



Most Business-Friendly City Awards

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City Council Will Consider Appointing Assistant City Clerk Monique DeLaGarza as City Clerk

CITY OF LONG BEACH

## Long Beach Recognized as a Top 5 Business-Friendly City in LA County

by KEELEY SMITH on JUNE 02 2016 17:21 in BUSINESS

Comment 10

The Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), an alliance of 150 business groups representing 272,000 companies, has recognized Long Beach as one of the five most business-friendly cities in Los Angeles County, the city announced today.

The businesses represented by BizFed represent nearly 3 million employees in the county.

"We're delighted that businesses throughout Los Angeles County know what our local businesses already know—that Long Beach is extremely business friendly," said Mayor Robert Garcia in a statement. "We have an extensive array of programs and services to help businesses stay and grow in Long Beach, whether they are small entrepreneurial start-ups or large employers."

According to the city release, the results were included in responses submitted to BizFed's annual survey of employers, which seeks information from business owners and executives about key issues regarding the operation and growth of their business.

The city noted its numerous initiatives to build business in Long Beach, including measures implemented by the Department of Economic and Property Development, the city's Business Assistance Team and the city's Innovation Team (i-team).

The three-year, \$3 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies has resulted in the launch of the city's BizPort, aimed at streamlining the startup process and the development of iClips to help vendors to business with the city. More business-friendly initiatives are expected to launch this summer, according to the city.

The city lists other tools meant to help businesses as:

- Business Assistance and Workforce Development
- Small Business Development
- Low Cost City Business License Tax Structure
- Financial Assistance
- Business Improvement Districts
- Improved Permitting and Inspection Services
- Administrative Use Permits and Conditional Use Permits
- Downtown Plan
- Business Services Bureau
- Competitively Priced Utilities
- A central point of contact that can help businesses access City services, and guide them through the planning and permitting process

For more information, contact Business Ombudsman Seyed Jalali at [Seyed.Jalali@longbeach.gov](mailto:Seyed.Jalali@longbeach.gov) or 562.570.6172.

## The City of Santa Clarita Named as Los Angeles County's Most Business Friendly City

by Alexander Hafizi | Nov 22, 2016 | Business News

The City of Santa Clarita has been named The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's (LAEDC) 2016 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County in the population of 68,000 and over category.

Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County's third largest City, was recognized for the community minded and business driven approach to economic development, the priority of providing high quality jobs for local residents and the creation of an environment where businesses can focus on what they do best. In Santa Clarita, this is accomplished by a team of economic development professionals, business focused City departments, and strong partnerships with business associations and community organizations.

"To once again be named the Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County by the LAEDC is a true testament of our dedication to the business community," said Mayor Bob Kellar. "An array of small mom and pop restaurants to national corporate headquarters make up the business landscape in Santa Clarita and we continue to provide valuable resources that help our businesses of all sizes prosper."

Santa Clarita was selected as a winner through independent review based on the demonstration of commitment to economic development; excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion and retention; competitive business tax rates and fee structures; availability of economic incentives; and effective communication with and about business clients.

Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County's third largest City, was recognized for the community minded and business driven approach to economic development, the priority of providing high quality jobs for local residents and the creation of an environment where businesses can focus on what they do best. In Santa Clarita, this is accomplished by a team of economic development professionals, business focused City departments, and strong partnerships with business associations and community organizations.

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The City of Santa Clarita was a finalist for this award in 2015, 2014, 2007 and 2006. In 2008, the City was named the Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County in the population of 50,000 and over category. For more information about the City of Santa Clarita's Economic Development division, programs and incentives, visit [www.ThinkSantaClarita.com](http://www.ThinkSantaClarita.com).



## Month in Review Snapshots from last month's most significant news and developments

by The Magazine of Santa Clarita | Nov 23, 2016 | Community

### Santa Clarita Named Most Business Friendly City

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recognized the City of Santa Clarita as the Most Business Friendly City with a population greater than 68,000 at the 21st annual Eddy Awards, the most prestigious awards programs to recognize leadership in economic development in business and government throughout Los Angeles County. The winners were selected based on the following criteria: demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority; programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion and retention; economic development activity over the past three years; competitive business tax rates and fee structures; availability of economic incentives; and regular communication with business clients.

Santa Clarita is community-minded and business-driven, and businesses have a support team helping them navigate the challenges of sustaining growth. A strong network of city departments, business associations, community organizations and governmental agencies work collaboratively to make Santa Clarita a business-friendly haven in L.A. County. This unified approach cuts through red tape, streamlines permits and ultimately provides more efficiency for local businesses. The panel of judges also noted the extensive programs and incentives including targeted industry incentives and strong collaboration with College of the Canyons for workforce development, among other factors. The City of Santa Clarita won the award in 2008, and was named a finalist in 2006, 2007, 2014 and 2015.



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## LAEDC Names Santa Clarita Most Business Friendly City Finalist

Posted by: Perry Smith in Community News, Santa Clarita Latest News September 23, 2016 - 10:58 am 0 117 Views

Santa Clarita was announced as a finalist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's **2016 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County Award**.

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Santa Clarita is joined by Compton, Downey, Lakewood and Long Beach as finalists in the population of 68,000 and over category.

Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County's third largest City, acts as a supportive team member to local businesses by offering business-minded policies and programs, film incentive programs, site selection assistance and an expedited plan review and permitting processing.

"Being recognized by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation is an honor for Santa Clarita, as we strive to stay business friendly for our new and existing businesses," said Mayor Bob Kellar. "The many valuable resources we provide help our business community prosper and offer solutions for success."

Finalists are selected through independent review based on the demonstration of priority commitment to economic development; excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion and retention; competitive business tax rates and fee structures; availability of economic incentives; and effective communication with and about business clients.

The winner will be announced at the 21st Annual Eddy Awards Gala on Thursday, November 10. The City of Santa Clarita was a finalist for this award in 2015, 2014, 2007 and 2006. In 2008, the City was named the *Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County* in the population of 50,000 and over category. For more information about the City of Santa Clarita's Economic Development division, programs and incentives, visit [ThinkSantaClarita.com](http://ThinkSantaClarita.com).



LAEDC Names Santa Clarita Most Business Friendly City Finalist



## Arcadia Named Most Business-Friendly City Finalist



This is the first time Arcadia has been selected as a finalist for this award. – Photo by Chris Chen

The City of Arcadia was recently announced as an Eddy Awards finalist for Most Business-Friendly City by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) for cities with a population under 68,000.

### READ MORE: LAEDC EDDY AWARDS

This is the first time the City of Arcadia has been selected as a finalist for this award.

Finalists are selected by a blue ribbon panel that evaluates and recognizes Los Angeles County cities that are doing the most to encourage job creation and facilitate the ease of doing business within their communities.

"This has been a long time coming," said Mayor Tom Beck. "It is recognition that the city council, city staff, and our business partners in the community are working together to promote prosperity and to ensure the economic vitality of Arcadia for decades to come."

Over the past several years, the city has taken great strides to cut red tape, streamline processes, and enhance customer service through a business assistance program.

"It's an exciting time to be doing business in Arcadia," said Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director Jason Kruckeberg. "We invite entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes to see Arcadia and experience our commitment to a business-friendly environment, and a great business experience above and beyond their expectations."

Winners of the 2016 Eddy Awards will be announced on Thursday, Nov. 10 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The annual gala began in 1996 to support fulfillment of the LAEDC's mission to recognize excellence by celebrating individuals, organizations, and cities that demonstrate exceptional contributions to economic development in the region.

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## ARCADIA NAMED MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY FINALIST

The City of Arcadia was announced as an Eddy Awards finalist for Most Business-Friendly City by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) for cities with a population under 68,000. This is the first time the City of Arcadia has been selected as a finalist for this award.

Finalists are selected by a blue ribbon panel that evaluates and recognizes Los Angeles County cities that are doing the most to encourage job creation and facilitate the ease of doing business within their communities. "This has been a long time coming," said Mayor Tom Beck. "It is recognition that the City Council, City staff, and our business partners in the community are working together to promote prosperity and to ensure the economic vitality of Arcadia for decades to come."

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strides to cut red tape, streamline processes, and enhance customer service through a business assistance program. "It's an exciting time to be doing business in Arcadia," said Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director Jason Kruckeberg. "We invite entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes to see Arcadia and experience our commitment to a business friendly environment, and a great business experience above and beyond their expectations."

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# Business is booming in award-winning Santa Clarita

by **Cougar News Contributor** 5 months ago 802 views

By Amanda Gamsu

Santa Clarita students have more job opportunities than they realize, especially in high-profile, high-paying industries like entertainment and technology.

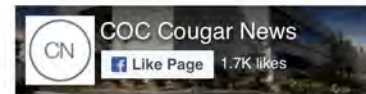
The city isn't just a quiet hometown- it's also an investment and business haven. In fact, Santa Clarita showcased its success on Nov. 10, 2016 at the 21st annual Eddy Awards when it was recognized as the most business-friendly city in L.A. County with a population over 68,000.

Finalists for this award included the cities of Compton, Downey, Santa Clarita, Long Beach and Lakewood, with Santa Clarita taking home this prestigious honor.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's annual Eddy Awards promotes and recognizes leadership in economic development in government and business within L.A. County and focuses on expanding shared prosperity for its communities and residents.

A panel of blue ribbon judges selects the winner through various factors including, demonstrating a priority commitment to economic development, facilitating business entry, retention and expansion through programs and services, competitive business fee structures and tax rates, availability of economic incentives and having regular communication with their business clients.

Being granted this award will "Be a critical component of our efforts to attract businesses to the Santa Clarita Valley, especially those who are frustrated in other cities and who might otherwise consider relocating outside of California," said president and CEO of the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation, Holly Schroeder.



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"Receiving this badge of honor shows that the city is thinking proactively," said LAEDC's Director of Public Relations, Lawren Markle.

"The City of Santa Clarita maintains fiscal discipline and focuses its budget on key investments that meet community needs, they focus on maintaining and improving our modern infrastructure. It also has a balanced budget and a reserve fund, which means that the city will not be likely to raise taxes or fees in the foreseeable future.

"This is good news for local businesses who can make their business plans with greater certainty," said Schroeder.

Having this prestige shows that Santa Clarita is "Tuned in on what skills are needed in job applicants to fill positions in their local workforce," said Markle.



business means more jobs and more room for economic growth within the community.

The topic of unemployment often comes up during the discussion of jobs, but Santa Clarita has one of the lowest unemployment rates at 4.6 percent compared to Los Angeles at 5.4 percent, Palmdale at 6.8 percent and Glendale at 4.9 percent. According to the November Economic Screenshot from the SCVEDC, the current unemployment rate in Santa Clarita is 15 percent lower than the rate recorded in October of 2015.

Santa Clarita is home to booming industries including, but not limited to technology, entertainment, biomedical and aerospace manufacturing.

"SCV is bucking statewide trends and in the past few years is showing growth in both manufacturing generally and aerospace specifically, statewide jobs in these sectors are declining," said Schroeder.

Even though business is still new within the IT sector, it is growing rapidly. On Nov. 30, Scorpion Internet Marketing held the groundbreaking for its new headquarters right here in SCV.

And even if you aren't technologically savvy, "The filming/digital media sector continues to thrive," said Schroeder.

"Education is big out here as well when it comes to careers, three out of the five largest employers in SCV are William S Hart Union School District, Saugus Union School District, and COC," said COC Job Developer James Morris.

"SCV is a commuter city, lots of people may leave for work but their families are still here and need to be taken care of. Government is always big, along with travel, and healthcare too," said Morris.

Since COC is primarily a two-year institution besides offering only associates degrees they offer many vocational certificates that increase earnings directly, and help students get jobs. Completing a certificate

program or receiving an associate's degree can help students find a job quicker for they already have credited knowledge pertaining to a certain field.

Judges from the Eddy Awards even noted the comprehensive programs targeting industry incentives and strong partnership with College of the Canyons workforce development.

And furthering the advantages of COC students, America's Job Center of California is conveniently located in the University Center on campus.

The services that the center offers include current job listings, workforce preparation such as resume assistance, training and education, job referrals and workshops, internship information, labor market information and even an out of area job search.

"Internships and job shadowing are also important for students because you find out if you really like the day-to-day grind of that career," said Morris. "And just because you major in something it doesn't mean you will always have to work in that field, you can keep your options open to what works best for you."

The Small Business Development center also calls COC home. On Nov. 9 at the California SBDC Professional Development Conference the center was named the 2016 top performing small business development center within the Los Angeles Regional Network, surpassing the region's seven other centers.

It can be tough to get a job during or after college, but in Santa Clarita there will always be some opportunity knocking.

"For all the students and local businesses out there, the most important thing is to make sure that you never limit yourself," said Morris.

**Tags:** amanda gamsu business COC Santa Clarita Students

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## LAEDC Recognizes Santa Clarita as Most Business Friendly City

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA | FRIDAY, NOV 11, 2016



At the 21st annual Eddy Awards on Thursday evening, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, or LAEDC, recognized the city of Santa Clarita as the "Most Business Friendly City" with a population greater than 68,000.

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority

Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention

Economic development activity over the past three years

Competitive business tax rates and fee structures

Availability of economic incentives

Regular communication with business clients

Santa Clarita is community minded and business driven, and businesses have a support team helping them navigate the challenges of sustaining growth.

A strong network of city departments, business associations, community organizations, and governmental agencies work collaboratively to make Santa Clarita a business-friendly haven in L.A. County.

This unified approach cuts through red tape, streamlines permits, and ultimately provides more efficiency for local businesses.

The Panel of Judges also noted the extensive programs and incentives including targeted industry incentives, and strong collaboration with College of the Canyons for workforce development, a Film Friendly ordinance, and an Economic Development Element within the City's General Plan as factors demonstrating commitment to business friendliness. City of Santa Clarita was the Winner of the Award in 2008, and a Finalist in 2006, 2007, 2014, and 2015.

More details can be found at: <http://laedc.org/eddy-awards>

Photos of the event are available at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/laedc/albums/72157676325574255>



2016 Eddy Awards Ceremony

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### Santa Clarita Public Works Chief Earns National Award

MONDAY, JUN 5, 2017

City of Santa Clarita Public Works Director Robert Newman has been honored with a 2017 Top 10 Public Works Leaders of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA).

FULL STORY...

### June 12-29: Santa Clarita Library Summer Reading Program

MONDAY, JUN 5, 2017

The Santa Clarita Public Library will host the "Build a Better World" 2017 summer reading program June 12-

July 29.

FULL STORY...

### McBean Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Starts June 9

FRIDAY, JUN 2, 2017

Starting on Friday, June 9, the City of Santa Clarita will begin replacing the existing pedestrian bridge that crosses McBean Parkway between Gamble House Court and Arroyo Park Drive with a pre-fabricated steel truss bridge.

FULL STORY...

### Green Santa Clarita Offers Energy-Saving Tips for Summer

FRIDAY, JUN 2, 2017

With hot summer temperatures come high energy bills, and Green Santa Clarita has tips to save electricity and money.

FULL STORY...

### June 15: City Dedicates More Open Space in Newhall Pass

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017

The City of Santa Clarita and The Trust for Public Land will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, June 15 at 9 a.m. to celebrate the city's acquisition and protection of open space in the Newhall Pass.

FULL STORY...

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**11**  
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## Santa Clarita Recognized at LAEDC's 2016 Eddy Awards as Most Business Friendly City



📍 LAEDC, los angeles county, slideshow

📌 award, city of santa clarita, economic development, eddy, EDDY Awards, LA County, LAEDC, santa clarita



Last night at the 21st annual Eddy Awards, the [Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation \(LAEDC\)](#) recognized the City of Santa Clarita as the Most Business Friendly City with a population greater than 68,000!

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Regular communication with business clients





Santa Clarita is community minded and business driven, and businesses have a support team helping them navigate the challenges of sustaining growth. A strong network of city departments, business associations, community organizations, and governmental agencies work collaboratively to make Santa Clarita a business-friendly haven in L.A. County. This unified approach cuts through red tape, streamlines permits, and ultimately provides more efficiency for local businesses. The Panel of Judges also noted the extensive programs and incentives including targeted industry incentives, and strong collaboration with College of the Canyons for workforce development, a Film Friendly ordinance, and an Economic Development Element within the City's General Plan as factors demonstrating commitment to business friendliness. City of Santa Clarita was the Winner of the Award in 2008, and a Finalist in 2006, 2007, 2014, and 2015.

More details can be found at: <http://laedc.org/eddy-awards>

Photos of the event are available

at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/laedc/albums/72157676325574255>

## LB's Business-Friendly Programs Earns City A Spot Among The Eddy Finalists

2016-09-23 · By Editor



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The City of Long Beach is a finalist for the Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County, an annual award bestowed by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). In 2009 Long Beach received [the Eddy Award](#) as the Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County.

"We are extremely proud of the incentives we provide for start-ups and to help businesses stay and grow in Long Beach," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "Last year alone more than 2,500 new businesses opened in Long Beach, and they are contributing to the City's strong growth and continued development."

This is the second time this year that Long Beach has been recognized as one of the most business friendly cities. In June 2016, the business community itself recognized the City of Long Beach as one of the five most business friendly cities in Los Angeles County, according to the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), an alliance of 150 business groups representing 272,000 companies that employ nearly 3 million people through the County.

The Eddy Awards are the most prestigious awards programs to recognize leadership in economic development in business and government throughout Los Angeles County. The 21st annual awards ceremony is on Thursday, November 10.

Business-friendly programs and services are a critical factor in job-creation. The Eddy Awards finalists were selected through independent review by a panel of blue ribbon judges, based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated priority commitment to economic development
- Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients



Here's what the LAEDC said about Long Beach's commitment to supporting businesses:

The City of Long Beach has an array of programs to help businesses stay and grow, including: Pacific Gateway, which helps local businesses find, train, and retain qualified employees; the i-team, which spent the last year developing a package of initiatives to make it easier to start and grow a business in the city, and; the Ombudsmen, which serves as a central point of contact to help businesses access City services, and guide them through the permitting process. Numerous incentives that assist small business, manufacturers and other businesses encourage entrepreneurs, and an open business survey process helps the City engage and get feedback in the spirit of optimizing services and processes.

"Our citywide economic development efforts foster and encourage business and job growth, facilitate business relocation and expansion, and increase economic activity, which directly help to maintain the quality and strength of our neighborhoods," said City Manager Patrick H. West.

The number of businesses registered in the City's Online Bidder's database, PlanetBids, increased by 9.75 percent, to 18,213 registered businesses.

