



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)  
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)  
Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

24 August 2016

Louise Métivier  
Assistant Deputy Minister

Enrique Lendo Fuentes  
Titular de la Unidad Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales

Jane Nishida  
Acting Assistant Administrator

Dear Alternate Representatives:

This letter is to follow-up on the positive discussions held in April 2016 during the Alt Rep session in Cuernavaca, Mexico. I believe it was a productive and informative meeting with a dynamic dialogue that will ultimately support all of our work in advancing the strategic priorities outlined in the 2015–2020 CEC Strategic Plan. Thank you for inviting me to participate.

As mentioned during the meeting, JPAC is working on three themes that fall within the scope of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation and the current work plan and strategic plan. They are: Biodiversity and Climate Change, Clean Energy Cooperation in North America: Needs and Solutions, and Greening North America's Trade.

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on your kind offer to share these themes within your departments and corresponding agencies, and open up the opportunity for your governments to send us in advance of our next JPAC sessions, questions or comments on what you would like to learn from the public on these topics. The goal of this exercise is to focus our advice and input from the public and subject matter experts from the private sector, academia, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders and continue to create a space for open dialogue among government and its citizens.

It is interesting to note that consistently over the past 20 years, JPAC's advice and input from the public has been an 'early warning' system that alerts governments to public concerns, and future areas where high-level cooperation and attention is needed. On behalf of JPAC, I would like to reiterate our belief that our role is to facilitate a constructive dialogue with the public to ensure transparency in the activities of the CEC and provide relevant, focused advice to support you in your current and future joint environmental cooperation objectives.

For your reference, enclosed with this letter is a brief description of each event along with pertinent details on the themes as well as deadlines for questions to be submitted. We will also be reaching out to the TEK Roster of Experts to inform them of the session themes and areas of potential collaboration. Any comments or questions can be directed to Marcela Orozco at [morozco@cec.org](mailto:morozco@cec.org) or (514) 350-4305.



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We hope you and your colleagues will receive this letter in the spirit it is intended and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Lindsay Brumwell  
2016 JPAC Chair

cc: CEC Alternate Representatives  
César Rafael Chávez, CEC Executive Director  
JPAC members  
CEC General Standing Committee  
Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer



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## Appendix

### 2016 JPAC Sessions and Themes

#### **JPAC Regular Session 16-01 – Biodiversity and Climate Change**

**8-9 September 2016**

**Mérida, Yucatán, México**

Biodiversity and climate change are intricately connected. This relationship is recognized in several international initiatives, including the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the agenda for this year's Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13). These international efforts acknowledge the many ways biodiversity contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation: functioning as natural carbon sinks, providing human health benefits, and contributing to coastal protection and disaster risk reduction.

Climate change can also adversely affect biodiversity in many ways. Experts from around the world expect that climate change will degrade ecosystems, shift migratory patterns and ranges of plants and animals—including those of invasive species, disrupt ecosystem services, alter the synchronicity of key ecological processes, and increase exposure to pathogens and diseases.

This JPAC public forum will look at the impacts of climate change on biodiversity from an environmental and economic perspective. Participants convening in-person and via webcast will also consider the vital contribution biodiversity makes to climate change mitigation and adaptation. They will also have the opportunity to discuss ecosystem-based adaptation solutions.

#### **JPAC Regular Session 16-02 - Clean Energy Cooperation in North America: Needs and Solutions**

**7-8 November 2016**

**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

***Deadline for questions: October 18, 2016***

Reenergized by the recent Leaders' Statement on a North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the three NAFTA countries, this JPAC session will examine how to accelerate widespread sustainable and low-carbon energy solutions as part of addressing climate change and energy security, which includes innovation in energy reduction, conservation and deployment.



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Many consumers have already saved large amounts of energy by recycling and by purchasing recycled materials as well as upgrading to energy efficient appliances and cars. But what's next? Or better yet... what else is needed? This session looks to create a dialogue with the public and industry to gather their perspectives and input on how to:

- Speed up the adoption and integration of existing sustainable clean technologies and energy conservation solutions by the general public
- Address transparency in the clean energy sector and capacity building at local and regional levels for low-carbon energy production, transmission and use.

JPAC hopes to gather public and industry guidance to address these questions and identify some potential solutions that create new opportunities for clean energy and conservation implementation that is applicable for both individuals and governments.

### **JPAC Regular Session 16-03 – Greening North America's Trade**

**12-13 December 2016**

**Los Angeles, California, United States**

***Deadline for questions: November 17, 2016***

The movement of goods occurs daily and globally. Several modes of transportation are utilized to get essential goods to consumers around the world – massive ocean-going vessels, cargo planes, railways, and heavy-duty trucks. In North America, the goods movement system runs north and south, east and west. These various modes of transportation are necessary for the movement of goods, but they also have impacts on air quality, water quality and human health.

The North American Ministers recently reiterated their support of implementing green freight practices and reducing maritime shipping emissions. This session will leverage this continued commitment to facilitate economic growth while lowering emissions in the long-term. Building on past and current CEC projects, the session will identify lessons learned and examines highlight best practices by North American Ports. For example, the Clean Air Action Plan impacting both the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach; the new State of California's Sustainable Freight Action Plan; the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy; and Port of Vancouver's EcoAction commercial incentive program; and cruise industry initiatives at adapting to the ECA along the west coast; among others.

Participants in this session will be invited to review these programs implemented by Port Authorities, government agencies, and industry and to offer input on how and where these all of these programs and technologies might result in similar reductions and the move toward 'greener' trade throughout North America.