



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2017

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## **VICE CHAIRMAN LEADS SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INVESTMENT AND TRADE DELEGATION MISSION TO CHINA**

Ontario, CA – San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency, led by Vice Chairman Hagman, in partnership Ontario International Airport Authority, embarked on a nine-day investment and trade delegation mission to China (February 16 thru February 25) where San Bernardino County signed two Sister City Memorandums of Understanding.

“These are the first ever formal partnerships between San Bernardino County and foreign governments in over 160 years of San Bernardino County history,” said Hagman. With the support of the Board of Supervisors, and respective cities, the parties made a joint effort to strengthen the respect, trust, understanding, and cooperation between people and businesses. “The opportunities as a result of this increased cooperation could lead to mutually beneficial outcomes for both parties in areas of job creation, technology, infrastructure development, logistics and manufacturing,” Hagman stated.

In addition to signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Wuxi, Jiangsu Province China and Taoyuan City, Taiwan, the delegation engaged in high-level meetings with government officials, businesses and airline executives to solidify relationships and to introduce investment opportunities that could lead to job creation in San Bernardino County. On the itinerary were strategically important cities of Shanghai, Wuxi and Nanjing in China; and Taoyuan in Taiwan.

The delegation, which consisted of Vice Chairman Hagman, Ontario International Airport CEO Kelly Fredericks, Economic Development Agency Manager Marissa Rivera and Vice Chairman’s Chief of Staff Katherine Kolcheva, participated in dialogue with more than 19 entities that could present San Bernardino County’s economy and businesses with growth opportunities.

“This mission was important for the purpose of developing stronger relationships and business to business partnerships between our regions,” noted Hagman. “I am encouraged by the outcome of the dialogue that took place and although no business deals were made, we came away with a wealth of information and partnerships that will enable our local businesses to grow and increase jobs.”

A large part of the mission also included the introduction of Ontario Airport to several overseas airports including: China Eastern, China Airlines, China Postal Airlines, Eva Airlines, Hainan Airlines and others. “Our delegation visited several high profile airports throughout the duration of our trip, where we had the opportunity to highlight San Bernardino County and invite airlines to make Ontario Airport a destination for international travelers,” stated Hagman.

Elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2014, Hagman played an important role in the return of Ontario International Airport to local control in 2015 and serves on the five-person Ontario International Airport Authority. As Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Hagman has moved to emphasize jobs and economic growth as his top policy priorities for San Bernardino County. Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Hagman served six years in the State Legislature in California’s 55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

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