Following a 2015 election cycle the Redondo Beach City Council approved preliminary campaign finance reform measures.

The measure was brought forward by District 3 Councilman Christian Horvath. Horvath was noted for returning contributions from an outside special interests in his successful bid for council in 2015.

Tuesday night, council directed staff to return with an ordinance that limits contributions to City Council candidates at a maximum of $750 per donor, and holds candidate self-loans to a maximum of $15,000.

City-wide office candidates, including Mayor, city treasurer, clerk, attorney or school board positions, would be limited to a maximum of $1,500 per donor. Mayoral candidates will be limited to $25,000 in self-loans; however, other city-wide office candidates are exempt from limits.

This issue was originally brought forward in February when District 4 Councilman Steve Sammarco directed staff to create an agenda item regarding reform. The item was pushed back twice since then — once, after City Attorney Michael Webb provided a template framework for council discussion; and a second time when then-District 1 Councilman Jeff Ginsburg resigned unexpectedly and forced a rescheduling. At Tuesday’s meeting, Webb returned with a draft ordinance based on similar campaign finance legislation from neighboring cities and around the county.

Despite the establishment of new campaign finance guidelines, this will not prevent the Chamber or any other entity from spending unlimited amounts of money in the form of independent expenditures. Independent expenditures are campaigns for or against a candidate or issue that are not coordinated with the campaign and are completely independent of the candidate’s efforts.

Last election cycle, the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Candidates PAC (Political Action Committee) engaged in independent expenditures to support several local candidates.

Although the new ordinance will limit direct interaction and influence of candidates with campaign contributions, this should cause an uptick in the number of independent expenditures in the city.
By Ann Garten
Chair of the Board

Chair MESSAGE

CEQA Reform Bill Moves Forward, Could Help Waterfront if Passed

A Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce supported bill that, if passed, would expedite the environmental review process for leadership projects meeting certain criteria took a giant step towards becoming a law by passing on the California State Senate floor this week.

SB 734 (Galgiani; D-Stockton) helps streamline development by creating an expedited California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for “leadership projects,” which are selected by the Governor and that meet certain criteria, including a minimum financial threshold and net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

In doing so, SB 734 encourages the expedited approval and construction of critical development and infrastructure projects while also ensuring that such projects meet robust environmental standards.

SB 734 strikes a workable and appropriate balance between job creation and environmental protection by establishing the following project criteria.

CONDITIONS
Specifically, SB 734 permits the Governor to certify a leadership project for streamlining if the project meets the following conditions:

• Will result in a minimum investment of $100 million in California;
• Creates high-wage, highly skilled jobs that pay prevailing wages and living wages and provide construction jobs and permanent jobs for Californians;
• Does not result in any net additional emission of greenhouse gases;
• The project applicant has entered into a binding and enforceable agreement that all mitigation measures required under CEQA shall be conditions of approval for the project;
• Does not result in any net additional emission of greenhouse gases;
• The project applicant has entered into a binding and enforceable agreement that all mitigation measures required under CEQA shall be conditions of approval for the project;

Continued on pg. 6 “BILL MOVES FORWARD”

Gov. Jerry Brown and Legislative Leaders Reach Last-minute Deal on Spending Cap-and-Trade Revenues

In the closing hours of the legislative year, lawmakers approved a last-minute deal Wednesday, August 30th, to free up hundreds of millions of dollars from the state’s cap-and-trade program to fund green projects across the state. Under the agreement, which broke a two-year impasse, the state will spend $900 million on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — nearly two-thirds of $1.4 billion that has been raised but was tied up unspent in a political stalemate. The money will go toward subsidies for electric cars, new park space and pedestrian-friendly affordable housing. California’s 4-year old cap-and-trade program raises money from businesses that purchase permits to pollute.

The deal was announced on the Legislature’s final day, and was hailed by the governor and legislative leaders. It comes not long after they inked an ambitious plan to combat climate change by extending and expanding California’s targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This new agreement would allocate $135 million for transit projects such as intercity and commuter rail systems.

It would spend $133 million for the state’s main subsidy program for low- and zero-emission vehicles, and another $80 million for a second subsidy for low-income Californians living in poorer parts of Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley.

Thousands of consumers were pushed to wait lists while the cap-and-trade funds were held in limbo. Once the budget is finalized, rebates will go out to those already on the waiting list, with priority going to low-income buyers.

It includes $80 million for urban parks and other green spaces. Such projects will be chosen by state and local agencies during a grant process over the next several years.

The plan allocates $140 million to assist disadvantaged communities to develop their own local efforts to combat climate change, such as city planning that includes affordable housing and pedestrian walkways.

