



# SENATOR RICARDO LARA

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014



The 2014-2015 Young Senators take a picture at the University of Southern California after hearing from college officials about the importance of obtaining a higher education

## YOUNG SENATORS PROGRAM

The 2013-2014 Young Senators Program kicked-off last December with 34 students from 19 high schools throughout the 33rd Senate District. The program is designed to build the next generation of California leaders by giving a select group of students an inside look into the industries, professions, and social innovations that are critical to our state's economy.

Through a series of monthly seminars, tours, and workshops, students learn about opportunities that yield insights about potential career and educational paths. In January, students visited USC and UCLA to learn about the role of insti-

tutions of higher learning in local communities and the economy.

This month, students will visit Warner Bros. Studios to learn about the Arts, Media, and Entertainment Industry that California is known for worldwide. With upcoming sessions in the areas of Law & Civil Society, Health Care, and Information Technology, students will continue to learn about the businesses and organizations that make California strong.

To learn more, visit: [www.sd33.senate.ca.gov](http://www.sd33.senate.ca.gov)

## CONSTITUENT HIGHLIGHTS



Student leaders from Long Beach State University visited me in the Capitol to discuss higher education



Community members rallied at my press conference announcing the SB 1005 - The Health for All Act



6th, 7th and 8th grade students from Magnolia Science Academy visited my district office to discuss education

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## SENATE PASSES EMERGENCY DROUGHT LEGISLATION

California's drought is a statewide problem, affecting all of us – our farms, cities, and our native fisheries and the environment. Late February, the Senate passed two pieces of emergency drought legislation – SB 103 and SB 104 – that provides significant resources to help the state, local communities and regional and local water agencies to work together to get through this drought in a way that sustains our economy and environment.

The package provides roughly \$680 million in state funds for immediate drought relief and emergency housing, employment and food assistance – roughly three-

times the amount already pledged by the federal government.

The emergency drought legislation takes action now – accelerating state money and existing bond funds to local water agencies. The relief bills focus on improving water collection, fund recycling facilities and cleaning-up drinking water. They also encourage the agricultural industry to implement proven water-efficient irrigation practices.

The legislation allows for increased water capacity in the state, possibly creating up to one-million acre feet of new local

and regional water supply. That is roughly twice the amount of water in Lake Shasta, the keystone of the state's Central Valley Project.

The measures contained in the legislation were announced at a joint press conference by the Senate President pro Tem, Assembly Speaker and the Governor on February 19. Because of the drought's urgency, the legislation was then fast-tracked through the legislative process.

Please be mindful of your water use as our state tackles this critical issue.

## CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

SENATOR RICARDO LARA  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE  
CITY OF LYNWOOD  
GREATER LYNWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LYNWOOD BINGO CLUB &  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
INVITES YOU TO THE

3rd Annual  
**GOSPEL  
BRUNCH**  
Celebrating Civil Rights In America

Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
BATEMAN HALL IN THE CITY OF LYNWOOD  
11331 ERNESTINE AVENUE, LYNWOOD, CA 90262  
COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP OR REQUESTED AT THE  
LYNWOOD SENIOR CENTER AND SENATOR RICARDO LARA'S DISTRICT OFFICE AT:  
115 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 430 LONG BEACH, CA 90802.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL SENATOR LARA'S DISTRICT OFFICE AT  
(562) 495-4766 OR EMAIL: JULIA.JUAREZ@SEN.CA.GOV



In celebration of the invaluable contributions made by the African American community in the 33rd Senate District and throughout the United States, I was honored to host my 3rd Annual Gospel Brunch in February.

Held in the City of Lynwood at Bateman Hall, over 500 community leaders from all walks of life gathered to celebrate African American history and culture.

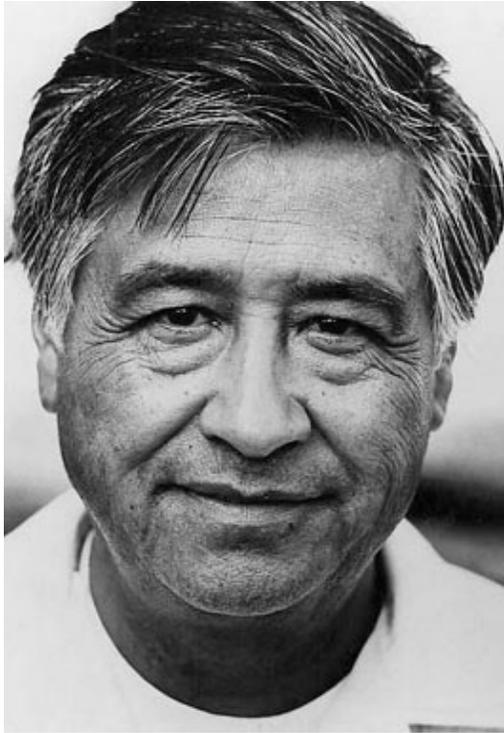
Every year, I look forward to celebrating the rich spiritual, cultural and ethnic tradi-

tions that are an integral part of the daily lives of each of the communities I represent. In honor of Black History Month and the extensive contributions African-Americans have made to our state and country, this event unites our community in celebration of how far we've come with civil rights, and makes a call for action for the work that remains. Additionally, it's an opportunity to reflect on how diverse communities can work together. I thank the community, faith and elected leaders for their continued support in making this event successful!

