

**For Immediate Release**

April 8, 2010



***Contact:***

Cindy Gompper-Graves, 619-921-0085

<mailto:cindy@sandiegosouth.com>

**South County EDC & San Diego Chamber Host Forum on Project Labor Agreements**

*Overview on How Upcoming PLA Ballot Initiatives Relate to Development in San Diego*

**SAN DIEGO-** In an ongoing effort to raise public awareness on key regional issues, the South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce held a forum to discuss Project Labor Agreement (PLA) ballot initiatives, specifically Proposition G. Speaking on how this initiative will affect the San Diego region was Lorena Gonzalez, San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council CEO, and Associated Builders and Contractors, San Diego Chapter CEO, Scott Crosby.

Prop G will appear on the June 8<sup>th</sup> primary ballot in the City of Chula Vista, which bans the city from entering into what are usually referred to as project labor agreements with labor unions for any taxpayer-funded project. Representatives from both labor and non-labor interest groups participated during the question and answer session on the contentious ballot measure,

making it the first time these opposing groups have come together to discuss the issue in San Diego County. Among other dignitaries in attendance were San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox and Chula Vista Councilwoman Pamela Bensoussan. The initiative will have a direct influence over development projects in their region.

The forum, attended by approximately 200 guests at the Holiday Inn on the Bay, began with a welcome from hosts Ruben Barrales, CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and Rosa Lopez-Gonzalez, President of the South County EDC. The hosts introduced the moderator, Dr. Lynn Reaser, President of the National Association for Business Economics, and Chief Economist at Point Loma Nazarene who opened with the statement, “As both sides come together, I think we can all agree on one thing, and that is our hope for a strong economy and an informed citizenship.”

Scott Crosby, a proponent of the initiative, spoke on his desire for all taxpayers to have the right to participate in city projects. “This is about fair and open competition. Everyone should have access to work in the city.” For her part, Lorena Gonzalez contended that requiring a PLA “ensures that deadlines are met and costs are kept.” As an example of a successful PLA project in San Diego, Gonzalez cited the recently completed Calpine power plant in Otay Mesa.

After addressing the ways local labor pools would be affected by the initiative, including the creation and maintenance of jobs, the event concluded with final comments from both sides.

###

*Photo Caption “PLA Forum”- (L to R): Scott Crosby, Associated Builders and Contractors, San Diego Chapter CEO and Lorena Gonzalez, San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council CEO*