The City was awarded \$300,000 by the Knight Foundation for augmenting Harvey Milk Park to make it one of the nation's first outdoor co-working spaces. This collaborative community project is designed to create a dynamic civic space to connect entrepreneurs with high speed internet, office space, business support services, and with other entrepreneurs.

The City's Economic Development Commission is developing an Economic Development Blue Print to coordinate economic activity across City departments and sectors to foster investment and development, involving economic opportunity, planning, land use, technology, mobility, energy distribution and use, natural resources, utilities, public safety, among others.

More business friendly initiatives are expected to launch this fall.

The City of Long Beach is committed to helping local businesses meet the challenge of finding, training, and retaining qualified employees. And hundreds of local businesses have worked with Pacific Gateway, the City's Workforce Development Agency, to reap the benefits of hiring tax credits, recruitment services, and training.

Additional tools include:

- Business Assistance and Workforce Development
- Small Business Development
- Low Cost City Business License Tax Structure
- Financial Assistance
- Business Improvement Districts
- Improved Permitting and Inspection Services
- Administrative Use Permits and Conditional Use Permits
- Downtown Plan
- Business Services Bureau
- Competitively Priced Utilities
- A central point of contact that can help businesses access City services, and guide them through the planning and permitting process.

# Long Beach a finalist for most business-friendly city in LA County

By [Courtney Tompkins](#), Long Beach Press Telegram

POSTED: 09/22/16, 11:42 AM PDT

UPDATED: ON 09/22/2016

0 COMMENTS

Long Beach has been named as a finalist in the running for the most business-friendly city in Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) doles out the award each year at the Eddy Awards, a prestigious program that recognizes leadership in economic development, business and government throughout the county.

“We are extremely proud of the incentives we provide for start-ups and to help businesses stay and grow in Long Beach,” Mayor Robert Garcia said in a statement. “Last year alone more than 2,500 new businesses opened in Long Beach, and they are contributing to the City’s strong growth and continued development.”

The 21st annual awards ceremony is on Thursday, Nov. 10.

“The City of Long Beach has an array of programs to help businesses stay and grow,” LAEDC said in a statement. “(The city) has numerous incentives that assist small business, manufacturers and other businesses, encourage entrepreneurs, and an open business survey process helps the City engage and get feedback in the spirit of optimizing services and processes.”

This marks the [second time this year that Long Beach has been recognized](#) as one of the most business-friendly cities. In June, the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), an alliance of 150 business groups representing companies that employ nearly 3 million people in the area, recognized the City of Long Beach as one of the five most business friendly cities in L.A. County.



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Monday, June 05, 2017

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## Santa Clarita and Pico Rivera Named Most Business-Friendly L.A. Cities

By Natalie Zhang

Friday, November 11, 2016

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Santa Clarita and Pico Rivera have been named this year's most business-friendly cities in Los Angeles County by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp at the 21st Annual LAEDC Eddy Awards on Thursday night.

Santa Clarita won the category for the city with a population greater than 68,000, while Pico Rivera won the category with a population less than 68,000.

Santa Clarita stood out for its programs and incentives aimed at specific industries, workforce development with the College of the Canyons, having a Film Friendly ordinance, and its Economic Development Element. Pico Rivera's business friendly efforts included a new economic development division and developing strategies to attract new businesses and keep existing businesses in the city. Both cities were finalists last year.

When choosing finalists, the LAEDC looks at the city's commitment to economic development, the programs designed to attract and retain businesses, economic development activity, and economic incentives the city provides such as tax rates and fee structures.

In addition to the city awards, the LAEDC awarded honorees for economic development efforts. Brian Lee, chief executive and co-founder along with actress Jessica Alba of the Honest Co., were awarded the best example of local entrepreneurial spirit. The Los Angeles engineering firm Aecom was awarded for best embodiment of corporate civic leadership, and California State University Long Beach was awarded for its programs aimed to increase graduation rates at local high schools.

The Eddy Awards are held each year aimed to encourage local cities to become more business-friendly.

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## Nine Local Cities Named Finalists for Most Business-Friendly City Award

By [Howard Fine](#)

Thursday, September 22, 2016

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Brian Lee, chief executive and co-founder along with actress Jessica Alba of the Honest Co.

Nine cities in Los Angeles County have been named as finalists for the most business-friendly award to be handed out this fall by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

Compton, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach and Santa Clarita were named finalists for larger cities with populations 68,000 and over.

Aradia, Azusa, Pico Rivera and Rosemead were named finalists for smaller cities with populations under 68,000.

One winner from each category will be announced at the LAEDC's annual Eddy Awards on Thursday, Nov. 10 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

The business-friendly cities contest started 20 years ago as a way to encourage local cities to become more business-friendly. The LAEDC looks at cities' commitment to economic development, programs to attract and retain businesses and taxes/fees on businesses in evaluating which cities are the most business-friendly.

In addition to the city awards, the LAEDC will hand out three other awards. Brian Lee, chief executive and co-founder along with actress Jessica Alba of the Honest Co. will be awarded for best example of local entrepreneurial spirit. Los Angeles engineering firm Aecom will be awarded for best embodiment of corporate civic leadership, and California State University Long Beach will be awarded for its programs to increase graduation rates at local high schools.

Public policy and energy reporter Howard Fine can be reached at [hfine@labusinessjournal.com](mailto:hfine@labusinessjournal.com). Follow him on Twitter [@howardafine](#).

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## Pico Rivera wins most business-friendly city award in LA County



After five years of competing, Pico Rivera won the honor as the "Most Business-Friendly City in LA County." Crossroads Plaza on Whittier Boulevard is pictured in this file photo. (Photo by Leo Jarzomb/Whittier Daily News/SCNG)

By **Mike Sprague**, Whittier Daily News

POSTED: 11/15/16, 5:25 PM PST

UPDATED: ON 11/15/2016

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**PICO RIVERA >>** A decision to add three economic development positions to the budget apparently helped the city win — after finishing the last five years as finalists — the "most business-friendly city" award from the [Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.](#)

Pico Rivera won the award for cities with a population of less than 68,000. Santa Clarita won the same award for cities with a higher population than 68,000.

"The panel of judges noted that Pico Rivera's new, dedicated economic development division, which was created in 2016 with three full-time staff, is a significant commitment to economic vitality and job opportunity," said a press release from the Economic Development Corp.

The three new staffers hired are helping the city attract and retain business, said Julia Gonzalez, deputy director for the city's Community Development Department.

Pico Rivera also was credited with looking at every aspect of delivery of services and asking how it adds value and benefits residents and businesses.

Gonzalez said city leaders are excited about finally winning the award.

"We're happy now that the whole county knows we are the most business friendly city," she said.

Gonzalez said Pico Rivera also works hard to expedite and fast track the obtaining of various permits.

Pico Rivera Mayor David Armenta predicted the award will help the city.

"Businesses are going to look at us more seriously," Armenta said. "We'll have a lot of opportunity to bring in new businesses."

The award also is a reflection of the city's practices, he said.

"When people come in to City Hall, I don't care if it's for a water board, or to do a plan or to see what the city is all about, they're greeted first with a smile and then directed where to go," Armenta said. "We treat them like family."

Pico Rivera isn't the first Whittier-area city to win the award.

La Mirada won it for smaller cities in 2013, while Whittier won it for larger cities in 2012.

After winning, cities can't apply for five years.



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# Santa Clarita Named One of LA County's Most Business-Friendly Cities

By PATRICK MULLEN - November 11, 2016, 4:26 pm



Santa Clarita city and economic development leaders accepting Eddy Award from the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. naming Santa Clarita as one of LA County's Most Business Friendly Cities.



Last night at its 21st annual Eddy Awards, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recognized the City of Santa Clarita as the Most Business Friendly City with a population over 68,000 (median population for California's 482 cities) and the City of Pico Rivera as the Most Business Friendly City with a population under 68,000.

The winners were selected based on six criteria: demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority, programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention, economic development activity over the past three years, competitive business tax rates and fee structures, availability of economic incentives, and regular communication with business clients.

"This year's Most Business Friendly City awardees understand that communities and families thrive when good jobs are created," said Bill Allen, Chief Executive Officer of LAEDC. "And because business location is by choice in a globalized economy, these cities also appreciate that private sector job creation depends greatly on having business-friendly practices."

"Santa Clarita is consistently recognized as one of LA County's most business friendly cities and we are proud that the City won the award again this year," said Holly Schroeder, President and CEO of the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation. "The award is more evidence SCVEDC will share to let businesses across LA County know about the advantages of expanding in the SCV."

LAEDC's award citation noted that "Santa Clarita is community minded and business driven, and businesses have a support team helping them navigate the challenges of sustaining growth. A strong network of city departments, business associations, community organizations, and governmental agencies work collaboratively to make Santa Clarita a business friendly haven in L.A. County." Award judges also lauded strong collaboration with College of the Canyons for workforce development, a film friendly ordinance, and an economic development element in the city's general plan. Santa Clarita won the award in 2008, and was a finalist in 2006, 2007, 2014, and 2015.



## LATEST STORIES



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GINA ENDER - June 5, 2017, 12:51 pm



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JIM HOLT - June 5, 2017, 11:35 am



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## MBFC PR Resources (May 2015 – Nov. 2015)

1. Santa Clarita gets nod as a finalist for “Most Business-Friendly City” award  
<http://www.signalscv.com/archives/141841/preview/>
2. Santa Clarita a Finalist for County’s Most Business-Friendly City  
<http://scvnews.com/2015/09/02/santa-clarita-a-finalist-for-countys-most-business-friendly-city/>
3. Bellflower Named Finalist for L.A. County’s Most Business-Friendly City Award  
<http://www.noodles.com/viewNoodl/29736065/city-of-bellflower-ca/bellflower-named-finalist-for-la-county8217s-most-busin>
4. Bellflower nominated as business-friendly city  
<http://wavenewspapers.com/bellflower-nominated-as-business-friendly-city/>
5. LAEDC Recognizes Palmdale and El Segundo as Los Angeles County’s “Most Business-Friendly” Cities  
<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/11/prweb13080895.htm>
6. Palmdale, El Segundo 'Most Business Friendly'  
<http://www.labusinessjournal.com/news/2015/nov/13/palmdale-el-segundo-most-business-friendly/>
7. Palmdale recognized as Los Angeles County’s “Most Business-Friendly” city  
<http://theavtimes.com/2015/11/13/palmdale-recognized-as-los-angeles-countys-most-business-friendly-city/>
8. Cal State Northridge wins honors for bolstering LA economy  
<http://www.dailynews.com/business/20151114/cal-state-northridge-wins-honors-for-bolstering-la-economy>

# Media Exposure for Eddy 2015 (May 2015 – Nov. 2015)

1. <http://www.signalscv.com/archives/141841/preview/>

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## Santa Clarita gets nod as a finalist for “Most Business-Friendly City” award

*Posted:* September 2, 2015 5:58 p.m.  
*Updated:* September 2, 2015 5:58 p.m.

By **Jana Adkins** Signal Business Editor

Santa Clarita has been named as a 2015 finalist for the Most Business-Friendly City by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

The city was named in the category for cities with populations of 67,000 and over, along with the cities of Bellflower, Carson, Lakewood, Palmdale, and Pasadena.

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# Glendale News-Press

Friday, April 10, 2015  
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## City of Glendale up for Eddy award for business-friendly climate

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By Arin Milnikian, [arin.milnikian@latimes.com](mailto:arin.milnikian@latimes.com)  
Glendale, you won't get us.

Glendale was recently named as a finalist for an Eddy award, which recognizes cities in Los Angeles County that create a business-friendly climate through local programs.

The city is going up against Balfour, Oakwood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita as a finalist among cities with a population over 6,000 for the honor, which is given by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

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## VA Business Resource

Contact the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority for details.

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"We all hear how hard it is to do business in California, but the city of Glendale is competitive and is a business-friendly city with a passion for its residents and businesses alike," said Carrie Rogers, the corporation's vice president of business assistance and development, as she announced the nomination during the Glendale City Council meeting last week.

During a presentation prior to receiving the nomination, Glendale's Economic Development Director Phil Lammelman listed several outreach efforts the city implemented last year, which he said helped businesses get up and running smoothly.

Lammelman listed the city's business onboarding program, which assigns skilled project managers as a single point of contact for the city as well as offering on-site business tours prior to a lease being signed.

Overall, he said local sales tax revenue was up 6.7% in the first quarter of 2014 compared to the same time a year ago.

Councilwoman Laura Friedman said she was thankful for the efforts during recent years to be more economically forward thinking.

"We do take business retention, development, creation all of those things very seriously here in Glendale," she said. "I'm very happy to have watched over the five years how has it on this council the refinement of attitudes with the city in terms of our model of customer service and economic development being on the forefront of all of our employees."

Over the summer, the council approved creation of its own economic development corporation with the goal of enticing new businesses to the city.

Looking ahead to next year, Lammelman highlighted several new programs his staff is looking into such as the formation of an assessment district for restaurants, meaning eatery owners could pool their money to pay for outdoor cleaning services in their neighborhood.

He also said local asset management will be studied to see if any sites can be turned into hotels to boost revenue from the tourist emergency tax.

The Eddy awards will be presented during a banquet on Nov. 28 at the Beverly Hilton.



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2. <http://scvnews.com/2015/09/02/santa-clarita-a-finalist-for-countys-most-business-friendly-city/>

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**Santa Clarita a Finalist for County's Most Business-Friendly City**

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA | WEDNESDAY, SEP 2, 2015



The City of Santa Clarita has been announced as one of the finalists for The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's 2015 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County Award. Santa Clarita is joined by Bellflower, Carson, Lakewood, Palmdale and Pasadena as finalists in the population of 67,000 and over category.

Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County's third largest City, remains business-friendly by offering business-minded policies and programs, a highly educated workforce, film incentive programs, site selection assistance and an expedited plan review and permitting processing. In addition, Santa Clarita does not assess a business license fee or a utility user tax, allowing businesses to save up to four percent or more on their electric, telephone, water and gas bills.

"We are committed to stimulating our City's economic vitality and quality of life for residents," said Mayor Marsha McLean. "We are honored to be nominated for this award and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure Santa Clarita remains business-friendly."

The winner will be announced at the 20th Annual Eddy Awards Gala on Thursday, November 12. The gala is celebrating 20 years of honoring leadership in economic development, and includes California's only "business-friendly city" award, recognizing cities within L.A. County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services; a critical factor in job creation.

The City of Santa Clarita was a finalist for this award in 2014, 2007 and 2006. In 2008, the City was named the Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County in the population of 50,000 and over category. For more information about the City of Santa Clarita's Economic Development division, programs and incentives, visit ThinkSantaClarita.com.

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# Bellflower nominated as business-friendly city

September 18, 2015    Written by: Wave Staff

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Category: Herald  
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**Tagged under:**

  - 20th annual Eddy Awards,
  - Bellflower California,
  - business friendly city, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation,
  - Mayor Scott Larsen

---

**BELLFLOWER —** The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation has named the city of Bellflower as a finalist for the most business-friendly city with a population of more than 67,000, a corporation spokesperson said.

Others nominated in that population category are Carson, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita.

The winning city will be announced at the 20th annual Eddy Awards Nov. 12.

Bellflower exemplifies modern development trends by offering incentive-based zoning, self-certification building plan check process, citizen oversight and input with regard to economic development priorities and programs, and satisfaction surveys which allow staff to identify and resolve business-related issues, the spokesperson said.

"We are honored to have been named a finalist for the second year in a row," Mayor Scott Larsen said. "This year's nomination shows Bellflower is moving in the right direction and is committed to growing a sustainable business community. Our residents have shown overwhelming support for new development and reinvestment in the community by approving Measure P."

Measure P approved by voters in November 2012, called for a utility tax hike of 2 percent for five years. The vote was 11,653 to 7,099, a 62 percent margin.
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3. <http://www.noodls.com/viewNoodl/29736065/city-of-bellflower-ca/bellflower-named-finalist-for-la-county8217s-most-busin>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article on the Noodls platform. The address bar shows the URL: [www.noodls.com/viewNoodl/29736065/city-of-bellflower-ca/bellflower-named-finalist-for-la-county8217s-most-busin](http://www.noodls.com/viewNoodl/29736065/city-of-bellflower-ca/bellflower-named-finalist-for-la-county8217s-most-busin). The article is titled "City of Bellflower, CA" and is dated "09/04/2015 | News release". The main headline is "Bellflower Named Finalist for L.A. County's Most Business-Friendly City Award". Below the headline, it says "distributed by noodls on 09/04/2015 23:54". There are social media sharing buttons for LinkedIn, Twitter, Google+, Facebook, and Email. The article text is visible, starting with "BELFLOWER NAMED FINALIST FOR L.A. COUNTY'S MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY AWARD". To the right of the article, there is a sidebar with a "new to noodls?" section and a "related noodls" section. The "related noodls" section lists several items under "Local Government" and "Local News".

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### Bellflower Named Finalist for L.A. County's Most Business-Friendly City Award

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) has recently recognized Bellflower's economic development efforts by naming the City a finalist for the 2015 **Most Business-Friendly Award**. The City of Bellflower, along with Carson, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita, has been nominated in the **67,000 and Over Population** category. The winning city will be announced at the 20th Annual Eddy® Awards on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

Under the leadership of a progressive City Council, Bellflower's hard working staff dedicated countless hours toward marketing businesses in the Downtown district, created unique incentives to attract new businesses and committed to finding ways to say "yes" to help advance new and existing developments. Finalists were selected based on criteria such as: a commitment to economic development, availability of economic incentives, competitive tax rates and fee structures, effective communication with and about business clients, and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention.

The City of Bellflower exemplifies modern development trends by offering incentive-based zoning, Self-Certification Building Plan Check process, citizen oversight and input with regard to economic development priorities and programs, and satisfaction surveys which allow staff to identify and resolve business-related issues.

"We are honored to have been named a finalist for the second year in a row. This year's nomination shows Bellflower is moving in the right direction and is committed to growing a sustainable business community. Our residents have shown overwhelming support for new development and reinvestment in the community by approving Measure P," said Bellflower Mayor Scott A. Larsen.

The LAEDC provides collaborative and strategic economic development leadership to promote a globally competitive, prosperous and growing L.A. County economy to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and communities and enable those residents to meet their basic human need for a job. This is achieved through objective economic research and analysis, strategic assistance to government and business, and targeted public policy. Their efforts are guided and supported by the expertise and counsel of our business, government and education members and partners. The LAEDC is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 under section 501(c)(3).