TOP: Flyer announcing my 3rd Annual Gospel Brunch which took place at the Bateman Hall in the City of Lynwood

RIGHT: Over 500 community leaders gather to celebrate the invaluable contributions of the African American community in the 33rd District and throughout the U.S.

# HONORING THE LEGACY OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ



On Sunday, March 31st, we will celebrate César Chávez Day and the 87th birthday of the late, great American labor leader.

César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona. When his family lost the farm during the Great Depression and moved to California, César at age 10 became a migrant farm worker, laboring in fields and vineyards. In 1946 he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the western Pacific.

César Chávez's early experiences gave him the determination to create an organization to protect farm workers. This organization developed into the United Farm Workers, the largest farm workers union in U.S. history. As union president, Chávez worked to promote fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and decent working conditions. Though the fight for fairness and justice continues,

thousands of farm workers today are able to live their lives with respect, dignity, and a decent wage.

César died in 1993 and became the second Mexican-American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award. In 2009, Congress passed my bill to rename a San Diego post office in his honor. And in October 2012, President Obama established the César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California, at César's home and final resting place.

California officially recognizes March 31 as César Chávez Day. Let us remember the contributions of this labor icon and community leader this month.

Additionally, a full length motion picture will be released this month in honor of the late farmworker leader.

## IN THE DISTRICT: COMMUNITY HEARING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 60

Last month, I teamed up with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the City of Bell to host the second community hearing regarding AB 60, the new California law that provides access to drivers licenses.

More than 250 people attended the Bell Community Center for a hearing about what forms of documentation might be used by DMV officials to begin implementing the new law.

I was joined by DMV Assistant Chief Counsel Brian Soublet to answer questions and hear the testimony from constituents throughout Southern California.

AB 60 requires the DMV to issue an original driver license to an applicant who is unable to submit satisfactory proof of legal presence in the United States. Driver license applicants under AB 60 must meet all other qualifications for licensure and must provide satisfactory proof of identity and California residency.

I urged members of the community to help distribute information to help their

family, friends and neighbors begin preparing for the tests to acquire their licenses.

If you or someone you know plans on taking the tests, please share the following tips:

- Be prepared to take a written test
- Study the California Driver Handbook
- Take Practices Tests

For more information, please visit the DMV website at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).



*I enjoyed hearing from over 250 community members sharing their thoughts on how best to implement AB 60 in a fair, effective and transparent manner.*



## 2014 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

I am excited to share a snapshot of my 2014 legislative package and priorities. The bills I am authoring and co-authoring focus on the needs of my diverse constituency and focus on issue of health care access, education, green technology and equality, among others. Some of my priority bills include:

### **The Health for All Act**

**SB 1005** - Expands access to health care coverage for all Californians, regardless of immigration status.

### **California Accountability in Public Service (CAPS Act)**

**SB 1441, SB 1442 and SB 1443** - This package of three bills will increase transparency and accountability in political practices, including banning all gifts from lobbyists, establish a quarterly disclosure period, cut by more than half the annual dollar limit on allowable gifts and ban fundraisers at lobbyist's homes.

### **California Clean Truck and Bus Program**

**SB 1204** - Creates the California Clean Truck and Bus Program to promote clean air in urban areas and disadvantaged communities through the development of zero- and near- zero emission buses and trucks.

### **Multilingual Education for a 21st Century Economy**

**SB 1174** - Allows California public schools to provide multilingual instruction, granting more students access to valuable 21st Century language skills and giving parents more choice over their children's education.

### **Improving Bullying Prevention Measures**

**SB 840** - Requires training for school employees, procedures for referring victims of bullying to counseling services and requires reporting of all incidents of bullying - not just those that lead to expulsion or suspension.



*I was proud to chair the Senate Working Group on Ethics that developed the California Accountability in Public Service, or CAPS Act. I was joined by my colleagues in the working group on March 6 in the Capitol to introduce the package of bills*

## CONTACT US

If you have any questions, would like assistance from my office or would simply like more information on legislation I am working on, please feel free to email my office directly. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Visit: <http://sd33.senate.ca.gov/send-e-mail>

