

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS WATCHDOG

END OF 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

There were 2,829 bills introduced in 2008. So far, nearly 500 bills have been signed into law and 19 have been vetoed, and more than 850 bills are pending action by the Governor, who has until September 30th to sign or veto them.

The close of the Session marks the end of the road for many members who are termed out. All in all, 33 members between both houses will finish their terms in 2008 and a number of members will move to the opposite house.

However, members' terms do not end until December, providing them with the continued responsibility of addressing the 2008-2009 Budget—which is now 65 days late. Legislative leaders noted that 2008 would be remembered not for its legislative accomplishments, but for the latest budget enacted in the State's history.

MEAL AND REST DECISION APPEALED

The plaintiffs in the *Brinker Restaurants vs. Hohnbaum* case filed a petition for review with the California Supreme Court on Aug. 29th. They requested review of the July 21st Fourth Appellate District decision which found, among other things, that it is not the employer's responsibility to ensure that employees take their meal and rest periods, but only to make the meal periods available.

If the Supreme Court rejects the appeal,

SUSTAINABLE PRINTING PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Sustainable Green Printing Partnership (SGP Partnership), a collaborative effort by the PIA/GATF, SGIA, FTA, and NAPIM, officially opened the application process for printers to become registered SGP Printers.

Registered printers will be listed on a registry for print buyers and customers to use when searching for sustainable green printers.

What is the SGP Partnership

The SGP Partnership is an independent recognition organization that provides benchmarking tools applicable to the printing industry, provides verification of green and sustainable business practices based on a published list of criteria, and publicly recognizes facilities that meet established criteria.

Application and Criteria

Printing facilities are now invited to complete and submit the SGP Printer application. The criteria for being listed on the SGP registry as a green and sustainable printer, announced and beta tested earlier this year, are listed on the SGP Partnership registry website (www.SGPpartnership.org).

The SGP Partnership's definition of sustainability encompasses more than just environmental issues. Corporate social responsibility is another major component.

Registration

There are two categories of registration now open for applications—Candidate Pending Verification (CPV) and SGP Printer. The CPV category gives a facility a twelve-month time frame in which to meet all criteria for being an SGP Printer. Facilities that already meet the criteria for an SGP Printer may bypass the CPV category and apply directly for recognition under that category.

it would make the Court of Appeal decision final and citable. However, the petition for review requests that the California Supreme Court clarify what the plaintiff's believe is now a conflict in interpretation between several court cases. The employer community agrees with the Appeal Court's interpretation, within the *Brinker* decision, which reaffirms that "provides" means to "make available." Businesses in California need clarification in order to function efficiently and reduce liability.

The Supreme Court has 60 days to decide whether to grant review, which means that employers should know by late October whether the *Brinker* decision will remain citable precedent.

For the past several years, industry has found itself facing litigation because of unclear meal period rules. Attempts to provide relief to some employers through industry carve-outs have failed and attempts for comprehensive reform have stalled.



Affiliated
Associations:

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CLEANUP SOLVENT RULE SPREADS

Over the past three years, we have written several articles on the move by the South Coast Air Quality District (SCAQMD) to regulate the VOC content of cleanup solvents to less than 100 grams per liter. The SCAQMD finally achieved its goal on January 1, 2008 for lithographic and screen conventional ink use. It also gave UV/EB ink systems until January 1, 2009, to achieve this goal.

Thus the conversion of UV/EB to the lower solvents is just around the corner. We'd like to hear from those using this technology if they have identified low-VOC solvents that perform.

We have frequently mentioned that other air districts in California will soon adopt the same low-VOC provisions as the South Coast. For example, the Sacramento Air Quality Management District and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will amend their graphic arts rules in late September and early October, respectively.

All of these districts are mirroring the SCAQMD Rule 1171. The only difference is that printers in those jurisdictions will have until July 2010 in the Bay Area and January 2011 in Sacramento to comply.

NEW PRINT PROMOTION WEBSITE

The Print Council, a business development alliance dedicated to promoting the greater use of print media, has funded a new website, Print in the Mix — A Clearinghouse of Research on Print Media Effectiveness.

The website will collect and summarize research on the effectiveness of print advertising and marketing, demonstrating the role of print as a viable information medium in the marketing mix.

For example, you'll learn that businesses spend more on printed forms of advertising than on television. More than just expenditure data, this web site identifies, summarizes, and makes understandable to the layperson the

NEW TAX RATE ON OCTOBER 1, 2008

Voters in five cities in California have approved new transactions (sales) and use taxes (district taxes) that are effective October 1, 2008. The new rates apply only within each city's incorporated limits. The tax rates outside the incorporated city limits will remain the same.

City of South Gate: 9.25%

The City of South Gate, located in Los Angeles County, approved a 1% City of South Gate Transactions and Use Tax, (SGTE/182) which will increase the tax rate within city limits to 9.25% from 8.25%.

City of Mammoth Lakes: 7.75%

The City of Mammoth Lakes, located in Mono County, approved a 0.50% City of Mammoth Lakes Parks, Recreation and Trails Transactions and Use Tax (MLPR/183), which will increase the tax rate within city limits to 7.75% from 7.25%.

City of Pacific Grove: 8.25%

The City of Pacific Grove, located in Monterey County, approved a 1% City of Pacific Grove Transactions and Use Tax (PGRV/184), which will increase the tax rate within the city limits to 8.25% from 7.25%.

City of Pismo Beach: 7.75%

The City of Pismo Beach, located in San Luis Obispo County, approved a .50% City of Pismo Beach Transactions and Use Tax (PSMO/185), which will increase the tax rate within the city limits to 7.75% from 7.25%.

City of Clovis: reduced to 7.975%

The City of Clovis Public Safety Transactions and Use Tax will end September 30, 2008. Effective October 1, 2008, the tax rate within the City of Clovis will decrease from 8.275% to 7.975%.

data that demonstrates the effectiveness of print media in attaining the business goals of advertisers.

Check it out at <http://printinthemix.rit.edu>.

PIC ON INITIATIVES

Eleven initiatives will appear on the November 4th General Election ballot. Of those initiatives, PIC has so far taken positions on two of them. In our next issue, we'll list our position on the others.

OPPOSE Proposition 7: The Solar and Clean Energy Act of 2008. The initiative requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations. It raises the requirement for all utilities to 40 percent by 2020 and 50 percent by 2025.

This proposition would likely substantially drive up energy costs in the state, thus

putting an even greater economic burden on both households and businesses.

SUPPORT Proposition 11: The Voters First Initiative. The initiative creates a 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new district lines for state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts. It requires the state auditor to randomly select commission members from a voter applicant pool to create a commission with five members from each of the two largest political parties, and four members unaffiliated with either political party.

PIC believes proposition 11 will allow the citizens of California, rather than the Legislature, to create legislative districts that will require elected officials to be accountable to the voters.

For more information on all of the November ballot measures, visit the Secretary of State website, www.ss.ca.gov.