



Tax Recovery and Criminal Enforcement Task Force
Los Angeles Regional Board Meeting
12501 E Imperial Highway, Ste. 300, Norwalk, CA 90650
March 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Marzo Sacasa, Chairman, Los Angeles TRaCE Regional Board

Members Present:

Marzo Sacasa, Southern Administrator, CDTFA Investigations
Jim Biscailuz, Special Agent in Charge, DOJ
Vikram Mandla, Deputy Attorney General, DOJ
Jeremy D. Scott, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, DHS
Vito Scattaglia, Deputy Chief, DMV Investigations
Sal Randazzo, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI
Zsuzsanna Abeln, Deputy Chief, FTB Investigations

Members Absent:

Maura Krajewski, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS CI
Frank Waldschmitt, Chief, EDD Investigations

Discussion Items:

- **December 13, 2017 Minutes (handout)**
 - Jim Biscailuz motioned to approve minutes. Motion was seconded by Vikram Mandla.
 - Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

- **4th Quarter Accomplishments (handout)**
 - Meetings/Presentations for Business Organizations, Law Enforcement/Government
 - Upcoming meetings scheduled in April and May 2018

- **LA TRaCE HSI Slot Agreement (handout)**

K9 Cage, Mount & Accessories

 - Jim Biscailuz and Jeremy Scott have worked tirelessly to get the agreement approved. The agreement includes reimbursement for certain equipment, training, travel, etc. when working joint operations with HSI. This includes expenses related to the usage of the tobacco dog for IPR/Tobacco related investigations.
 - Reimbursements will be made via ACH fund transfer to the existing DOJ Special Deposit Fund (SDF) account.

- **RRaCE Final Report (handout)**
 - DIR is in charge of coordination of efforts under AB576. DIR will be circulating the draft report for confirmation on the details/accuracy of the information. The report will be submitted to legislature. RRaCE legislation sunset date is 01-01-19. RRaCE carries no operational enforcement, therefore TRaCE was formed pursuant to MOU.

- **TRaCE Federal BJA IPR Grant**
Interagency Agreements Still Pending
 - The MOU's are still pending. EDD has signed but has questions regarding reimbursement of facilities and etc. ; CDTFA and FTB signatures are pending. DMV opted out.

- **Prop 56 Positions & Status on Hiring**
 - CDTFA acquired 4 Investigator positions pursuant to Prop. 56 funding. Three (3) will be used for Southern California cigarette/tobacco investigations and one (1) will be used up North for cigarette/tobacco investigations. There will be one position with Prop. 56 funding for Northern California TRaCE and two (2) positions for Southern California TRaCE.. CDTFA ID -Southern California has made to two agent selections which may take 6-7 weeks for final hiring approval. One additional hire by Southern and one for Northern to follow.
 - Four (4) Special Agent positions for DOJ. Two for Los Angeles and two for Northern TRaCE. Jim Biscailuz indicated the plan is to have the two DOJ agents work with 2 CDTFA investigators on cigarette/tobacco related investigations while on TRaCE. One of the DOJ positions has been assigned as canine agent. Thirty applications have already been received. Interviews are forthcoming.
 - Three (3) additional positions, under DOJ's Legal Attorney, will include two (2) investigative auditors and one (1) legal analyst.
 - The goal is to be fully staffed by May 01, 2018. No Prop 56 funding for support staff. For now there is a vacant SSA position in CDTFA Northern office which will be filled. The CDTFA staff assigned to TRaCE will be supervised day to day under the DOJ Commander for TRaCE, however, supervision still resides with their hiring department.

- **DOJ Legislation Initiative**
Senator Galgiani
Jose Mejia, International Laborers' International Union of North America
 - Senator Galgiani and Jose Mejia attended the TRaCE Executive Board meeting on February 21, 2018. The Senator is authoring the legislations and the International Laborers' has publicly endorsed legislation to expand TRaCE.

- **Outreach & Training Opportunities**
 - **IQPC 20th Annual Anti-Counterfeiting & Brand Protection**
 - Primarily attorneys attending. TRaCE invited to attend.
 - **NW3C IPR Law Enforcement Training, April 04, 2018, DOJ Commerce Office**
 - Law Enforcement training filled quickly. Another training event is tentatively being discussed. The Executive and Regional Board's will be notified if the additional training opportunity is confirmed. **Sacasa recommended adjourning open session and moving to closed session.**
 - Jeremy Scott motioned to move to closed. Motion was seconded by Jim Biscailuz
 - Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Resolved: Motion carried

The Open Session meeting adjourned at 10:29 am by Marzo Sacasa, Chairman, Los Angeles TRaCE Regional Board.

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 09, 2018, 10:00 am at CDTFA Investigations Division, in the city of Norwalk