Multiple bills expected to pass in the Legislature late Wednesday add new restrictions on how the money is spent. About half of those who had received subsidies to purchase low- or zero-emission vehicles were earning more than $200,000 a year, according to a state survey. A new bill would limit the subsidy to those making less than $150,000.

And a third bill creates a new program that encourages disadvantaged communities to develop their own local efforts to combat climate change, such as city planning that includes affordable housing and pedestrian walkways. The legislation includes $140 million to fund this effort statewide.

The spending plan is not as expansive as the one proposed by De León earlier this month, which sought to spend $1.2 billion. Facing legal uncertainty due to a pending lawsuit, cap-and-trade auction revenue has sharply declined. The most recent auction, held in August, generated around $8 million. Lawmakers said they hoped the recent extension of the state’s emissions targets—which demonstrated a political will to shore up the program — would restore faith from the markets.

Continued on pg. 9 “GOV. JERRY BROWN”
Assembly Passes Costly New Leave Mandate

Contact the Governor to Request a Veto

The Assembly passed a job killer bill that will significantly harm small businesses in California who employ as few as 20 employees by requiring them to offer six weeks of protected leave for baby-bonding. This proposed mandate comes on top of the current requirement that employers with only 5 employees allow sixteen weeks of protected pregnancy-related leave. During yesterday’s debate, legislators failed to discuss or explain the existing leave programs and the true burden this additional mandated leave will have on California’s small businesses.

Using the gut and amend process in the last two weeks of session, SB 654 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara) revived the language of a previously dead job killer bill that failed because lawmakers recognized the harmful impact it would have on California’s job climate. After some membership changes to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson brought the measure back, incorporating the leave mandate language into SB 654 on August 18.

The California Chamber of Commerce has identified SB 654 as a job killer because it will overwhelm small employers. SB 654 targets small employers with only 20 employees within a 75-mile radius.

It would:

1. **Create Over a 5-Month Protected Leave of Absence on Small Employers:** California already requires employers with 5 or more employees to provide up to 4 months of protected leave for an employee who suffers a medical disability because of pregnancy. SB 654 will add another 6 weeks of leave for the same employee, totaling over 5 months of protected leave. It is unreasonable for a small employer with a limited workforce to accommodate such an extensive period of time.

2. **Impose a Mandatory Leave, with No Discretion to the Employer:** As a “protected leave,” with a threat of litigation, SB 654 mandates the small employer to provide 6 weeks of leave. The leave under SB 654 must be given at the employee’s request, regardless of whether the employer has other employees out on other California required leaves. This mandate on such a small employer with a limited workforce creates a significant challenge for the employer’s ability to maintain operations.

3. **Impose Additional Costs on Small Employers That Are Struggling with the Increased Minimum Wage:** Even though the leave under SB 654 is not “paid” by the employer, that does not mean the small employer will not suffer added costs. While on leave, the employer will have to: (1) maintain medical benefits while the employee is on leave; (2) pay for a temporary employee to cover for the employee on leave, usually at a higher premium, given the limited duration of employment; or (3) pay overtime to other employees to cover the work of the employee on leave. The cost of overtime is higher given the increase of the minimum wage, which will add to the overall cost on small employers.

Continued on pg. 5 “ASSEMBLY PASSES”
The term dementia is the broad term used to describe that there is a problem with the brain working properly, and it is an irreversible cause of memory loss. There are over 120 types of dementia and most are very rare. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common type of dementia. Some of the other more common types of dementia are Huntington’s disease, vascular dementia, Lewy Body dementia and Frontal Temporal Lobe dementia. Someone in the US develops Alzheimer’s every 67 seconds and that statistic is now over 3 years old.

We all find ourselves making comments about forgetting things as we get older, so let’s go over what is normal and what is not. It’s a fact that our thinking slows down as we get older. It may take us longer to remember things, but it comes back to us. We may misplace things from time to time, like keys. We might make a bad decision sometimes. We become used to our routines as we age, it’s familiar and comforting. However, memory LOSS is NOT normal, such as putting things in odd and unusual places. Bad decisions and judgement are not normal. Isolation from social activities is not normal, nor are changes in our behavior and personalities.

Dementia affects the entire family. Together, we can learn more and help to raise awareness to remove the stigma, not be afraid to talk about it and reach out for help when we need it.

Some of our Chamber members can help answer questions and concerns you might have. Check our website for Senior Services, and for Senior Community. www.redondochamber.org. 