5. <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/11/prweb13080895.htm>

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## LAEDC Recognizes Palmdale and El Segundo as Los Angeles County's "Most Business-Friendly" Cities

LAEDC Eddy Awards also honor California State University – Northridge (CSUN), CBRE Group and Snapchat co-founder & CEO Evan Spiegel

**LOS ANGELES, CA (PRWEB) NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

Tonight at the 20th annual Eddy Awards, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recognized the City of Palmdale as the Most Business Friendly City with a population greater than 65,000 and the City of El Segundo as the Most Business Friendly City with a population under 65,000.


"This year's Most Business Friendly Cities, Palmdale and El Segundo, understand that communities and families thrive when good jobs are created, and because many businesses can choose to locate those jobs anywhere, job creation depends on business-friendly practices," said Bill Allen, chief executive officer of LAEDC.

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

- ▶ Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- ▶ Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- ▶ Economic development activity over the past three years
- ▶ Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- ▶ Availability of economic incentives
- ▶ Effective communication with and about business clients

More details on the best practices of these cities can be found at <http://laedc.org/eddy-awards>  
Photos of the event are available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/laedc/albums/72157660886910882>

City of Palmdale, 2015 Eddy Award winner in the population 65,000+ category:  
Palmdale is business friendly because it does the big things and the little things that businesses find important. Palmdale boasts ample and affordable space, a highly skilled and motivated workforce, incentives, outstanding infrastructure, and a solid



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6. <http://www.labusinessjournal.com/news/2015/nov/13/palmdale-el-segundo-most-business-friendly/>

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## Palmdale, El Segundo 'Most Business Friendly'

Friday, November 13, 2015

Palmdale and El Segundo on Thursday evening were named "the Most Business Friendly Cities" in the county this year by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. Palmdale received the distinction for the city with a population greater than 65,000, and El Segundo for the city with a population less than 65,000 at the Eddy Awards.

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boasts ample and affordable space, a highly skilled and motivated workforce, incentives, outstanding infrastructure, and a solid transportation plan for the future. The city provides businesses with extremely fast entitlement approval process. The city has implemented a new ProjectDox Program where developers/contractors electronically submit plans for review, comment & approval. Additionally, the City of Palmdale offers Crime Prevention Thru Environmental Design (CPTED) in the design stages of development for businesses. The city does a lot of the little things right too, such as making monthly visits with the Mayor to local businesses, providing personalized service by staff, publicizing and hosting grand openings and celebrations, and building lasting relationships. Maybe that's why John Novak, President of Patton's Steel called Palmdale "the most accommodating City we've ever worked with."

City of El Segundo, 2015 Eddy Award winner in the population under 65,000 category:

In 2006 City of El Segundo was the inaugural winner of the Most Business Friendly City Award.

Consistently over years, the city has followed the tradition of excellence by taking a hands-on and active approach in partnering with its businesses. The city has a goal of one-day turnaround in business licenses, expedited permit process that provides over-the-counter approvals, fee-based accelerated reviews, after-hour approvals when needed as well as 24/7 online project status tracking. El Segundo takes its commitment to excellent customer service seriously by conducting customer satisfaction surveys. It publishes a Business Resource Guide. Additionally, the City of El Segundo does an Annual Economic Development Strategic Plan to attract and retain new and existing businesses to continue to provide high paying jobs to its residents and the region.

Home to many Fortune 500 companies, including Mattel, DirecTV, and many prominent aerospace firms, the creative, cutting edge technology and manufacturing of El Segundo are fostered by its business-friendly practices.

#### EDDY AWARD HONOREES IN 2015

LAEDC also recognized corporate, education and individual honorees for their outstanding leadership in economic development throughout L.A. County: CBRE Group, Inc., California State University - Northridge (CSUN), and Snapchat co-founder and CEO Evan Spiegel.

CBRE Group, Inc., a Fortune 500 and S&P 500 company headquartered in Los Angeles, is the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment firm. CBRE helps locate the industries and businesses that serve as economic engines for the region, including foreign firms that bring direct investment to the region. The company plays a vital role in revitalization and redevelopment projects in LA County, and has global scale with more than 70,000 employees, serving real estate owners, investors and occupiers through more than 400 offices worldwide. Aside from being a tremendous asset to the LA region in terms of facilitating economic development, CBRE's new LA office provides an example of how modern workplaces can better serve employees through innovative design elements such as an open plan, free-address office, and CBRE has dramatically reduced business interruption risk by moving all its paper and electronic assets into the cloud. CBRE's strategic advice, property sales and leasing, and myriad related services are a tremendous asset to organizations in the LA region and around the globe.

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is the largest of the five CSUs in LA County, fundamental to the economic prosperity of the region. CSUN serves more than 40,000 highly diverse students, and ranks in the top five nationally by the Social Mobility Index for advancing students' economic well-being, and by the National Science Foundation for graduates who go on to earn doctorates in the sciences. Annual spending related to CSUN of \$562.3 million generates a total impact of more than \$982 million on the statewide economy, which helps to sustain about 8,400 jobs in the economy and confirms its presence as the intellectual, economic and cultural heart of The San Fernando Valley and beyond. This impact is amplified by CSUN's more than 300,000 alumni — 80 percent of whom live, work and thrive in Southern California. Staying attuned to new opportunities, CSUN's partnership with LA Cleantech Incubator will foster entrepreneurship, business formation and job creation in a growing and socially valuable sector. Under the guidance of President Dianne F. Harrison and her talented administrative team, CSUN aligns programs with the workforce and skills needs of business, a critical role in future economic vitality and shared prosperity. To further this potential, CSUN has become a model of collaboration by joining with its five regional sister institutions as the "CSUS," to advance regional education, research and workforce development.

Evan Spiegel exemplifies the creative, entrepreneurial spirit of the Los Angeles region. A social media entrepreneur, a native Angeleno and the CEO and co-founder of Snapchat, Mr. Spiegel has increased global awareness that LA is a hotbed of innovation, where high-tech businesses can leverage the perfect environment to grow successfully. This awareness has helped other tech companies, talented workers, and investors better understand the advantages of operating in LA, which now has a high-tech workforce of nearly 400,000 people. Mr. Spiegel's time at two of LA's top design colleges, Art Center College of Design and Otis College of Art and Design, prior to attending Stanford is a poignant reminder of the creative interplay between art, design, technology and entrepreneurialism, which sets LA and California apart from other regions. In addition, Snapchat's innovative storytelling platform has made a significant impact on society and has changed the way people share ideas and moments.

About the Eddy Awards <http://www.laedc.org/eddy>

The Eddy Awards celebrate exceptional public and private leadership in LA County economic development, with the Most Business-Friendly City Award and recognition of honorees that demonstrate outstanding contributions to positive economic development in the region. Eddy winners create a thriving LA County.

About the LAEDC <http://www.LAEDC.org>

Established in 1981, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) provides collaborative, innovative and strategic economic development leadership to promote a globally competitive, prosperous and growing L.A. County economy to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities and enable those residents to meet their basic human need for a job. We achieve this through objective economic research and analysis, strategic assistance to government and business, and targeted public policy. Our efforts are guided and supported by the expertise and counsel of our business, government and education members and partners. Since 1996, the LAEDC's Business Assistance team has helped to retain or attract over 198,000 annual jobs in Los Angeles County.

LAEDC Media Contact: Lawren Markle / 213-773-2325 / [Lawren\(dot\)Markle\(at\)laedc\(dot\)org](mailto:Lawren(dot)Markle(at)laedc(dot)org)

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7. <http://theavtimes.com/2015/11/13/palmdale-recognized-as-los-angeles-countys-most-business-friendly-city/>

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## Palmdale recognized as Los Angeles County's "Most Business-Friendly" city

by The AV Times Staff • November 13, 2015



Representing Palmdale [L to R]: Nardy Lopez, Kari Blackburn, Councilmembers Roxana Martinez and Fred Thompson, and Mayor Jim Ledford. [contributed]

LOS ANGELES –At the 20th annual Eddy Awards Thursday night, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recognized the city of Palmdale as the "Most Business-Friendly" city with a population greater than 65,000.

The city of El Segundo was recognized as the Most Business-Friendly city with a population under 65,000.

"This year's Most Business Friendly cities, Palmdale and El Segundo, understand that communities and families thrive when good jobs are created, and because many businesses can choose to locate those jobs anywhere, job creation depends on business-friendly practices," stated Bill Allen, chief executive officer of LAEDC.

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority.
- Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion and retention.
- Economic development activity over the past three years.
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures.
- Availability of economic incentives.
- Effective communication with and about business clients.

According to the LAEDC, Palmdale was recognized as the "Most Business-Friendly" city with a population greater than 65,000 because:

Palmdale boasts ample and affordable space, a highly skilled and motivated workforce, incentives, outstanding infrastructure, and a solid transportation plan for the future. The city provides businesses with extremely fast entitlement approval process. The city has implemented a new ProjectDox Program where developers/contractors electronically submit plans for review, comment & approval. Additionally, the city of Palmdale offers Crime Prevention Thru Environmental Design (CPTED) in the design stages of development for businesses. The city does a lot of the little things right too, such as making monthly visits with the mayor to local businesses, providing personalized service by staff, publicizing and hosting grand openings and celebrations, and building lasting relationships. Maybe that's why John Novak, President of Patton's Steel called Palmdale "the most accommodating City we've ever worked with."

### About the LAEDC

Established in 1981, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) provides collaborative, innovative and strategic economic development leadership to promote a globally competitive, prosperous and growing L.A. County economy to improve the health and well-being of residents and communities and to enable those residents to meet their basic human need for a job. The LAEDC achieves this through objective economic research and analysis, strategic assistance to government and business, and targeted public policy. Since 1996, the LAEDC's Business Assistance team has helped to retain or attract over 198,000 annual jobs in Los Angeles County. For more information, visit [www.LAEDC.org](http://www.LAEDC.org). For more information on the LAEDC's annual Eddy Awards, visit [www.laedc.org/eddy](http://www.laedc.org/eddy).

–



8. <http://www.dailynews.com/business/20151114/cal-state-northridge-wins-honors-for-bolstering-la-economy>

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## Cal State Northridge wins honors for bolstering LA economy



State Sen. Bob Hertzberg, from left, LAEDC Chair Praful Kulkarni, CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison, San Fernando Valley business and civic leader David Fleming and LAEDC CEO Bill Allen at the LAEDC gala, where CSUN was awarded the prestigious Eddy Award for Educational Leadership. Photo courtesy LAEDC.

*By Dana Bartholomew, Los Angeles Daily News*

POSTED: 11/14/15, 5:47 PM PST | UPDATED: ON 11/15/2015 0 COMMENTS

NORTHRIDGE >> For nearly six decades, Cal State Northridge has played a vital role in stoking the

economic engine of Los Angeles.

That's why the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation last week presented CSUN with its 2015 Eddy Award, which honors leading contributors to local economy and those who create good jobs.

Other recipients included Snapchat CEO Evan Spiegel and Los Angeles-based CBRE Group, Inc., the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment firm, as well as the cities of Palmdale and El Segundo. The awards were formally presented Thursday at a gala held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

"As the third-largest university in California, CSUN is a catalytic hub of education, research and innovation — playing a critical role in the economic development of the region," said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison, in a statement.

"Working collaboratively with LAEDC and public- and private-sector partners, CSUN positively impacts nearly every aspect of life in our community."

Only three other Los Angeles-area institutions of higher education have received an Eddy Award. The others are the California Institute of Technology, University of Southern California and University of California, Los Angeles.

In announcing the honor, LAEDC officials noted that CSUN is the largest of the five California State University campuses in Los Angeles County and is "fundamental to the economic prosperity of the region."

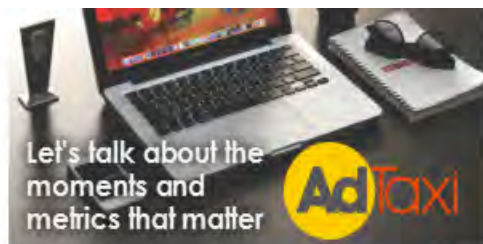
California State University, Northridge, serves a diverse student body of more than 40,000 students.

It has been ranked among the top five universities in the nation by EdSmart.org for advancing U.S. economic progress, and by the National Science Foundation for graduates who go on to earn doctorates in the sciences.

CSUN-related spending generates an estimated \$1.9 billion in economic output throughout the state. Of this, about \$1.6 billion occurred within Los Angeles County, helping to bolster nearly 12,000 jobs.

The Northridge campus has more than 300,000 alumni, 80 percent of whom live and work in Southern California.

University partnerships in the community include one with L.A. Cleantech Incubator to foster entrepreneurship, business formation and job creation. CSUN also has joined forces with five regional California State University campuses as the "CSU5," to advance regional education, research and workforce development.



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A video was presented at the gala to showcase CSUN's reach in Los Angeles County and beyond. It included comments by Mayor Eric Garcetti, San Fernando Valley civic leader David Fleming and prominent CSUN alumni, including Eva Longoria

'13 (M.A. Chicana/o Studies), David Nazarian '82 (Business), Earl Enzer '83 (Finance), Sue Herera '80 (Journalism) and Bill Griffeth '80 (Journalism).

"We, at the university, are honored to be recognized for doing something that is such an integral part of who we are — elevating the social, cultural and economic well-being of Los Angeles," Harrison said.





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## Santa Clarita Named Finalist For Most Business-Friendly City Award

Posted by KHITS AM 1220 in Santa Clarita News | August 25, 2014 | 12:47pm | 0 Comments | 2 Views

A Los Angeles County business group named Santa Clarita a finalist for its 2014 Most Business-Friendly City Award.

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"Santa Clarita has always stood back on trying to make a really great place to do business and hold Santa Clarita's own events, community updates, how we're affected by the economy, and a general mix of businesses, residents and city staff did work together to make this possible."

The organization also thanked how Santa Clarita worked immediately to address concerns and get it resolved.

"Santa Clarita has no business licenses, no gross receipts or payroll tax and no utility user fee," according to a Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. news release announcing the nomination. "The city has expedited development & process 'purchases' of office, permit and 300 zero interest rate loans. Development 23 and was directly adopted on the production incentives."

"During the past six years, the city supported the 21 Third Street Light Rail line and the new and modern infrastructure. Santa Clarita recognizes the importance of continuing employment and workforce development in the past help with College of the Canyons. Santa Clarita was Most Business-Friendly City in 2012, County's second place in 2013 and 2014 and 2015 and 2016," according to the statement.

One winner from each category will be announced Nov. 13 at the 10th annual Body Awards at the Beverly Hills.

Established in 1993, the Body Awards held prize for the state's only "business-friendly city" award, recognizing cities within L.A. County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services, a key factor in job creation.

Do you have a news tip? Call us at (661) 299-1220, or drop us a line at [news@khits.com](mailto:news@khits.com).

The finalists were selected based on the following criteria: 1) demonstrated priority commitment to economic development; 2) excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business start-up, expansion, and retention; 3) competitive business tax rates and fee structures; 4) availability of economic incentives; 5) positive community and small business climate, according to a news release.



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# Glendale recognized for its pro-business climate

NOVEMBER 18, 2014, 5:44 PM

**T**he city of Glendale for the first time has won the Eddy award for maintaining a business-friendly climate.

The honor was handed out last Thursday by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., which sought to recognize a city with a population of over 65,000.

Glendale was nominated in past years, and this year, it went up against communities such as Bellflower, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita for the title.

Philip Lanzafame, the city's economic development director, said he was thankful for the honor and that the culture for business growth isn't just part of his department, but present throughout City Hall.

"I think [the award] is a testament to all of the hard work from people throughout the organization," Lanzafame said.

Bill Allen, the county agency's president and chief executive, said Glendale was this year's award recipient because of several initiatives such as a streamlined permitting process and excellent customer service.

In recent years, the city worked to improve its business concierge service, Lanzafame said.

The program assigns project managers to businesses of any size to provide one-on-one communication.

"It really is something that distinguishes us from other cities," Lanzafame said. "...that single point of contact, somebody that you can go to navigate through the city system is critically important."

Glendale was previously nominated for the Eddy in 2008, 2011 and 2012.

Lanzafame said the city likely wouldn't be eligible for another nomination for at least five years.

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INDUSTRY NEWS &gt; CAREER &amp; WORKPLACE

# Most business-friendly cities in L.A. County announced

Aug 29, 2014, 10:57am PDT

Scott Bridges



There's no business like show business, it is said, but it isn't the only business in town, and to demonstrate that, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recently announced the finalists for its 2014 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County Award.

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So without further adieu, here are the finalists.

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There's no business like show business, it is said, but it isn't the only business in... [more](#)

LANCE MURRAY

In the population 65,000 and over category, the nominees are Bellflower, Glendale, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita. And in the under 65,000 population category: Artesia, El Segundo, Glendora, Pico Rivera and Vernon.

One winner from each category will be announced live at the 19th Annual Eddy Awards on Thursday, Nov. 13, at the [Beverly Hilton](#).

The finalists, according to [IT Business Net](#), were selected based on the following criteria:

- \* Demonstrated priority commitment to economic development
- \* Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- \* Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- \* Availability of economic incentives
- \* Effective communication with and about business clients

Agency spokesman [Lawren Markle](#) told the [Los Angeles Daily News](#), "I know you hear opinions that California isn't business friendly, and this awards process helps cities to learn real steps they can take to improve business growth and job creation. We highlight specific

At the awards ceremony, the LAEDC will also honor Honda, UCLA and [Anthony N. Pritzker](#), managing partner of the Pritzker Group of Los Angeles and Chicago, which partners on leveraged buyouts, acquisitions and recapitalizations of middle-market companies, according to the Daily News.

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## Local Cities Cited as Business Friendly

By Business Journal staff

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Three cities in the greater Valley were among 10 named on Thursday by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. as finalists for its award given to the most business-friendly cities.

Glendale, Palmdale and Santa Clara joined Bellflower and Lakewood as finalists for the over-60,000 population category. Artesia, El Segundo, Glendora, Rosemead and Van Nuys were included in the under-60,000 population category.

The LAEDC started its most business-friendly city awards in 2005 as a way to get cities to compete to be more welcoming to businesses. Two winners, one in each category, will be named at an LAEDC ceremony on Nov. 13.

The finalists were selected based on several criteria, including competitive business taxes and fees, economic incentives, and programs to retain, attract and expand businesses.



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## NEWS

# Lakewood and Artesia wearing their best smiles

Nov. 7, 2014 | Updated 1:57 p.m.

