

PROVIDING NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

REPRESENTING BUSINESS TO GOVERNMENT

POLITICAL ACTION

NAPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -- FIVE-YEAR VISION
Adopted by the Board of Directors
November 28, 2005

“As the membership organization for business, we promote our community’s economic vitality and quality of life through leadership development, advocacy, facilitation and education.”

ECONOMIC VITALITY

- ∞ The Chamber will continue its strong support of our agricultural preserve, Napa County agriculture, and our world-renowned wine industry. The Chamber will support new and innovative land-use planning strategies that take pressure off expansion into agricultural land and open spaces.
- ∞ The Napa River Project will be nearing completion and will be celebrated nationwide for its design excellence and beauty, its re-creation of wetlands, and its revitalization of downtown Napa. The Chamber will support businesses that will enhance this economic revitalization effort.
- ∞ The Chamber will support publicly and privately funded efforts to retain existing businesses and to recruit new community-friendly businesses and industries that provide well-paying jobs, working in cooperation with city and county planning agencies, economic development departments and the Napa Valley Economic Development Corporation.
- ∞ The County of Napa will update its General Plan and its Airport Area Specific Plan. The Chamber will participate in the formation of those plans to insure that they include sound economic considerations.
- ∞ The Chamber supports and takes an active role in ensuring that the City of Napa is the County’s primary retail and commercial hub. The Chamber will continue its work to ensure that Napa is the tourism hub focusing on cultural and performing arts, dining, conference and lodging facilities.
- ∞ The Napa business community and the Napa Chamber benefit from its culturally diverse population. The Napa Chamber will provide programs and resources to enhance the creation, growth and success of all businesses, including minority owned and ethnically diverse businesses.

EDUCATION

- ∞ The Chamber is committed to ensuring that educational facilities are efficiently improved, modernized and well maintained.
- ∞ The Chamber will promote collaboration between education and business to better prepare students for the workforce.
- ∞ The Chamber will advocate for rigorous educational standards so all students will be prepared for college, vocational training and/or the workforce.
- ∞ The Chamber will encourage education and training to enhance literacy and other skills necessary for the adult workforce.

WORKFORCE HOUSING / JOBS & HOUSING BALANCE

- ∞ The Chamber endorses and supports Napa County and its five cities in their creation, adoption and implementation of a housing plan that meets State housing law.
- ∞ The Chamber endorses and supports a coalition / consensus effort to collaborate with the County of Napa and its five cities to jointly adopt stable sources of permanent funding for affordable housing.
- ∞ The Chamber endorses and supports Napa County and its five cities in their efforts to thoughtfully create a balance between the total number of jobs, the total number of appropriate housing units, and community infrastructure to support jobs and housing.
- ∞ The Chamber will advocate for quality high-density residential design policies and mixed-use projects to support “affordability in local housing” to take pressure off expansion into agricultural land and open spaces.

TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

- ∞ The Chamber will strongly advocate funding for the widening improvements to Highway 12 and its associated intersections and interchanges.
- ∞ The Chamber will advocate for environmentally sound short-range and long-range solutions and funding for our community’s transportation requirements, including highway accessibility to and from Napa, road maintenance, parking, public transit systems and improved pedestrian and automobile safety.
- ∞ The Chamber will continue its strong support of Napa County airport as a key element of the County’s transportation and economic infrastructure.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- ∞ The Chamber will continue to support the management and maintenance of quality resources to ensure an adequate supply of fresh and treated wastewater to provide a balance between agricultural, residential, environmental, commercial and recreational needs.
- ∞ The Chamber will support the creation of an equitable process for grape growers to plant / replant that also increases protection for the Napa River watershed.
- ∞ The Chamber will support the extensive re-use of treated wastewater throughout the County and while using/conserving our freshwater supplies efficiently.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- ∞ The Chamber will continue to support government efficiency and cost-effective services and programs.
- ∞ The Chamber will continue to oppose government mandates and regulations that impose undue burdens and costs on private business and property.
- ∞ The Chamber will continue to strongly support and participate in processes that solve local and regional issues through coalition and consensus building.
- ∞ The Chamber will continue to shape public policy through communication with members, their employees and the general public regarding the Chamber’s Community Vision to preserve, guard and improve our quality of life.