Contributed by Lisa Bricker, Heart Light – A Referral Service
The Waterfront Take a Big Step Forward Thanks to the Harbor Commission

By: Joanne Galin

On Monday August 8, at the end of the fifth hearing in three months, the Redondo Beach Harbor Commissioners voted 4-2 to approve The Waterfront. I applaud their tremendous effort, and I am excited to see that they ultimately came to view The Waterfront as the right project for our community.

The environmental review process was specifically designed so that it required not only the feedback of residents, but also the feedback of experts whose jobs are to read through the documents, ask the tough questions and ultimately make the big decisions.

Reading the Final Environmental Impact Report, which is thousands of pages, is no easy task, and yet that is exactly what our Harbor Commissioners did. They spent hours at each of the five hearings listening to public comment – opinions from both supporters and opponents of the project – and then spent more time getting into the specifics of the project, asking questions and modifying project components.

Their review of The Waterfront was clearly extensive and thorough. They asked questions until they felt they understood every component of the project, and then when it came time to vote, the 4-2 result made it clear: The Waterfront is not only what we want, it’s what we need. It may not be perfect, but thanks to input of residents and the close eye of the Harbor Commissioners, it is finding the right balance and will continue to perfect that balance as it moves through the City Council and California Coastal Commission.

As someone who was at each of the hearings, it was exhilarating to see the Harbor Commissioners working so hard to review the project on behalf of residents, and to see how supportive residents are of the project. When residents and decisionmakers agree, you know that you have a special proposal in your hands.

I am very involved in Redondo Beach, from business to civic engagement, and I support The Waterfront because it will improve our community environmentally, economically and aesthetically.

I look forward to continuing to support The Waterfront as it goes through the approval process, and to finally having a project that appreciates the past while looking ahead to the future.

“ASSEMBLY PASSES” continued from pg. 3

4. Expose Small Employers to Costly Litigation: SB 654 labels an employer’s failure to provide the 6-week leave of absence as an “unlawful employment practice.” This label is significant as it exposes an employer to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). An employee who believes the employer did not provide the 6 weeks of protected leave, failed to return the employee to the same or comparable position, or maintain benefits while out on the 6 weeks of leave, could pursue a claim against the employer seeking: compensatory damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, punitive damages, and attorney’s fees. A 2015 study by insurance provider Hiscox regarding the cost of employee lawsuits under FEHA estimated that the cost for a small to mid-size employer to defend and settle a single plaintiff discrimination claim was approximately $125,000. This amount, especially for a small employer, reflects the financial risk associated with defending a lawsuit under FEHA, such as the litigation created by SB 654, and the ability to leverage an employer into resolving or settling the case regardless of merit.
The project applicant agrees to pay the costs of the Court of Appeal in hearing and deciding any case. If passed, this would be the first real meaningful reform to CEQA and could help open the opportunity for future modernization of the process. The chamber has been advocating for CEQA modernization for years and is very supportive of the expedited CEQA relief that SB 734 provides.

CEQA was initially passed to ensure that California’s environment is considered before moving forward with a project. However, over time CEQA has become a hook for litigation and a means to delay critical projects, such as housing projects and public works projects. Until significant changes are made to the underlying process, the Chamber supports efforts to expedite the CEQA review process for job-creating projects such as those specified by SB 734, which will encourage economic growth and recovery.

It is unclear whether or not the Waterfront Revitalization would make it to the status of a “Leadership Project” or meet all of the final conditions to do so. However, this could be the type of legislation that could help ease the eventual redevelopment of the AES property as well. If passed, Waterfront advocates should be prepared to present this opportunity to Governor Brown in an attempt to streamline the CEQA process for the project and position this as a vital project for the region and the state to avoid excessive delays caused by frivolous litigation.
Tom Bakaly Named CEO of Beach Cities Health District

Beach Cities Health District (BCHD), one of the largest preventive health agencies in the U.S., recently announced its Board of Directors unanimously selected Tom Bakaly as the organization’s next chief executive officer (CEO). Bakaly, the current city manager of Hermosa Beach, will succeed Susan Burden following her retirement on November 1, 2016.

“After thorough succession planning and a comprehensive search process that included hundreds of applicants, the Board is pleased to have found the best individual to assume leadership of Beach Cities Health District,” said Jane Diehl, BCHD Board president. “Tom has a proven track record of strong leadership both inside and outside of our community, and is uniquely qualified to make an immediate impact on the health and well-being of Beach Cities residents.”