BY KATHA  
ARATA  
STAFF  
WRITER

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Lakewood and Artesia are on a path to being recognized across the county for their business-friendly practices.

Nonprofit groups in Los Angeles County Economic Development Council selected the two cities as part of 201 ballots competing for its 2014 Most Business-Friendly City of Los Angeles County award.

Two winners — one city with 60,000 residents or more and a city with fewer than 65,000 residents — will be announced Thursday at the group's annual "Party for Economic Development" awards gala in Beverly Hills. Lakewood is in the over-65,000 category, and Artesia is in the under-65,000 competition.

It's also the first time the cities have gotten a nod on their business practices. Artesia was chosen as a finalist for the award last year. Lakewood was a finalist in 2009.



Photo by PHIL KOSOWSKI for the Orange County Register. One of the two finalists at the gala is Artesia. The other finalist is Lakewood. The winner will be announced at the gala. The winner will be announced at the gala.

The group is looking for ways to help cities like Lakewood and Artesia. The group is looking for ways to help cities like Lakewood and Artesia. The group is looking for ways to help cities like Lakewood and Artesia.

## If you go

**WHAT:** The 2014 Most Business-Friendly City of Los Angeles County award

**WHEN:** The award ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Los Angeles. The ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Los Angeles. The ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Los Angeles.

**WHERE:** The award ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Los Angeles. The ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Los Angeles. The ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Los Angeles.

**WHEN:** Thursday

**INFORMATION:** [Lakewood.org](#)



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Should Lakewood win the award category, Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO John Kelsall said the city's final goal is to get the award for its business practices.

Should Lakewood win the award category, Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO John Kelsall said the city's final goal is to get the award for its business practices.

"Nothing has changed," Kelsall said. "We have been able to see and realize who Lakewood is and always has been."

Lakewood earned its spot as a finalist for competing business practices, including business licensing fees for qualifying businesses and also for persons toward its user and product fees, business loans, and "Business-Friendly Ordinance," according to the group.

Miguel and his wife, and son of Carlos R. P. said before that he recently opened the Lakewood business, a city staff member walked him through the process, making sure everything was complete.

He said it took one year to open the business in his hometown — from coming up with the concept to finding the right location to opening the first 100 doors.

"With our help, it would have taken much longer than it should have," Kelsall said.

Some practices that helped Artesia stand out from the competition are its open-door policy of community, over the counter permitting and a restaurant incentive.

Cerie Rogers, LAEDC's vice president of business and economic development, said the nonprofit organization created the award category in 2006 after the group's president and CEO at the time was traveling and heard others comment that Los Angeles County wasn't a good place for business.

The award was created to help cities that stand out, Rogers said, by honoring an Angeles County city with exceptional and creative business practices to residents.

Cities have to send the nonprofit an application to win the award.

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News

Business

## Artesia, Bellflower, Lakewood nominated for most business friendly city in L.A. County

By Phillip Zankel, Long Beach Press Telegram

POSTED: 05/11/16, 10:50 PM PDT

1 COMMENT

Los Angeles >> Artesia, Bellflower and Lakewood have been named finalists for a business-friendly city award from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

The Eddy Awards recognize Los Angeles County cities that proactively promote business-friendly programs and services that spur job creation.

Finalists were selected based on several factors, including a commitment to economic development programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion and retention; competitive tax rates and fee structures; economic incentives and communication with and about business clients.

Artesia is nominated in the Cities with Populations Under 65,000 category, while Bellflower and Lakewood are nominated in the Cities with Populations 65,000 and Over category.

Artesia, one of the smallest cities in Los Angeles County, was nominated for its customer service, including over-the-counter permitting that allows businesses an opportunity to voice comments and expedite business transactions, and a streamlined incentive program. Artesia also was a finalist last year.

Bellflower's zoning policies; low business, utility and property taxes; incentive programs, business outreach and Economic Development Department were reasons the city is nominated. It's the city's first year as a finalist.

"We are very proud to have been considered for this award," Mayor Sonny Santa Ines said in a statement. "It is quite an honor and it shows that what we are doing here in Bellflower is really making a difference. ... Bellflower really is growing together."

Lakewood's nomination is based on several factors, including its waiving of business license fees for qualified veterans and disabled people, low utility and property taxes, loans for small and medium-sized businesses and fast-tracking the development process with over-the-counter approvals. Lakewood was a finalist in 2015.

"We're excited about being named a finalist," Mayor Todd Rogers said. "Helping our businesses succeed is a priority in Lakewood, and it's very gratifying to have our efforts recognized."

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation conducts economic research and analysis, provides assistance to government and business, and targeted public policy.

The winners will be announced at the Eddy Awards gala Nov. 13 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Staff writer Greg Vee contributed to this report.

Contact Phillip Zankel at 562-791-2098.



# BUSINESS

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**Business**

## Most 'business friendly' cities in Los Angeles County announced

POSTED 08/28/14, 3:30 PM PDT

UPDATED ON 08/28/2014

[# COMMENTS](#)



When it comes to cities that are considered "business friendly," small trumps big.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. has come up with the 10 finalists for its annual Eddy Awards, and they all reflect small-town America rather than the Los Angeles megalopolis.

The award is a business recruiting tool of sorts that the agency uses to help municipalities grow their economic base.

"I know you hear opinions that California isn't business friendly, and this awards process helps cities to learn real steps they can take to improve business growth and job creation. We highlight specific programs and processes and even the mindset of cities related to this important aspect of job creation," agency spokesman Lawren Maricle said in an email.

Recognition is given to cities with populations over and under 65,000 residents. In the large-city category, the nominees are Bellflower, Glendale, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita, while contenders for the smaller category are Artesia, El Segundo, Glendora, Pico Rivera and Vernon.

The ceremony will take place on Nov. 13 at the Beverly Hilton.

Among the LAEDC's other honorees are Honda, UCLA and Anthony N. Pritzker, managing partner of the Pritzker Group of Los Angeles and Chicago, which partners on leveraged buyouts, acquisitions and recapitalizations of middle-market companies.

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## Pico Rivera vies for title of Most Business Friendly City in L.A. County



For the third year in a row, Pico Rivera is a finalist for the title "Most Business-Friendly City in L.A. County." Pico Rivera and four other cities with a population under 65,000 are in the running for the honor, which will be presented at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's 16th Annual Eddy Awards this November. [Click here for more.](#) [Staff photographer](#)

By Sandra Molina, Whittier Daily News

POSTED: 03/24/14, 6:57 PM PDT

0 COMMENT

**PICO RIVERA** — For the third consecutive year, Pico Rivera is in the running for Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County.

"The finalists were selected based on several criteria, such as competitive business taxes and fees, economic incentives and programs designed to help business entry, expansion and retention," stated the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. in a news release.

"The business community sees Pico Rivera as a viable destination for business," said Ben Martinez, director of community and economic development.

He pointed to award city programs, such as Commercial Facade and Business Watch, as playing a part in making Pico Rivera an attractive location for businesses, whether retail or industrial.

"The City Council recognized we have solid retail and industrial bases but that we could also do better," Martinez said.

There has been a concerted effort, he said, not only to draw businesses but also to retain those already in the city.

"They have done this through helping in expansion and creating relationships with owners.

The recognition by iADOT, Councilman Rich Archuleta said, shows they are competitive with other great cities."

He gave credit to city staff for cultivating a business-friendly atmosphere.

"We have a group of professionals who do a great job maintaining programs beneficial to our business community, as well as showing business owners why they should come to Pico Rivera," Archuleta said.

There are 1,366 businesses in the city, with restaurant franchises The Habit Burger Grill and Jersey Mike's Subs, as well as Harbor Freight Tools, a discount tool store, coming to town.

Archuleta said the recent addition of Norma's Restaurant and the businesses coming in shows that the infrastructure improvements done in the city — including a new library and parking improvements, using the added revenue from the 1 percent sales tax hike passed by voters in 2009 — has paid off.

At the time, some city officials thought the 20.5 percent sales tax would deter new business coming into the city, while driving out those already in the city.

"That has not been an issue," Martinez said. "We did not see businesses leave because of it."





## **La Mirada Named Finalist for ‘Most Business-Friendly City’**

By Rico Dizon

For the sixth consecutive year, La Mirada is a finalist for the “Most Business-Friendly City” award from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

La Mirada’s low cost of doing business, business recognition program, and low crime rate were cited as reasons for its selection. For over 50 years the City has worked closely with businesses to meet their needs and promote economic vitality.

“Businesses are an important part of La Mirada and we work to maintain positive relationships with the business community,” says City Manager designee Jeff Boynton. “Being named a six-time finalist for this award reflects La Mirada’s stability as an excellent business location.”

The City maintains positive communication with the business community by reaching out to business to discuss issues, resolve barriers to growth, identify expansion opportunities and recognize accomplishments.

This year, the City expanded its Business Recognition Program to highlight La Mirada business and community achievements at City Council meetings and City publications.

Several new businesses have chosen to open in La Mirada recently, including Walgreens Pharmacy at the renovated Crossroads Shopping Center on the corner of Imperial Highway and La Mirada Boulevard. A new 35,000 square foot Walmart Neighborhood Market is set to open at the shopping center this fall along with other improvements.

The LAEDC will announce its “Most Business Friendly City” award winner on November 14.



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL®

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## Glendale Named Business Friendliest

By Business Journal Staff  
Friday, November 14, 2014

Glendale was named the most business-friendly large city in the country Thursday night by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., while Glendora took the honors for the most business-friendly small city.

The awards, handed out at the LAEDC's 19th annual gala at the Beverly Hilton, are designed to foster friendly competition among local cities in the U.S. and encourage them to improve. "Women-owned small businesses development is a priority, facilitating business entry and expansion, maintain competitive practices and focus, and bring economic incentives to the table."

"It really is Glendale's belief that every department and every employee in it is the economic development business," said LAEDC Chief Executive Bill Allen. "Through this culture the city has fostered a low cost of doing business and excellent customer service, a 24-hour call back policy, streamlined permitting, and streamlined services to ensure businesses agree that their needs are being

Glendale beat out five other finalists in the large cities category: Bellflower, Lake Forest, Palmdale and Santa Clarita. The category includes cities with more than 65,000 residents.

Last year, Lancaster in the Antelope Valley won in the large city category.

Glendora was cited by Allen for keeping business costs and red tape low, and for a program that rewards entrepreneurs and cashing in on success in the public.

"The city's economic development staff visits hundreds of businesses to help them access city resources and workshops and in turn learn of available ways to grow," he said.

The four other small city finalists were Arroyo, El Segundo, Pico Rivera and Vernon. La Marade won last year in the category.

In addition to the business-friendly city awards, the LAEDC honored Anthony Prizker, managing partner of private equity and venture capital firm Prizker Group's Los Angeles office, UCLA and American Honda Motor Co. for their contributions to the local economy.



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## Glendale, Glendora Win Biz-Friendly Cities Honors

By HOWARD TIME

Friday, November 14, 2014

The "Glens" have it

Glendale was named the most business-friendly large city in the country Tuesday night by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., while Glendora took the honors for the most business-friendly small city.

The awards, handed out at the LAEDC's 15th annual gala at the Beverly Hills Hotel, are designed to foster friendly competition among local cities to be the most attractive to business. Winners must make economic development a priority, facilitate business entry and expansion, maintain competitive tax rates and foster a high-quality environment to do so.

"The city of Glendale believes that every department and every employee is in the economic development business," said LAEDC Chief Executive Bill Allen. "Through this culture the city has formed a low cost of doing business and excellent customer service, a 24-hour call back policy, streamlined permitting and satisfaction surveys to ensure businesses agree that Glendale means the long run."

Glendale beat out four other finalists in the large cities category: Bellflower, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita. The category includes cities with more than 50,000 residents.

As for Glendora, which was among cities with fewer than 60,000 people, Allen said it "keeps costs low for businesses, cuts red tape, and its successful business assistance program recruits startups and existing businesses for job creation." He added, "The city's economic development staff visits hundreds of businesses to help them access city programs and workshops and maintain them on available space to grow."

The four other small city finalists were Artesia, El Segundo, Pico Rivera and Vernon.

Last year's winners were Lancaster in the large city category and La Minada for small cities.

In addition to the business-friendly city awards, the LAEDC honored Anthony Pritzker, managing partner of private equity and venture capital firm Pritzker Group's Los Angeles office, UCLA and American Honda Motor Co. for their contributions to the local economy.



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# Santa Monica Lookout

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## **Santa Monica Vies Again for Title of County's Most Business-Friendly City**

By Jason Islas  
Staff Writer

*October 17, 2013* -- For the second year in a row, Santa Monica is in the running to earn the title of "Most Business-Friendly" city in Los Angeles County.

Santa Monica will compete against four other cities -- Paramount, Glendora, Lancaster and Pico Rivera -- with populations over 50,000 for the title, bestowed by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation at the 18th Annual Eddy Awards next month.

"We'll hear people sometimes say that it's hard to do business in Santa Monica, but this points out that it's not," said Mayor Pam O'Connor. "Yes, we have standards, but businesses want to be here."

She said that one thing that makes Santa Monica attractive to businesses is the "fair, comprehensible" process the City has for prospective business owners.

That, combined with state-of-the-art amenities like a dark fiber broadband network installed throughout the city, invite small and large businesses alike to set up shop here, she said.

"We have a global, mobile society," she said. "Those kind of external changes have changed the world. It's important to be nimble and responsive to those changes." Carl Hansen, director of government affairs for the Chamber of Commerce, said, "The Chamber is super excited about it."

He credited the close working relationship the Chamber has with City staff with contributing to Santa Monica's success.

Each year since 2006, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation has honored one of the County's 88 cities for its work supporting the economic growth of the Los Angeles region.

Last year, Santa Monica made it to the finals for the first time, but eventually lost out to Whittier in East Los Angeles. That same year, the City of Duarte triumphed among those cities with less than 60,000 residents.

Other past winners in the population of 60,000 and up category include Long Beach in 2009, Alhambra in 2010 and West Covina in 2011.

The competition is just one way that the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation shores up the region's economic vitality, which officials estimate generated more than \$500 billion in economic activity in 2008.

In 2009, the Corporation took the lead in drafting the Los Angeles County Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

Within the plan, now in its third year of implementation, County officials call for municipalities to include economic development in their general plans, adopt "clear, reasonable and predictable processes for the development of land" and educate stakeholders on the value of promoting business-friendly environments.







## L.A. County Finalists for 2013 Business-Friendly Cities

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recently announced the finalists for its 2013 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award. The cities of Glendora, Lancaster, Paramount, Pico Rivera, and Santa Monica are finalists for the population 50,000 and over category, and the cities of Artesia, Bell Gardens, El Segundo, La Mirada, and San Gabriel are finalists in the population 50,000 and under category.

One winner from each category will be announced live at the 18th Annual Eddy Awards® on Thursday, November 14th, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills. Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state of California. In 2006, the LAEDC created the “business-friendly” award category to recognize cities within the County that are proactively promoting businessfriendly programs and services.

The finalists were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients

Each of the finalists has created a business-friendly environment that encourages businesses to locate or expand in their respective communities.

### Cities With Populations of 50,000+



City of Glendora  
Chris Jeffers  
City Manager

The City of Glendora has been repeatedly included in the Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey (Kosmont-Rose Survey) among the least expensive cities to conduct business in L.A. County. The City offers an online Business Resource Guide and permit system available 24/7, competitive fees and lease rates, business workshops, quality infrastructure, distinguished schools, and numerous parks and entertainment options. Glendora was a “Most Business Friendly City” finalist in 2012.



## L.A. County Finalists for 2013 Business-Friendly Cities

(con't.) **Cities With Populations of 50,000+**



City of Lancaster  
Mark Bozigian  
City Manager

With its pro-business attitude and approach to encouraging business growth, Lancaster has been recognized as one of the least expensive places to conduct business by the Kosmont-Rose Survey. The City's economic stimulus package, streamlined permit process and reduced transaction fees have spurred economic, community and real estate development, including the award-winning downtown revitalization project, transforming the downtown area into a vibrant urban center, with 50 new businesses and hundreds of new jobs. Lancaster was a 2006 "Most Business Friendly City" finalist and was named the 2007 Most Business Friendly City in LA County.



City of Paramount  
Linda Benedetti-Leal  
City Manager

With its convenient proximity to four major freeways, low cost of doing business, numerous incentive programs and a business-friendly reputation, business is booming in Paramount. Among the City's most highly-prized business friendly programs are: the City's streamlined permit process; fasttracked approvals; and low licensing and permit fees relative to neighboring cities. Paramount's new "Business Services" page on the City's website includes online business licenses; available retail, office, and industrial locations for sale or lease; and no-cost business assistance resources. The City invests in its future with the Paramount Education Partnership, aiming to improve educational outcomes, increase per capita personal and median household income levels, and provide businesses with prepared workforces. This is the first year Paramount has been a finalist for the "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" award.



City of Pico Rivera  
Dr. Ronald Bates  
City Manager

The City strives to continuously review, revisit and revise regulatory and entitlement process systems when they impede economic development and job creation. Pico Rivera's Business Assistance Program includes outreach, workshops, site selection assistance, façade improvements, business surveys, online business resource center, and monthly newsletter advertising new businesses and local employment opportunities. Pico Rivera endeavors to provide counter approvals and responses to applicants within 24 hours, and the City is in the process of adopting a film-friendly ordinance. Pico Rivera was a finalist for the 2012 "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" award.







## L.A. County Finalists for 2013 Business-Friendly Cities

(con't.) **Cities With Populations of 50,000+**



City of Santa Monica  
Rod Gould  
City Manager

Santa Monica values its businesses, making support of businesses a top priority by offering exceptional incentives and unparalleled accessibility. The City recently streamlined its planning and permitting process to make it less complicated. Other business friendly incentives include: business license waivers for struggling small businesses; direct financial assistance and reduced operating costs; and a downtown parking incentive. The City partners with public and private organizations to offer workforce training programs, site selection assistance, business workshops for small business owners, access to loans and financial assistance, and free one-on-one business consulting. Santa Monica was a 2012 "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" award finalist.

