



**Tax Recovery and Criminal Enforcement
Task Force Executive Board Meeting
621 Capitol Mall, Room 2114, Sacramento, CA 95814
December 20, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jim Biscailuz, Chairman TRaCE Executive Board

Members Present:

Jim Biscailuz, Chairman, Special Agent in Charge, DOJ
 Randy Silva, Vice Chairman, CDTEFA Investigations
 Dan Gonzalez, Chief, FTB Criminal Investigations Bureau
 Cindy Chen, Proxy for Tyrone Blanchette, Supervisory Special Agent, IRS
 Tom Edwards, Proxy for Thomas Wilson, Deputy Chief, DMV
 Sir Streeter, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DHS
 Susan Ferensic, Assistant. Special Agent in Charge, FBI
 Frank Waldschmitt, Proxy for David Montoya, Chief, EDD Investigations
 Jim Root, Special Assistant Attorney General, DOJ

Members Absent:

- October 18, 2017 Minutes
 - Gina Fong requested a spelling correction: Sean Collins to Shawn Collins
 - Susan Ferensic motioned to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Sir Streeter
 - Vote: 9 in favor; 0 opposed
- Resolved: Motion carried**
- Status Reports & Updates
 - TRaCE LA Regional Board
 - LA TRaCE Regional Board Election
 - During the LA Regional Board Meeting there was a motion to leave the Vice Chair vacant pending the outcome of the Executive Board's decision regarding how the organizational structure will look as there are more task forces added. One option is to have an Executive Board and Committees would replace Regional Boards
 - New LA TRaCE Regional Board Chair is Marzo Sacasa
 - LA TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement
 - Regional Board approved the Agreement for LA TRaCE. The SLOT Fund MOU Agreement is for equipment, travel, fuel, training and other similar costs, incurred by the TRaCE Task Force as a member of the designated joint operations with HSI Los Angeles.
 - Randy Silva motioned to approve. Motion seconded by Dan Gonzalez.
 - Vote: 9 in favor; 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

- RRaCE Final Report
 - Amy Coombe, DIR Representative, indicated that the report was reviewed by the RRaCE Steering Committee and now is with the Labor Agency for final review.
 - Jim Biscailuz had a follow-up question regarding whether DIR had either requested an extension or notified the Legislature of the pending review by the Labor Agency as AB 576 required that the report be submitted on December 1, 2018. Jim Biscailuz also inquired as to the timeframe for the Labor Agency review. Amy Coombe, DIR Representative, requested to discuss the issues off-line with Jim Biscailuz.
- TRaCE Northern California HSI Slot Agreement – Reimbursement received and deposited into Special Deposit Account from HSI Equipment Slot Fund for Body Wire (\$4,728.43) and GPS (\$2,134.76) total \$6,863.19 TRaCE Federal BJA IPR Grant – Interagency Agreement still pending
 - Discussions with Chief David Montoya (EDD) and Susan Gorsuch (DOJ Commander) regarding if the Grant included reimbursement for benefits and OE&E or just overtime.
 - Susan Gorsuch indicated that she would verify if the grant was only for overtime.
- Prop 56 Positions & Status on Hiring
 - Gina Fong stated CDTFA will be hiring two Investigator positions to work tobacco related investigations. One for LA TRaCE and one for Northern California TRaCE. The vacancies have been posted and the hiring process can take 45 to 60 days from the time a candidate is selected.
 - Jim Root (OAG DOJ) stated DOJ's Legal Attorney positions have been authorized and they are in the process of drafting the duty statements. They will hire two positions, one for LA TRaCE and one for Northern California TRaCE. They are also hiring two Legal Analysts, one for LA TRaCE and one for Northern California TRaCE; and one Investigative Auditor for LA TRaCE.
 - DOJ DLE will be hiring four Law Enforcement agents. Two for Northern California TRaCE and two for LA TRaCE. At this point, the job descriptions have been approved and they are waiting on the Job Opportunity Bulletin to be approved.
- DOJ Legislation Initiative to acquire funding for TRaCE and its expansion efforts
 - Jim Biscailuz and Gina Fong met with the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) and with the Attorney General's representative. The Attorney General is in support of taking the lead agency role and expanding the task force into San Diego, Fresno and the Bay Area provided there is adequate funding.
 - Senator Cathleen Galgiani and Senator Atkins are both interested in authoring the TRaCE Legislative Bill.
 - There is a follow-up meeting scheduled for January 10, 2018 to discuss adequate funding based on the current model and the dollar amount for each Region.
- Outreach & Training Opportunities
 - Investigative Consultants (IC) – Kris Buckner

- Shawn Collins, Gina Fong, and Susan Gorsuch met with Kris Buckner of Investigative Consultants. Kris Buckner receives leads on cigarette/tobacco related criminal activity and he would like to provide those leads to TRaCE. Kris suggested forming a Tobacco Workgroup to meet quarterly. Kris suggested including the local LAPD and LASO as workgroup participants for cigarette/tobacco investigations. Kris' concern is the logistics since TRaCE doesn't have a presence at the border. Discussion surrounded the AG's potential legislation to expand TRaCE into San Diego.
- Next meeting to be scheduled the second week of January
- South Bay Piping Industry – Labor
 - Susan Gorsuch and Arlena Mitrovic presented the TRaCE Model at the South Bay Piping Conference. As a result of their presentation, they have received two leads.
- UL Law Enforcement Training
 - Susan Gorsuch and Gina Fong were invited to the UL Laboratory in Fremont to provide information on the TRaCE Model at UL's Law Enforcement Training. Many brands and bay area law enforcement personnel were present. The CAPE Team attended the training and provided an opportunity to partner with them on an active investigation. The lead was forwarded to Shawn Collins, LA TRaCE Commander. As a result of the training, LA TRaCE in partnership with the CAPE Team, served three search warrants and assisted with the removal of counterfeit merchandise from our communities. NW3C IPR Law Enforcement Training, April 4, 2018 DOJ Commerce Office
 - DOJ will be hosting the training in Southern California on April 4, 2018. It will be free to Law Enforcement. TRaCE participating agencies encouraged to send staff to the training.
 - Jim Biscailuz will send an email regarding the training to the Executive Board.
 - Jim Biscailuz stated, if anyone is interested in hosting a Law Enforcement Training in Northern California, please let him know.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., at 621 Capitol Mall, Room 2114.

Open session meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m. by Jim Biscailuz, Chairman, TRaCE Executive Board.