Diehl added that Bakaly has long been a valuable community partner of the Health District and played a pivotal role in improving the health of Hermosa Beach residents during his tenure as city manager, including:

Helping the Beach Cities become the nation’s largest community to earn Blue Zones Community Certification in 2016
Serving as a Blue Zones Project ambassador to the U.S. Surgeon General during his June 2016 visit to the Beach Cities
Overseeing the City of Hermosa Beach’s adoption of comprehensive smoke-free policies in 2016
Brokering planning efforts between Hermosa Beach and CalTrans & Metro to conduct a street design and engineering study to explore implementing healthy “Living Streets” principles along Pacific Coast Highway
Helping guide Hermosa Beach’s 2012 adoption of the nation’s second strongest “Complete Streets” policy in support of healthy transportation

Additionally, Bakaly – who holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California – was responsible for managing the City of Hermosa Beach’s $40 million budget and 135 employees. Under his leadership, the city designed and implemented financial strategies aimed at creating transparency that recently resulted in the city’s first AA+ bond rating from Standard and Poor’s.

Prior to coming to Hermosa Beach, Bakaly worked as City Manager and Finance Manager/Director of Capital Programs for Park City, Utah, where he helped plan and execute the 2002 Winter Olympics; led the development of a large-scale community hos-

Continued on pg. 8 “BEACH CITIES”
Redondo Car Wash celebrated a ribbon cutting by the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau recently to kick off their grand opening. Owners Chris McKenna and Ken Crow, pictured front and center, are surrounded by family, friends, clients, City Officials, Chamber members, Chamber Ambassadors and the RUHS Dance Team. The celebration was a grand success with live music by Feed the Kitty, delicious food and fun! Cutting the ribbon is Marna Smeltzer, President/CEO of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.

Beach City Capital recently celebrated a ground breaking ceremony for beautiful new town houses at 928 S. Juanita Avenue. Mayor Aspel was in attendance with Jason Muller of Beach City Capital, and friends of Beach City Capital.

“BEACH CITIES” continued from pg. 7

pital; and managed more than 450 employees and a $45 million budget, in addition to a host of other civic projects.

“When I arrived in Hermosa Beach in 2012, one of the first community meetings I scheduled was with Beach Cities Health District CEO Susan Burden. I immediately connected with the organization’s values and developed an appreciation for the critical work and services they provide throughout our community,” said Bakaly. “Now four years later, I’m honored to have the opportunity to lead this exceptional organization and its deeply talented staff – and I’m eager to help BCHD create a healthy beach community.”

Bakaly expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for his time working for the City of Hermosa Beach, adding that he feels indebted to his team of city employees. “Those men and women are among our community’s greatest assets,” said Bakaly.

Susan Burden – who will exit the CEO post on October 31, following 12 years at BCHD – expressed confidence in the Board’s choice. “Tom is a remarkable leader and an even better person,” said Burden. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Tom during the years, and I’m very happy with the board’s decision. Great things are ahead for BCHD and our community.”

For more information on Beach Cities Health District, visit bchd.org.

Rob Franek is Princeton Review’s chief expert on education and college issues. He has served as a college admissions administrator, test prep teacher, author and lecturer. He led multiple of the Princeton Review’s annual “Best Colleges” series.

Recently featured on the Today Show, watch Rob’s interview at www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-colleges

Educational Advocate of the Year Announced

Redondo Beach Partners in Education Presents
State of Education 2016
COLLEGE FOR ALL
It’s never too early to find the right fit

OCTOBER 5, 2016
RUHS Auditorium on Vincent and PCH
5pm — Meet and Greet
Healthy Bites from Blue Zones Restaurants from Beach Cities Health District
6:30pm — Program Starts
Childcare provided for ages 4 and up starting at 6pm

Rob Franek is Princeton Review’s chief expert on education and college issues. He has served as a college admissions administrator, test prep teacher, author and lecturer. He led multiple of the Princeton Review’s annual “Best Colleges” series.

Recently featured on the Today Show, watch Rob’s interview at www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-colleges

Educational Advocate of the Year Announced
“GOV. JERRY BROWN” continued from pg. 2

Brown, who has championed setting aside money in the case of economic downturn, appeared even less inclined to dip into cap-and-trade dollars. Asked last week if he backed spending those funds, the governor said he was “committed to spending a little of that money,” placing emphasis on the word “little.” ■

“COMPANY PREPARED FOR ELECTIONS?” continued from pg. 3

ACCEPTABLE

Employers can communicate with their employees, stockholders and their families about the company’s support of or opposition to state legislation, regulations or ballot measures.

Also permissible is encouraging employees, stockholders and their families to support or oppose state legislation, regulations or ballot measures. Political messages can be communicated to the business’s own employees and their families through such means as: internal mail systems (separate from payroll distribution), email systems, regular mail, bulletin boards, phone bank messages or employee meetings.

There is a distinction between the handling of internal communications (to employees, stockholders and their families) and external audiences (such as non-stockholder retirees, outside vendors, customers and passersby). For more guidelines on political communications to employees, see the brochure at www.calchamber.com/guidelines. ■

Submit NEWS...

