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## PRESS RELEASE

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Secretary Matthew Rodriquez of the California Environmental Protection Agency and Chair Robert Weisenmiller of the California Energy Commission presented to a sold-out audience on June 5 on unprecedented cooperation agreements between California and China on Climate Change initiatives. Hosted by Bingham McCutchen in San Francisco, the Roundtable brought together representatives from the clean technology and energy industries, local governments and civil society. Secretary Rodriquez and Chair Weisenmiller started by noting what an enormous challenge and opportunity it is for California and China to cooperate on improving air quality for both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Several cooperation subjects were highlighted, especially pertaining to energy efficiency, low carbon development and other sustainable development efforts. Weisenmiller mentioned how some of California's regulatory structure can be adapted to China's structure on making the transition from coal. China is now looking at a cap on coal by 2017. He stressed that this is the right time to collaborate with both the national and provincial levels in China because, as he declared, "Climate is one of the defining challenges of our time."



Secretary Rodriquez highlighted how the cooperation on climate change and energy between California and China is a tremendous benefit to both economies. This provides opportunities for Chinese and American

businesses to work together, especially within the energy efficiency and cleantech sectors. The market potential in China is staggering and with the newly opened California-China Office of Trade and Investment in Shanghai (part of the Bay Area Council and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)), this will help bolster additional business opportunities on both sides.

California has entered into various Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on climate change with countries, such as Australia, Mexico and Israel. Secretary Rodriquez underscored that there has been concrete actions and follow-up since the signing of the MOUs to ensure that they become more than just "paper MOUs". In China, for example, such follow-up includes at least three delegation visits from California's Air Resource Board that have traveled to China to discuss air quality issues including PM2.5, as well as trips to California from China's Ministry of Environmental Protection. Secretary Rodriquez is amazed by the number of people in China who would approach him and would mention how California once had poor air quality, but figured out how to address its air pollution while still growing its economy. Secretary Rodriquez emphasized that when you see a willing partner who is interested in tackling these problems together, you can't back away.

Barbara Finamore, President of the China-U.S. Energy Efficiency Alliance, commented on the recent developing cooperation. "It is exciting to see the recent initiatives between California and

China to cooperate on targeting and reducing the sources of harmful air pollutants. The Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed between both parties in the past two years have created a solid working foundation for state agencies, businesses, civil society, and academia to collaborate on trade and investment initiatives while simultaneously addressing air pollution and climate change.”

Finamore is optimistic that there will be great opportunities for private sector and non-governmental organizations to be involved in some of the implementation plans. “Public-private partnerships should be an integral part of each plan”, Finamore remarked. “Organizations like the China-U.S. Energy Efficiency Alliance, which has been working with China on these issues for several years, can certainly help to accelerate progress on these cooperative initiatives.”

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