

Imperial-Mexicali Binational Alliance (IMBA)



MINUTES – 24TH MEETING

DATE:	March 10, 2016
TIME:	10 am to 12 pm
LOCATION:	Imperial Palms Resort 2050 County Club Drive Holtville, CA 92250
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Tom Dubose
MEETING #	24 th
# OF ATTENDEES	43
NOTE TAKER	Virginia Mendoza
ATTENDEES	Please refer to the attached sign-in sheet.
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meeting was called to order by Tome DuBose at 10:15 a.m. Self-introductions were made by all attendees. ➤ Tom Dubose introduced the Embassy of Mexico Minister of Energy Affairs, Héctor Castro Vizcarra. ➤ Mr. Vizcarra provided a brief overview of Mexico’s energy reform and expressed the importance of working together with U.S. partners. ➤ Mexico’s energy reform taskforce encompasses a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Clean Energy between Canada, U.S. and Mexico that will expand opportunities for the private sector.
RECAP OF STRATEGIC PLANNING	
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016	
BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES	<p>Calexico West/Mexicali I POE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mark Baza announced that funding in the amount of \$248 million for Phase 2 of the Calexico West Port of Entry Expansion project is under review of the U.S. House Budget Committee. Letters of support have been requested from local, regional and state agencies and will be submitted to Congressman Juan Vargas’ El Centro office. Governor Brown has submitted a letter of support for the project.

- Tomas Oliva announced that all letters of support for the project should be submitted to him as he represents Congressman Juan Vargas in Imperial County. Deadline for letters of support are March 18, 2016.

Calexico East/Mexicali II POE

- Mr. Baza provided an update on the re-submittal of Proposed Binational Toll Pilot Project (559 Proposal). The project sponsors are anticipating hearing back from the U.S. General Service Administration (GSA) by April 2016.
- Mr. Baza summarized the project improvements:
 - New toll collection locations for ATPMs at northbound exit for autos and trucks
 - Construct toll operations building
 - Covered pedestrian walkways & reduced walking distance for pedestrians from Mexico
 - Cell phone lot/transit center, widen bridge for trucks and expand approaches in Mexico and U.S.
 - Add 6 new primary auto lanes
 - Add 3 new truck lanes
 - Pay for CBP security operations for new lanes (estimated at \$1.3 million per year)
- Mr. Baza also mentioned that a Sustainable Freight Action Plan Pilot project was submitted to the California Air Resources Board for funding of the freight elements of the Calexico East POE Expansion Project in the amount of \$30 million. In addition, ICTC is pursuing freight funding opportunities under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FACT Act).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

CDI

- Mariana Chavez and Carlos Cordova of announced that CDI will be collaborating in the Seattle Business Seminar in April 13, 2016.
- Ms. Chavez mentioned the target audience of the seminar is manufacturing companies, promotion agencies, membership of CC and Clusters in Seattle. Speaker will include Legal professionals, industrial developers, and educational institutions among others. The seminar will focus on:
 1. How to do business in Mexico
 2. Infrastructure and industrial areas
 3. Advantages of our region as a competitive and low cost center
 4. Success stories
- Mr. Cordova also announced the World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in April 3-6, 2016. The forum is a platform to network and discuss global location decisions amongst FDI dealmakers, including globally expanding companies, economic development and investment agencies, and the multipliers and site consultants. The event will feature the following:
 1. Imperial Valley – Renewable Energy Industry
 2. Mexicali – Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Tour

	<p>3. San Diego – Gala Dinner and Conferences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Cordova summarized the upcoming events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — World Forum FDI (IV, MXL, SD / April 3-6) — Seattle Business Seminar (Seattle, WA / April 13th) — MEXPORT 2016. (San Diego, CA / Apr 21st)
<p>HIGH – LEVEL ECONOMIC DIALOGUE PRESENTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jason Vorderstrasse of the U.S. Consulate General gave a presentation of the High – Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) that took place in Mexico City on February 25, 2016. ➤ Vice President Biden and the US Secretaries of Commerce, Interior, and Energy met with several Mexican ministers as part of the United States-Mexico HLED. Created in May 2013 by President Obama and President Peña Nieto. HLED has established a new strategic vision for our economic cooperation which is action-oriented, brings together the economic cabinets of both countries, and has a tangible work plan that produces results. ➤ The High Level Economic Dialogue works in three areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting competitiveness and connectivity 2. Fostering economic growth, productivity, entrepreneurship, and innovation 3. Partnering for regional and global leadership ➤ Mr. Vorderstrasse asked IMBA participants to provide input to make sure this process stays relevant and useful for the region. He encouraged the input of specific ideas of how to achieve economic goals in our community.
<p>WATER AND ENERGY PRESENTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IID Director Stephen Benson gave a brief presentation on water and energy. Mr. Benson mentioned the importance in working with Mexican partners in future plans to expand energy power lines. ➤ He also mentioned solar farms in Imperial County and how IID is looking to partners in Arizona in hopes to strengthen that system.
<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS & PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CETYS University has established MOU's with Northern Arizona University and University of California, San Diego. ➤ Ana Luisa Garcia of Mexicali Health Care mentioned that the Mexicali Medical Tourism Cluster has been generating high profits. ➤ Hector Vanegas of SANDAG mentioned the upcoming study on Economic Impact of Border Delays and Green House Gas Emissions along the California and Baja California's 6 Land Ports of Entry.
<p>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT TIME & NEXT MEETING DATE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2016 in the City of Calexico. <p>Agenda Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No items were identified during the meeting.
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.

Imperial - Mexicali Binational Alliance
 Thursday, March 10, 2016
 Sign-in Sheet

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	E-MAIL	SIGNATURE
Acuna	Rene	CDEM		Rene.acuna@cdem.org.mx	
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Felix	Rene	Office of Congressman Juan Vargas	760-355-8800	renefelix@mail.house.gov	
Figueroa	Miguel	Imperial County Workforce Development Board	760-337-5045	miguelfigueroa@co.imperial.ca.us	
Fitzgerald	Daniel	Calexico Chamber/IV Joint Chamber	760-455-9456		

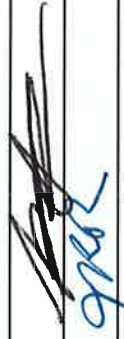
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Thursday, March 10, 2016

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Thursday, March 10, 2016

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