

## 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**Kathy McKim, Chair**  
The Hawksbill Group

**Joanne Wang, Incoming Chair**  
Semptra Energy Utilities

**George Tanaka, Past Chair**  
MUFG Union Bank

**Traci Lee, Secretary**  
Lyft

**Tim Yamauchi, Board Liaison**

**Leonor Didican, Legal Counsel**  
Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann, & Girard

**John Gutierrez, Director-At-Large**  
Comcast

**John Yung, Director-At-Large**  
Lewis Brisbois

**Andy Wong, Treasurer**

## 2020 DIRECTORS:

**Keri Askew Bailey**  
Charter Communications

**Heidi Barsuglia**  
Verizon  
*Vice President, Public Policy & Legal Affairs*

**Putu Blanco**  
Paul Blanco's Good Car Company  
*Director of Operations/CFO*

**Jason Chan**  
AT&T Communications  
*Director, External Affairs*

**Yoyo Chan**  
Golden State Warriors & Chase Center  
*Vice President, Government & Public Affairs*

**Jonathan Choi**  
Dart

**Lupe De La Cruz**  
PepsiCo

**Tarrance Frierson**  
Southern California Edison

**Lambert Hsu**  
Benefit Pro Insurance Services

**Floreine Kahn**  
PhRMA

**Joan Kerr**  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company

**Kevin Loscotoff**  
Walmart

**Ed Manning**  
KP Public Affairs

**William Jahmal Miller**  
CommonSpirit Health

**Bill Mueller**  
Integrated Communications Strategies

**Miki Saini**  
JPMorgan Chase

**John Tang**  
Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling

**Dr. Betty Uribe**  
Effectus Enterprises

**Vince Wetzel**  
State Farm

**Margaret Wong**  
McWong International, Inc.

**Ron Wong**  
Imprint Communications Group

**C.C. Yin**  
APAPA, Founder & Chair

April 27, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: API Small Business Representation on the Task Force for Business and Job Recovery**

Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the 32-member Board of Directors for the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, and the over 600,000 API-owned businesses in the State of California, we appreciate you taking the initiative to assemble the *Task Force on Business and Job Recovery* to advise you and your Administration through the very difficult economic challenges we all find ourselves in. The work ahead of every Californian is very daunting and complicated, especially for systemically underserved communities.

It is for this reason that we are especially concerned at the lack of API ***small-business representation*** on your task force, as the work of this group is to affect "business and job recovery". We strongly urge you to ensure that the API community has a formal way to provide input directly to you and the task force as to the needs of our communities. As you know, not only was the API community hit first by the global pandemic, we have been subjected to overt racism throughout California, which has added another layer of economic pain to API business owners and their employees. It is imperative our API communities across the State are not left behind in our economic recovery.

We have taken note, and appreciate, your consistent reminder of a "California for all"; of the importance of caring for disconnected and underserved populations in California who have faced tremendous hardship and chronic lack of state support and resources in the past; not just lack of access to high quality healthcare, but of equally importance, a lack of access to economic opportunity and the policy settings where such decisions are made.

API Americans are the fastest-growing ethnic group in the U.S., and California represents **one-third** of the nation's API consumer-buying power: **\$337 billion annually**. Nearly half (46%) of all businesses in California are minority-owned, second in the U.S. only to Hawaii. To have productive conversations that fuse racial equity with economic opportunity into plans to re-open the State of California for business, the voice of API Small Business Owners must have a seat at this table. We urge the Administration to consider, as stated before, that our community was not only hit first by the global pandemic, but has also have been subjected to overt racism during the economic shut-down all across the state which has hurt our community more deeply than others, and likely will prolong our business recovery.

For this reason, we propose that a "**Racial Equity Advisory Group**" be established to advise the task force. Such a group, composed of leaders from the API community and other minority communities, would ensure that historic policies and dis-investments, especially as they relate to *small business owners*, that have marked past state policymaking do not undermine your efforts at creating a recovery for all Californians.

You may reach me anytime on my personal mobile at (916) 870-6606, should you have any questions regarding this letter. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you and your staff about it.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



**Pat Fong Kushida**  
**President/CEO**  
**California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce**

**CC: Ann O'Leary: Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor**

**Tom Steyer: Chief Advisor to the Governor on Business & Jobs Recovery**

**David Chiu: Chair, API Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember, 17th District**

**Eleni Kounalakis: Lieutenant Governor, State of California**

**Fiona Ma: Treasurer, State of California**

**Toni G. Atkins: President pro Tempore, California State Senate**

**Anthony Rendon: Speaker, California State Assembly**

**Shannon Grove: Minority Leader, California State Senate**