### Cities With Populations of 50,000 And Under

Cities With Populations of 50,000 And Under	
<p><b>City of Artesia</b> William Rawlings – Interim City Manager.</p>  <p>This is the first year Artesia has been a finalist for the "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" award.</p>	<p><b>City of El Segundo</b> Greg Carpenter – City Manager</p>  <p>El Segundo was the inaugural "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" Award winner in 2006 and was a Most Business Friendly City Finalist in 2012.</p>
<p><b>Bell Gardens</b> Philip Wagner – City Manager</p>  <p>The City has no impact fees, which is a clear example of how the City works with local businesses and developers to create a favorable business environment. Bell Gardens was a "Most Business Friendly City" finalist in 2009.</p>	<p><b>City of La Mirada</b> Jeff Boynton – City Manager</p>  <p>The city of La Mirada was named a "Most Business Friendly City" finalist in the years of 2008-2012.</p>
	<p><b>City of San Gabriel</b> Steven A. Preston – City Manager</p>  <p>This is the first year San Gabriel has been a finalist for the "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" award.</p>

The Eddy Awards were introduced by the LAEDC in 1996 to celebrate individuals and organizations that demonstrate exceptional contributions to positive economic development in the region. The Awards have grown to recognize cities for their business friendliness and, most recently, to distinguish educational institutions for their work advancing regional economic development goals. For more information about the Eddy Awards®, visit [www.laedc.org/eddy](http://www.laedc.org/eddy). The LAEDC, the region's premier economic development leadership organization, is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 under section 501(c)(3). Its mission is to attract, retain, and grow business and jobs for the regions of Los Angeles County.

## Glendora Named Finalist As Business-Friendly City

Posted by Aaron Castrejon , October 30, 2013 at 12:00 PM



*Members of the Glendora City Council display their honorary scroll at the Oct. 22 City Council meeting.*

Photo courtesy of the City of Glendora.

The City of Glendora was presented with a plaque and scroll honoring its being chosen as a finalist as “Most Business-Friendly City.”

The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation presented the city with its plaque and scroll from the LAEDC and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors at the Oct. 22 City Council meeting.

Glendora is a finalist as a city with over 50,000 residents and is vying for the award along with Lancaster, Pico Rivera, Paramount and Santa Monica.

“Too often we hear from many businesses that it’s really hard to do business in California, it’s hard to do business in LA County. I want to say you guys are doing incredible things,” said Bob Machuca, LAEDC senior regional manager.

Machuca admired Glendora’s website, calling it interactive, full of information and noted how its permit process flowchart was a welcomed feature for new businesses.

This is the second year in a row Glendora was selected as a finalist for the award. Duarte won last year.

From the Web







## **La Mirada named most business-friendly city**

*By Mike Sprague, Whittier Daily News*

*Saturday, November 23, 2013*

LA MIRADA >> If you try, try and try again, you can succeed. Look at this city where for the past five years it was a runner-up for the most business friendly award from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

But no more: La Mirada has won the award this year for cities with a population of less than 50,000 this year.

"It's gratifying," Mayor Steve De Ruse said. "We didn't just keep nominating the same old thing. We kept trying to improve. Every year we would look at what we're doing and how can we be better."

City Manager Jeff Boynton said La Mirada doesn't have a utility users tax or high developer fees. The city also has business outreach efforts, including a business forum and brokers breakfast for industrial area real estate professionals.

"Shop! See! Splash!," the city's "Shop La Mirada" campaign, encourages shoppers to support La Mirada businesses by allowing them to redeem their shopping receipts for vouchers toward the purchase of La Mirada Theatre or Splash! Regional Aquatics Center tickets.

La Mirada was also selected based on the Kosmont-Rose Survey listing the city as an inexpensive place to conduct business. Councilman Larry Mowles said the award should help the city to attract new business.

"We have within our several retail centers some vacancies," Mowles said.

"We would of course like to fill those vacancies," he said. "This is one of those things that we can put out there. It's a good feather in our cap."

Among the vacancies are the former Toys "R" Us in the La Mirada Theatre Center.

# The Civic Bee

## Press – Lancaster earns Eddy for most business-friendly city



The City of Lancaster announced Friday that it was named “Most Business-Friendly City” at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation’s 18th annual Eddy Awards Thursday evening.

Lancaster is the first city in the history of the program to have won the award twice, with its first win in 2007, according to the news release.

“We are deeply honored that an organization of this caliber has once again recognized Lancaster with this very prestigious award,” Mayor R. Rex Parris said in the release. “Since 1996, LAEDC and its president, Bill Allen, have played a key role in many of Lancaster’s recent successes, including the attraction of BYD’s ebus and battery manufacturing facilities.”

The LAEDC is the premier economic development organization in Los Angeles County, since 1996 having helped retain or attract more than 190,000 annual jobs in the county with an estimated labor income of \$11.8 billion.

During Thursday night’s ceremony, the City of La Mirada was also named Most Business- Friendly Smaller City, with a population under 50,000.

“This year’s Most Business-Friendly Cities, Lancaster and La Mirada, understand that domestic and global competition for jobs, businesses and entire industries has never been fiercer,” said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. “The City of Lancaster vigorously competes by training its residents for tomorrow’s jobs, not for yesterday’s; by keeping costs and fees down to attract new businesses and jobs; and by supporting its start-up sector, which will drive the city’s economic growth in the future.”

The winners were selected based on criteria such as their ability to demonstrate a commitment to economic development as a priority; designing programs and services that facilitate business entry, expansion and retention; and a city’s economic development activity over the past three years.

“Considered one of the least expensive places to conduct business by the Kosmont-Rose Survey, Lancaster’s economic stimulus package, streamlined permit process, and reduced transactions fees have spurred economic, community and real estate development,” a press release issued by the LAEDC stated. “The downtown revitalization project created a vibrant urban center with 50 new businesses and hundreds of new jobs.”

The Eddy Awards celebrate public and private excellence in LA County economic development, with the Most Business-Friendly City Award, and with the recognition of individuals and private organization honorees that demonstrate exceptional contributions to positive economic development in the region.



## **Lancaster: Most Business Friendly City**

By MARK MADLER

Friday, November 15, 2013

Lancaster has been named one of L.A. County's Most Business Friendly Cities by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

The Antelope Valley city received the Eddy Award in the category of cities with a population of greater than 50,000. The other finalists were Santa Monica, Glendora, Paramount, and Pico Rivera.

The 18th annual awards event took place Thursday evening at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, where La Mirada was recognized as the county's most business friendly smaller city.

The LAEDC noted Lancaster for keeping costs and fees down to attract new businesses, its downtown revitalization project that has created new jobs and a streamlined permit process.

LAEDC Chief Executive Bill Allen said that Lancaster and La Mirada understand that domestic and global competition for business and jobs has never been fiercer.

"The City of Lancaster vigorously competes by training its residents for tomorrow's jobs, not for yesterday's; and by supporting its start-up sector, which will drive the city's economic growth in the future," said Allen, in a prepared statement.

The LAEDC began the competition seven years ago to boost competition among the county's 88 cities and stimulate economic development and job creation. Winners must demonstrate a commitment to economic development, show they are able to retain businesses and keep business taxes and fees competitive.

"We are truly honored," said Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris. "We will continue to work side-by-side with our stellar business community to ensure that our city remains the Most Business-Friendly."

Lancaster was previously recognized for the same award in 2007.



## **Lancaster and La Mirada Recognized as Los Angeles County's "Most Business-Friendly" Cities**

Lancaster and La Mirada Recognized as Los Angeles County's "Most Business-Friendly" Cities at 2013 LAEDC Eddy Awards

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) November 15, 2013



Tonight at the 18th annual Eddy Awards, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) recognized the City of Lancaster as the Most Business Friendly City with a population greater than 50,000 and the City of La Mirada as the Most Business Friendly City with a population under 50,000.

"This year's Most Business Friendly Cities, Lancaster and La Mirada, understand that domestic and global competition for jobs, businesses and entire industries has never been fiercer," said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. "The City of Lancaster vigorously competes by training its residents for tomorrow's jobs, not for yesterday's; by keeping costs and fees down to attract new businesses and jobs; and by supporting its start-up sector, which will drive the city's economic growth in the future."

"Not to be outdone in this global competition, the City of La Mirada forcefully competes by developing and implementing its own strategic plan for economic development to increase investment and boost the city's ability to attract and retain businesses and jobs; by institutionalizing a red tape to red carpet ethos that permeates all of its business-facing activities; and by rolling out the official welcome mat with city council members regularly visiting with community businesses. Both of these cities' most business friendly best practices are ones that every LA County city serious about succeeding in this global competition would be well advised to replicate."

Photos of the honorees are available at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/laedc/sets/72157637393835614/>.

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients





## **Lancaster and La Mirada Recognized as Los Angeles County's "Most Business-Friendly" Cities**

Lancaster and La Mirada Recognized as Los Angeles County's "Most Business-Friendly" Cities at 2013 LAEDC Eddy Awards

(con't.) **City of Lancaster, 2013 Eddy Award winner in the population 50,000+ category:**

Considered one of the least expensive places to conduct business by the Kosmont-Rose Survey, Lancaster's economic stimulus package, streamlined permit process, and reduced transactions fees have spurred economic, community and real estate development. The downtown revitalization project created a vibrant urban center with 50 new businesses and hundreds of new jobs.

**City of La Mirada, 2013 Eddy Award winner in the population under 50,000 category:**

La Mirada develops and follows a strategic plan for economic development, and assists businesses with tax savings, low fees for business licenses and development, minimal red tape, quality customer service, expedited permit processing, and online business licenses. La Mirada was recognized in the Kosmont-Rose Survey as an inexpensive place to conduct business, and ranked 34th Best Place to Live in America by CNN and has achieved a low unemployment rate of 6%.

### **EDDY AWARD HONOREES**

LAEDC also recognized three private sector honorees for their outstanding leadership in economic development throughout L.A. County; SpaceX, University of Southern California, and Yang Ho Cho. SpaceX designs, manufactures, and launches the world's most advanced rockets and spacecraft. Founded in 2002 by Elon Musk, the company is revolutionizing space technology. SpaceX continues to expand and create aerospace jobs in Los Angeles County, with nearly 3,000 local employees. SpaceX and its highly skilled workers are reinforcing the reputation of Los Angeles County as a leader in innovation and aerospace ingenuity.

The University of Southern California (USC) is one of the world's leading private research universities. An anchor institution in Los Angeles, a global center for arts, technology and international business, USC enrolls more international students than any other private research university in the U.S. USC is the largest private employer in the city of Los Angeles. The University recently launched The USC Village redevelopment -- the largest economic development project to be proposed in South L.A., which will generate approximately 12,000 new jobs, 4,000 construction-related, and 8,000 permanent.

Yang Ho Cho is the Chairman, CEO and major shareholder of the Hanjin Group, a global transportation conglomerate of 45 companies in the aviation, maritime and ground transportation industries which includes Korean Air, Hanjin Shipping, Hanjin Transportation as well as ground handling companies, private educational institutions, and not-for-profit foundations. Mr. Cho is making a significant investment in the construction of a worldclass building at the site of the former Wilshire Grand hotel in downtown Los Angeles. It is estimated that the project will infuse \$1 billion into the local economy, producing as many as 11,000 temporary and 1,750 permanent jobs, and strengthening the region's travel and tourism industry. The Eddys celebrate Yang Ho Cho's personal connection with Los Angeles and his continuing and lasting positive influence on regional economic development.



## Lancaster recognized

Only city to win the award the 'Most Business-Friendly' in L.A. County twice

OW Staff Writer

The city of Lancaster was named "Most Business-Friendly City" at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) 18th annual Eddy Awards this week. Lancaster is the first city in the history of the program to have won the award twice; its first win was in 2007.

"We are deeply honored that an organization of this caliber has once again recognized Lancaster with this very prestigious award," said Mayor R. Rex Parris. "Since 1996, LAEDC and its president, Bill Allen, have played a key role in many of Lancaster's recent successes, including the attraction of BYD's e-bus and battery manufacturing facilities."

The LAEDC is the premier economic development organization in Los Angeles County, and since 1996 has helped retain or attract more than 190,000 annual jobs in the county with an estimated labor income of \$11.8 billion.

During the ceremony, the city of La Mirada was also named Most Business-Friendly Smaller City, with a population under 50,000.

"This year's Most Business-Friendly Cities, Lancaster and La Mirada, understand that domestic and global competition for jobs, businesses and entire industries has never been fiercer," said Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. "The city of Lancaster vigorously competes by training its residents for tomorrow's jobs, not for yesterday's; by keeping costs and fees down to attract new businesses and jobs; and by supporting its start-up sector, which will drive the city's economic growth in the future."

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients







## Lancaster recognized

Only city to win the award the 'Most Business-Friendly' in L.A. County twice

OW Staff Writer

(con't.) "Considered one of the least expensive places to conduct business by the Kosmont-Rose Survey, Lancaster's economic stimulus package, streamlined permit process, and reduced transactions fees have spurred economic, community and real estate development," states a press release issued by the LAEDC. "The downtown revitalization project created a vibrant urban center with 50 new businesses and hundreds of new jobs."

In addition to the Most Business-Friendly City Awards, the LAEDC also recognized three world-class private sector entities for their outstanding contributions to economic development in Los Angeles County: SpaceX, Yang Ho Cho, and USC.

SpaceX designs, manufacturers, and launches the world's most advanced rockets and spacecraft. Founded in 2002 by Elon Musk, who also played an integral role in the creation of PayPal and currently holds key leadership positions with Tesla Motors and SolarCity, the company is revolutionizing space technology. SpaceX continues to expand and create aerospace jobs in Los Angeles County, with nearly 3,000 local employees. SpaceX and its highly skilled workers are reinforcing the reputation of Los Angeles County as a leader in innovation and aerospace ingenuity.

Yang Ho Cho is the chairman, CEO and major shareholder of the Hanjin Group, a global transportation conglomerate of 45 companies in the aviation, maritime and ground transportation industries which include Korean Air, Hanjin Shipping, Hanjin Transportation as well as ground handling companies, private educational institutions, and not-for-profit foundations. Cho is making a significant investment in the construction of a world-class building at the site of the former Wilshire Grand hotel in downtown Los Angeles. It is estimated that the project will infuse \$1 billion into the local economy, producing as many as 11,000 temporary and 1,750 permanent jobs while strengthening the region's travel and tourism industry.

USC is one of the world's leading private research universities. An anchor institution in Los Angeles and a global center for arts, technology, and international business, USC enrolls more international students than any other private research university in the U.S. It is also the largest private employer in Los Angeles. The university recently launched the USC Village redevelopment, the largest economic development project to be proposed in South L.A., which will generate approximately 12,000 new jobs—4,000 construction-related and 8,000 permanent.

"We are truly honored to have been recognized alongside such global titans of commerce and education as SpaceX, Yang Ho Cho, and the University of Southern California," added Parris. "On behalf of the city of Lancaster, I would like to thank the LAEDC for organizing this world-class program and for honoring us with this prestigious award. We will continue to work side-by-side with our stellar business community to ensure that our city remains the most business-friendly."



By MyAntelopeValley Staff

## Lancaster Recognized Again as the “Most Business-Friendly City” by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation



Saturday, November 30, 2013

The City of Lancaster was named “Most Business-Friendly City” at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC’s) 18th annual Eddy Awards Thursday evening. Lancaster is the first city in the history of the program to have won the award twice, with its first win in 2007.

“We are deeply honored that an organization of this caliber has once again recognized Lancaster with this very prestigious award,” said Mayor R. Rex Parris. “Since 1996, LAEDC and its president, Bill Allen, have played a key role in many of Lancaster’s recent successes, including the attraction of BYD’s e-bus and battery manufacturing facilities.”

The LAEDC is the premier economic development organization in Los Angeles County, since 1996 having helped retain or attract more than 190,000 annual jobs in the County with an estimated labor income of \$11.8 billion.

During last night’s ceremony, the City of La Mirada was also named Most Business-Friendly Smaller City, with a population under 50,000.

“This year’s Most Business-Friendly Cities, Lancaster and La Mirada, understand that domestic and global competition for jobs, businesses and entire industries has never been fiercer,” said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. “The City of Lancaster vigorously competes by training its residents for tomorrow’s jobs, not for yesterday’s; by keeping costs and fees down to attract new businesses and jobs; and by supporting its start-up sector, which will drive the city’s economic growth in the future.”

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients



By MyAntelopeValley Staff

## **Lancaster Recognized Again as the “Most Business-Friendly City” by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation**

(con’t.) “Considered one of the least expensive places to conduct business by the Kosmont-Rose Survey, Lancaster’s economic stimulus package, streamlined permit process, and reduced transactions fees have spurred economic, community and real estate development,” states a press release issued by the LAEDC. “The downtown revitalization project created a vibrant urban center with 50 new businesses and hundreds of new jobs.”

Along with the Most Business-Friendly City Awards, the LAEDC also recognized three world-class private sector entities for their outstanding contributions to economic development in Los Angeles County: SpaceX, Yang Ho Cho, and the University of Southern California.

SpaceX designs, manufacturers, and launches the world’s most advanced rockets and spacecraft. Founded in 2002 by Elon Musk, who also played an integral role in the creation of PayPal and currently holds key leadership positions with Tesla Motors and SolarCity, the company is revolutionizing space technology. SpaceX continues to expand and create aerospace jobs in Los Angeles County, with nearly 3,000 local employees. SpaceX and its highly skilled workers are reinforcing the reputation of Los Angeles County as a leader in innovation and aerospace ingenuity.

Yang Ho Cho is the Chairman, CEO and major shareholder of the Hanjin Group, a global transportation conglomerate of 45 companies in the aviation, maritime and ground transportation industries which include Korean Air, Hanjin Shipping, Hanjin Transportation as well as ground handling companies, private educational institutions, and non-profit foundations. Mr. Cho is making a significant investment in the construction of a world-class building at the site of the former Wilshire Grand hotel in downtown Los Angeles. It is estimated that the project will infuse \$1 billion into the local economy, producing as many as 11,000 temporary and 1,750 permanent jobs while strengthening the region’s travel and tourism industry.

The University of Southern California (USC) is one of the world’s leading private research universities. An anchor institution in Los Angeles and a global center for arts, technology, and international business, USC enrolls more international students than any other private research university in the U.S. USC is also the largest private employer in the City of Los Angeles. The University recently launched The USC Village redevelopment, the largest economic development project to be proposed in South L.A, which will generate approximately 12,000 new jobs: 4,000 construction-related and 8,000 permanent.

“We are truly honored to have been recognized alongside such global titans of commerce and education as SpaceX, Yang Ho Cho, and the University of Southern California,” added Parris. “On behalf of the City of Lancaster, I would like to thank the LAEDC for organizing this world-class program and for honoring us with this prestigious award. We will continue to work side-by-side with our stellar business community to ensure that our city remains the Most Business-Friendly.”







