

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 17, 2015

For more information contact:

Guillermo Valencia

Phone: (520) 281-0672

Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority Elects New Board of Directors

NOGALES, Ariz. (Sept. 17, 2015) On Sept. 10 the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority (Port Authority) elected new officers for their board of directors. The Port Authority elected Guillermo Valencia as the new chairman, filling the shoes of outgoing chairman, Bruce Bracker. Valencia represents the Nogales U.S. Custom Brokers Association on the Port Authority board.

The remaining officer positions elected during the meeting include: the Honorable John Doyle as vice-chairman; Allison Moore from Fresh Produce Association of the Americas (FPAA) as secretary; and Bruce Bracker from Nogales Community Development as treasurer. The board meeting took place at the FPAA office with the participation of board members of the Port Authority as well as a few public officials.

"I join the rest of the Board of Directors in congratulating Guillermo 'Memo' Valencia as the new Chairman. He is in for an exciting ride! I have no doubt that his energy, vision and leadership will take the organization to new levels. I know Memo to be a passionate individual and a true believer that the best days for Nogales are still ahead. I look forward to working with him and helping to implement his vision for the Port Authority and for the Nogales of tomorrow," said Bracker.

Memo Valencia, owner of Valencia International, has more than 35 years of border business and logistics business. "My everyday life depends on the international nature of our community," he said.

"I would like to congratulate Bruce Bracker for his 3 years of service as the Chairman of the Port Authority. He has maintained the tradition of effective leadership and absolute commitment to making a better Nogales," said Valencia.

"I look forward to working with my fellow board members and our stakeholders to advance the agenda of the Port Authority. With an almost 11 year track record of success, the bar has been set very high by my predecessors, Bruce, JB Manson and Terry Shannon. My focus will be to build on the success of the PA as there is much at stake. I would like to invite our retail, tourism, manufacturing and produce sectors to join us in these efforts. With over \$26 billion of trade passing through our community we are a community of national significance. We need to take this message to decision makers in Phoenix and Washington, D.C.," added Valencia.

Understanding the importance of Nogales, the ports of entry, and their impact on the economy of not only the Arizona- Sonora region, but the whole Western U.S. is crucial when it comes to taking action on behalf of local, state and federal authorities on both sides of the border.

Elevating that understanding and promoting progress can be attributed in great part to the Port Authority whose mission is to strengthen the regional economy and infrastructure, promote international trade and spur tourism and community development by making the Nogales Port of Entry System the most efficient, effective and competitive that it can be.

“Our success remains our ability to focus and build consensus on key issues that impact our ports of entry and the quality of life for the residents of the region. The support from the Board of Directors and all of the stakeholder agencies was essential during my time as chairman,” said Bracker.

During his tenure he had the gratifying experience of participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Reconfiguration of the Mariposa port of entry, a consolidated effort of 10 year of work. However, while some results of the Port Authority’s efforts are clear, others are not as apparent, explained Bracker.

“There are many instances that go unheralded, such as the many meetings with key decision makers from Mexico and the United States that are essential. Without those meetings and other behind-the-scenes efforts, very little would get done. To date, close to \$300 million has been invested in Nogales as a direct result of the Port Authority’s efforts. The results of our efforts will have an impact for many generations to come,” said Bracker.

About the Port Authority

The Port Authority is an organization formed by key stakeholder groups from ambos Nogales looking to facilitate international trade and tourism by improving the conditions of the port entry system, job creation, economic development and quality of residents of the region.

Among those organizations are: the INDEX- Maquila Association of Nogales, Sonora, Economic Development Foundation, Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, Nogales Community Development Corporation, Nogales U.S. Custom Brokers Association, the City of Nogales, and Santa Cruz County.

The Port Authority also has several key ex-officio members, including: U.S. Customs and Border Protection-Office of Field Operations; U.S. Customs and Border Protection-Border Patrol; U.S. General Services Administration; Arizona Department of Transportation; Commercial Corridor Working Group; Consejo Empresarial de Nogales, Sonora; Municipality of Nogales, Sonora; Mexican Consulate General-Nogales, Arizona; U.S. Consulate General-Nogales, Sonora and Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call Guillermo Valencia at (520) 281-0672 or Bruce Bracker at (520) 331-7539.

###