

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John Tavaglione

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Job Partnership Act Canada (JPAC)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors directs:

1. That the County of Riverside enter into a bi-lateral cooperative agreement with the Cities of Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada for the purpose of assisting displaced construction trade workers finding employment; and
2. That the County of Riverside enter into bi-lateral cooperative agreements with the Canada California and Canada Nevada Business Councils for the purpose of assisting displaced construction workers finding employment; and
3. That the Economic Development Agency, Office of Foreign Trade, continue to be designated as the lead negotiating party on behalf of the County for the purpose of completing these negotiations and is authorized to enter into a bi-lateral agreement with these parties; and
4. That the Economic Development Agency, Office of Foreign Trade, continue to negotiate with Provinces in Canada, in cooperation with the Canada California and Canada Nevada Business Councils, for the purpose of positioning the County of Riverside and the communities of Southern Nevada to assist Canada in securing qualified and certified construction trade workers from this region and the two Nevada communities; and
5. That said agreement be executed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and members of the Board of Supervisors at a time and place mutually agreeable by all signatories.

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John Tavaglione
Supervisor, Second District

BACKGROUND CONTINUED:

On February 11, 2012 The Chairman of the Board, Vice Chairman of the Board, and 3rd District Supervisor signed a cooperative agreement with the Canada California Business Council (CCBC). The purpose of the agreement was to promote Riverside County as a destination for trade, investment, and tourism with Canada. One day later Canadian, CCBC and county trade officials met in Palm Springs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the massive construction trades job shortages in Canada and how Riverside County might be able to assist. Since that initial meeting it became clear that this region alone could not identify enough construction trade professionals to meet that need. We then began working with the CCBC outreach to include the Canada Nevada Business Council. The Great Recession has hit both Southern Nevada and Riverside County construction trade workers extremely hard and it was decided the two regions could cooperate, rather than compete, in assisting our trades men find work in Canada. The multi-national negotiations included establishing prevailing wage rates, benefits, travel, and training requirements. We also worked on the U.S. Canada Tax Treaty, and establishing plans for JPAC career days in two states. JPAC will feature opportunities for unionized and non-unionized workers alike who are interested in working in Canada on numerous legacy construction projects in various provinces. This voluntary employment opportunity could provide jobs for up to 45,000 construction workers. Finding employment for these highly-skilled professionals benefits themselves, their families, our respective communities and both countries.