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International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee

Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 2021
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES¹

MEMBERS:

Eleni Kounalakis, *Chair*
Lieutenant Governor
State of California

Dee Dee Myers, *Vice Chair*
Senior Advisor and 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

Liane Randolph, *Chair*
California Air Resources Board

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, called the meeting to order at 2:00PM. 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.

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

¹ For a more complete record of the June 22, 2021 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 Dee Dee Myers	GO-Biz	Present
David Hochschild	CEC	Present
Karen Ross	CDFA	Present
Wade Crowfoot	CNRA	Represented by Angela Barranco
Mark Ghilarducci	OES	Present
Jared Blumenfeld	CalEPA	Present
David Kim	CalSTA	Present
Caroline Beteta	Visit CA	Present
Liane Randolph	CARB	Present

The [September 30 Interagency meeting minutes](#) were approved.

B. Chair's Discussion of International Efforts Related to COVID-19 Response related to COVID-19 response, Virtual Engagement, and Setting the State for Future Engagement

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis described how virtual engagement has allowed for more international partnership and collaboration during the coronavirus pandemic but noted that she looks forward to in person engagement moving forward. She discussed engagements with California's key international partners, including current initiatives with Mexico, China, and Japan. She also reviewed recent engagements with partners in Europe.

C. Vice Chair's Discussion on International Efforts Related to COVID-19 Response and GO-Biz's International Virtual Engagement

Vice Chair Dee Dee Myers introduced herself as a new committee member and described how GO-Biz is working to support businesses impacted by the pandemic. She provided a recap of the work completed by the GO-Biz International team, which included a virtual trade mission series and several virtual foreign investment attraction events, including SelectUSA, hosted by the federal government.

D. Discussion of COVID-19 Response and Virtual Engagement with International Partners and Upcoming Priorities

Mark Ghilarducci, Director 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 and personnel, as well as information sharing with international partners in California and overseas.



Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) provided an update on California's climate strategy, including upcoming plans for [COP26 and ongoing collaborations with Mexico, particularly related to the Tijuana and New Rivers.](#)

Karen Ross, Secretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) described how the pandemic has impacted California's food system and national supply chain. CDFA has continued to support California agricultural exporters and maintained international engagement with global partners on key topics, such as foodborne illness and climate smart agriculture.

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 updates on the [SR 11 / Otay Mesa East Port of Entry](#), the Calexico East Port of Entry bridge widening, and work to address port congestion.

Caroline Beteta, Chief Executive Officer at Visit California noted the serious impacts of coronavirus on the tourism industry in California, highlighting the lost contributions of the tourism sector to local revenues in communities across the state. Visit California is maintaining relationships with key partners including Mexico, Canada, and the UK as we look towards reopening.

Angela Barranco, Undersecretary at the California Natural Resources Administration (CNRA) highlighted collaboration with the Netherlands on water, work with the [UN Environment Program](#) for World Environment Day, and efforts to advance climate issues with the Under2 Coalition. She also noted that maintaining California's biodiversity and emphasizing drought and forest resilience is a priority for the state.

Liane Randolph, Chair at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) provided an update on California's ongoing partnership with Quebec on [Cap-and-Trade](#) and air quality initiatives along the border with Mexico. She also highlighted the work around zero-emission vehicle policy and the growing EV market.

David Hochschild, Chair at the California Energy Commission (CEC) highlighted MOUs in process with Denmark and Mexico, as well as an upcoming engagement with Germany and initiatives with China. He also noted increased opportunities for Federal collaboration.

Dee Dee Myers, Director at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) stated that international trade is important to the [California Comeback Plan](#). She noted investments in logistics infrastructure and supporting market development for ZEVs, which are our #1 export. She closed by discussing additional collaborative work with the other state partners and highlighted the importance of the lessons learned from the pandemic.

E. Public Comment

There was no public comment.



F. Summary

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

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.