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# July Newsletter

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## Letter from the President

It's time for an upgrade.

At least that is what **Standard and Poor's** said of California's economy. As the new fiscal year got underway, the state earned its highest rating in 14 years. This vote of confidence follows the passage of the **2015-2016 budget** and rewards the combination of surging revenues and continued fiscal restraint under Governor Brown.

While the state's AA- rating may seem like high praise, California still sits at third to last in the nation, beating out only Illinois and New Jersey.

If the state wants to continue our climb up the leaderboard, the vitality of East Bay employers will be key. As the **premier employer-led advocacy organization** in a region primed for continued economic growth, the East Bay Leadership Council is poised to activate our diverse membership on regional and statewide issues under the keen watch of our new Policy Director in Josh Huber, and host informational and inspirational events with the help of our talented new Office and Events Manager in Laura Case.

The East Bay's economy and the Council's staff may be gearing up, but it is going to be tough

## Blog Updates



### Make the East Bay What it Seems

Picture this. A freshly polished loafer sits in the window of a local boutique. One problem: the soles of the shoes are torn and full of holes.



### A Debt of Gratitude

70 percent of students who graduate today will graduate with debt. Congressman Eric Swalwell is one of them.

for the Council to upgrade from the leadership of Keith Archuleta as Chair in the past year. Under Keith's leadership the Council hosted the most successful East Bay USA and Small Business Awards events in our history, built meaningful partnerships with like-minded organizations, and led the efforts to "garden" behind the scenes in ways that will help us organize and advocate better than ever before.

The Council's new Chair, Andrew Sabey began his term on July 1 and I am certain that his leadership will guide this organization through a year of effective advocacy and continued upgrades.

Warmest regards,



P.S. Speaking of upgrades, the Governor's Office of Business Development launched their new **California Business Portal**. The upgraded tool provides access to many resources aimed at helping both entrepreneurs and established business owners navigate the bureaucracy of business. The need for consolidating information in a user-friendly format has been discussed frequently in our Economic Development and Small Business Task Force and it's exciting to see this latest development from GO-Biz.

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## Upcoming Events

### July 21

**Water Task Force**

### July 22

**Economic Development & Small Business Task Force**

### August 4

**Transportation Task Force**

### August 5

**Workforce Development and Education Task Force**

### August 6

**Health Care Task Force**

### August 7

**Environmental and Manufacturing Task Force**




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## Advocacy Update

Before many of the task forces went quiet for the July 4th holiday, they wasted no time tackling key statewide and regional issues including:

- Ensuring **continued health care innovation and leadership** through the Medi-Cal 2020 waiver proposal
- Opposing **trailer bill nonsense** in critical water funding discussions
- Advocating for **continued collaboration**

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**Join the Council**

between Bay Area water agencies for drought preparedness

- Enhancing **STEM learning opportunities** critical to skills development and job advancement
- Supporting **Tesoro's proposed seismic upgrades**

In the month to come the Council will focus squarely on the Special Legislative Session on transportation and Medi-Cal funding. And while the outcome of this session will likely not be known until the fall, you can expect updates from our Health Care and Transportation Task Forces as we make our voice heard throughout the process.

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