## County's "Most Business Friendly" Cities at Eddys Awards

*Alhambra wins top honors for cities with populations greater than 60,000, while Cerritos wins for cities with less than 60,000 residents*

In the category of cities with less than 60,000 residents, the City of Cerritos rose to the challenge and took the top prize. Located in the heart of the Los Angeles Metro Area, Cerritos offers businesses a strategic location in a community with a solid fiscal position, exceptional services and a tradition of strong city leadership. The city provides fast-track permitting, is a "no/ low" property tax city with no utility user tax, and has two redevelopment project areas, and a business retention and expansion program.

The city's economic development priorities are taken from their Economic Development Strategic Plan that focuses efforts to ensure the success of existing businesses. A city ombudsman escorts businesses through the complexities of local, regional, state and federal agencies and regulations.

Cerritos is committed to providing a well planned, safe, and attractive community for its businesses that improve the economic climate and that also maintain a high quality of life for its residents. The city is home to the world's first and most successful regional auto mall, the Cerritos Auto Square and was a finalist in 2007 and 2008.

"We're delighted to present our fifth annual award to these very deserving cities," said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. "The cities of Alhambra and Cerritos best represent what can be achieved when our city governments work side by side with the business community to create business-friendly environments where quality jobs can grow."

Each year, this competition reveals that more and more cities are being proactive in their efforts to retain and attract quality jobs and businesses in their communities. The ability and commitment of our local governments to attract and retain good jobs is absolutely essential if our region is to regain its economic vitality and sustain our quality of life in the future."



## **Lancaster and La Mirada Named County's Most Business-Friendly Cities**

By HOWARD FINE

Friday, November 15, 2013

Lancaster and La Mirada were named the most business-friendly cities in Los Angeles County by the county's economic development organization.

At its annual awards gala on Thursday, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. named Lancaster as the most business-friendly city with a population over 50,000, while La Mirada was chosen the most business-friendly among cities with fewer than 50,000 people.

The LAEDC began the most business-friendly cities contest seven years ago as a way to boost competition among the county's 88 cities to stimulate economic development and job creation. Winners must demonstrate a commitment to economic development, show they keep business costs low and retain companies.

"This year's most business-friendly cities – Lancaster and La Mirada – understand that domestic and global competition for jobs, businesses and entire industries has never been fiercer," said Bill Allen, LAEDC chief executive.

This is the second time Lancaster has won the most business-friendly city award; the first time was in 2007.

Also receiving awards at the organization's annual gala were: Space X Chief Executive Elon Musk; USC, for its massive Village redevelopment project; and Yang Ho Cho, chief executive of the Hanjin Group, which is investing more than \$1 billion in a new office/condo tower on the site of the former Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.





**ACEQ Investment Group**

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## **Lancaster: LA County's Most Business Friendly City**

LANCASTER – The City of Lancaster was named “Most Business-Friendly City” at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation’s 18th annual Eddy Awards. Lancaster is the first city in the history of the program to have won the award twice, with its first win in 2007, city officials announced in a news release.

“We are deeply honored that an organization of this caliber has once again recognized Lancaster with this very prestigious award,” said Mayor R. Rex Parris. “Since 1996, LAEDC and its president, Bill Allen, have played a key role in many of Lancaster’s recent successes, including the attraction of BYD’s e-bus and battery manufacturing facilities.”

The LAEDC is the premier economic development organization in Los Angeles County, since 1996 having helped retain or attract more than 190,000 annual jobs in the County with an estimated labor income of \$11.8 billion.

During last night’s ceremony, the City of La Mirada was also named Most Business-Friendly Smaller City, with a population under 50,000.

“This year’s Most Business-Friendly Cities, Lancaster and La Mirada, understand that domestic and global competition for jobs, businesses and entire industries has never been fiercer,” said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. “The City of Lancaster vigorously competes by training its residents for tomorrow’s jobs, not for yesterday’s; by keeping costs and fees down to attract new businesses and jobs; and by supporting its start-up sector, which will drive the city’s economic growth in the future.”

The winners were selected based on the following criteria:

Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority

Programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention

Economic development activity over the past three years

Competitive business tax rates and fee structures

Availability of economic incentives

Effective communication with and about business clients

“Considered one of the least expensive places to conduct business by the Kosmont-Rose Survey, Lancaster’s economic stimulus package, streamlined permit process, and reduced transactions fees have spurred economic, community and real estate development,” states a press release issued by the LAEDC. “The downtown revitalization project created a vibrant urban center with 50 new businesses and hundreds of new jobs.”

“On behalf of the City of Lancaster, I would like to thank the LAEDC for organizing this world-class program and for honoring us with this prestigious award,” stated Parris. “We will continue to work side-by-side with our stellar business community to ensure that our city remains the Most Business-Friendly.”

(Information via press release from the city of Lancaster.)



## Duarte and Whittier Named Most Business Friendly

By **HOWARD FINE** Friday, November 9, 2012

Duarte and Whittier have been named as L.A. County's most business-friendly cities.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation announced the two cities in eastern Los Angeles County as the winners of the most business-friendly cities award at a ceremony Thursday night. Duarte won in the small cities category and Whittier won in the large cities category.

"Both cities stand out as model communities in Los Angeles County by proactively engaging and working with businesses and the private sector to create jobs for their residents," said Bill Allen, LAEDC chief executive.

The LAEDC started the most business-friendly cities award in 2006 as a way to get cities to compete to be more welcoming to business. The winners are selected based on their commitment to economic development, the quality of their programs to assist business entry, expansion and retention and low business tax rates and fee structures.





## Duarte and Whittier recognized as 'Most Business Friendly'

By Sandra T. Molina, SGVN

[twitter.com/molinasgvn](https://twitter.com/molinasgvn)

Posted: 11/09/2012 05:33:59 PM PST

Updated: 11/09/2012 08:50:51 PM PST



LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) named Whittier, in the large city category, and Duarte, in the small city category, as its Most Business Friendly Cities Thursday at the 17th annual Eddy Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Since 2006, the LAEDC has recognized cities within the county that are ardently promoting business-friendly programs and services in the interest of attracting and retaining good quality jobs for their residents.

"We are delighted to recognize the cities of Whittier and Duarte with this year's Eddy Award," said LAEDC President and CEO Bill Allen. "Both cities stand out as model communities in Los Angeles County by proactively engaging and working with businesses and the private sector to create jobs for their residents."

This was the third time each city has been nominated.

Whittier, in the 60,000 and over population category, was recognized for its unique history and the way it works with local merchants and entrepreneurs to provide new opportunities, preserve its historic commercial shopping district, and maintain a healthy balance of social, civic and business activity.





## **Duarte and Whittier recognized as 'Most Business Friendly'**

By Sandra T. Molina, SGVN

[twitter.com/molinasgvn](https://twitter.com/molinasgvn)

Posted: 11/09/2012 05:33:59 PM PST

Updated: 11/09/2012 08:50:51 PM PST

(con't.) "We're very happy for the recognition," Whittier City Manager Jeff Collier said.

"The City Council has been committed to working with businesses, especially during these difficult financial times," he added. "This is confirmation we are focused in the right direction."

Duarte was selected in the 60,000 and under population category.

It was recognized for having a business friendly approach, and a history of exhibiting programs and practices that make its community a great place to do business, live and work, according to the LAEDC.

The group specifically pointed to Duarte's filming ordinance, which made it one of the first cities to adopt the California Film Commission's Model Ordinance and Guidelines for Best Practices in Film Regulations and Policies.

"It's a reflection of what we have done as a community to make businesses stronger," Duarte Mayor John Fasana, said of the award.

He said that there is an enduring relationship between city hall and commerce.

"We have to show those men and women who put up their own capital that we support them," Fasana said. "Regulations are necessary, but we need to be fair in the process and not set up obstacles."

The winners were selected based on many criteria including: showing their commitment to economic development as a priority, excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry and expansion, and retention of businesses in the city.

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## **Six SGV cities up for business friendly awards**

By Kevin Smith, SGVN

Posted: 08/09/2012 03:31:19 PM PDT

**Six San Gabriel Valley cities are in the running to receive Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County awards.**

The honors are scheduled to be given out Nov. 8 by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. as part of the organization's 17th Annual Eddy Awards.

Baldwin Park, Pico Rivera and Whittier are among the finalists in the category of cities with a population of 60,000 or more, and Duarte, Glendora and La Mirada are competing among the cities with fewer than 60,000 residents.

The finalist selections were based on a variety of factors, including a demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority, excellence in programs and services that foster business expansion, and retention, and economic development over the past three years.

Baldwin Park and Pico Rivera are Most Business Friendly City finalists for the first time, and Whittier has been a finalist for the three years.

The LAEDC notes that Baldwin Park is committed to excellent customer service, with efficient city staff and a streamlined license and permit process. The city also maintains relatively low property tax, utility user tax and transient occupancy tax rates, the LAEDC said.

"We are very excited about being a finalist," Baldwin Park City Manager V.J. Singhal said. "In these tough times we're very proud to do whatever we can to help businesses, and it's nice to be recognized."

Singhal said the city also makes businesses aware of Southern California Edison's direct-install program, which allows companies to receive incentives for exchanging older appliances and lighting for more energy efficient equipment.





## **Six SGV cities up for business friendly awards**

By Kevin Smith, SGVN

Posted: 08/09/2012 03:31:19 PM PDT

(con't.) Pico Rivera has been highlighted for a number of business-friendly programs, including a business assistance program with regular business outreach, business workshops, site selection assistance, business surveys and an online business resource center.

Whittier works with local merchants and entrepreneurs to provide new opportunities, and the city's many business incentives and special zones are used to attract, retain, and expand businesses and jobs.

Duarte, a Most Business Friendly City finalist for the past two years, was one of the first cities in L.A County to amend its filming ordinance to help keep film and TV productions here in California.

The city also hosts job fairs and supports quarterly business seminars on topics such as business management and website development.

Glendora determined that one of the central tasks in helping businesses is making sure the community looks and feels attractive to customers and employees. The city also places a high priority on quality infrastructure and public safety.

La Mirada, ranked among the Best Places to Live in America, according to CNN and Money Magazine, works closely with local businesses as "Partners in Progress" through the city website, electronic newsletters, surveys and on-site visits.

The Eddy Awards were established by the LAEDC in 1996 to celebrate people and organizations that demonstrate exceptional contributions to positive economic development in the region.

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## **Glendora Named One of County's Most Business-Friendly Cities**

**Five cities are in the running for the county-wide award. August 9, 2011**

Glendora has earned the distinction of being named one of Los Angeles County's most business- friendly cities.

The city was one of five finalists for the 2012 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Glendora qualified for the category of cities with a population under 60,000.

Other cities in the running for the award include Commerce, Duarte, El Segundo and La Mirada.

Glendora city officials pointed to the city's Economic Development Plan that "facilitates business entry, retention, and effective communication" as one of the reasons for Glendora's recent recognition.

"We are honored that an outstanding organization such as LAEDC has recognized Glendora in this way," said Glendora Mayor Gene Murabito in a press statement. "It is proof that our programs and policies that make Glendora a great place to work, live and play are hitting the mark and truly making a difference in our community."

This is the first year Glendora has been named one of the finalists for the award. The winner will be announced at the 17th Annual Eddy Award Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.







## **Glendora one of five finalists for `business-friendly' award**

By J.D. Velasco, SGVN

Posted: 08/09/2012 01:25:58 PM PDT

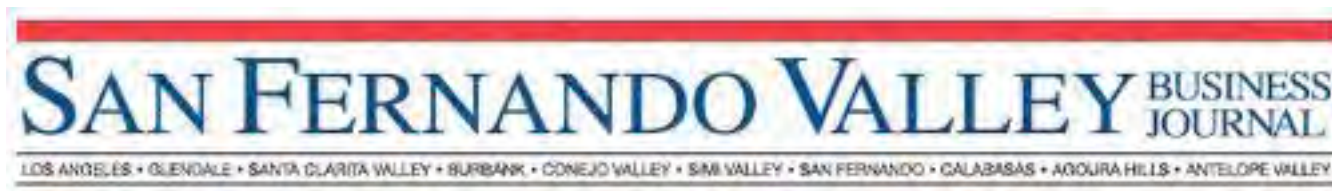
GLENDORA - The city is in the running to be named one of Los Angeles County's most business-friendly cities for 2012.

Glendora is one of five cities with a population less than 60,000 named as finalists for the Most Business-Friendly City award by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation.

Glendora is competing for the award with Commerce, Duarte, El Segundo and La Mirada. This is Glendora's first time as a finalist.

The winner of the award will be announced at a ceremony on Nov. 8 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.





## **Glendale a Finalist for Business Friendly City Award**

Thursday, August 9, 2012

The City of Glendale is a finalist for a 2012 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles Award, the third time it has earned that distinction.

The award is presented by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. to cities with an environment that encourages businesses to locate or expand in their respective communities.

In the population 60,000 and over category Glendale is competing against Baldwin Park, Pico Rivera and Santa Monica.

Glendale was named a finalist for integrating economic development into the city's general plan with a focus on developing a diverse, sustainable business base. For major business projects, the city has a concierge service team that includes the Planning, Building and Safety, Fire and Traffic departments.

Business centers in Glendale include the Brand Boulevard of Cars, shopping centers Glendale Galleria and Americana at Brand, and the industrial San Fernando Road Corridor.

Glendale was a finalist in 2008 and 2011.

The Most Business Friendly City Award – known as the Eddy Award – will be presented on Nov. 8 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

*Mark R. Madler*



## Six SGV cities up for business friendly awards

By Kevin Smith, SGVN

Posted: 08/09/2012 03:31:19 PM PDT

**Six San Gabriel Valley cities are in the running to receive Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County awards.**

The honors are scheduled to be given out Nov. 8 by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. as part of the organization's 17th Annual Eddy Awards.

Baldwin Park, Pico Rivera and Whittier are among the finalists in the category of cities with a population of 60,000 or more, and Duarte, Glendora and La Mirada are competing among the cities with fewer than 60,000 residents.

The finalist selections were based on a variety of factors, including a demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority, excellence in programs and services that foster business expansion, and retention, and economic development over the past three years.

Baldwin Park and Pico Rivera are Most Business Friendly City finalists for the first time, and Whittier has been a finalist for the three years.

The LAEDC notes that Baldwin Park is committed to excellent customer service, with efficient city staff and a streamlined license and permit process. The city also maintains relatively low property tax, utility user tax and transient occupancy tax rates, the LAEDC said.

"We are very excited about being a finalist," Baldwin Park City Manager V.J. Singhal said. "In these tough times we're very proud to do whatever we can to help businesses, and it's nice to be recognized."

Singhal said the city also makes businesses aware of Southern California Edison's direct-install program, which allows companies to receive incentives for exchanging older appliances and lighting for more energy efficient equipment..





## **Six SGV cities up for business friendly awards**

By Kevin Smith, SGVN

Posted: 08/09/2012 03:31:19 PM PDT

(con't.) Pico Rivera has been highlighted for a number of business-friendly programs, including a business assistance program with regular business outreach, business workshops, site selection assistance, business surveys and an online business resource center.

Whittier works with local merchants and entrepreneurs to provide new opportunities, and the city's many business incentives and special zones are used to attract, retain, and expand businesses and jobs.

Duarte, a Most Business Friendly City finalist for the past two years, was one of the first cities in L.A County to amend its filming ordinance to help keep film and TV productions here in California.

The city also hosts job fairs and supports quarterly business seminars on topics such as business management and website development.

Glendora determined that one of the central tasks in helping businesses is making sure the community looks and feels attractive to customers and employees. The city also places a high priority on quality infrastructure and public safety.

La Mirada, ranked among the Best Places to Live in America, according to CNN and Money Magazine, works closely with local businesses as "Partners in Progress" through the city website, electronic newsletters, surveys and on-site visits.

The Eddy Awards were established by the LAEDC in 1996 to celebrate people and organizations that demonstrate exceptional contributions to positive economic development in the region.

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## What L.A. County Cities are Best for Business?

By **HOWARD FINE** Thursday, August 9, 2012

Ten cities in Los Angeles County have been picked as finalists for the annual business-friendly city competition, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. announced Wednesday.

The LAEDC picked Baldwin Park, Glendale, Pico Rivera, Santa Monica and Whittier as finalists in the category of cities with at least 60,000 people. Commerce, Duarte, El Segundo, Glendora and La Mirada are finalists in the small city category.

One winner from each category will be announced at an awards banquet in November.

Of the 10 finalists, Baldwin Park, Glendora, Pico Rivera and Santa Monica are first-timers. Santa Monica's finalist designation is somewhat surprising given its reputation as a high-cost city that has in the past tangled with various businesses or industries.

The LAEDC launched the most business-friendly city awards in 2006 to recognize cities that had done the most to promote business-friendly programs and services; El Segundo won that first year. Since then, finalists and winners have included the recognition in their marketing campaigns to bring more businesses to their cities.



# BaldwinParkPatch

Latino

## Baldwin Park Named Among Best Places To Do Business

The city was named as a finalist in the annual contest made by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. 5:01 am



Baldwin Park is among the 10 cities named as the "friendliest" for business, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

The LAEDC picked Baldwin Park as finalist among others cities like, Glendale, Pico Rivera, Santa Monica and Whittier in the category of cities with at least 60,000 people.

Commerce, Duarte, El Segundo, Glendora and La Mirada are finalists in the small city category.

This is the first time that Baldwin Park is chosen among the finalists. The winner from each category will be announced on November.

In 2006, the LAEDC created the "business-friendly" award category to recognize cities within the County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services.

According to the LAEDC Baldwin Park's economic efforts have been focused on creating opportunities, improving quality of life, and attracting new industries and businesses to the City.

"Baldwin Park is a full-service City and is committed to excellent customer service, with efficient City staff, a streamlined license and permit process to meet customer's timelines relatively low property tax, utility user tax, and transient occupancy tax rates." said the LAEDC in a statement.





## **Monrovia vies for Most Business Friendly City Award**

MONROVIA - Monrovia is a third-time finalist for the 2011 Most Business Friendly City award and city officials say they are playing to win.

Monrovia is one of five finalists competing for the annual Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation title for cities of less than 60,000 residents. Duarte, Commerce, Gardena and La Mirada are also vying for that honor.

For cities with populations of at least 60,000, the finalists are Burbank, Carson, Glendale, Torrance, West Covina and Whittier.

Monrovia gets businesses through its review process "as quick or more quickly as anyone else," City Manager Scott Ochoa said. But now it has an economic development action plan that synthesizes its various programs into one user-friendly document, which expresses the city's competitive advantage, he said.

