



NEWS RELEASE

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December 3, 2009
MEDIA ALERT

Bi-National Mayors of the Californias Summit on December 3 & 4 ***Santa Ana dialogue to cover regional infrastructure, economic development, and public safety***

WHAT

The Center for International Trade Development (CITD), an economic development program of Rancho Santiago Community College District, is coordinating the Second Bi-national Mayors of the Californias Summit. The summit, co-hosted by the City of Santa Ana and the City of Rosarito, Baja California, will promote bi-national relations and collaboration between local government agencies in California/Baja California by identifying, addressing, and resolving regional issues that impact both sides of the border. The summit will include an evening reception on December 3 and a full-day workshop on December 4.

The summit will include sessions of three working groups geared to jointly address key issues impacting the region's economy and people. The focus will be on the following questions:

Regional Infrastructure Policy Working Group

- What can be done to improve the outdated border crossings that impede regional development?
- Is it possible to incorporate "green concepts" into all future infrastructure projects?
- What is the impact to tourism and health of untreated water in Baja California and what is the solution?
- How can water agencies on both sides of the border work together?
- Are U.S. ports and Mexican ports working efficiently together today and how can future ports of entry be identified?

Economic Development Working Group

- How can city officials in California extend help to Baja California cities to improve access to medical training and scarce medicines and create more health-related jobs?
- How can technology be used to access medical records in an emergency?
- What initiatives in the tourism and health care industries can optimize capital growth, business expansion, and investment in the region?
- What is being done to address air quality issues bi-nationally?
- How can renewable energy technologies be developed in the border region?

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Public Safety

- How can effective liaison mechanisms, legal means to facilitate cross-border prosecution, and positive relations between cities improve the region's public safety?
- What collaboration in law enforcement already exists and how can success be measured?
- How can regional and local agencies work together to ensure that terrorism is less likely to occur in their own backyards?

WHERE

Welcome Reception: Ambrosia Restaurant-The Vault VIP Lounge, 801 N. Main Street, Santa Ana

Summit: Santa Ana Police Community Room, 60 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana

WHEN

Welcome Reception: Thursday, December 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Summit: Friday, December 4

Registration & Breakfast: 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Welcome: 9:45-10:15 a.m.

Bi-national Success Story: 10:15-10:30 a.m.

Mayor's Roundtable: 10:45-12:00 p.m.

Press Conference: 12:10-12:45 p.m.

Working Sessions: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Closing Session: 3:15-4:30 p.m.

WHO

The following individuals will present during the working group sessions:

Regional Infrastructure

Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District
Ing. Marcos Sarabia, Secretary of Urban Development, Tijuana
Tricia Evans, Santiago Canyon College Dean, Career Education
Greg Watkins, President, Equinox Carbon Equities
Armando Castro, Opic Representative, Vnesto Capital

Economic Development

Alfonso Carrillo, Consejo Consultivo de Desarrollo Económico (Economic Development Council)
Wallace Walrod, Vice President, Economic Development, Orange County Business Council
Marco Navarro, CEO, Economic Development Commission of Ensenada (COPREEN)

Public Safety

Paul Walters, Chief, Santa Ana Police Department
Alfredo Bañuelos, Coordinator of Public Safety, Tijuana
Additional police agencies may be represented.

Among the elected officials who will be in attendance are:

Miguel Pulido, Mayor, City of Santa Ana
Claudia Alvarez, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Santa Ana

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Michelle Martinez, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana
Vincent Sarmiento, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana
Tony Rackauckas, Orange County District Attorney
Roger Hernandez, Mayor, City of West Covina
Steven Choi, Councilmember, City of Irvine
Steve Diels, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Redondo Beach
Mayor Blanca M. Figueroa, City of South El Monte
Rose Espinoza, Councilmember, City of La Habra
Ron Garcia, Mayor, City of Brea
Hugo Torres, Mayor, Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico
Pablo Alejo, Mayor, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico
Jorge Ramos, Mayor, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico
Donaldo E. Peñalosa, Mayor, Tecate, Baja California, Mexico

WHY

On October 20, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger and Baja California Governor Osuna Millan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue to build upon their cooperative efforts on important issues in the California-Baja California region. The agreement commits both states to work together in the areas of economic development, commerce, tourism, environmental protection, border crossings, security and civil protection, health, renewable energy and agriculture. This summit will build upon the successes of the first summit and will look to the future for next steps.

HOW

For more information, contact the CITD at (714) 564-5204.

Editor's Note: Media may park on the street in front of the Santa Ana Police Department. Participants are asked to park in the County of Orange "Stadium" parking structure directly across from the Santa Ana Police Department.

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