

Border Infrastructure and Economic Development Opportunities in the Surrounding Region

Wednesday, November 28, 2012, from
Calexico City Hall, Council Chambers
608 Heber Avenue, Calexico, California 92231
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DRAFT AGENDA

The border region faces many challenges in moving toward economic recovery and obtaining greater prosperity in the coming decade. Among other strategies, the region is looking to leverage manufacturing, renewable energy and its access to domestic and foreign markets to advance its economic growth. The presentations during this hearing will include an overview of the bi-national regional economy and identification of key actions for moving forward.

I. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Statements

Chairman Pérez and Members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy and **Chairman Ben Hueso** of the Assembly Select Committee on California/Mexico Bi-National Affairs will give opening statements and frame the key issues to be examined during the hearing. **Daniel F. Romero, Mayor of the City of Calexico**, and **Francisco Pérez Tejada Padilla, Mayor of Mexicali**, will also provide opening remarks.

II. Achieving Regional Economic Recovery and Expansion through Improvements at the Calexico Port of Entry

- *Jon Ballard, Senior Asset Manager, General Services Administration*
- *Mark Baza, Executive Director, Imperial County Transportation Commission*
- *Jeff Kinsell, CEO and President Kinsell Newcomb & De Dios, Inc.*

Mexico has become the U.S.' second largest trading partner and California's number one trading partner. Border delays have proven to have direct impacts on productivity and economic development, not only on the border region but at a state and national level as well. During this panel, experts from the federal government and other organizations will discuss the current status of the reconfiguration and expansion of the Calexico Port-of-Entry including options for its development and the benefits it will have on California's economy.

III. Leveraging Economic and Infrastructure Advantages in the Mega-Region

- *Laurie Weir, California Public Employees Retirement System*
- *Representative from the Inter-American Development Bank*
- *Alex Hinojosa, North American Development Bank*

In the post-recession economy, the economic development capacity and competencies of regions will become increasingly important. For California's border communities this means strategically linking cross border human, physical and financial resources. Presentations in this panel will focus on financing infrastructure improvements and logistical linkages to help businesses access customers within the border region and other areas of the U.S. and Mexico.

IV. Public Comment

Anyone interested in addressing the Committees may sign up to speak during the public comment period. A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the hearing room.

V. Summation of Key Concepts and Closing Remarks

Assembly Members will highlight key issues and provide recommendations for further actions by the Assembly Select Committee on California/Mexico Bi-National Affairs and the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy.