

Meeting of the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce

The South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce had its monthly May meeting on May 5, 2020. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

- Margie Harrier, RN-Sr. Vice President, Kaiser Permanente South Bay, discussed the strategies Kaiser has employed as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, such as partnering with Gallo to produce masks, shifting out-patient care to virtual appointments, and re-deploying the hospital's services to deliver better in-patient care. Kaiser is also looking at ways to improve resources in the future, such as possibly employing drive-through temperature checks. Ms. Harrier answered several questions from the SBACC members. One such question was whether the hospital is prepared to be of assistance to businesses. She answered that businesses can consult the hospital on such issues as how to take temperature checks.
- There was a very robust discussion on Reopening and the Role of a Chamber. The SBACC members said that the messages from states, counties, and cities, have been very mixed, resulting in businesses being confused about how they should be re-opening. It was stated that the County would be sending out plans on May 7th for modifying the order so that businesses can safely open.
- In the Government Affairs Report, the SBACC reviewed and considered AB 828. This bill proposes a temporary moratorium on foreclosures and unlawful detainer actions as a result of the pandemic. It would prohibit any person, including mortgage holder, tax collector, county recorder, or court official, from taking any action that would result in the foreclosure of a residential real property while the a state of emergency related to the Covid-19 virus is in effect, and until 15 days after the emergency has ended. The bill would also require the court, in an unlawful detainer action to, upon determining that the non-payment of rent was attributable to the Covid-19 virus, make an order reducing the rent by 25% for the next year. The SBACC voted to oppose the bill.
- The Government Affairs Report also discussed the Governor's Reopen Threshold for the State. California is at Stage 2, which means that lower risk workplaces will be opening, such as retail, for curbside pickup; manufacturing; offices (when telework is not possible); and also, more public spaces will be opening.
- Jennings Imel of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce provided an update on the PPP and the CARES Act. He said that \$175 billion of the \$300 billion has been disbursed from the last tranche and may be exhausted by the end of the week. He said that, among Republicans, there is there is concern about liability issues for employers as they open, even if they are following the guidelines. He believes there will be bills attempting to limit liability, especially where the equipment doesn't work properly.
- Jennifer LaMarque reported for Supervisor Hahn's office that the County is establishing an Economic Resiliency Task Force to develop plans to for short-term and long-term recovery, possibly helping the most impacted industries with tax rebates and a micro-grant program.

Submitted by Olivia Valentine

