



**CALIFORNIA HISPANIC  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 24, 2003**

**CONTACT: Aurelio Aguirre  
(909) 955-6682  
Sandy Isom  
(909) 955-1016**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISPANIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE UNITE  
TO SUPPORT COUNTY'S BLUEPRINT FOR TOMORROW**  
*Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro (Hispanics United For The Future)*  
*vows to help county officials secure state and federal funding*

**RIVERSIDE** — In a historic demonstration of unity, all seven Riverside County Hispanic Chambers of Commerce announced Monday the formation of Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro (Hispanics United For The Future), a coalition organized to support the county's Blueprint for Tomorrow. Specifically, the coalition will work with county officials to secure state and federal funding for the plan.

"Each of our respective chambers of commerce were compelled to work together as part of Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro because we realize the monumental economic benefits of the Blueprint for our region," said Aurelio Aguirre, Vice-Chair of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CAHCC).

Aguirre, who coordinates with the 13 Hispanic Chambers of Commerce in the Inland Empire, described the coalition as a historic first.

"We are excited to support a plan that received recognition from the Bush Administration," said Aguirre. "The transportation component of the plan - CETAP – has topped U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta's list of priority projects for immediate consideration."

"Clearly, the Blueprint for Tomorrow is a national model on how to address land use needs for years to come and will only help bring new businesses, jobs and more quality housing options for the region's growing population," said Aguirre.

Local Hispanic Chambers of Commerce presidents agreed on the importance of the plan. "Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro will work with Riverside County officials to help secure state and federal funding," said Alfredo Salcedo, Moreno Valley Hispanic Chambers of Commerce President.

"Whenever specific funding opportunities are identified, we will write letters in support of the county's request," Salcedo added. "We also want to make sure we all keep our respective Hispanic chamber members updated on the progress of the plan."

Nancy Alvarez, Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce President said the coalition representatives were willing to join county officials in future briefings with state and federal lawmakers to underscore the Hispanic business community support of the plan.

**MORE**

**120 I STREET, SUITE 301 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**



**CALIFORNIA HISPANIC  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

**Page 2 of 2**

Alvarez also highlighted the economic benefits of the plan. “The Blueprint encourages business growth by establishing certainty for future industrial and commercial development, and by simplifying plans for expansion or relocation,” she said.

Dr. George Beloz, Greater Corona Hispanic Chambers of Commerce President also underscored the important role the plan plays in bridging the homeownership gap experienced by many minorities.

“The second quarter 2002 Census data shows that non-Hispanic whites have a 74% homeownership rate, while Hispanics have a 47% rate,” said Beloz. “The Blueprint will ultimately increase the housing inventory, keep prices affordable, and expand home ownership opportunities for Riverside County’s growing Hispanic population.”

Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley welcomed the public-private sector partnership with *Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro*.

“I’m grateful that so many Hispanic leaders have rallied behind the County’s plan,” said Ashley. “I look forward to working with them on this effort.”

Supervisor Bob Buster also expressed support of the coalition. “Their efforts will be vital to providing a strong voice for the Hispanic community,” said Buster. “By working together – united for the future – great things can happen.”

The seven Hispanic Chambers of Commerce participating in *Hispanos Unidos Para El Futuro* represents 21 cities in Riverside County and include:

- Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – Robert Morales, President
- Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce - Nancy Alvarez, President
- Greater Corona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - George Beloz, President
- Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Alfredo Salcedo, President
- Perris Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Cecilia Larios, President
- San Geronio Pass Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Trade Association - Oscar Pineiro, President
- Southwest Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Zelda Munoz, President

#####