"We are hopeful that that is the final missing piece for our application for this tremendous award," Ochoa said. "We have worked very hard to be business friendly. It's nice to be recognized as a finalist but we play to win."

The City Council approved its "Economic Development Action Plan" in 2010, which focuses on ways to attract and keep businesses and developed a comprehensive marketing strategy. Officials also recently launched the Online Business Resource Center, which helps guide existing and future business owners to grow and open businesses in the city.

Read more: Monrovia vies for Most Business Friendly City award - Whittier Daily News  
[http://www.whittierdailynews.com/ci\\_18965278#ixzz1ushjr0N3](http://www.whittierdailynews.com/ci_18965278#ixzz1ushjr0N3)





**West Covina finalist for Most Business-Friendly City award**

**Posted: 11/03/2011 10:26:17 AM PDT**

WEST COVINA - West Covina is a finalist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's 2011 Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award.

The cities of Burbank, Carson, Glendale, Torrance, West Covina and Whittier are finalists for the population 60,000 and over category. The cities of Commerce, Duarte, Gardena, La Mirada, and Monrovia are finalists in the population 60,000 and under category.

One winner from each category will be announced live at the 16th Annual Eddy Awards at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Beverly Hilton, 9876 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state.

In 2006, the LAEDC created the "business-friendly" award category to recognize cities within the county that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services.



# Pasadena Star-News

PASADENA, CA

## **West Covina, Monrovia win Most Business-Friendly City award**

Posted: 11/04/2011 10:05:37 AM PDT

LOS ANGELES - West Covina and Monrovia on Thursday were chosen 2011's most business-friendly cities in Los Angeles County by the Economic Development Corporation during the Eddy Awards gala.

West Covina competed against the cities of Burbank, Carson, Glendale, Torrance, West Covina and Whittier in the population 60,000 and over category.

Monrovia faced competition from the cities of Commerce, Duarte, Gardena and La Mirada in the population 60,000 and under category.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state.

In 2006, the LAEDC created the "business-friendly" award category to recognize cities within the county that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services.

Read more: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci\\_19264787#ixzz1ushDpOgt](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_19264787#ixzz1ushDpOgt)





# MonroviaPatch

Monday, November 7, 2011

## **Monrovia Honored as County's Most Business Friendly Small City**

Monrovia won the award for most business-friendly small city given by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) in a ceremony in Beverly Hills.

The third time was a charm for Monrovia in the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's "Eddy Awards" banquet last week, where the city was named the most business friendly small city in the county for 2011.

Nominated twice before, Monrovia capitalized on its latest "Eddy" nomination in a competition that measures the business friendly policies of large and small cities in the county.

"This is an award that is coveted by every city that displays leadership in economic development, and it is a testimonial to our commitment towards attracting and retaining businesses which provide quality jobs for our residents," said Councilman Joe Garcia in a prepared statement.

Monrovia competed against Commerce, Duarte, Gardena and La Mirada in the category of cities with populations under 60,000, taking home the top prize in Thursday's ceremony. West Covina was named the most business friendly large city.

Monrovia was also a finalist in 2008 and 2010, when it lost out to Cerritos.



# MonroviaPatch

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

## **Duarte Council Loses Bet, Must Wear 'Blinged' Monrovia Garb**

The Monrovia and Duarte city councils had a friendly wager on which town would win the award for being the county's most business friendly city. Duarte lost.

Sometime soon, Duarte city council members Tzeitel Paras-Caracci, Lois Gaston, Margaret Finlay, John Fasana and Phil Reyes must dine out in a local restaurant while wearing shirts celebrating the triumph of Monrovia.

The council members lost a friendly wager to their counterparts in Monrovia over the Los Angeles Count Economic Development Corporation's "Most Business Friendly City" award. Both cities were nominated in the category of towns with populations of 60,000 or less. Monrovia took home the top prize.

"In the very near future, we'll be having lunch or dinner with the City Council members of Duarte and we'll be proud to see them wearing Monrovia T-shirts," Mayor Mary Ann Lutz said at Tuesday's regular city council meeting. ...





## Most Business Friendly Cities 2011

### West Covina and Monrovia Named LA County's Most Business Friendly Cities

*West Covina won top honors in the "large city" category,  
while Monrovia won in the "small city" category.*

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) announced this year's winners of its Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County competition at the 16th annual Eddy Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, naming West Covina winner in the population 60,000 and over category, and Monrovia in the population 60,000 and under category.

West Covina: The City's General Plan Economic Development Element includes business-friendly processes such as: streamlining the entitlement process, over-the-counter approvals for select permits, expedited plan checks and permits for a fee, staff available to discuss plan/permit applications, design review committee and an ombudsman program. West Covina was a finalist for this award in 2010.

Monrovia offers financial relocation assistance, lease/tenant subsidies, broker bounties, the Old Town business development assistance and facade improvement programs, two redevelopment project areas, no utility user tax assessment and regionally low city fees. Monrovia was a finalist in 2008 and 2010.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become one of the most important economic development award programs in the state of California, and is attended by more than 600 of the region's business, government and education leaders. In 2006, the LAEDC created the Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award category to recognize cities within the County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services in the interest of attracting and retaining good quality jobs for their residents.







## Whittier and Duarte Most Friendly Cities



Pictured celebrating Whittier's Most Business Friendly City Recognition: Bob Hertzberg, Master of Ceremonies; Aldo Schindler, Dir. of Community Development; Jeff Collier, City Manager; Fernando Dutra, Councilman; Joe Vinatieri, Councilman

### **Whittier and Duarte Named Most "Business-Friendly" Cities**

*Whittier won top honors in the "large city" category, while Duarte won in the "small city" category.*

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) announced this year's winners of its Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County competition live at the 17th annual Eddy Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, naming Whittier winner in the population 60,000 and over category, and Duarte in the population 60,000 and under category.

In 2006, the LAEDC created the Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award category to recognize cities within the County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services in the interest of attracting and retaining good quality jobs for their residents.

"We are delighted to recognize the cities of Whittier and Duarte with this year's Eddy Award," said Bill Allen, LAEDC President and CEO. "Both cities stand out as model communities in Los Angeles County by proactively engaging and working with businesses and the private sector to create jobs for their residents. Each year, this competition reveals that more and more cities in the county are proactively implementing strategies that are in alignment with L.A. County's first-ever Strategic Plan for Economic Development that will ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economy for L.A. County.

### **60,000 and Over Category: City of Whittier**

The City of Whittier values its unique history and works with local merchants and entrepreneurs to provide new opportunities, preserve its historic commercial shopping district, and maintain a healthy balance of social, civic and business activity. Whittier's significant investment and policies designed to support businesses have resulted in millions of dollars of private investment and business growth.

The City's film friendly ordinance makes filming easy, resulting in commercials, made-for-cable movies and major motion pictures, such as *Disturburbia* and the *Back to the Future* Trilogy filmed in the City.

Through the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, Whittier has supported the LA County Strategic Plan for Economic Development, led by the LAEDC. Whittier was a "Most Business Friendly City" finalist in 2009, 2010 and 2011.



## Whittier and Duarte Most Friendly Cities



Recognized as most Business Friendly City Duarte in 60,000 category, shown from left front row: Rona Lunde, Chairman of the Board, Duarte Chamber; Kristen Petersen, Assistant City Manager; Irma Hernandez, Senior Planner; Councilmember Tzeitel Paras-Caracci; Mayor Pro Tem Liz Reilly; Back row from left: Darrell George, City Manager; and Craig Hensley, Community Development Director.

### (con't.) **60,000 and Under Category: City of Duarte**

Duarte has a history of a business friendly approach and exhibits its business friendly approach with programs and practices that make its community a great place to do business live and work.

In the past year, Duarte has amended its Filming Ordinance by becoming one of the first cities to adopt the California Film Commission's Model Ordinance and Guidelines for Best Practices in Film Regulations and Policies; in response to the voices of local struggling businesses, the City adopted a 12-month suspension of Code Enforcement on selected temporary sign regulations.

The City of Duarte has a pro-business attitude mindset that is shared by its entire staff and is driven by the overarching desire to encourage economic development, bolster the city's economy, and create a better Duarte for residents and employees alike. Through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, the City has shown their support for the LA County Economic Development Strategic Plan. Duarte was a "Most Business Friendly City in LA County" award Finalist in 2010 and 2011.

***For more information about the Eddy Awards®, visit [www.laedc.org/eddy](http://www.laedc.org/eddy).***

***The LAEDC, the region's premier economic development leadership organization, is a private, non-profit public benefit organization established in 1981.***



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## Glendale Named Most Business-Friendly Large City in L.A.

Friday, November 14, 2014

Glendale was named the most business-friendly large city in the county Thursday night by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., while Glendale was named the most business-friendly community, the Los Angeles Business Journal reports.

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# Long Beach Post

Thursday, June 30, 2011

## NEWS

### Long Beach Named Most Business Friendly In LA County

by Ryan ZumMallen | Long Beach News | 11.13.09 |      7 | Text Size: +

(con't) "Without those changes, I don't think we're a finalist this year," Gordon said in September.

Swayze acknowledged last night that the permitting process in Long Beach can be challenging.

"We're not a city of 15,000, so we can't do permits in 30 minutes," he said.

"The annual recognition for this coveted award came down to six finalists for the Large City category", said Dennis Lord, public affairs manager for So Calif. Gas Company and one of a dozen judges for this award. "In the end, Long Beach prevailed and the build up included some friendly competition from the City of Downey. Following the dinner, Downey Mayor Mario Guerra graciously congratulated Vice Mayor Val Lerch for their win."

Disclosure: LBPOST.com co-founder Shaun Lumachi is a government affairs advisor to the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.



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## Business Friendly Finalists Named

By SHARINA HUNSON

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Ten cities in L.A. County were named as finalists for the most business-friendly city award, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. made the announcement on Thursday.

Two winners, one larger city and a smaller one, will be named at LAEDC's award ceremony on Nov. 13. Bellflower, Glendale, Lakewood, Palmdale and Santa Clarita were finalists for the population 65,000 and over category. Artesia, El Segundo, Glendora, Pico Rivera and Vernon were finalists in the population under 65,000 category.

The LAEDC started its most business-friendly city awards in 2006 as a way to get cities to compete to be more welcoming to businesses. The finalists were selected based on several criteria such as competitive business taxes and fees, economic incentives and programs designed to help business create, expansion and retention.

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## County's "Most Business Friendly" Cities at Eddys Awards

*Alhambra wins top honors for cities with populations greater than 60,000, while Cerritos wins for cities with less than 60,000 residents*

LOS ANGELES, CA, November 12, 2010 /24-7PressRelease/ -- The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) today announced the cities of Alhambra and Cerritos as the winners of its annual "Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County" competition at its 15th Annual Eddy Awards. Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state of California, and is attended by more than 600 leaders from the business, government, and education communities.

The City of Alhambra took the top honors as the most business-friendly city in L.A. County for the cities with more than 60,000 residents. Located eight miles east of downtown Los Angeles, Alhambra is often referred to as the "Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley." The city offers a favorable combination of housing, business, employment and recreational opportunities. Alhambra's Economic Development Element in its General Plan provides a blueprint to sustain and grow commerce and businesses including industrial and central business district project areas, financial assistance in redevelopment areas, land acquisition, negotiated sales, lease agreements with an option to purchase, rent subsidy, and rebates.

The business-friendly assistance Alhambra offers to businesses starts with the help and wealth of information found on the city's website and extends to its timely customer service and modest and reasonable rates charged for business license and utility user tax and fees.

In partnership with the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Association, Alhambra hosts several programs each year to boost local businesses such as its Summer Jubilee and Taste of Alhambra. The recent Downtown make-over project included cityscape beautifying and free façade painting to businesses and restaurants in the area. The redevelopment efforts of Alhambra and its Redevelopment Agency have resulted in favorable impacts on the local economy by boosting property values, eliminating blight, and providing employment as well as new shopping, dining, and entertainment uses for the residents and the region. Alhambra was named a finalist in 2009, its first time entering the competition.







**October 4, 2010**

Alhambra is one of seven San Gabriel Valley cities that the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation named a finalist for most business friendly city. Twelve cities in total were named.

The reasons that Alhambra was chosen were the following:

"Alhambra offers a favorable combination of housing, business, employment and recreational opportunities. Alhambra's Economic Development Element in its General Plan provides a blueprint to sustain and grow commerce and businesses including industrial and central business district project areas, financial assistance in redevelopment areas, land acquisition, negotiated sales, lease agreements with an option to purchase, rent subsidy, and rebates. Alhambra was also named a finalist in 2009."

"All of this year's finalists have made economic development and job creation a top priority," said LAEDC president and CEO, Bill Allen. "This year, we received more applications from cities throughout the County than in any other year in the award's history. These cities understand that having healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities depend on attracting, retaining and growing businesses which are so critical to sustaining our economic vitality and quality of life."

Alhambra Source is awaiting a response as to how many cities in total applied this year.





## **SGV cities deemed most business friendly in county**

By Erick Galindo Staff Writer

Posted: 10/04/2010 06:35:13 PM PDT

The San Gabriel Valley boasts seven of the 12 most business friendly cities in Los Angeles County, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

On Monday the LAEDC announced the finalists for its 2010 Most Business-Friendly City in L.A. County award. Alhambra, West Covina and Whittier are finalists for the population 60,000-and-over category. Carson, Downey and Torrance are also up for the award.

Azusa, Duarte, La Mirada and Monrovia are finalists in the under-60,000 category, along with the cities of Cerritos and Commerce.

Each finalist city was selected based on its commitment to economic development, with programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion and retention.

This is the third year in a row that La Mirada has emerged as a finalist. Thomas Robinson, La Mirada's city manager, said the city works hard to ensure that the more than 1,000 businesses operating in La Mirada are comfortable in their relationship with the city government.

"What we've been doing for a number of years is working very hard to be business friendly," Robinson said. "We make it a priority to be accessible and responsive in order to keep companies here."

It's the second year in a row for Alhambra and Whittier.

"It shows that the city council has made working with businesses a high priority," said Jeff Collier, Whittier's director of has recognized this and has been working to understand and meet business needs."

Julio Fuentes, Alhambra's city manager, said his community is honored to be included in the listing of cities that are respected for their business- friendly reputation. He added that Alhambra does a number of things to help attract new businesses.



# GREATER LONG BEACH

## CERRITOS, DOWNEY & CARSON ARE FINALISTS FOR LA COUNTY'S MOST-BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY AWARDS

By [Dave Wielenga](#)

November 10, 2010 | Business, LA & OC



Three cities in the Greater Long Beach area—although not Long Beach, itself, this year—are among 12 finalists for Eddy Awards in the 2010 Most Business-Friendly City competition sponsored by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

Representatives of Cerritos, Downey and Carson will be at the Beverly Hilton Hotel tonight to await the announcement of winners in two categories—those with populations over and under 60,000 people.

Downey and Carson are entered in the over-60,000 category, along with Alhambra, Torrance, West Covina and Whittier. Cerritos is in the under-60,000 category, contending with Azusa, Commerce, Duarte, La Mirada and Monrovia.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state of California. In 2006, the LAEDC created the “business-friendly” award category to recognize cities within LA County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services.

“All of this year’s finalists have made economic development and job creation a top priority,” said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO, in a prepared statement. “This year, we received more applications from cities throughout the county than in any other year in the award’s history. These cities understand that having healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities depend on attracting, retaining and growing businesses which are so critical to sustaining our economic vitality and quality of life.”





# GREATER LONG BEACH

## CERRITOS, DOWNEY & CARSON ARE FINALISTS FOR LA COUNTY'S MOST-BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY AWARDS

By Dave Wielenga

November 10, 2010 | Business, LA & OC

(con't) The Greater Long Beach-area finalists and their profiles:

Downey is where both the Apollo space program began and the world's oldest McDonalds restaurant can be found. Downey is a full-service city that has created an excellent business climate. Its pro-business approach has rated the city in the top 25 percent of "100 Best Cities to Do Business in California" by California Business Magazine. To attract and retain businesses, Downey developed an economic strategy which includes two redevelopment project areas, simplified business tax renewals, over-the counter permit processing, a development review committee, business outreach program, business watch program, customer service surveys and channels for problem identification and solutions.

Carson is recognized as an industrial center with excellent access to numerous multi-modal transportation systems including the County's twin ports which have enjoyed steady and continued growth. With more than 120 acres of park land and a state-of-the art sports complex, Carson residents and businesses enjoy a variety of recreational and cultural amenities. Economic development is a cornerstone of Carson's vision and is highlighted in its Economic Development Element in the city's General Plan. The Plan's strategies include streamlined processing of its business license and building permits, and financial assistance programs.



# GREATER LONG BEACH

## CERRITOS, DOWNEY & CARSON ARE FINALISTS FOR LA COUNTY'S MOST-BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY AWARDS

By Dave Wielenga

November 10, 2010 | Business, LA & OC

(con't) Cerritos, located in the heart of the Los Angeles/Orange County Metro Area, offers businesses a strategic location in a community with a solid fiscal position, exceptional services and a tradition of strong city leadership. The city's economic development priorities are taken from their Economic Development Strategic Plan that focuses efforts to ensure the success of existing businesses. A city ombudsman escorts businesses through the complexities of local, regional, state and federal agencies and regulations. Cerritos provides fast-track permitting, is a "no/ low" property tax city with no utility user tax, two Redevelopment Project Areas, a business retention and expansion program and was a finalist in 2007 and 2008.

Finalists in the Most Business-Friendly category were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients
- Each of the finalists has created a business-friendly environment that encourages businesses to locate or expand in their respective communities.



# GREATER LONG BEACH

## CERRITOS HONORED AS LA COUNTY'S MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY

By [Dave Wielenga](#)

November 11, 2010 | Business, LA & OC | Photography: City of Cerritos



Cerritos was honored as Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County for cities with populations under 60,000 people Wednesday night during a ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, receiving an Eddy Award from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

Alhambra won the Eddy among cities with populations over 60,000, a category in which Downey and Carson were also finalists.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state of California. In 2006, the LAEDC created the “business-friendly” award category to recognize cities within LA County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services.

“We’re delighted to present our fifth annual award to these very deserving cities,” said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO, in a prepared statement. “The cities of Cerritos and Alhambra best represent what can be achieved when our city governments work side-by-side with the business community to create business-friendly environments where quality jobs can grow.”

“Each year, this competition reveals that more and more cities are being proactive in their efforts to retain and attract quality jobs and businesses in their communities. The ability and commitment of our local governments to attract and retain good jobs is absolutely essential if our region is to regain its economic vitality and sustain our quality of life in the future.”