- ∞ The Chamber will continue to actively identify, educate and endorse candidates and officials with the integrity, leadership and courage to advance and advocate the Chamber's Community Vision.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE (LAC) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) is to identify, study, analyze, hear testimony on legislative and public policy issues which concern the business community; and, when deemed appropriate, to recommend a Chamber position on these issues. The LAC builds and maintains a relationship with elected officials and/or government staff members to insure that the LAC has available to them the best information on issues and agendas of local legislation.

MEMBERSHIP:

The LAC shall be made up of 19 chamber members with one elected official each from City and County, the Chairman of the Board and the President/CEO as ex-officio members (total of 23).

The composition of the 19 **voting** LAC members shall be:

Officers (3)	Board of Directors (5)	I. Members at Large (11)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Chair-elect ∞ Immediate Past-Chair ∞ V.P. of Advocacy (or his/her designate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Year Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber Members in Good Standing – may include up to 3 Past-Chairs of the Chamber (they are given first priority)

The composition of the 4 **non-voting** LAC members shall be:

Chamber Officials (2)	Elected Officials (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Chairman of the Board (may vote in case of a tie) ∞ President/CEO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Napa City Council Member ∞ Napa County Supervisor

Chamber members in good standing are welcome to attend LAC, as are guests of Chamber members.

SELECTION AND REQUIREMENTS OF LAC MEMBERSHIP:

A Nominating Committee made up of the incoming and current Chair of LAC, one member of the current Executive Committee and one member of the current Board of Directors; with the President/CEO serving ex-officio, shall convene in October. Potential nominees must agree to serve, if appointed, and to adhere to the policy of attending two-thirds of the LAC meetings. The Committee's nomination slate will be presented to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for final approval at the November meetings.

Term of service will be for one year (January-December), with reappointment eligibility; but not for more than three consecutive years (Chamber officer positions notwithstanding). Members must attend two-thirds of all scheduled meetings to be considered for reappointment. Past-Chairs of the Chamber Board may serve as many terms as desired.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (cont.)

MEETING DATES AND FREQUENCY:

The LAC will meet every two weeks, the second and fourth Wednesday at 8:15 AM for approximately one hour. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, with at least 24 hours written or electronic notice to the members of the committee.

A quorum of the LAC will require 50% of the voting members to be present and accounted for. Proxies shall not be allowed. The Chamber's President/CEO shall be responsible for writing and distributing minutes of each meeting and all documentation required of the LAC.

PROCEDURES:

ISSUE SELECTION – Any member of the Chamber may bring an issue to the President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Executive Committee or the LAC Chair for consideration. Depending on the issue's appropriateness and timing, the issue will be forwarded to the appropriate committee. Public agencies and non-members should contact the President/CEO to submit requests for issue review.

ESTABLISH CHAMBER POSITION - Once an issue is fully reviewed and is deemed necessary or appropriate for a Chamber position to be recommended to the Board or Executive Committee, a majority vote of attending voting members must be achieved.

Following the establishment of a position on an issue, a Position Paper shall be written by the appropriate LAC member, or the LAC Chair, along with the CEO. Included in the document shall be the vote as taken, and a minority report if the vote was less than unanimous.

The LAC shall forward the Position Paper to the Board of Directors, or in an emergency situation, the Executive Committee, for final approval. Recommendations as to what actions should be taken shall accompany the Position Paper. Electronic voting may be allowed in situations of great urgency, if the Chairman of the Board, LAC Chair, VP of Advocacy and the President/CEO deem the matter, and the Chamber's position on the issue, to be of significant importance and if the timing is a factor for relevancy, efficiency and credibility of the Chamber.

OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON(S) - The Chairman of the Board, Chair-Elect or the President/ CEO (at the direction of the Chairman of the Board), exclusively, shall be the official spokespersons for the Chamber.

(NOTE: When possible, one LAC member who may be considered the most knowledgeable on the issue being dealt with, may be asked to make a presentation before the Board of Directors, or in the situation of emergency, the Executive Committee, to insure that the issue is fully explained.)

