



IMPERIAL VALLEY FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

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

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 20, 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 November 20, 2024 @ 1:30P.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

Thomas Garcia

Nick Wells

Alternate

Camilo Garcia

Adriana Nava

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 2:02 A.M. Roll call was performed by J. PADILLA with four (4) JPA members present; it was determined that quorum was met.

- b. Approval of 05/15/24 Minutes

ADRIANA NAVA motions to approve the minutes as presented. NICK WELLS 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. Per the last meeting, IMS Worldwide was provided with the most recently approved 5-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that does include identified industry clusters and target industries discussed. A. NAVA asked what steps were currently being taken to bring in new operators. P. LOPEZ noted that developing the strategic plan to help market (our FTZ) will be key. A. NAVA recommended some website information and links be done that we can add to our websites. N. WELLS noted a blurb was needed to connect their city pages to the County's FTZ page. A discussion was held between the needer regarding the preference of the materials needed for marketing. Staff will facilitate a way to online market between the multiple sites for FTZ.

- b. Discussion/Action regarding El Remate MBM Application for Site Designation and Concurrence Letter

J. PADILLA the Minor Boundary Modification application to redesignate an FTZ Zone intended to be submitted by El Remate, who initially came in approximately one year ago. She also noted that the application being presented and El Remate has the new format, which is requesting the same information. Christian Martinez of El Remate



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presented their project plans and intentions. Current plans include industrial electrification for charge stations for transportation vehicles and bondage/warehouse storage. They have been working on these plans; however, the parcel sunset before they were able to apply to activate it as an FTZ. Trey and Rob (IMS Worldwide) recommended they utilize the entire parcel versus using the lot line adjustment parcel.

THOMAS GARCIA joined the meeting at 2:23 PM.

The group discussed the steps that were needed to redesignate the parcel and activate the parcel under FTZ. Prior to voting on this item, J. PADILLA recommended that any motion include an action contingent upon the submittal of the updated MBM application forms.

C. GARCIA motioned to approve the submittal of the MBM application submitted by El Remate contingent upon provision of the updated MBM forms as well as approve the concurrence letter. Motion 2nd by N. WELLS. **Vote:** 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

- c. Authorization to approve and execute the third extension of the Operator's Agreement for Coppel Corporation

J. PADILLA presented the contract extension of the Operator's Agreement for the Coppel Corporation. As this should be the third and final extension, she noted that an inquiry presented at the FTZ Board grantee training noted there was no limit for how long a grantee can have a contract with an Operator. P. LOPEZ mentioned that his is most likely because of the way the County does their contracts.

N. WELLS motioned to approve the extended Operator's Agreement with Coppel Corporation. Motion 2nd by G. GARCIA. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote. **Motion Approved.**

- d. Authorization to approve and execute the first extension of the Operator's Agreement for JE Exports

J. PADILLA presented the extension of JE Exports Agreement as well as the Letter of Interest to proceed with the extension. She also noted that the JE Exports and Coppel Corporation contracts are ratified. The JE Exports will be good through 2027.



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R. LOPEZ motioned to approve extension of the JE Exports Operators Agreement. T. GARCIA 2nd the motion. **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain at the time of the vote.
Motion Approved.

- e. 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. No interest was shown to participate in any other the upcoming training opportunities.

III. Future agenda items and other business

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

J. PADILLA noted a pending a discussion to establish procedures for the Operators Agreements. She also mentioned the need to revisit Operators Fees as the FTZ Board training should align with the IVFTZ Operating fees. This will need to be taken to IMS Worldwide to make sure we are in compliance.

- b. Discussion regarding current operators

None.

- c. Discussion regarding potential operators

P. LOPEZ mentioned there was a company out of China who may be interested and want to see if their business plans fit into the FTZ.

IV. Next meeting date

Date: January 15, 2025, 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.