



metrochamber

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

One Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, contact
Hal Silliman, 916-321-9117
c: 916-519-1218
hsilliman@metrochamber.org

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Metro Chamber supports functional consolidation of services between City and County, but not political consolidation

SACRAMENTO—As the City and County of Sacramento continue to struggle to balance their budgets, and at the same time look for creative solutions to continue providing essential services, the Sacramento Metro Chamber remains supportive of the concept of functional consolidation of many services currently provided by both entities.

In 2007, on the Sacramento Metro Chamber's Study Mission to Charlotte, N.C., attendees saw firsthand how the City of Charlotte and the County of Mecklenburg successfully consolidated services 20 years ago. They were able to effectively do this without eliminating either city council or county commissioners.

Their services were divided between the two sets of political leadership. Then duplicative departments were consolidated along functional areas to maximize resources, better manage and eliminate costs and develop refined management expertise without duplicative administrative cost.

“Hard economic realities demand that businesses get lean, merge and consolidate to survive,” said Matt Mahood, president and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber. “Just like the average citizen and employer has become creative to make it through the down economy, taxpayers should expect the same from local government during these tough economic times.”

In the early 1990s, the Metro Chamber spearheaded an unsuccessful effort to have political and functional consolidation of the city and county.

“Our efforts in the 1990s failed because politicians were able to stop the cost-containment efforts by the business community by protecting their political turf,” Mahood said. “In our vision—the vision we have been talking about since returning from Charlotte—cost-savings for local government comes from the consolidation of duplicative efforts and eliminating all wasted and duplicative money as soon as possible.”

The Metro Chamber looks forward to working with all stakeholders as it continues to search for a way to ensure the city and county can continue to provide essential services without wasting taxpayer dollars by having two sets of everything when one functionally consolidated set of services can serve the community.

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Founded in 1895, the Sacramento Metro Chamber is the largest, oldest and most prominent voice of business in the greater Sacramento area. Representing nearly 2,200 member businesses and business organizations in the six-county Sacramento region, the Metro Chamber has for 115 years served as the region's leading proponent of regional cooperation and primary advocate on issues affecting business, economic development and quality of life.