# PASADENA STAR-NEWS

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November 10, 2010

## **Alhambra named most business friendly city in LA County**

Author: Erick Galindo, Staff Writer

ALHAMBRA - The city was named Los Angeles County's most business friendly city for cities with populations greater than 60,000 at Wednesday night's Eddy Awards.

The city of Cerritos won for cities with less than 60,000 residents. The 15th annual Eddy Awards, presented by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., were presented during a gala at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

"We're delighted to present our fifth annual award to these very deserving cities," LAEDC President and CEO Bill Allen said in a statement. "The cities of Alhambra and Cerritos best represent what can be achieved when our city governments work side by side with the business community to create business-friendly environments where quality jobs can grow."

This marks the second year in a row that Alhambra was nominated. Julio Fuentes, Alhambra's city manager, said the city was honored to be so respected for its business-friendly reputation. He added that Alhambra does a number of things to help attract new businesses.

"We have worked hard to find potential tenants and then go out and match them to the best possible location," he said. "We also make it a priority to get new businesses through the process in a very short time."

Alhambra was cited for providing a "wealth of information" on the city's website for new businesses, and for charging modest and reasonable rates for business licenses and utility user taxes and fees.

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Association were also noted for their work with the city in hosting a number of programs to boost local businesses, such as its Summer Jubilee and Taste of Alhambra.







November 15, 2010

### **Alhambra and Cerritos Honored as Most Business-Friendly Cities in L.A. County**

The cities of Alhambra and Cerritos have been declared the most business-friendly cities in Los Angeles County, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) at the 15th Annual Eddy® Awards. Alhambra won top honors for cities with populations greater than 60,000 and Cerritos won for cities with less than 60,000 residents. Reasons for Alhambra's award included reasonable rates charged for business licenses and utility user tax and fees. It was also pointed out that the city provides assistance with timely customer service and a wealth of information found on the city's website. Its favorable combination of housing, business, employment and recreational opportunities were also applauded. The LAEDC notes that "Alhambra's Economic Development Element in its General Plan provides a blueprint to sustain and grow commerce and businesses including industrial and central business district project areas, financial assistance in redevelopment areas, land acquisition, negotiated sales, lease agreements with an option to purchase, rent subsidy, and rebates."

As for Cerritos, it was lauded for its "solid fiscal position, exceptional services and a tradition of strong city leadership." Also, it was pointed out that "The city provides fast-track permitting, is a "no/ low" property tax city with no utility user tax, and has two redevelopment project areas, and a business retention and expansion program." In 2007 and 2008, Cerritos was a finalist. Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO, said the following of the award recipients:

"We're delighted to present our fifth annual award to these very deserving cities. The cities of Alhambra and Cerritos best represent what can be achieved when our city governments work side by side with the business community to create business-friendly environments where quality jobs can grow. Each year, this competition reveals that more and more cities are being proactive in their efforts to retain and attract quality jobs and businesses in their communities. The ability and commitment of our local governments to attract and retain good jobs is absolutely essential if our region is to regain its economic vitality and sustain our quality of life in the future."





## **Alhambra Named "Most Business Friendly City"**

ALHAMBRA - The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) today announced that Alhambra is this year's winner of the annual "Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County" competition at its 15th Annual Eddy® Awards.

Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy® Awards gala has become the most important economic development award program in the state of California, and is attended by more than 600 leaders from the business, government, and education communities.

The City of Alhambra took the top honors as the most business-friendly city in L.A. County on behalf of the cities with more than 60,000 residents. Located eight miles east of downtown Los Angeles, Alhambra is often referred to as the "Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley."

The city offers a favorable combination of housing, business, employment and recreational opportunities. Alhambra's Economic Development Element in its General Plan provides a blueprint to sustain and grow commerce and businesses including industrial and central business district project areas, financial assistance in redevelopment areas, land acquisition, negotiated sales, lease agreements with an option to purchase, rent subsidy, and rebates.

The business-friendly assistance Alhambra offers to businesses starts with the help and wealth of information found on the city's website and extends to its timely customer service and modest and reasonable rates charged for business license and utility user tax and fees.



## **Alhambra, Cerritos Named Los Angeles County's 'Most Business Friendly Cities'**

By EGP News Report

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) announced the cities of Alhambra and Cerritos as the winners of its annual "Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County" competition at its 15th Annual Eddy® Awards Gala, held Nov. 10.

More than 600 leaders from the business, government, and education communities attended the Gala, according to the LAEDC announcement.

The City of Alhambra, the "Gateway to the San Gabriel Valley," took the top honors as the most business-friendly city in L.A. County for the cities with more than 60,000 residents.

The city was recognized for offering a "favorable combination of housing, business, employment and recreational opportunities." The city's inclusion of economic development in its General Plan as well as its extensive assistance to business in a variety of areas, such as financing and licensing all contributed to the selection, according to LAEDC.

Alhambra was named a finalist in 2009, its first time entering the competition.

The City of Cerritos won in the category for cities with less than 60,000 residents. rose to the challenge and took the top prize.

"Cerritos offers businesses a strategic location in a community with a solid fiscal position, exceptional services and a tradition of strong city leadership. The city provides fast-track permitting, is a 'no/ low' property tax city with no utility user tax, and has two redevelopment project areas, and a business retention and expansion program.

"We're delighted to present our fifth annual award to these very deserving cities," said Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO. "The cities of Alhambra and Cerritos best represent what can be achieved when our city governments work side by side with the business community to create business-friendly environments where quality jobs can grow."





## **L.A. County's most business-friendly city award given Thursday night**

Posted: 11/12/2009 07:23:44 AM PST

Updated: 11/12/2009 07:29:08 AM PST

BEVERLY HILLS - The winners of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.'s Most Business-Friendly City in L.A. County Award will be announced Thursday night in Beverly Hills at the 14th annual Eddy Awards honoring economic development leadership.

Alhambra, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Torrance and Whittier are the finalists for cities with populations of 60,000 and more, while Bell Gardens, Commerce, La Mirada and Santa Fe Springs are finalists in the under-60,000 category.

"These 10 city finalists have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to creating a business-friendly environment where businesses can thrive and create jobs," Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. President and Chief Executive Officer Bill Allen said.






"Each year, this competition reveals that more and more cities are being proactive in their efforts to retain and attract quality jobs and businesses in their communities. The ability and commitment of our local governments to attract and retain good jobs is absolutely essential if our region is to regain its economic vitality and sustain our quality of life."





## NEWS

### Long Beach Named Most Business Friendly In LA County

by Ryan ZumMallen | Long Beach News | 11.13.09 |      7 | Text Size: +

The City of Long Beach was named the Most Business Friendly city in Los Angeles County – with population over 60,000 – at the Eddy Awards last night, beating out six other cities for the distinction.

The winner is selected by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). This year marked Long Beach's fourth straight nomination and first victory. The city was chosen over Downey, Whittier, El Hambre, Lakewood and Torrance.

"It's a very prestigious award for this city," said Robert Swayze, manager of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs, last night as he was leaving the award ceremony.

"Long Beach is an employment center and makes an investment in infrastructure that allows these [other] cities to thrive."

The LAEDC offered no explanation for their decision, but Swayze pointed to the Port of Long Beach, which employs people not only within the city but the entire region, and its operation allows businesses in other cities to operate.

But 2009 has not been the best year for Long Beach, with an unemployment rate now over 12% and tough times for some local businesses.

"Unemployment is high throughout all of California," Swayze countered. "We're going to come through this. The investment that we're making in infrastructure now will pay great dividends in the future."

When Long Beach was announced as a finalist for the award in September, Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Randy Gordon said that the city has a long way to go in regards to being business friendly, but pointed out that new tax breaks and enterprise zones have helped that cause.



## EZ POLICY BLOG

"THE CENTER OF THE CALIFORNIA  
ENTERPRISE ZONE INFORMATION UNIVERSE"

### Long Beach Wins "Most Business Friendly City" Award

Written by Max Shenker on November 13, 2009 —

Long Beach has been named the 2009 Most Business Friendly City by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation. The Long Beach Post reports:

The City of Long Beach was named the Most Business Friendly city in Los Angeles County – with population over 60,000 – at the Eddy Awards last night, beating out six other cities for the distinction.

The winner is selected by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). This year marked Long Beach's fourth straight nomination and first victory. The city was chosen over Downey, Whittier, El Hambre, Lakewood and Torrance.

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"Long Beach is an employment center and makes an investment in infrastructure that allows these [other] cities to thrive."

The LAEDC offered no explanation for their decision, but Swayze pointed to the Port of Long Beach, which employs people not only within the city but the entire region, and its operation allows businesses in other cities to operate.

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"Unemployment is high throughout all of California," Swayze countered. "We're going to come through this. The investment that we're making in infrastructure now will pay great dividends in the future."

When Long Beach was announced as a finalist for the award in September, Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Randy Gordon said that the city has a long way to go in regards to being business friendly, but pointed out that new tax breaks and enterprise zones have helped that cause.

"Without those changes, I don't think we're a finalist this year," Gordon said in September.



# Welcome to the City of Santa Fe Springs

The City of Santa Fe Springs was bestowed the title "Most Business Friendly City" in Los Angeles County by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), for Cities with a population under 60,000. The award was presented at the LAEDC's 14th Annual Eddy Awards ceremony, which annually honors economic development leadership throughout the region. The Eddy Awards has become one of the most prestigious economic development award programs in the state of California.



The LAEDC recognizes two categories of cities, those over 60,000 in population and those under, for their commitment to creating a business-friendly environment where businesses can thrive and create jobs. LAEDC President and CEO Bill Allen was quoted as saying, "the ability and commitment of our local governments to attract and retain good jobs is absolutely essential if our region is to regain its economic vitality and sustain our quality of life." The City of Santa Fe Springs could not agree more.

Santa Fe Springs was among a worthy group of finalists that included the neighbor cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, and La Mirada in its category. The award finalists were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to economic development as a priority
- Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Economic development activity over the past three years
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients

The City appreciates its partnership with the local business community and its support and indispensable role it played in this most recent recognition. Receiving the Most Business Friendly City Award speaks volumes of the wonderful, mutually beneficial, three-way partnership with the residents, businesses, and City organization, which has made Santa Fe Springs such a unique and award-winning community since its inception.

# The Downey Patriot

Sep 22, 2009

Downey has been named a finalist for the "Most Business-Friendly City" award issued by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Downey is one of six finalists for cities with populations exceeding 60,000.

"In these difficult economic times, it is encouraging to know that so many cities are trying to attract and retain business and jobs for their residents," William C. Allen, president and CEO of the Economic Development Corporation, wrote in a letter to city officials. "You are to be congratulated for your leadership and your city council and staff should take great pride in the role you are all playing to keep quality jobs in L.A. County!"

The award winner will be announced at the 14th annual Eddy Awards scheduled Nov. 12 at the Beverly Hilton.

Read more: [The Downey Patriot - Downey finalist for Most Business Friendly City award](#)







# City Briefs

## City of Santa Clarita Wins Most Business Friendly Award

By City of Santa Clarita



l-r: Tina Haddad, Jessica Freude, Ken Pulskamp, Councilmember Laurie Ender, Ken Striplin, Laura Biery, Jason Crawford, Andree Walper

The Los Angeles Economic Development Commission (LAEDC) named Santa Clarita the most business friendly city in Los Angeles County. The award was presented to the City of Santa Clarita at a gala in Beverly Hills on Monday November 17. Santa Clarita has been a top five finalist for the award for the last two years.

Some of the City's business friendly innovations include no business license fees, no utility user fees and having a streamlined permit process. Additionally, in 2007 the City was designated as a state Enterprise Zone and the City began a City/Sheriff business alliance program.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

### MUSEUM PROPOSAL:

Billionaire art collector and philanthropist Eli Broad said he wants to build a public museum in Beverly Hills. The gallery would display works from his charitable foundation and personal collection, according to a letter

Broad



by a Broad representative sent to Beverly Hills City Manager Roderick Wood. The proposal includes offices for Broad's art foundation, which along with another Broad foundation has assets of \$2.5 billion. The proposed museum would be near the corner of Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards, where a Starbucks Corp. coffee shop is now housed.

### BANK WARNING:

Alliance Bancshares California said it could be placed into government receivership if it cannot raise additional capital. The Culver City-based parent of Alliance Bank, which has \$1.1 billion in assets and six local

branches, was hurt by construction loans gone bad, particularly for tract projects and single homes. The bank said it applied for funds under the U.S. Treasury Department's rescue program, but regulators indicated the application would not be accepted except in connection with a merger or capital financing. Alliance said it is considering those options. The bank last week reported a third quarter net loss of \$13.9 million compared with earnings of \$2 million for the same period last year.

**RATE HIKE:** State Compensation Insurance Fund, the state's largest workers' compensation insurer, said it will hike employer premiums an average of 9 percent starting Jan. 1. The hike is expected to slam the insurer of last resort's more than 200,000 employer policyholders amid a worsening economy. Some policyholders in high-risk industries or with a bad claims history can expect rate hikes well into the double digits. State Fund, a San Francisco-based quasipublic organization, filed its first rate increase in five years shortly after state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner recommended a 5 percent increase in premiums because of rising medical costs.

### FRIENDLY PLACES:

Santa Clarita and Vernon were named Los Angeles County's most business-friendly cities by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. LAEDC officials selected Santa Clarita as the large-city winner for its expedited permit processing, site selection assistance, lack of a utility tax and its layout of industry clusters. Vernon was honored in the small-city category for its low electric utility rates, a one-stop service counter for business at City Hall and the work of its redevelopment agency. LAEDC chose the two cities from among 10 finalists and made the announcement at its annual Eddy Awards ceremony.

Caruso



ny. Also receiving awards were Rick Caruso, shopping center developer, and Anne Sweeney, president of Walt Disney Co.'s ABC Network Television unit.

### UNION CONTRACT:

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees' agreement to a three-year

contract with the major Hollywood studios puts further pressure on the Screen Actors Guild, which continues to hold out for a better deal on revenue related to new media. IATSE, which represents 35,000 crafts employees, is the fifth union this year to strike a deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. The contract is similar to pacts negotiated by writers, directors and a union representing broadcast artists. Also last week, SAG's negotiating committee resumed the first face-to-face meetings with studio representatives in four months.

### STUDY SUSPENDED:

Amgen Inc. and Japanese partner Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. said they have suspended a clinical trial of their experimental cancer drug motesanib after seeing a trend of higher deaths among lung cancer patients getting the drug, compared with those receiving a placebo. Amgen had hoped to market motesanib for use with chemotherapy to treat a type of lung cancer. The Thousand Oaks biotech company noted similar death risks had been seen in other drugs in the same class as motesanib, which is designed to block a protein involved in the growth of blood vessels that feed tumors.

### NASDAQ WARNING:

SouthWest Water Co. said it received a deficiency letter



Posted: November 17, 2008 10:01 p.m.

Updated: November 18, 2008 8:00 a.m.

By Signal Staff

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation named Santa Clarita the most business-friendly city in the county among cities with populations of more than 50,000 at its 13th annual Eddy Awards on Monday.

Santa Clarita is a state of California Enterprise Zone and does not assess businesses for a utility user tax, which allows them to save up to five percent more on their electric, telephone, water and gas bills.

Santa Clarita features a highly educated workforce, land for development, site-selection assistance, and expedited plan reviews and permit processing.

The city was a finalist for the honor in 2006 and 2007 according to the EDC, and CNN/Money Magazine called it one of the best places to live in California.



# Culver City Beat

## Culver City finalist for Most Business-Friendly City award

Posted Tue, 11/04/2008 - 5:40pm by Gregory Go

Culver City is one of five finalists in the 50,000 and under category for Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County award.

The LAEDC will announce the Eddy Award winners on November 17, 2008.

Here's what they say about Culver City:

*Culver City is dedicated to enhancing its economy and business environment. The City offers several business incentive programs that include permit fee reimbursement, permit streamlining, gap closer loans, and commercial façade rehabilitation loans. Their business resource center offers a one-stop shop for information assistance, guidance, and referral services, and is available online as well. And their outreach team meets with key businesses to discuss their individual business needs, concerns, and issues. Prospective businesses can also view available properties for lease or purchase on the city's website.*

Bill Allen, LAEDC president and CEO, said:

*Because of the overwhelming strength of the applications received, we decided to create two categories to recognize these very deserving cities. This is an extraordinarily encouraging sign that more and more cities are being proactive in their efforts to retain and attract quality jobs and businesses in their communities. The ability and commitment of our local governments to attract and retain good jobs is absolutely essential if our region is to sustain its economic vitality and quality of life.*







## EZ POLICY BLOG

"THE CENTER OF THE CALIFORNIA  
ENTERPRISE ZONE INFORMATION UNIVERSE"

# Lancaster Wins Most Business Friendly City Award

Written by Max Shenker on November 8, 2007 — [Leave a Comment](#)

Lancaster, home to the [Antelope Valley Enterprise Zone](#), [received](#) the 2007 [Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation's "Eddy" Award](#) for most business friendly city in Los Angeles County.

Other cities nominated were Burbank, Cerritos, Long Beach, Palmdale (Lancaster's partner in the AVEZ), and Santa Clarita. Four out of six nominated cities are home to Enterprise Zones.



# LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

## El Segundo Takes First Place

By Howard Fine - 10/6/2006

Los Angeles Business Journal Staff

In L.A. County, which is the most business-friendly city of them all?

The answer is El Segundo, at least according to a contest held by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. The results were announced at an awards ceremony Thursday evening.

Eager to kick-start economic development efforts in the region, the LAEDC put together a panel of economic development experts to evaluate all of the county's 88 cities based on their commitment to attracting and retaining high-quality jobs.

El Segundo beat four other finalist cities – Burbank, Lancaster, Long Beach and Santa Clarita – for the first-ever title of most business-friendly city in L.A. County. The panelists cited the South Bay city's high concentration of Fortune 500 companies, its ability to process a business license application in less than 24 hours, and its lower-than-average utility and hotel bed tax rates.

"We are thrilled to be the first city LAEDC has honored with this award," said El Segundo Mayor Kelly McDowell. "We have always believed that the El Segundo community sets standards of excellence in service and quality of life that are second to none."

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. launched the most business-friendly city contest earlier this year as a way to drum up interest among local government officials in being more responsive to the concerns of business.

"In today's fiercely competitive global economy, we need to be aggressive in both attracting and retaining quality jobs for our region," said LAEDC president and chief executive Bill Allen. "That is why this award is so important."





21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
**EDDY**  
AWARDS

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION