

WEEKLY FLASH

Bay Area Council Joins "Together For Health Care" Coalition

Our Healthcare Committee – Chaired by **Lloyd Dean**, President and CEO of Catholic Healthcare West – and our Executive Committee endorsed joining the "[Together for Health Care](#)" coalition (T4HC). The Council may consider joining other coalitions as well. The existing members of the T4HC coalition include: AARP, Blue Shield of CA, CA Fed of Labor, CA Medical Assoc, CA Teachers Assoc, Health Net, Catholic Healthcare West, Kaiser Permanente, SEIU, and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. The coalition has agreed to the following principles:

- Shared cost by government, employers and individuals
- Support coverage for all Californians
- Funding must be continuous and stable
- Work to eliminate unnecessary costs to make healthcare more affordable

The Coalition is currently [running TV and web advertisements](#), plus an earned media campaign. By joining the coalition the Council is still not bound to support the actions of any of the other members. The healthcare debate is just starting, and likely won't be resolved until the end of legislative session, in mid-September. The Council's top objective is to ensure that business doesn't pay more than its fair share.



Gallup Survey Finds High Member Satisfaction

Don Beck, Managing Partner of the [Gallup Organization](#) helped the Bay Area Council gauge member satisfaction and areas for improvement. The top line results were encouraging: 85% of members are satisfied with the organization and 40% of them are "extremely satisfied." Asked about the Council's greatest strength, the most common answers were the clout of the combined membership, delivery of results, and the professionalism of the staff. The greatest weaknesses were not enough visibility regarding accomplishments and the need to better engage members. Members would like to see the Council more involved in healthcare issues and to ask for their opinions on breaking issues more frequently.

Article of the Week

[This Sacramento Bee article](#) explores the severe water problems the South Bay and East Bay will experience if the giant water pumps in the Delta – shutdown last Thursday – are not tuned back in the next few days. The Bay Area Council, led by Council Board member **Jim Levine**, Managing Partner of Montezuma Wetlands, is in the thick of negotiations over the future of the state's water system.



Quote of the Week

"We have to restore some sense of rationality and confidence in this system." – **Senate President Don Perata** on passage of Democratic health care plans Thursday, setting up a summer of negotiations. ([AP](#))

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