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

GOVERNMENT BY LAW - LOCAL

a. Policy: Chamber policy shall advocate government by law as opposed to government by expediency or policy and that local governments should adopt appropriate ordinances, after due consideration and public notice, to govern elected officials in the conduct of public business.

b. Procedure: In accordance with the bylaws, Chamber committee and task force leadership will consider proposed ordinances or amendments to existing ordinances and make recommendations to the Board on those that affect business. Board action on such measures requires a simple majority vote for passage. For non-business, community or "quality of life" ordinances, a 2/3 majority vote of the Board is required.

In its advocacy role, Chamber leadership shall encourage the local elected officials to legislate with reason and not be unduly influenced by vocal minorities or pressure groups who pack the chambers with supporters of a particular proposal. It will also encourage observance of the law by the citizens and respect for those charged with carrying out the provisions of the law. It will support and encourage decisions by the legislative bodies based on duly adopted ordinances and oppose interpretations of the law by government staff other than the staff attorney. If an ordinance is unclear to the point that interpretation is necessary, the Chamber shall recommend clarifying amendments.

GOVERNMENT BY LAW - STATE

a. Policy: It is the belief of Chamber membership that the residents of the State of California have a right to be governed by just and honest law and it shall be Chamber policy to encourage adoption of acceptable and necessary legislation, amendments to existing legislation, and the cancellation of obsolete legislation. Further, the Chamber supports the belief that, insofar as possible, legislative decisions which apply to the local community should be made at the local community level.

b. Procedure: The Chamber shall, through its various sub-groups, keep abreast of proposed state legislation which is of interest or concern to its membership and/or the local community, should the legislation have an effect on the local quality of life. The Chamber will, maintain close contact with the state elected officials and their staffs and be active advocates for those issues which are applicable.

GOVERNMENT BY LAW - FEDERAL

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber to study and make recommendations to the elected officials on proposed legislation at the national level which are of interest and concern to the Chamber's membership and the local citizens.

b. Procedure: The Chamber has, many times in the past, organized and participated

in trips to Washington, DC to lobby on federal matters which pertain to the local business community and to the local community as a whole. It will continue to do so.

Short of actual travel to the nation's capital, the Chamber will maintain a close relationship with the local district congressmen and staff; closely monitor the Washington scene for proposed legislation which has application at the local level; and stimulate letter writing, telephone and fax campaigns on issues as appropriate.

TAXATION

a. Policy: it is the policy of the Chamber to advocate moderation in taxation at all levels of government and to support the position that taxes must be equitable and not unfairly apply to any particular segment of the population.

At the local level, Chamber policy is to encourage local government leaders to impose new taxes to the minimum necessary to provide an acceptable level of service.

b. Procedure: At all levels of government, efficiency in operation shall be advocated as an alternative to increasing taxes and when costs of government reach a level where significant new taxes are required to fund them, the Chamber shall encourage the governments to reduce personnel, eliminate services not absolutely required and reduce capital expenditures.

At the local level, the Chamber will be outspoken in its policy that taxes should be assessed equitably without placing an unfair burden on the business community or any other segment of the community. Projects and programs which place heavy financial burdens on the future will be discouraged and those projects and programs which no longer serve a purpose shall be eliminated.

The Chamber must be active in its review of local government budgets and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the local government leaders. Proposals for new or increased taxes will be met with skepticism. When Chamber leadership is on the fence regarding new or increased taxes, they should decide on the side of conservatism.

The Chamber will encourage consolidation of local services or agencies when it can be shown that such action will result in savings or greater efficiency.

As examples of Chamber action on proposed new taxes, as recent as 1993, the Chamber was the opposition leader in a successful campaign to defeat a proposed sales tax increase whose funds would be used to purchase open space. On the other hand, also in 1993, it was a strong supporter of a large local bond measure whose funds were to be used to correct major infrastructure problems within the Napa Valley Unified School District.

At the State and Federal level, the sub-groups of the Chamber shall monitor the actions of government and be ready to make recommendations to the Board when necessary.

