



**Tax Recovery and Criminal Enforcement Task Force  
Los Angeles Regional Board Meeting  
LA CLEAR – Los Angeles Room  
5801 E Slauson Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040  
December 13, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Jim Biscailuz, Member Los Angeles TRaCE Regional Board

**Members Present:**

Darren Lian, Supervisory Special Agent, Proxy for Anthony Orlando, Special Agent in Charge, IRS CI  
Jim Biscailuz, Special Agent in Charge, DOJ  
Sal Randazzo, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI  
Robert Olesniewicz, Gema Gonzalez, Deputy Chief, FTB Investigations  
Marzo Sacasa, Southern Administrator, CDTFA Investigations  
Frank Waldschmitt, Chief, EDD Investigations (called-in tardy to the meeting)  
Vito Scattaglia, Deputy Chief, DMV Investigations  
Jeremy D. Scott, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DHS

**Members Absent:**

Vikram Mandla, Deputy Attorney General, DOJ  
Carlos Rojas, Chief of Police, Santa Ana Police Department

**Discussion Items:**

- **Introduced new TRaCE LA Commander, Shawn Collins, SAS, DOJ**  
Shawn provided a brief summary of his experience and areas of expertise. Shawn also conveyed his goals for the LA Task Force and priority is moving investigations into the prosecutorial phase in an efficient manner.
- **September 13, 2017 Minutes**
  - Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Jeremy Scott.
  - Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed**Resolved: Motion carried**
- **Election of Regional Board Chairman and Vice Chairman**  
Marzo Sacasa, CDTFA Investigations Administrator II, expressed interest in the Regional Chairman position. There was discussion amongst members to defer the election of the Vice Chairman while the TRaCE Expansion Legislation is pending.
  - Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve Marzo Sacasa as the Regional Board Chairman and to defer the election of the Vice Chairman. Motion seconded by Jeremy Scott.
  - Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed**Resolved: Motion carried**

- **TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement**
  - HSI received approval on the SLOT equipment reimbursement agreement. The agreement will be presented to the Executive Board for approval on December 20, 2017, during their bi-monthly meeting.
  - TRaCE will submit a justification for the equipment expenses and request reimbursement from HSI through the Slot Agreement. Upon approval by HSI, the equipment will be purchased utilizing the TRaCE SDF and then the TRaCE SDF will receive full reimbursement from the HSI Slot Agreement. Jim Biscailuz requested information on the K9 reimbursements. Jeremy Scott agreed to look into the reimbursements available through the SLOT agreement.
  
- **Federal BJA/IPR Grants**
  - Interagency agreements for reimbursement need to be completed by DMV, EDD and CDTFA
  - Reimbursement through DOJ may be opened to other agencies also. Reporting requirements would be through DOJ and would not be retroactive.
  - DOJ will monitor the grant
    - Agencies will pay the overtime to their employee and submit standard state reimbursement forms to DOJ for reimbursement of overtime previously paid.
    - Issues regarding the interpretation of the grant funding. Clarification was provided by Jim Biscailuz that the grant only covered overtime expenses. No other expenses are to be reimbursed pursuant to the grant.
  
- **Status Reports**
  - Handout was provided of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Accomplishments Report
  - DOJ Legislation Initiative to Acquire Funding for TRaCE and it's 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.
  - 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
  - Prop 56 Positions & Status on Hiring
    - Gina Fong stated CDTFA will be hiring two Investigator positions to work tobacco related investigations. These two positions will be placed on TRaCE to work with the DOJ Agents that are hired pursuant to Prop. 56 funding to work tobacco related cases jointly.
    - 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.

- **Outreach**

- NW3C IPR Law Enforcement Training, April 4, 2018 DOJ Commerce Office.
  - TRaCE Representatives will be attending the NW3C Conference and will present the TRaCE Enforcement Model at the conference. Breakout sessions for managers may be of interest along with topics on Cigarette/Tobacco Smuggling Tactics used by these trades. Also, Trafficking on Highways by the CHP.
- 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.
- Underwriter Laboratories
  - 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.
- 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. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to discuss protocols, forwarding leads, and joint investigations.

The Open Session meeting adjourned at 10:54 am by Marzo Sacasa, Chairman Los Angeles TRaCE Regional Board.

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 10:00 am at LA CLEAR in the city of Commerce unless deferred until March 14, 2018.