

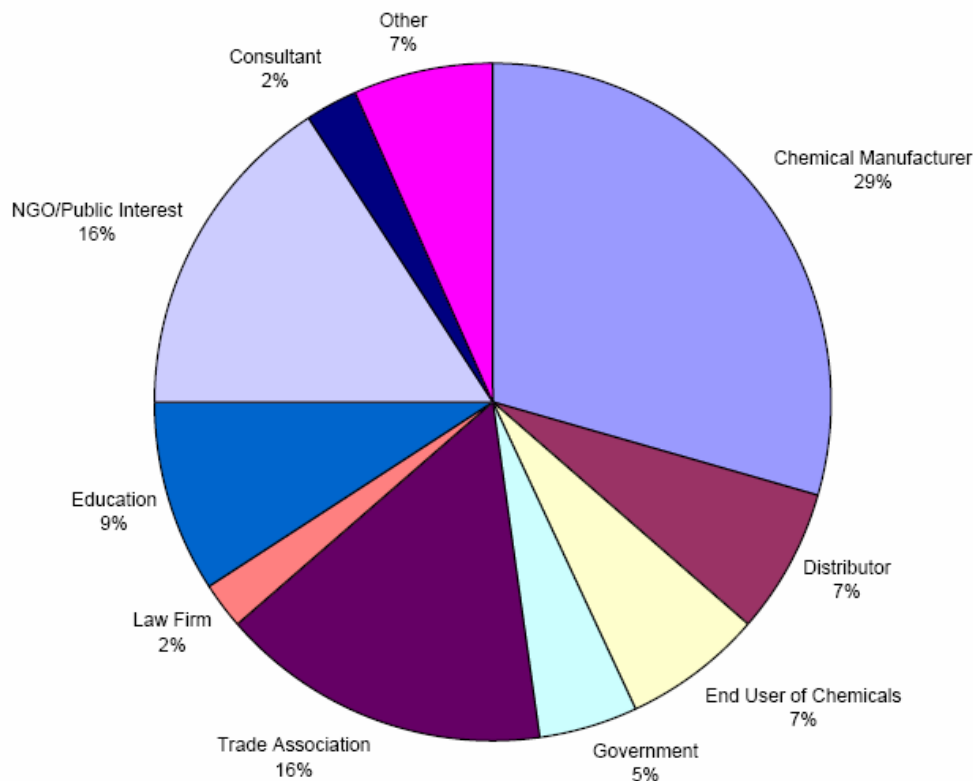


## **California Chemical Industry Forum: Attendee Survey Results**

The Chemical Industry Council of California in conjunction with a number of other industry associations sponsored a one-day industry forum in Los Angeles on May 10, 2006 to explore the issues raised by the recently published University of California report, *Green Chemistry in California: a Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation*. Team Chemistry LLC assisted CICC with the design and facilitation of the forum which drew approximately 100 attendees from the chemical industry, trade associations, the NGO community, academia, government and service providers.

This unprecedented gathering of constituencies provided an initial opportunity for all to learn about the UC Report and the principal points it raised; to articulate industry perspectives on those points; and to discuss them among peers and other interested parties in an open forum. At the conclusion of the forum we spoke to many attendees who expressed interest in knowing about next steps in the dialogue about chemical policy in California. We decided to conduct a simple survey of attendees to get a clearer sense of their take away from the forum and thoughts about next steps. Here are the results of the survey based on the 42 responses we received. Some editing has been done to accommodate more responses.

### ***Who attended the forum?***





### ***What did you learn at the forum?***

Respondents said they had learned a number of things, including more about the UC Report itself, Green Chemistry, its goals and methods, and the EU REACH initiative which the UC Report suggests could serve California as a model for chemical management policy. In addition to these common learnings, a number of respondents added comments about their individual take away from the forum. Here is a selection of those comments, edited for space and clarity.