CHAMBER/GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

a. Policy: It is policy of the Chamber to enjoy a positive, cooperative relationship with the elected officials and staffs at all levels of government.

At the local level, it is especially important that the Chamber maintain a close and amicable relationship with all of the governmental agencies and special districts. Limited

staff time and volunteer availability dictate that the Chamber can best serve these agencies through its role as a facilitator (bringing groups to consensus on projects and issues) - as opposed to being an action agency.

b. Procedure: The Chamber will maximize its efforts to develop close working relationships with the representatives of governments at all levels.

At the local level, it will assist the governments and districts when and where it can to the extent possible. It will also be receptive to joint sponsorship of events and activities with local governments.

The Chamber has, in the past, contracted with local government for the performance of certain functions such as event promotion, tourism, economic development and so forth; however, since 1990, there have been no contractual relationships with any of the local governmental agencies. The general consensus of Chamber leadership has been that the Chamber can better perform its role of legislative advocacy in the absence of government funding ("Biting the hand that feeds you").

PLANNING AND ZONING

a. Policy: Planning and zoning are key elements in the functioning of the local community and are very important to its continued economic growth. Therefore, the policy of the Chamber is to be actively involved in the planning process and to encourage adoption and update of, and adherence to, master plans and amendments thereto.

b. Procedure: All zoning actions shall be carefully examined and monitored, especially those involving commercial and industrial areas. Through its volunteer pool, the Chamber shall solicit the opportunity to assist in the preparation of plans and discussions regarding zoning.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

a. Policy: With the understanding that there has never been, nor can there ever be, a total (100%) pollution-free environment and that the need for jobs is vital to the survival of any community, the policy of the Chamber shall be to protect the environment (air, water, ground, visual, noise, et al) from pollution to the degree possible. Policy will also include the recognition of the importance of landscaping, open space and architectural significance to the quality of life of our community.

b. Procedure: The Chamber will encourage and support balanced economic growth/environmental protection for the community. Toward this end, it will encourage preservation and development of parks, historical buildings, open space, etc. to the degree that it will not inhibit reasonable economic growth or will require increased taxes and/or governmental staff to support it.

CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber to support efforts to conserve the natural

resources of our great state and to protect the ecology of the San Francisco Bay Area to the extent that it is accomplished through well-planned actions which address the needs of the citizens (jobs and housing) and the maintenance of a healthy environment.

b. Procedure: The Chamber will act only on factual information from reliable sources and will not take a position on issues until such information can be gathered and discussed. Sub-groups of the Chamber will, when confronted with such issues, relate them to the needs of the local economy and then the environment and then be prepared to make recommendations accordingly.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber to oppose efforts to establish regional organizations, agencies or governments that result in another layer of government. When such organizations, etc. are established, the Chamber will be a strong advocate for fair and equitable representation from the local community on the governing body of that organization, etc.

b. The Chamber shall encourage cooperation with neighboring communities as the method of satisfying regional needs. When confronted with efforts to form a regional organization, etc., Chamber leadership shall study and make recommendations and, if a "local" need is determined, they will actively support efforts to satisfy the need at the local level. When regional issues do develop, the Chamber will advocate the lowest level and smallest organization possible adequate to satisfy the problem.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber to oppose, to the extent possible, mandates from the State and Federal government that do not include provisions for the necessary funding of the mandate.

b. Procedure: The Chamber will, in its legislative advocacy efforts, put forth the message that mandating programs and projects from above is unfair, unjust and is often unnecessary in that they do not always apply to all communities.

EDUCATION

a. Policy: The Chamber's overriding policy shall be that K-12 education is primarily the responsibility of the local community; however, because of wide variations in taxable wealth within the State, and the right of all students to enjoy equal educational opportunities, that policy shall also include provisions for distribution of funds throughout the State by a formula that insures equal educational opportunities in all school districts.

b. Procedure: The Chamber may, after due deliberation and approval of the Board support school bond measures, tax overrides and so forth to be used for educational purposes.

WELFARE

a. Policy: The Chamber has taken the position that welfare assistance should be given as a matter of need and not a matter of right. It believes that those citizens unable to earn an adequate living because of age, mental or physical infirmities or temporary inability to find employment should be assisted.

