

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Department of Corporations  
Department of Financial Institutions  
California Highway Patrol  
California Housing Finance Agency  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
Department of Managed Health Care  
Department of Motor Vehicles



**DALE E. BONNER**  
Secretary

Office of the Patient Advocate  
Department of Real Estate  
Office of Real Estate Appraisers  
Office of Traffic Safety  
Department of Transportation  
California Film Commission  
California Office of Tourism  
Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank

## **BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Border Governors Conference Council of Economic Advisors Holds Inaugural Meeting at 2008 Conference**

*Economic Development Worktable Convenes/Discusses Economic Potential of the Border Region*

Today the 2008 Border Governors Conference Economic Development Worktable held a meeting where representatives from all the participating Border States exchanged valuable information about continuing to grow the third largest economic region in the world.

Prior to today's gathering the Economic Development Worktable, chaired by California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Dale E. Bonner, urged the creation of a Council of Economic Advisors who held their first formal meeting earlier this week at the Conference.

"California is honored to host the first meeting of the Council of Economic Advisors," Bonner said. "This Council will help to guide economic development in a region that is vitally important to the success of the state and nation's economy."

The Council's role is to advise the Border Governors Conference on strengthening the region's competitive economic advantage and it will build upon the study of competitiveness and areas of opportunity highlighted in last year's [Joint Declaration](#).

Each Governor participating in the Conference appointed a representative to the Council for a three year term. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed George P. Shultz, who currently serves as Chairman of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, to the Border Governors Conference Council of Economic Advisors.

"Effective solutions require joint efforts such as this Border Governors Conference," said Shultz. "Many of the challenges facing our region transcend state and international borders. It is only by working together that we can leverage the true economic impact of this region."

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The Council, which will meet at the annual conference to advise the Conference on spurring economic development and growth within the U.S.-Mexico border region, will ultimately work collaboratively with a university in both the U.S. and Mexico to publish an annual report reflecting their findings and recommendations.

“We hope and expect the Council's work will underscore the urgency of California's historic efforts to rebuild and expand the state's infrastructure needed to accommodate increased international trade with Mexico and other countries around the world,” Secretary Bonner said.

California, Arizona, Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, New Mexico, Sonora, Tamaulipas and Texas make up the 10 Border States that participate in the Border Governors Conference. Copied below is the list of each state’s representative on the Council of Economic Advisors.

- **California:** Secretary George Shultz, Chairman of the California Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors
- **Arizona:** Joaquin Ruiz, Dean, College of Science, University of Arizona
- **Baja California:** Roberto Reyes, Undersecretary of Business Development
- **Chihuahua:** Alberto Salomon-Beyer, CEO, Impamerica
- **Coahuila:** Jorge Alanis Canales, Secretary of Economic Development
- **Nuevo Leon:** Alejandro Paez Aragon, Secretary of Economic Development
- **New Mexico:** Dr. Kelly O’Donnell, Superintendent of Regulation and Licensing
- **Sonora:** Luis Felipe Zelner, Co-founder, President and CEO of the Offshore Group
- **Tamaulipas:** Raul Rodriguez, Senior Economic Advisor
- **Texas:** David Cabrales, General Council, Office of the Governor

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