

Port of Long Beach:

FTZ 50 Workshop in Garden Grove, CA

Event Summary:

The concept of the FTZ 50 Workshop in Garden Grove, CA, was developed in response to an inquiry from the City of Garden Grove to the Port of Long Beach's (POLB) FTZ 50 group email address. POLB was receiving multiple FTZ inquiries from companies located in the Orange County/Garden Grove area, and it made sense to organize a workshop to educate the business and trade community on the benefits of the FTZ Program and provide resources at the event, resulting in a "one-stop shop." Interested parties can apply for FTZ designation or initiate the process by speaking with a representative from the Port of Long Beach.

Who was invited:

Email invitations were sent to local economic development agencies, importers, exporters, small businesses, and manufacturers.

Presenters:

Names Listed in Order of Program:

Port of Long Beach

- Mechelle Ngin, Business Development Manager

City of Garden Grove

- Stephanie Klopfenstein, Mayor

U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

- Richard M. Swanson Jr., Acting Director, Orange County, California
- E.J. Richardson, Commercial Officer

Export-Import Bank of the United States

- Paul Duncan, Regional Director, Western Region

California State University, Fullerton, Small Business Development Center and Global Trade Center

- Manal Richa, Center Director

U.S. Small Business Administration

- Marin Selander, Finance Manager
- Paul I. Smith, Economic Development Specialist and District International Trade Officer

Port of Long Beach

- Lilli Nihipali, Marketing Manager

ITC-Diligence International

- David Harlow, President and Chief Executive Officer

KRIEGER Worldwide

- Marquis Blanc, Vice President of Commercial Strategy

Tri-link, Inc. (FTZ 50 Operator)

- Stu Spikerman, President and Chief Executive Officer

What was the result of this event? Include how many people attended:

The event is scheduled for July 23, 2025. The results so far have been overwhelmingly positive, with strong support from our partner agencies and continued interest in the FTZ Program. We initially thought our attendees list would be around 50 people. We are at 57 RSVPs and are planning for 75 people. Additionally, Port of Long Beach is now planning a similar workshop in the other two counties in our FTZ 50 Service Area.

Anything additional you'd like to add or highlight?

The idea of an FTZ 50 Workshop originated from a general inquiry to our FTZ 50 email inbox, and it has since evolved into an annual "roadshow." We thank all our partner agencies and companies for their collaboration in making this happen.