It is the policy of the Chamber to encourage training programs designed to train citizens on welfare to the point where they can become self-sufficient. Work programs should be instituted for all able-bodied persons receiving aid and they should all be required to participate.

b. Procedure: Because of its role as advocate for the business community, the Chamber must be especially alert for proposed legislation and proposals which will add to the costs of the welfare system.

The Chamber will actively advocate its policy regarding welfare matters and it will actively oppose unfunded mandates from the state level which are in opposition to the policy.

NAPA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

a. Policy: Throughout its century-plus history, the Chamber has strongly supported a project that will prevent flooding of the Napa River in the City of Napa - an event that recurs on a frequent basis. Accordingly, it shall be the policy of the Chamber to continue to actively support such a project to the extent that it guarantees prevention of the "100 year" flood. This policy does not necessarily include support for physical amenities and improvements beyond that guarantee.

Regarding funding for the project, it shall be the policy of the Chamber to support the fact that the City and County officials have the authority to commit to the project (without a citizen vote) and that all property owners of the County should participate in the funding of the local share based on "benefit" received.

b. Procedure: Since 1989, the Chamber has been the community leader in the effort to see the current Corps of Engineer-designed project come to pass. During the period 1991-95, the Chamber led annual delegations to Washington, DC to lobby for the project with members of Congress and the Administration. The Chamber has also been a key player in the efforts to develop State and local funding. It will continue to work within its means to do whatever is necessary to end the ever-present danger of floods.

HIGHWAYS

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber to support an equitable division of gas tax funds throughout the State based on need for new construction and because all drivers cross local boundaries and use highways throughout the State. Fund allocations should be based on traffic count, accident statistics and the need to move traffic.

The Chamber will oppose all efforts to divert gas tax funds to purposes other than highway improvement.

b. Procedure: The Chamber will lend its active support to high priority local highway projects. It will also actively oppose attempts to divert gas tax funds from the intended purposes; and work closely with the local office of CalTrans and the public works departments of the local communities in matters having to do with highways.

FREE ENTERPRISE

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber to support and promote the competitive free enterprise system in the market place. It shall work to build a favorable business climate and oppose unnecessary government regulation and control. Fair competition between like business firms is acceptable; unfair practices opposed; and it shall not be a sin for private enterprise to make a fair and honest profit.

Government competition with private business shall be opposed in all areas except where it is not practical: National defense for example.

b. Procedure: The Chamber will work on a continuing basis to make the local community one which enjoys a desirable business climate. It must work closely with local government, the Napa Valley Economic Development Corporation, and others in the attraction of clean industry and the development of jobs.

As the "advocate for business" (per its mission statement), the Chamber must do its share in providing the wherewithal to help its members compete with other areas.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

a. Policy: It is the policy of the Chamber that government should be run as a business. Those in charge of government should support all efforts aimed at controlling spending at all levels of government and encourage more efficient operation and attendant reductions in costs.

Uncontrolled government spending, with its resultant ever-increasing taxation, places a great burden on the business community and the public and can result in a bankrupt nation and economic chaos if allowed to exist.

b. Procedure: The Chamber shall actively and vigorously oppose proposed services and programs which will result in the growth of government and support those which will result in greater efficiency and economy. The Chamber will maintain close contact with the elected Congressmen and their staffs and keep them apprised of the Chamber's positions on issues.

LABOR RELATIONS

a. Policy: While recognizing the desirability of harmonious relationships between business and labor and the need for the Chamber to encourage such relationships, it is the policy of the Chamber to oppose the position that workers should be forced to join a labor union to obtain or hold a job just as we believe no business should be forced to join a Chamber in order to conduct business in a community. Further, the Chamber considers

secondary boycotts as a tactic that is unfair and unwarranted in labor-management disputes.

b. Procedure: As a means of encouraging communication and understanding, the Chamber will actively encourage the participation of government and labor union officials in Chamber activities to the same degree it encourages the members of business and the professions.

IMMIGRATION

The following statement details the Napa Chamber of Commerce's position on the subject of immigration.

