



**Gavin Newsom**  
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**International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee**

**Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020**  
**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Virtual Meeting

**MINUTES<sup>1</sup>**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**Chris Dombrowski**, *Vice Chair*  
*Acting Director*  
*Governor's Office of Business*  
*and Economic Development*

**David Hochschild**, *CEC Chair*,  
*California Energy Commission*

**Karen Ross**, *Secretary*,  
*California Department of Food*  
*and Agriculture*

**Wade Crowfoot**, *Secretary*  
*California Natural Resources*  
*Agency*

**Mark Ghilarducci**, *Director*  
*Governor's Office of Emergency*  
*Services*

**Jared Blumenfeld**, *Secretary*  
*California Environmental Protec*  
*tion Agency*

**David Kim**, *Secretary*,  
*California State Transportation*  
*Agency*

**Caroline Beteta**, *CEO*  
*Visit California*

**Kate Gordon**, *Director*  
*Governor's Office of Planning*  
*and Research*

**Mary Nichols**, *Chair*  
*California Air Resources Board*

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. She stated that the Interagency Committee was established by [Executive Order N-08-19](#) to inform the public of recent international activity undertaken by state agencies.

Max Oltersdorf, Deputy Director for International Affairs and Trade at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, called roll:

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<sup>1</sup> For a more complete record of the September 30, 2020 International Interagency Committee meeting, please access the full recording [HERE](#).



Member	Agency	Present or Representative
Chair Eleni Kounalakis	Lt. Governor of California	Present
Vice Chair Chris Dombrowski	GO-Biz	Present
David Hochschild	CEC	Present
Karen Ross	CDFA	Represented by Jenny Lester Moffitt
Wade Crowfoot	CNRA	Represented by Angela Barranco
Mark Ghilarducci	OES	Represented by Helen Lopez
Jared Blumenfeld	CalEPA	Present
David Kim	CalSTA	Present
Caroline Beteta	Visit CA	Present
Kate Gordon	OPR	Present
Mary Nichols	CARB	Present

The [March 9 Interagency meeting minutes](#) were approved.

**B. Chair's Discussion of International Efforts Related to COVID-19 Response**

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis described how international engagement has changed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Although in-person engagement with global partners has been suspended, video conferencing has increased the reach of international events.

The Lieutenant Governor's office has worked with the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to repatriate international citizens stranded in California and worked with the State Department to help Californians overseas come home. They have coordinated donations of PPE from international partners and maintained open lines of communication globally on emergency preparedness.

The Lieutenant Governor then summarized the impact of the pandemic on California trade and tourism.

**C. Vice Chair's Discussion of GO-Biz International Priorities and COVID-19 Response Efforts**

Vice Chair Chris Dombrowski described how GO-Biz is working to support businesses impacted by the pandemic. This has included working with businesses on rapid reaction and response to the pandemic, as well as developing areas where GO-Biz can provide value to businesses as they continue to navigate the crisis and the new business environment.

**D. Discussion of all International Engagement**



Helen Lopez, International Liaison at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) described how international collaboration has played a role in the state's response to the pandemic and wildfires, including donations of equipment, personnel, and information sharing with partners in California and overseas.

Jenny Lester Moffit, Undersecretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) described how the pandemic has impacted California's food system, with insight to the impact on food previously directed to food service sectors and the increase in demand on California's food banks. CDFA has worked to increase supply of food in California food banks and ensure that agricultural workers have access to PPE. She also provided an update on a [report](#) on California agricultural exports in 2018-2019, produced in partnership with the UC Davis Agricultural Issues Center.

Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) provided an overview of California's participation in Climate Week, in which global leaders were convened to discuss climate challenges facing California. Multiple announcements of upcoming climate initiatives in California were made during Climate Week, including the Governor's [Executive Order](#) that all new vehicles sold in California will be zero emissions by 2035. He also noted upcoming plans for [COP26](#) and ongoing collaborative initiatives with Mexico.

Mary Nichols, Chair at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) provided an update on California's collaboration with China, with insight to China's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2060. She also highlighted California's ongoing [partnership](#) with Quebec on Cap-and-Trade and air quality initiatives along the border with Mexico.

Kate Gordon, Director at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) highlighted the work in progress on COP26 and California's role as Chair of the [Under2 Coalition](#). She noted that OPR continues to serve on the U.S-China Track II group convened by the World Resources Institute. She also discussed work to align investment strategies with climate goals.

Angela Barranco, Undersecretary at the California Natural Resources Administration (CNRA) opened by noting that CalFire is part of CNRA and acknowledging their work across the state this wildfire season. She also listed events participated in by Secretary Crowfoot and described specific collaborative initiatives with China, Chile and Mexico, and other global partners.

David Kim, Secretary at the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) updated the Committee on transportation activities along the California-Mexico border, with insight to the restriction on non-essential travel and commercial traffic. He provided an update on [SR 11 / Otay Mesa East Port of Entry](#) project, the Calexico East Port of Entry bridge widening project, and an upcoming MOU with Japan.

David Hochschild, Chair at the California Energy Commission highlighted the Governor's historic announcement mandating all new vehicles sold in California will be zero emissions by 2035. He highlighted MOUs in process with Denmark and Mexico, as well as an upcoming gathering with Germany and other initiatives with China.



Caroline Beteta, Chief Executive Officer at Visit California noted the serious impacts of coronavirus and wildfires on the tourism industry in California, highlighting the lost contributions of the tourism sector to local revenues in communities across the state. She described Visit California's narrowed focus in international markets. They are monitoring data on consumer sentiment and airlift into California.

**E. Public Comment**

Hasan Ikhmeta at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) provided an update on their recently released vision for the next 30 years, which emphasizes greenhouse gas emissions reductions. He expressed enthusiasm for Otay Mesa II and thanked the group for their leadership.

Joel Perler at the Port of Long Beach thanked the group for their work and noted that the port had seen their best two months ever in terms of cargo movement in July and August.

Susanne Stirling at the California Chamber of Commerce noted that the U.S.-UK trade agreement is under negotiation and encouraged agencies to monitor its progress.

**F. Summary**

The Lieutenant Governor thanked the assembled for their ongoing work in these challenging circumstances.

**G. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27pm.