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See Page 13

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FEATURES

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CICC links industry with California's policy makers

Chemical Industry Council of California celebrates 34 years of service

John Ulrich has been connected at the hip with the Chemical Industry Council of California (CICC) for nearly 30 years. But during the past nine years, Ulrich has served as executive director of CICC, a Sacramento-based statewide trade association composed of large and small chemical manufacturers, distributors and allied businesses throughout California.

CICC represents 105 facilities including 43 manufacturing plants, five research laboratories and 67 sales, service and distribution centers. Its members account for annual sales in excess of \$3 billion and directly employ more than 5,700 workers with a combined annual payroll of \$283 million. An additional 11,000 indirect jobs are created by CICC member companies with a combined annual payroll of approximately \$360 million.

Chemical Industry Council of California members account for annual sales in excess of \$3 billion.

"CICC is a relatively small organization but I think of it as a boutique association that provides the maximum amount possible of personal involvement with its members," Ulrich said. "Raising the members' level of direct political involvement and sophistication is a critical role on which CICC must continuously focus."

As a result, Ulrich brought Tom Jacob onboard in 2012 to serve as the CICC's senior consultant. Jacob is responsible for advocacy on the CICC's behalf before the legislature and regulatory agencies of the state. His primary focus is on safety, health and environmental laws and regulations that particularly impact chemical industry operations and facilities in California.

"From a policy perspective, CICC plays a crucial role for our members, precisely because this is California," Jacob said. "This state has a very large and very imposing governmental apparatus, which overlays virtually all aspects of policy. Of particular concern to our industry is California's commitment to leadership in the environmental arena."

Some of CICC's recent successes include helping to organize and sponsor major Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorist Standards conferences and numerous security-oriented work-



John Ulrich has been executive director of the Chemical Industry Council of California for the past nine years.



Tom Jacob became senior consultant of the Chemical Industry Council of California in 2012.

shops throughout California. CICC was also a visible proponent of the 2007 Green Chemistry Initiative and subsequent bipartisan legislation, which implemented portions of that initiative including a focus on safer consumer products. In early 2009, Ulrich was selected by industry colleagues to co-chair the new Green Chemistry Alliance, an ad hoc multisector industry coalition of state and national trade associations that would become recognized as industry's principle advocacy group for science and risk-based regulations.

According to Jacob and Ulrich, as long as there is manufacturing in California, there will be a chemical industry presence. Although the character of that presence, like the character of the California economy, is changing.

"The reality is the state is less dependent upon manufacturing," Jacob said. "It remains a global hub of innovation in industry, but the global marketplace has competed effectively for manufacturing associated with that innovation. We have fewer large, global-scale chemical operations in the state today, and it's hard to foresee that trend changing. The arms of our industry servicing the California economy will be here as long as this remains an attractive state in which to live."

"Issues associated with the equitable distribution and protection of limited resources, particularly surface and groundwater, will continue to drive Californian legislative and regulatory policies," Ulrich explained. "CICC can play a key role by providing intelligence on emerging issues."

For more information, visit www.cicc.org or call (916) 989-9692. ●