Immigration has a significant impact on California's economy, affecting all facets of commerce. Immigrants are an essential part of the labor force in and around Napa County. The Napa Chamber of Commerce supports strong educational outreach to help immigrant laborers make informed decisions on all available options which allow them to continue to work in a safe, equitable and legal environment. The Napa Chamber further encourages all business owners to do the due diligence required that will help them stay in compliance with federal and state laws. The Napa Chamber recognizes that this issue is a market driven issue, and that true immigration reform at the federal level must not adversely affect our national economy. The Chamber encourages legislators to craft legislation that promotes compliance and balanced reform, but does not force employers to become the enforcers of the law. The Napa Chamber of Commerce will strive to provide current and reliable information to assist immigrant employees and employers in finding resources that may be available in Napa County.

CHAMBER POSITION ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

a. Policy: The Napa Chamber of Commerce has, in the past, been reluctant to take positions on individual development projects, preferring to consider policy decisions and not wishing to become a "quasi planning commission." As an advocate for business in Napa, however, there may be instances when the Chamber's position is needed to aid appointed and elected officials in receiving a truly balanced view of projects. The Chamber supports the Planning Commission's efforts to keep the integrity of neighborhoods and increase the quality of life through its traditional compliance with zoning, design, traffic and parking restrictions. The Chamber is confident that developers and Planning Commissioners will handle these concerns. Business provides the city and county with sales tax revenue, business license tax revenue and a major portion of property tax revenue, yet uses far less services than the residential community. Business provides the revenue for the services we all want in order to maintain our quality of life in Napa. It seems appropriate then, in some instances, for the Chamber of Commerce to advocate for specific business projects when these projects are deemed to provide benefit to the community.

b. Procedure: To that end, the following criteria are being established to provide guidance to the chief paid staff member, the Legislative Action Committee and the Board

of Directors for individual project evaluation and possible position statements.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND POSSIBLE POSITION

1. The applicant must have been a member in good standing of the Napa Chamber of Commerce for a minimum of 30 days prior to requesting the evaluation of a project.
2. The applicant must initiate the request for evaluation/support. This should be accomplished through the office of the Chief Executive Officer or the current President of the Chamber who will then consult the CEO in order to place the project in the evaluation process.
3. The applicant should in no way assume that by applying for evaluation by the Chamber they are guaranteed the support of the Chamber for their project.
4. The Chamber reserves the right to decline evaluation of a project, based on the criteria outlined in this policy or any of the following:
 - a. The project is outside the sphere of influence of the Napa Chamber
 - b. The project is deemed to potentially cause irrevocably harm to an existing business or member in good standing of the Chamber
 - c. The project does not meet standards of Public Peace Morals and Welfare ordinances existing in the City of Napa Municipal Code

The process for evaluation, once determined as desirable, shall consist of a presentation to the Legislative Action Committee as prescribed in the LAC Policy & Procedures. Upon the LAC's review, a position may be recommended to the Chamber Board of Directors and acted upon in accordance with the rules governing such actions. Public statements regarding such positions shall be determined by the Board at that time.

NAPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

1. Five-Year Community Vision:

The Five-Year Community Vision will be the basis of all endorsement.
2. Elected Positions / Races the Chamber will consider for Endorsement:
 - a. Napa City Council.
 - b. Napa County Board of Supervisors.
 - c. California State Senate.
 - d. California State Assembly.
 - e. U.S. Congress.
3. Endorsement Working Group (9 Voting Members):
 - a. Four (4) Board Members at time of appointment
 - b. Three (3) LAC Members at time of appointment (not to be Board members)
 - c. Two (2) Members at Large at time of appointment
 - d. Chamber President/CEO (may participate in discussion but has no voting rights)
 - e. Working Group members will be appointed for three-year terms, staggered in 1, 2 and 3 year periods so that the Group would continue to have members with “institutional memory”. Terms will begin and end on July 1 as not to conflict with any of the election cycles.
4. Endorsement Working Group Qualifications and Process:
 - a. Working group members must be registered voters in Napa County with proof of voting in prior two elections and not currently a public servant (elected or appointed).
 - b. Six (6) members of the working group must support endorsement of any particular candidate in order to make a recommendation to the full Board. Endorsements will be limited to one or no endorsements per open seat in any race.
 - c. Working Group members shall not make any public endorsements of any eligible candidate(s) prior to Board endorsement of candidates for that particular office.
5. Board Endorsements:
 - a. Endorsement of any particular candidate must be supported by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board present at the meeting.
 - b. Endorsements shall typically be finalized a minimum of two full months prior to election.