- Change is coming for chemical policy and we must remain informed and involved in the process.
- This is an important long term issue for California and the nation.
- California is seeking a global leadership role in terms of chemicals policy.
- Many industry sectors are taking the formal position of opposition to chemicals policy reform.
- There is an opportunity for industry to be at the table at the start, impacting possible new legislation.
- The chemical industry is still in denial that there is a problem with chemicals management.
- There are different perceptions on the value and methods of chemical registration and evaluation.
- We all need to demonstrate to legislators and other stakeholders that existing Federal TSCA regulations are adequate to meet the needs of interested parties and manufacturers.
- The EU is reacting from fear and refuses to consider a science-based risk assessment.

### ***What should next steps be?***

Most respondents called for continued dialogue and monitoring of the legislative process regarding chemicals policy. A number of respondents questioned whether California should develop an independent chemicals management policy, or continue to look to the Federal government for this. Here is a selection of individual responses:

- Industry leaders must have on-going contact with Dr. Wilson and others who promote legislation affecting the chemical industry.
- Form a coalition to influence the implementation of the UC Report and only tweak the current system to add the missing pieces.
- More face time with politicians if they plan on sponsoring this initiative.
- Get trade associations and business speaking with one voice, if possible.
- Investigate what companies are already doing instead of creating a new set of requirements.
- A small group of key players with different perspectives should get together for facilitated discussions to address definitions of terms, identification of key issues, and how the issues could be addressed.



- Estimate the cost of this approach and the health benefits it could provide.
- The industry's position needs to be articulated in 10 bullet points or less, starting with goals held in common with others and moving to specifics.
- Study a risk-based assessment program for properly regulating those products that present the highest hazards and risk.

***Who should be involved in a working group as recommended by the UC Report?***

There was consensus that all stakeholders in chemical production, distribution and usage as well as trade associations, citizen groups, academia and legislators should be involved in the process. Among individual comments were:

- The chemical industry (ACC, NPRA, etc.) must remain involved to push this to the national level. Academia to research the economic impact of such a program.
- No one, it's not needed.
- A mix of persons familiar with the legislative process, individuals with experience implementing environmental law, a non-voting lawyer, an economist and one or more representatives from each potentially-impacted business sectors.
- Consumer groups like the CSPA and other groups that represent the cleaning industry, representatives of cities that have sustainability initiatives.

***The CICC has publicly called for a dialogue on the points raised by the UC Report.***

Among respondents, 75% "strongly agree" with this idea. Another 16% "agreed" with it, and no one disagreed with it, although one "leaned toward disagreement."

***It has been independently suggested that the political arena would be the wrong venue in which to review the UC Report, and that a new apolitical model employing a neutral, third-party-facilitated stakeholders' working group could yield a better outcome.***

Among respondents, 44% "strongly agreed", another 12.5% "agreed" and 15.6% "leaned toward agreement." One respondent "leaned toward disagreement", another "strongly disagreed" and one had "no opinion."

Several respondents expressed other opinions, reflected by this comment:

- Regardless of our response on this (to which I tend to agree), this is a political issue (primarily raised by legislative staff). It's not going away and we need to deal with it on the political level--which may require bringing in a more neutral third party as a means of lending credibility to industry's position.

***Rather than a facilitated dialogue, what approach is best?***

Of the relatively few respondents to this question, 54% wanted "an alternative approach." The others generally doubted the effectiveness of a "third party" approach.



***After the Forum, how do you feel about working collaboratively with CICC?***

81% of respondents said they are “more inclined to work collaboratively with CICC.” 9% had “no opinion. Several expressed another opinion:

- It depends. If CICC is highly proactive, then they are a suitable vehicle.
- No change. Would have worked with the CICC or ACC in any event.
- We'd certainly like to work with the CICC, but not sure what you mean by that. We do want to continue to be involved and updated on developments and involved with any forums and discussions.
- Would like to know actual details of CICC's position on the UC report.

***If provided additional opportunities to discuss in greater detail individual points raised by the UC Report would you participate?***

97% of respondents said YES. 3% said NO.