



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA • OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

**Gavin Newsom**  
*Governor*

**Dee Dee Myers**  
*Senior Advisor and Director*

**Emily Desai**  
*Deputy Director*

Governor's Office of Business  
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Sacramento, CA 95814

**International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee**

**Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022  
2:30-4:00 PM**

Virtual Access was Provided via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**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**, 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  
Protection Agency*

**Toks Omishakin**, Secretary,  
*California State Transportation  
Agency*

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

**Samuel Assefa**, Director,  
*Governor's Office of Planning  
and Research*

**Liane Randolph**, Chair,  
*California Air Resources Board*

For a complete record of the December 6, 2022, International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee meeting, please access the full recording [here](#).



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

Chair Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. She stated that Executive Order N-08-19 established the Interagency Committee to inform the public of recent international activity undertaken by state agencies and departments.

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

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	Virginia Jameson
Wade Crowfoot	CNRA	Amanda Hansen
Mark Ghilarducci	OES	Present
Yana Garcia	CalEPA	Shereen D'Souza
Toks Omishakin	CalSTA	Darwin Moosavi and Giles Giovinazzi
Caroline Beteta	Visit CA	Present
Samuel Assefa	OPR	Present
Liane Randolph	CARB	Present

[July 6, 2022, interagency meeting minutes](#) were approved.

**B. Chair and Vice Chair's Opening Remarks**

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis stated that the committee's goal is to ensure cohesiveness to California's international strategy and allow the public to learn what the State is doing and provide feedback and input. This meeting provides updates on international activity since July 2022, discusses future international priorities, and includes readouts from colleagues who participated in Climate Week and COP27.

The Lieutenant Governor's recent international engagement has included welcoming Queen Maxima of the Netherlands and President Stefano Bonaccini of the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy to California, both of whom were focused on climate issues. The Lieutenant Governor then shared updates on recent engagement with Mexico, including progress on the Commission of the Californias and the Otay Mesa East border crossing project. Finally, the Lieutenant Governor attended a luncheon hosted by the U.S. State Department, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Blinken in honor of visiting French President Emanuel Macron.

Looking ahead, she noted the March 2023 trip to Japan and APEC, which will be hosted in San Francisco in November 2023.



Dee Dee Myers, Director at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), began by reporting significant developments around hydrogen and GO-Biz's proposal for a green hydrogen hub.

Director Myers also reported engagement with the Mexican government, including a convening of the Commission of the Californias at the Institute of the Americas at UC San Diego, focused on zero-emission vehicle transition. Subsequently, the US Department of Transportation invited GO-Biz to present COMCAL and convening findings at their next US-Mexico Joint Working Committee meeting. Looking ahead, GO-Biz International is working with Mexican counterparts to organize trade and best practices missions.

Director Myers also discussed foreign direct investment efforts, including the International Team's participation in Web Summit in Lisbon and the SelectUSA Canada conference in Toronto. In addition, GO-Biz International is preparing for the May 2023 SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, DC, and looking to grow the footprint of international companies that choose California.

Director Myers also summarized recent work on export assistance, including the California State Trade Expansion Program (STEP), which is fully overseen and administered by the GO-Biz International team. GO-Biz is on track to support more than 100 California small businesses with global sales this fiscal year.

**C. Readout on California Delegation to the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, Climate Week Proceedings, and Other International Updates**

Virginia Jameson, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Working Lands at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) provided a readout of CDFA's participation in COP27, where the role of agriculture in climate change received unprecedented attention. Secretary Karen Ross moderated a panel on climate-smart agriculture, discussed how regulation can stimulate business or civil society, and showcased California's methane reduction goals and participation in the global methane pledge.

Liane Randolph, Secretary of the California Air Resources Board (CARB), highlighted CARB's participation at Climate Week New York, where she spoke about several of California's signature climate and clean air programs, including participating in a panel with policymakers from India where they discussed CARB's Advanced Clean Trucks rule. She also discussed several other recent engagements, including speaking virtually at the World Climate Summit on the role of regulations in encouraging private investment in clean technology and attending the Clean Energy Ministerial in Pittsburgh, hosted by the US Department of Energy, where she spoke to international audiences about the importance of charging infrastructure. CARB also participated in the Mexico Carbon Forum meetings for the Governor's Forest and Climate task force and engaged in a forum to share the opportunities and challenges the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation will pose for the trucking industry at the US-Mexico border.

Looking forward, CARB will prioritize sharing and learning lessons from other jurisdictions and the 2023 Trade Mission to Japan.



David Hochschild, Chair of the California Energy Commission (CEC), reported on the first lease sale for 583 miles of California's coast for offshore wind installations. CEC is also investing in infrastructure decarbonization, green hydrogen, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Shereen D'Souza, Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy and Intergovernmental Relations of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) reported on behalf of Secretary Garcia, who attended New York Climate Week. At Climate Week, Secretary Garcia represented California at Under2's Governor's Climate Action Summit and moderated a panel on equity and climate finance for the General Assembly. She also promoted California's successes in the US's major package of climate legislation. Deputy Secretary D'Souza also discussed how CalEPA engages with foreign nations through Memorandums of Understanding that help promote the exchange of technical know-how. These include recent engagements with China, the Netherlands, Canada, and New Zealand. Next year's priorities will include continued consultations with Mexico on cross-border water, waste, air quality, and transportation decarbonization issues.

