



# IMPERIAL VALLEY FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

IMPERIAL COUNTY WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • 1250 Main Street, El Centro, CA, 92243

## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 @ 1:30 P.M.  
1250 Main Street, El Centro, CA

## PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Imperial Valley Foreign Trade Zone – Joint Powers Authority (IVFTZ-JPA) was held on May 15, 2024 @ 1:49 P.M. In person at the conference room of the Imperial County Business Center. Members of the public were encouraged to submit their comments via email prior to the day of the meeting.

## ATTENDEES

### *JPA Members*

City of Brawley  
City of Calexico  
City of Calipatria  
City of El Centro  
City of Holtville  
County of Imperial

### *Primary*

Tommy Garcia

Adriana Nava  
Nick Wells

### *Alternate*

Rosa Lopez

### *Coordinating Staff*

I.C. Workforce & Economic Development  
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Priscilla Lopez  
Jade Padilla

### *Other Invites*

N/A



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## MINUTES

### *I. Call meeting to order*

#### a. Roll call.

T. GARCIA called meeting to order at 1:49 A.M. Roll call was performed by J. PADILLA with four (4) JPA members present; it was determined that quorum was met.

#### b. JPA Member FTZ Updates

P. LOPEZ provided (Imperial County) Workforce updates. T. GARCIA provided updates on Brawley's projects. The group in attendance shared potential resources and funding ideas. A. NAVA shared a GIS development map the City of El Centro is using. N. WELLS shared updates on City of Holtville projects.

#### c. Approval of 01/17/24 Minutes

NICK WELLS motions to approve the minutes as presented. ADRIANA NAVA 2nd the motion. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

### *II. Discussion/direction/action/update*

#### a. Discussion regarding Strategic Marketing Plan

J. PADILLA provided the items still pending to be determined for the Strategic Marketing Plan. A. NAVA recommended we use the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to identify the industries that can be used. Staff will provide the current CEDS document to the consultant to utilize and let them know that the updated 5-Year CEDS is currently in progress. P. LOPEZ mentioned the New River green area that could possibly be included. J. PADILLA mentioned the Gateway of America, to which R. LOPEZ noted the County currently has some interest in companies developing in that area. R. LOPEZ noted the Mesquite Lake area has a recycling company that was just approved for a plant in that area. A. NAVA has noted that artisanal beer is a product that has been crossed a lot. R. LOPEZ asked if the Salton Sea area would qualify as there are a lot of proposals with the County to develop in that area for



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a mix of different industries. This area is further identified as a focus with lithium development coming into that area. Staff will update the existing list and send it via email to the JPA Members for review prior to submittal to the Consultant.

b. Authorization to distribute site information letters to operators

J. PADILLA noted the consultant provides operators a request for the operators to provide information to check that all documents are accurate. The draft letter was provided in the meeting package for the members to review. R. LOPEZ motioned to authorize the letters to be distributed to the operators. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. NAVA. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

c. Approval of FY 2024-2025 Budget

J. PADILLA presented two proposed budgets for the JPA's approval. Proposal A utilizes 25% of the year end share towards the JPA's annual membership fees while Proposal B has the full amount of membership fees included. There were no other differences between the two proposals presented. It was noted that P. LOPEZ had previously recommended including a budget item for meeting refreshments. J. PADILLA notes the contingency item can be utilized for that or a motion can be added to include that line item. P. LOPEZ discussed the line item for training opportunities and potentially having consider them pre-approved through the budget line item or if they will still need to be approved per opportunity. N. WELLS noted his agreement if anyone is available to allow them to participate. N. WELLS motioned to approve Propsoal A for the FY 2024-2025 budget. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. GARCIA. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

d. Approval of FY 2024-2025 Meeting Calendar

J. PADILLA presented the proposed meeting calendar following the same pattern used in previous years. However, the proposed meeting calendar has a singular meeting location per previous meeting discussions. The proposed calendar shows all meetings to be held in the Imperial County Business Center (1250 Main Street, El Centro, CA, 92243.) T. GARCIA motioned to approve the proposed FY 2024-2025 Meeting Calendar. A. NAVA 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**



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- e. Discussion/Action regarding selection of the FY 24-25 chair and vice-chair of the IVFTZ-JPA and Membership Forms

N. WELLS nominated Tommy Garcia (City of Brawley) for chair. T. GARCIA accepted the nomination. A. NAVA motioned for Tommy Garcia (City of Brawley) to serve as chair. R. LOPEZ 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

N. WELLS nominated the County of Imperial as vice-chair. A. NAVA 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

J. PADILLA also noted the membership form was included in the meeting package and can be submitted via email.

- f. Discussion/Action regarding upcoming NAFTAZ training opportunities

J. PADILLA noted this is a standing item with the upcoming training events and schedule if anyone is interested. P. LOPEZ noted the benefits of participating in trainings. A. NAVA asked who has the most successful FTZ to see what they are doing. Staff will ask the consultant with input on this matter.

### **III. Future agenda items and other business**

- a. Discussion regarding potential agenda items, issues, or operators

None.

- b. Discussion regarding current operators

J. PADILLA provided an update that Vertiv has recently decided not to continue their participation in the IVFTZ. Their response upon inquiry was that their participation was not financially beneficial at this time.

- c. Discussion regarding potential operators

None.



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## **IV. Next meeting date**

Date: July 17, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.

Location: 1250 Main Street, El Centro, CA

## **V. Meeting adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned by T. GARCIA at 2:55 p.m.