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VICA UNVEILS TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2012

SHERMAN OAKS, Calif.—The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) has released its *12 Legislative Priorities for 2012*, a list of the public policy issues that will receive special attention from the organization during the new year.

“As the voice for our members, it is important for VICA to champion the issues that are most pressing to the business community,” said VICA Chair David Adelman. “These 12 priorities, while a large undertaking, are crucial to economic recovery, business development and job creation.”

In 2012 VICA will:

1. Support public pension reform that raises the retirement age, ban abusive practices such as “spiking” and “double dipping” and ensures that public employees pay their fair share of pension costs.
2. Lead the effort for business tax reform in the City of Los Angeles, including the elimination of business tax.
3. Push for California Environmental Quality Act reform in order to eliminate project delays by external actors for political, business or personal purposes and extend AB 900 provisions to all projects.
4. Lead the effort to renovate key sections of the 101 and 405 freeways to relieve bottlenecks, increase roadway safety and enable quicker, more efficient transportation between the San Fernando Valley, downtown Los Angeles and the Westside.
5. Advocate for a faster investment timeline for the \$40 billion secured through Measure R to speed up construction of major transportation projects in the greater San Fernando Valley.
6. Work to expand the State Film Production Tax credit to encourage more production in the state of California for films, TV and commercial production. This will create \$3 in jobs for every \$1 invested.
7. Play an active role in assisting with the planning process for the \$1 billion in funding for 405 Corridor Mass Transit project through the Sepulveda Pass as part of America’s Fast Forward.
8. Take the lead in supporting the City of Los Angeles Planning Department’s efforts to consolidate the city zoning code and other long overdue reforms to make the system work again.
9. Lead the effort to address California’s chronic water shortage to ensure that all Californians have an adequate and reliable source of water.
10. Lead the endeavor to reinstate the flexible work week by allowing employees to work 40 hours during a given week instead of the current 8-hour workday.
11. Call for the modernization of the Los Angeles International Airport’s terminals, airfield, and passenger amenities to create a more pleasant travel experience.
12. Request that the Legislature assess the higher education funding structure to better utilize federal funding mechanisms and balance public investment with affordability for students and their families.

“VICA works on numerous issues that impact the business community each year. While the *12 Legislative Priorities for 2012* are not the only issues VICA will tackle in 2012, they are extremely important to the overall health of the business community and economy,” said VICA President Stuart Waldman. “All members had the opportunity to weigh in and comment on the 2012 priorities.”

(more)

VICA's 12 Legislative Priorities for 2012 were compiled by the group's policy committees, and then reviewed by the board of directors, executive committee and general membership in order to determine the final list.

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The mission of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) is to enhance the economic vitality of the greater San Fernando Valley region by advocating for a better business climate and quality of life. Visit www.vica.com for more information.