Mark Ghilarducci, Secretary of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), highlighted six delegations that OES welcomed since July 2022 - Romania, South Africa, Taiwan, Lithuania, and two from Germany - which came to discuss best practices for emergency management, wildfires, cybersecurity, public safety communications, and resiliency. Secretary Ghilarducci thanked California's State agencies for cooperating with new vetting procedures for foreign delegations. This year, the State Threat Assessment Center has received 85 requests from 89 different countries and vetted over 596 delegates. He also noted engagement with the German State of Baden-Württemberg on cybersecurity, participation in the Commission of the Californias, a webinar on emergency management with South Korea, and collaboration with Italy on seismic safety. Additionally, OES donated personal protective equipment to Mexican consulates, Portugal, and Ukraine and coordinated with the Governor's Office to assist Ukraine with medical equipment and tactical gear. Looking forward, OES will continue strengthening international relationships with Chile, Baja California North, Mexico, Ukraine, Portugal, Argentina, Taiwan, and the Aga Khan Development Network. Finally, in response to a question posed by the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary Ghilarducci discussed the fentanyl problem's international context and OES's preventative and responsive roles.

Caroline Beteta, CEO of Visit California, reported on recovery in the travel and tourism sector and barriers to international inbound travel, including inflation, currency devaluation, and the continuing visa backlog. In the future, Visit CA will continue to focus on attracting international visitors and launch direct advertisements in the UK, Canada, and Mexico. Visit CA will also join the March 2023 Trade Mission to Japan, where they will join a roundtable meeting with the Japanese Association of Travel, a CEO roundtable luncheon with seven top airline executives, and a Taste of California VIP reception.

Samuel Assefa, Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), discussed recent engagement with Europe, including cooperation with a climate organization called Climate KIC, organizing EV-related site visits for Queen Maxima's delegation and hosting the first California-EU climate working conference in Sacramento. Additionally, as part of a trade mission by the Dutch



consulate, OPR has hosted tours of smart, clean equitable transportation solutions in San Francisco. Since the Summer of 2022, OPR has been contacted by the UK, Scotland, and various EU States, including Sweden, Estonia, Denmark, and the Netherlands, for more information on OPR's MOU with Climate-KIC. They have also received interest from Estonia and Sweden regarding sustainable transportation.

Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate Change at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), shared how CNRA's international strategy emphasizes using nature-based solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss. Secretary Wade Crowfoot and Deputy Secretary Hansen joined the California delegation at Climate Week New York in September, where CNRA co-hosted a wildfire and forest health event with Canadian partners as part of the California-Canada Climate Action and Nature Protection Partnership. CNRA also met with the South African Western Capes Minister of Agriculture on drought and climate adaptation.

Deputy Secretary Hansen noted the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife's law enforcement team's international activities, including a Wildlife Officer Exchange Program organized by the Department of State in Kenya and Namibia and participation in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Panama. Additionally, leadership from the California Conservation Corps traveled to Honduras to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Conservation Corps in Honduras, which California helped establish in 2016.

Looking ahead, CNRA will travel to Canada for the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal and the 5<sup>th</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Vancouver.

Giles Giovinazzi, Senior Advisor at the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), outlined CalSTA's participation at COP27, where they were represented by Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy and Housing Coordination, Darwin Moosavi, where he discussed California's climate action plan for transportation infrastructure. Senior Advisor Giovinazzi then discussed Federal and State investment in the Otay Mesa East Project.

Looking ahead, CalSTA will be engaging with Japan at the March 2023 trade mission, which Secretary Omishakin will attend to promote clean transportation and port innovation. In addition, CalSTA will be building on a solid relationship with Japan as reflected when Secretary Omishakin and CalSTA staff joined Japanese dignitaries in San Francisco for the Japan Investment Forum, met with the Japanese Consul General to discuss the implementation of the Japan-California Cooperation on Climate Change and Trade, and visited Japan with a delegation organized by the California Foundation on the Environment and Economy.

#### **D. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.



#### **E. Closing Comments from the Chair**

The Lieutenant Governor closed by emphasizing the importance of the upcoming Trade Mission to Japan, given the strong economic ties with California and the opportunity to deepen the trade/investment relationship.

She also noted the significance of the Otay Mesa East border crossing facility project, given that Mexico is the number one destination for California exports and the number two overall trading partner. In addition, California will continue to develop relations with the Commission of the California partners in Baja California and Baja California, Sur.

The Lieutenant Governor concluded by mentioning other international engagements her office has undertaken since July 2022, including meetings with Australian, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Georgian, Greek, Irish, Israeli, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Qatari, and Turkish Consuls General, as well as the Georgian Ambassador from Washington, DC. She also greeted ministerial-level trade delegations from Norway and Taiwan, met with the leader of the Irish opposition, and engaged with officials from the Western Cape in South Africa and the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan. Her team delivered messages of congratulations or to otherwise help observe the national holidays of Korea, China, Germany, and Taiwan.

#### **F. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.