ALLIANCE OF NORTH BAY CHAMBERS

ANBC Mission Statement

The Alliance of the North Bay Chambers is a cooperative program of leading chambers of commerce in Napa, Marin, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. The ANBC develops policy for the participating chambers on key federal and state issues and through combined efforts influences legislation and other public policy decisions. The ANBC creates a strong voice for the North Bay business community, improves and enhances the business climate, and furthers the quality of life in our region through a strong economy.

ANBC Policy Statements

Regional Transportation Improvement

The Alliance is committed to promoting improvement to the full spectrum of regional transportation infrastructure, including rapid transit, ferry systems, rail, commuter lanes and road and highway systems. While the workforce benefits from all these systems, business is most dependent on roads, streets and highways as the nation's commerce is carried on that form of transportation. Sadly, California's roads and highways rank amongst the worst in the nation. More resources need to be allocated to them in order to promote a healthy California economy.

Affordable Workforce Housing

The Bay Area's need for housing at the affordable and medium priced levels is at an all time High. The Alliance supports development of more high and low density housing across this spectrum to include redevelopment projects where feasible. The Alliance believes that proper planning and enforcement of maintenance standards by governmental agencies can lead to esthetically pleasing developments that decrease transportation congestion by placing housing closer to jobs.

Water Development Projects

The demand for water for municipalities, businesses, agriculture and the environment will likely produce the next major crisis in California. More needs to be done to encourage ground storage, enclosure of water aqueducts to prevent evaporation, conservation and reuse of water treatment effluent. Flood control projects, where feasible, should be designed to also help storage of water.

Government Regulation of Business

The health of our local and state economies is dependent on a number of factors that determine the relative attractiveness of doing business here. Among these factors are

adequate access to natural resources, transportation, energy, communications, quality education, adequate housing, a trained work force and quality of life features for employees. Conversely, factors such as unreasonable or little-value-added government regulation, imposition of unfair taxes and fees, and unfriendly attitudes toward business by government toward business discourage business from relocating and staying here and prevent business from competing in the world market. The Alliance supports those initiatives that enhance the environment for business and opposes those which detract from that environment.

Energy Policy Statement

It is the Alliance's position that the State's energy demands are best met through a combination of energy conservation, efficient plant maintenance schedules, use of renewable energy sources and building of new plants where and when needed. Further, government regulation of power production and distribution should be limited to ensuring that energy prices fall within national market norms, not arbitrary price targets.

Regulation of public utilities should not discourage those efficiencies or establish criteria that induce the opposite results. In as much as possible, market forces should be allowed to set rates and utilities should be rewarded for successful efforts to reduce operating costs and, in turn, user charges.

The ANBC believes that government should not compete with private enterprise and that as much as possible, governmental services, (with the exception of such areas as police, fire and public safety), should be let out to contract. Private enterprise operations encourage efficiency, innovation and resulting cost savings.

Lastly, energy pricing must not target any sector of the society more than any other and individual and business consumers who conserve energy should be rewarded. Such policies promote the needed incentives for power producers, energy conservation and more stable prices.

General Policies

The alliance shall only pursue issues when they:

- (1) Meet the threshold of shared interest of member Chambers as required in the by laws
- (2) Meet one or more of the category criteria as established by the Alliance's charter
- (3) Are a prudent and judicious use of resources within the scheme of the Alliance's priorities.

The Alliance shall clearly communicate to its respective Chambers of Commerce those issue areas in which it seeks to play the lead agent. This largely eliminates the need for a "clearing house" activity by the Alliance and frees the respective chambers in taking

action on items not listed in the Alliance's sphere of responsibility.