

Commission of the Californias meets to review California's electric vehicle regulatory mandate and cross-border impacts

Contact:

Diana Rodríguez, IOA Director of Communications, droduro@iamericas.org
Catheryn Camacho Bolanos, Associate Director: ccamachobolanos@ucsd.edu



[September 14, 2022] La Jolla, California – Senior policymakers from the States of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur met today at the first meeting of the **Commission of the Californias (COMCAL)** since its re-establishment in December 2019. Co-hosted by the **Institute of the Americas (IOA)** and the **UC San Diego Center for US-Mexico Studies**, officials at this tri-state meeting discussed the need for expanded binational

cooperation to address emerging cross-border issues, including barriers and opportunities associated with the California Air Resources Board's recently approved Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII) regulatory mandate.

Approved on August 25, 2022, ACCII will require that 100% of all passenger cars and trucks (buses and drayage trucks) sold in the state would be zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) by the year 2035. Also, by 2045 all medium and heavy-duty vehicles sold in California would also be ZEV where feasible.

The tri-state officials discussed the impacts of ACCII and where expanded cooperation could mitigate challenges in implementation, including ZEV infrastructure for cross border trade and tourism; environmental protection; environmental health, disaster management, and emergency planning and response; and workforce development.

“As the lead office responsible for organizing COMCAL activities, GO-Biz is thrilled to partner with IOA and the UC San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies - two premier institutions- to successfully hold the first, in-person COMCAL meeting since Governor Newsom re-established the commission,” said **GO-Biz Director and Senior Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom, Dee Dee Myers**. “COMCAL is a critically important forum to share information on common challenges, and to discuss collective solutions to address them. Today’s meetings with our colleagues from Baja California and Baja California Sur allowed us to do that and, importantly, helped us foster more productive, long-term relationships with our Mexican partners.”



According to **Marina del Pilar Ávila Olmeda, Governor of Baja California**, “Faced with the major challenges that climate change brings, our tri-state region has an unprecedented opportunity to promote a collective zero emissions vehicle transition strategy, taking advantage of the fact that California is the great innovator and world leader in the field.” Governor Ávila Olmeda further noted, “it is time for us to transcend short-term thinking and start building a shared binational and economic agenda over the medium and distant future so that together we can build the Californias of tomorrow.”

Victor Castro Cosío, the Governor of the State of Baja California Sur, highlighted that his state is committed to extending their helping hand, fraternally building communities where peace, mutual aid and love prevail. Governor Castro Cosío further noted, “as we work to helping each other, we should also respect each other as nations and sovereign states.”



To help facilitate dialogue among the tri-state policymakers, IOA, the Center for US-Mexico Studies, San Diego State University’s Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, and the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur published an issue paper in English and Spanish entitled, [Advanced Clean Cars II \(ACCII\) Rule: An Assessment of Economic Opportunities & Cross-Border Impacts in the Las Californias Region](#).

About the Commission of the Californias (COMCAL):

Established in 1964 by the States of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur, COMCAL had until 2001 served as a forum to share information concerning common cross-border challenges on a tri-state basis. Over the years, the states have come together to develop collective solutions to address issues ranging from economic development and tourism, transportation and infrastructure, emergency preparedness and response, environment and energy, agriculture, and public health. In December 2019, the Commission was resurrected with the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) by California Governor Gavin Newsom, former Baja California Governor Jaime Bonilla Valdez, and Baja California Sur Governor Carlos Mendoza Davis; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has precluded in-person tri-state meetings until now.

About the Institute of the Americas:

Established in 1981, the Institute of the Americas is an independent, nonpartisan Inter-American institution, co-located on the UC San Diego campus in La Jolla, California, devoted to encouraging social and economic reform in the Americas, broadening communication and strengthening political and economic relations between Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, and Canada. <https://iamericas.org/>

About the UC San Diego Center for US-Mexican Studies:

The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies is based at UC San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) and is a policy research institute. Since 1979, it has been a go-to source for serious academic research on Mexico and U.S.-Mexico relations, informing the creation, implementation and evaluation of public policy. <https://usmex.ucsd.edu/>

About GO-Biz:

The Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) serves as the State of California’s leader for job growth and economic development efforts. GO-Biz offers a range of services to business owners including: attraction, retention and expansion services, site selection, permit streamlining, clearing of regulatory hurdles, small business assistance, international trade development, assistance with state government, and much more. For more information visit the [GO-Biz website](#).