



Tax Recovery and Criminal Enforcement Task Force
Los Angeles Regional Board Meeting
12501 E Imperial Highway, Ste. 300, Norwalk, CA 90650
March 08, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Anthony Orlando, Chairman, TRaCE Regional Board

Members Present:

Anthony Orlando, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS CI
Jim Biscailuz, Special Agent in Charge, DOJ
Vikram Mandla, Deputy Attorney General, DOJ
Gema Gonzalez, Deputy Chief, FTB Investigations
Marzo Sacasa, Southern Administrator, BOE Investigations
Vito Scattaglia, Deputy Chief, DMV Investigations
Carlos Rojas, Chief of Police, Santa Ana Police Department

Members Absent:

Frank Waldschmitt, Chief, EDD Investigations
LJ Connolly, SSA, FBI
Jeremy D. Scott, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DHS

Discussion Items:

- **January 11, 2017 Minutes**
 - Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve minutes. Motion was seconded by Marzo Sacasa.
 - Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed
 - Resolved: Motion carried**

- **Bylaws (handout)**
 - Bylaw verbiage was updated to reflect changes in the operation of the TRaCE Task Force. The draft changes were submitted in a handout to the TRaCE Regional Board for decision and/or recommendation. Particular attention to three items: 1) requirement for board members to attend at least 50% of the scheduled board meetings in person, 2) the date in which elections for the Chair and Vice Chair should take place, and 3) if general grammatical edits are acceptable as presented. Based on discussion, the following recommendations will be made to the TRaCE Executive Board:

- **Amend Bylaws to reflect annual voting for Chair/Vice Chair at the first meeting of each fiscal year.**
 - Marzo Sacasa motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Gema Gonzalez.
 - Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed
 - Resolved: Motion carried**

- **In the event the Chairman or Vice-Chairman are not able to continue to fulfill their position, a vote for a replacement will be taken at the first meeting after the position is vacated.**

- Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Carlos Rojas.
- Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

- **Requirement for board members to attend at least 50% of the scheduled board meetings.**

- Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Carlos Rojas.
- Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

- **Accept the increase of operational expense funding to \$1,000 and approval of the \$100 limit for personal expense reimbursement(s) to and by the Task Force Commander.**

- Gema Gonzalez motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Jim Biscailuz.
- Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

- **Accept the remaining amendments/edits of the Bylaws for TRaCE.**

- Carlos Rojas motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Gema Gonzalez.
- Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

- **Status Reports**

- Outreach
 - Gina Fong and Susan Gorsuch attended the Investigative Consultants Brand Summit in Cerritos, CA. Here, various brands meet and interact with law enforcement to develop best practices and strategies when investigating and/or on the prosecution of Intellectual Property cases.
- LAX International Mail Center Tour
 - The purpose of the tour is to look at how mail enters the International Mail Center and how it is processed. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is leading an effort to address cigarette/tobacco being mailed through the United States Postal Service, which is illegal. The DOJ lead for this project is coordinating a multi-state effort with California and eighteen (18) other states to determine the quantity of mailings of cigarettes and other tobacco products. A mail center tour is confirmed for March 16, 2017 in the LA area. A pre-pull to be completed by Customs Border Patrol (CBP), (number of days to be determined).
- Yearly Executive/Regional Boards and Task Force Agents Meeting
 - Consideration and discussion as to whether the recent one day training was sufficient. Next year's meeting is scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, CA. Because each participating agency finances their personnel for this meeting, costs associated with lodging and per diem should be considered and further discussion is needed due to budgetary constraints. Therefore, the timing of the event may be an issue. Discussion concluded and the board consensus was that there was a preference for the next joint Regional/Executive Board Meeting to occur between the months of April through June 2018. The value of bringing both Task Forces together includes walking away with ideas that are beneficial amongst garnering , uniformity, consistency and efficiency between the two task forces.
 - Ideas for topics on the next Regional/Executive Board Meeting include: 1) Full case studies, 2) Potential Two-day event, and 3) Different industry presentations, i.e. LA County Sheriff's IPR Group, Investigative Consultants, Brand Security, MPAA, Altria, etc.

- Southern California meeting options were considered. Venue for the meeting could be at the Department of Justice (DOJ) Commerce office. An additional note, BOE Board Member, Jerome Horton, drafted Legislation AB963. Within the legislative amendment, through RRACE, TRaCE is designated as the Cannabis Criminal Enforcement Team (CCET). TRaCE has been approached for a preliminary costing for personnel costs associated with the proposed CCET.

The Open Session meeting adjourned at 10:59 am by Anthony Orlando, Chairman, Los Angeles Regional TRaCE Executive Board.

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 10:00 am at 12501 E. Imperial Highway, Ste. 300, Room 317, Norwalk, CA 90650.

11:50 am, Open Session was reconvened to discuss and acknowledge the existence of the Cost of Investigative (COI) Account which was established at Wells Fargo Bank in January 2014 pursuant to the TRaCE MOU. The Regional Board acknowledged and approved the establishment of the COI Account and its use in conjunction with the MOU and the Expenditure Guidelines as referenced in the August 19, 2015 minutes of the Executive Board.

- **Approve the establishment of the COI Account and to accept the use of the COI Account as stated in the August 19, 2015 minutes and MOU.**
 - Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Marzo Sacasa.
 - Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed**Resolved: Motion carried**

The Open Session meeting re-adjourned at 11:54 am by Anthony Orlando, Chairman, Los Angeles Regional TRaCE Executive Board.