We would like to hear from you.
email: Karin@RedondoChamber.org

How to JOIN:

If you would like to learn more about how your business would benefit from membership in the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, please contact our member representatives below. You can also fill out a member application online at RedondoChamber.org/join if you are ready to join now.

310.376.6911

› Nanci Goussak (ext. 128) | nanci@RedondoChamber.org
› Cheryl Kahnamoui (ext: 130) | cheryl@RedondoChamber.org

“Being a newbie into the small biz scene with only 1 year under my belt, being a member of the Redondo Beach chamber is a main highlighted achievement so far in my business journey! They are the biggest cheerleaders for the success and growth of my biz here in Redondo Beach. I know that being connected to the chamber will give me the necessary guidance, influence, and encouragement that I need to thrive in this community as a business owner. I have gained business mentors, clients, community leader friends, gal pals, networking advisors, and fellow supporters throughout the South Bay community. This is an active chamber too which I love. I feel like family. Plus it’s like a one stop shop to being surrounded by success! I am so thrilled to have found my biz tribe here with the Chamber; I’m sold! “

Christina Wennstrom,
Soap Seas

BEACH BUSINESS

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Official opinions or positions of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce are only as voted by the Board of Directors and the GRC and clearly referenced as such in any article appearing in Beach Business.

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Happy Anniversary to the following members: Charles Gale of Metropolitan Water District; Judith Opdahl of Cancer Support Community; Heidi Butzine of Localista; Sandy VandenBerge and Judith Gassner of Torrance Memorial Medical Center; Leah Nakayama of Kovacs-Frey Pharmacy; Paula Moore of Cancer Support Community; (hiding behind Paula is Lorie Griffin of Perry’s on the Beach); Brandon Emmons of inFORZA; Christine Walter of Beach House Hermosa Beach, all pictured with RBCC&VB Ambassador Marci Klein of Klein Creative Media. We appreciate all of you!
Networking Tip of the Month

MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
If you’re attending some kind of networking event, you don’t have to put pressure on yourself to meet a lot of people. You can go to an event and be there for 20 to 30 minutes and make a great connection just by talking to one or two people. One quality conversation is more beneficial than 20 superficial ones.

Thank you Door Prize Donors!

Shop LOCAL • Patronize These Renewing Members

- TravelHost of Long Beach South Bay Magazine
- Memaleuca, the Wellness Company
- Kovacs-Frey Pharmacy & Home Health Care

Volunteer Opportunity!

Volunteer for the Annual Redondo Beach Lobster Festival and get free admission into the event.

This is a great way to get involved with the community and network with local business people and residents.

Volunteers are needed for all three days (23rd, 24th, & 25th). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mara Santos at Santos@RedondoChamber.org or call the Chamber at 310.376.6911.
2016 Calendar of EVENTS
RedondoChamber.org/events

NOTES: *Reservations for these events must be made online at RedondoChamber.org or by calling 310.376.6911 or by calling 310.374.7373. Please cancel your reservations for events if you are unable to attend. No-shows will be invoiced.

September 6
City Council Meeting
6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers
415 Diamond St.

September 7
The Mixer*
5:30 P.M.
CenterCal
1600 E. Franklin Ave.

September 8
NRBBA Meeting
8:00 A.M.
North Redondo Library
2000 Artesia Blvd.

Redondo Pier
Association Meeting
9:00 A.M.
Tony's on The Pier
210 Fisherman's Wharf

Network Cafe*
11:30 A.M.
Joe's Crab Shack
230 Portofino Way

September 11
Ribbon Cutting and
Grand Opening
12:30 P.M.
Soul Fitness LA
1209 S. Pacific Coast Hwy

September 13
Tourism Committee
Meeting
3:00 P.M.
Chamber Offices
119 W. Torrance Blvd.
Suite 2

City Council Meeting
6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers
415 Diamond St.

September 14
Executive Committee
Meeting
8:00 A.M.
Chamber Office
119 W. Torrance Blvd.
Suite 2

September 15
Ambassador Meeting
4:00 P.M.
Chamber Office
119 W. Torrance Blvd.
Suite 2

September 20
Health & Wellness
Committee Meeting
12:00 P.M.
Silverado Memory Care
Communities
514 N. Prospect Ave.

City Council Meeting
6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers
415 Diamond St.

September 23
GRC Meeting
4:00 P.M.
AES
1100 N. Harbor Dr.

September 27
Economic Development
Committee Meeting
4:00 P.M.
Chamber Office
119 W. Torrance Blvd.