Executive Order 2008-08

Governor's CANAMEX Task Force
(Continuing and Amending Executive Order 2001-05)

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2001-05 created the Governor's CANAMEX Task Force to help Arizona become part of an essential trade corridor between the United States, Mexico and Canada and to help the state capture the benefits of a trade corridor by accelerating economic activity throughout the corridor and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") created a preferential trade relationship between Canada, Mexico and the United States, and a key component of its successful implementation is the efficient flow of goods, services, people and information between participating nations; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's interests in promoting free trade and capturing its share of trade are well served by participating in the CANAMEX Corridor, a federally designated trade corridor linking western Mexico to western Canada through the states of Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Montana; and

WHEREAS, the CANAMEX Corridor was given "high priority designation" under the National Highway System Designation Act, and continues to have "high priority designation" in subsequent transportation acts; and

WHEREAS, the CANAMEX Corridor provides Arizona a framework for establishing a competitive global trade platform by working in partnership with the other states; and

WHEREAS, the realization of a dynamic Corridor requires the innovative use of technology, process and infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State, hereby order as follows:

1. The task force known as the Governor's CANAMEX Task Force ("Task Force") shall be continued and shall serve the purpose of coordinating statewide CANAMEX efforts and coordinating with other applicable states, provinces and nations in the development of the CANAMEX Corridor.

2. The Task Force shall assist the state in securing federal resources to improve the competitiveness of Arizona's ports of entry and meet the demands of increased international trade.

3. The Task Force shall be comprised of not more than 19 members, each to be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Governor shall appoint a chair annually on or about January 1.

4. The Task Force's members shall include:

   (a) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

   (b) State Agency Directors selected by the Governor, including the Directors of the Arizona Departments of Transportation and Commerce, the Arizona Office of Tourism, and the Director of the CANAMEX Project, or their designees;

   (c) One member of the Arizona-Mexico Commission Board of Directors;

   (d) At least five at-large members representing the business and academic communities and the general public;

   (e) Additional at-large members to the Task Force as deemed necessary and appropriate; and

   (f) Ex-officio members representing the business and academic communities as deemed necessary and appropriate.

   Except for the Governor, agency directors, and elected officials, no other members of the Task Force may send alternates to represent them at Task Force meetings.

5. The Task Force shall establish a steering committee and may establish additional committees as needed. All such committees shall be comprised of members of the Task Force and any additional ad hoc members appointed by the committees as may be needed.

6. The Task Force shall advise the Governor on all matters related to CANAMEX Corridor development and strategy for the State of Arizona. Specific goals and responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:

   (a) Consulting and collaborating with the U.S. and Mexican states and Canadian Provinces along the CANAMEX Corridor, with the goal of stimulating economic growth and enhancing the safety and efficiency of the CANAMEX Corridor through strategic investment in transportation, telecommunications and economic infrastructure.

   (b) Working with the Arizona Congressional delegation to identify funding sources for projects of strategic importance to the CANAMEX corridor's development.

   (c) Recommending strategies for transportation, ports of entry, commerce, communications, and border infrastructure alliances between the American and Mexican states and the Canadian province of Alberta.

   (d) Helping to position Arizona as a Gateway for Asian and International Trade, in cooperation with public and private sector entities.

(e) Identifying and soliciting financial support from the public and private sector throughout Arizona's portion of the CANAMEX Corridor; and

(f) Preparing an annual report of its activities to be submitted to the Governor no later than December 31st of each year. Copies of the report shall be distributed to the Secretary of State, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Director of Library, Archives & Public Records.

7. Recommendations for Executive Branch action made by the Task Force are subject to the approval of the Governor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this ___ day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE