



Contact: Tom Lemmon
Phone: (858)518-9832

Governor Signs Bill on Taxpayer Protections in Public Construction

San Diego Building Trades applauds passage of SB 922

October 2, 2011 – San Diego, CA – San Diego Building and Construction Trade Council applauds the signing into law of SB 922 by the Governor Jerry Brown, after receiving overwhelming support from both houses of the legislature. This bill ensures that if Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are used on public construction projects, that they include taxpayer protection provisions. Charter cities, like San Diego, that ban these agreements as proposed by a ballot measure, will lose state funding.

With the passage of SB 922, public agencies will at last be free to choose, whether or not to enter into a PLA, on a project-by-project basis. If they do choose to voluntarily enter into a PLA, the following taxpayer protections will be required:

- ❖ Both union and non-union contractors can bid on and be awarded contracts;
- ❖ Workers cannot be discriminated based on race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or membership in a labor organization;
- ❖ Prohibits any work stoppages or disruptions on projects, with any dispute being resolved by a neutral arbitrator;
- ❖ Workers on hazardous jobs will drug-use tested.

Contrary to false claims by opponents, this bill does not require or encourage any public agency to use PLAs on public projects. Governor Jerry Brown stated in his signing statement, “Seems fair to me – even democratic.”

The passage of this bill underscores the importance of the business and labor community working together to ensure the best deal for taxpayers. It also highlights the dangers of unilateral bans by special interests. According to Tom Lemmon, business manager of the San Diego Building Trades, “The bill levels the playing field across the

state, to ensure true fair and open competition in taxpayer-funded construction projects.”

There has never been stronger taxpayer reason to oppose the controversial PLA-ban in the city of San Diego, as the city could lose future state funding and jeopardize major projects. SB 922 is a true vision of fair and open competition, which will neutralize the vitriol of ballot bans in San Diego, and refocuses the city’s energy on creating local jobs. It is important for our business, labor and community leadership to work together to defeat this reckless anti-taxpayer ballot.

###

<http://www.sdBuildingTrades.com>