

**MEDIA ADVISORY – VIRTUAL PRESS EVENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2025**

Virtual Press Event - Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC) and Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) release Trade and Logistics Report highlighting industry's economic impact and challenges in light of recent tariffs impacting Southern California

When:

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – 10:30AM to 11:00AM

Who:

- **Gray Davis**, Co-Chair of Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC) – Former Governor of California
- **Fran Inman** – Chair of SCLC Goods Movement and Transportation Committee – Senior Vice President of Majestic Realty
- **Jeff Jennison** – Immediate past Co-Chair of SCLC - CEO of Watson Land Company
- **Stephen Cheung**, CEO of Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) and World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA)

What:

The Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC) announced the release of *Goods on the Move: Trade and Logistics in Southern California*, a comprehensive report conducted by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's (LAEDC) Institute for Applied Economics. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the trade and logistics industry's role as a cornerstone of Southern California's economy.

The full report will be released immediately following the virtual press event on 4/22/2025 at 11AM and will be available at www.laedc.org. The video recording of the press event will also be posted on 4/22/25.

How:

Media and press are invited to attend the virtual press conference by registering at the following link:

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Key Findings:

- In 2022, the Trade and Logistics industry cluster directly employed nearly 902,400 workers in Southern California, supporting a total of nearly 2 million jobs across the region
- The industry cluster contributed nearly \$497.6 billion in total economic output, including \$289.6 billion in direct output, and generated \$157 billion in labor income, making it one of the most significant economic drivers in the region.
- In 2022, the average annual wage in the Trade and Logistics industry cluster in Southern California was \$90,600. This was over 26 percent higher than the average annual wage of \$71,617 reported across all industries in the five-county region.
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- Economic activities directly and indirectly tied to the Trade and Logistics industry cluster generated a total of \$93.3 billion in tax revenues in 2022.
- With over 70% of Port of LA's and Port of Long Beach's imports coming from Pacific Rim countries, there is the strong likelihood that new, higher tariffs and a trade war will significantly reduce port activities, leading to negative economic and employment impacts.

Los Angeles, CA – The Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC) today announced the release of *Goods on the Move: Trade and Logistics in Southern California*, a comprehensive report conducted by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's (LAEDC) Institute for Applied Economics. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the trade and logistics industry's role as a cornerstone of Southern California's economy, employing nearly 2 million workers and generating \$497.6 billion in total economic output.

The report's findings will be presented during a virtual press conference on April 22, 2025, at 10:30 AM PT, featuring SCLC Co-Chair and Former California Governor Gray Davis, SCLC Goods & Transportation Committee Chair Fran Inman, along with LAEDC President and CEO Stephen Cheung.

"With nearly 35% of all U.S. waterborne containerized trade flowing through our region, Southern California is the gateway to the nation's economy," said Gray Davis, Co-Chair of the Southern California Leadership Council and Former Governor of California. "This report underscores the immense impact of trade and logistics on our workforce and local businesses. However, larger tariffs, an emerging trade war, growing competition from Gulf and East Coast ports, supply chain disruptions, and evolving regulations mean we must act now to strengthen our competitive edge."

The study highlights key industry challenges, including trade wars, port congestion, workforce shortages, increasing environmental regulations, and shifting global trade routes. It also provides policy recommendations to sustain Southern California's leadership in global commerce, such as investing in infrastructure modernization, expanding workforce development initiatives, and advancing sustainable logistics solutions.

"The trade and logistics sector is a major economic engine for our region, supporting good-paying jobs and driving innovation," said Mike Roos, President of the Southern California Leadership Council. "As other regions invest heavily in infrastructure to attract cargo, Southern California must double down on policies that enhance our efficiency, workforce readiness, and long-term sustainability."

The report calls for continued investment in transportation infrastructure, workforce training programs, and regulatory frameworks that balance economic growth with environmental sustainability. It also emphasizes the importance of foreign direct investment (FDI), digital transformation in supply chain management, and intermodal connectivity improvements to maintain the region's global trade dominance.

The virtual press conference will take place on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:30 AM PT. Members of the media can RSVP to receive access details: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

MEDIA CONTACT:

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About the Southern California Leadership Council

Three former Governors and over three dozen President/CEOs of major companies and agencies comprise the Southern California Leadership Council, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed in 2005 to provide leadership on major public policies critical to economic vitality, job growth and the quality of life in Southern California.

About the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is a nonprofit organization focused on advancing opportunity and prosperity for all in the Los Angeles region. Through economic research, business assistance, workforce development, and policy advocacy, LAEDC supports a thriving and inclusive regional economy.