



Tax Recovery and Criminal Enforcement Task Force
Los Angeles Regional Board Meeting
LA CLEAR – Los Angeles Room
5801 E Slauson Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040
July 12, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Jim Biscailuz, Vice-chair, 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
 LJ Connolly, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI
 Gema Gonzalez, Deputy Chief, FTB Investigations
 Marzo Sacasa, Southern Administrator, CDTFA* Investigations
 Jeremy D. Scott, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DHS
 Frank Waldschmitt, Chief, EDD Investigations
 Vito Scattaglia, Deputy Chief, DMV Investigations

Members Absent:

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

Discussion Items:

- **May 10, 2017 Minutes**
 - Marzo Sacasa motioned to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Jeremy Scott.
 - Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
 - Resolved: Motion carried**
- **Election of Regional Board Vice Chairman**

Marzo Sacasa expressed interest in the Vice Chairman position

 - Jim Biscailuz motioned to confirm Marzo Sacasa as Vice-chair. Motion seconded by LJConnolly.
 - Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
 - Resolved: Motion carried**
- **Election of Regional Board Chairman**

L J Connolly expressed interest in the Chairman position

 - Jim Biscailuz motioned to confirm LJ Connolly as Chair. Motion seconded by Marzo Sacasa.
 - Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
 - Resolved: Motion carried**

**Note: California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) was formerly BOE.*

- **TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement**
 - TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement is a reimbursement agreement that is used to specifically fund equipment, fuel and other similar cost on cases relating to joint HSI-TRaCE operations.
 - Nor Cal TRaCE currently has a Slot Agreement with HSI; a template of that agreement was given to Jeremy Scott, HSI.
 - Jeremy Scott will utilize the template to replicate the TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement in Los Angeles.
 - TRaCE would expend funds from the SDF and be reimbursed from HSI through the TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement.
 - The Process for the TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement is as follows:
 - TRaCE Task Force Commander will communicate with the HSI Supervisor regarding the expenditure via email or phone and seek approval for the expenditure. Upon approval from the Board, the purchase will be made and the invoice for the expenditure will be submitted to HSI and HSI will initiate the reimbursement for the expenditure.

- **Consolidation of Regions for TRaCE/DOJ Annual Report**
 - The suggestion has been made to have the DOJ mandated Annual Report, due in March of each year, consolidated into one report for the entire task force.
 - The consolidated annual report would be collaborative amongst the commanders of each task force.
 - A draft would be sent, via email, to the regional and executive boards for consensus of the contents and statistics for publication.
 - The next Annual Report is scheduled for March 2018.

- **Metrics**
 - Discussion regarding the approved metric/statistics. The board needs to come to a consensus on what is considered to be a “TRaCE case”.
 - The AG rep noted that with DAGs prosecuting on both task forces, all cases involving them are considered TRaCE cases.
 - Statistics must be accurate. The DOJ Metrics and Repository are used.
 - Agencies are concerned about double counting.

- **Federal BJA/IPR Grants**
 - DOJ is currently working on the interagency reimbursement agreements for the state agencies on the task force.
 - Agencies will pay their employee for the overtime incurred and will submit the appropriate documents to receive reimbursement from the grants fund via DOJ.

- **Investigating Cases as Multi-Agency (capturing the totality of the crime)**
 - All agencies signed an MOU and have made a commitment. There is an issue that cases (multi-agency) have been left out of the TRaCE model. If two or more agencies are involved, the case should be brought in (unless a good reason exists not to). Mid-level managers must be encouraged to collaborate on these cases and bring them in.

- **Status Reports**

- LA Task Force Commander, Rigo Garcia, has been promoted to Special Agent in Charge with LA IMPACT. There is one DOJ agent currently assigned to LA TRaCE who is on hand working several cases; he is not available to be Acting Task Force Commander.
- Gina Fong and Nor Cal TRaCE Task Force Commander Susan Gorsuch have been invited to present at the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) 3-day conference in Richmond, Virginia.
- Nor Cal TRaCE along with HSI has assisted with the Attorney General's Office PACT Act team at the San Francisco International Mail Center with the eradication of tobacco by mail.
- Legislative proposal has no current updates. 2Qtr17 Accomplishment hand-out was provided.

The Open Session meeting adjourned at 11:00 am by Jim Biscailuz, Vice-chair, Los Angeles TRaCE Regional Board.

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 10:00 am at LA CLEAR in the city of Commerce.