



# Board of Supervisors COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** March 19, 2019

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Julieta Martinez PHONE: 559.636.5000

**SUBJECT:** Letter in Support of United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement
2. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign onto the attached Letter in Support of the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement.

**SUMMARY:**

On February 19, 2019, several California County Supervisors held a conference call with Deputy United States Trade Representative C.J. Mahoney. C.J. Mahoney serves as the Deputy United States Trade Representative for Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere. Ambassador Mahoney was confirmed by the Senate on March 1, 2018.

The call was to discuss the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA). According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the United States has reached an agreement with Mexico and Canada in the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) is considered to be a mutual win for North American workers, farmers, ranchers and businesses.

Highlights of the agreement include improved rules of origin for automobiles, trucks and other products; modernizing and strengthening food and agriculture trade in North America; new protections for U.S. intellectual property; and new chapters covering Digital Trade, Anticorruption and Good Regulatory Practices.

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Support for Trade Agreement

**DATE:** March 19, 2019

After the discussion, Kings County staff was directed to draft and circulate a letter to the various California counties. The request was made to have each County Board of Supervisors review and take a support position on the letter. The request today is to authorize the Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to sign on to the letter in support of USMCA.

The following is a list of counties that participated in the call and are considering support for the USMCA: Fresno County, Imperial County, Kings County, Madera County, Merced County, Modoc County, San Luis Obispo County, Tehama County, Kern County, Mendocino County, Stanislaus County, Ventura County, and other County representatives.

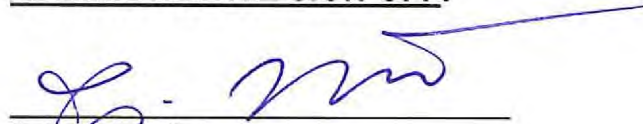
**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

N/A

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's Strategic Plan includes the four initiatives of 1) Safety and Security, 2) Economic Well-Being, 3) Quality of Life, 4) Organizational Performance. The letter in support of the USMCA addresses all of these initiatives.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julieta Martinez  
Chief of Staff

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Draft Letter of Support

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES MEXICO CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT	) ) ) ) )	Resolution No. _____ Agreement No. _____
--	-----------------------	---

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_,      SECONDED      BY  
SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

1. Supported the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement
2. Authorized the Chairman of the Board to sign on to a Letter in Support of the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement.



Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned counties in California are pleased to lend support to the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA). California leads the country in agricultural exports, with 28% of the commodities produced entering the global market at a value of over \$20 billion dollars. California produces over 99% of the almonds, artichokes, dates, dried plums, figs, garlic, kiwifruit, olives, olive oil, raisins, table grapes, and walnuts that are exported from the United States.

Agriculture is a major economic driver in California and has a strong presence state wide, taking full advantage of the microclimates that are unique to our state. We are also located closely to Mexico and Canada. In 2017 both countries were in the top five countries California agricultural products were exported to, at a value of \$3.3 billion and \$1 billion respectively. These relationships are particularly important to small agricultural communities throughout the state that rely on agricultural exports to sustain the local economy.

Recently, loosely drafted principles within NAFTA and other trade pacts along with the use of phytosanitary and tariff based protectionist policies have left California at a competitive disadvantage in the global market.

We appreciate the Administration's efforts to assist the agricultural industry in California. Our growers continue to provide the safest and most reliable supply of food and fiber in the world and do so with the highest production costs and highest regulatory standards. Through aggressive investment and implementation of cutting edge technology we have created a significant economic driver for our local and global economy. Our growers need free and fair trade and encourage the timely approval and implementation of the USMCA.

Sincerely,

Cc:

California Congressional Members

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Kamala Harris