

## NEWS BRIEF

### RUIZ ON FEDERAL PANEL:

Harbor Deputy Executive Director for External Affairs Cynthia Ruiz has been named to the Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness by Acting U.S. Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank. The Committee, comprised of 40 senior-level representatives of multiple industries and supply chain experts, will advise the Secretary, the U.S. Department of Transportation and other U.S. agencies on issues that affect the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses. The Committee held its first meeting at the U.S. Department of Commerce headquarters in Washington D.C. Oct. 19.

"It's a tremendous honor to represent the Port of Los Angeles on this new federal advisory committee," Ruiz said in a statement. "As the competitiveness of global trade intensifies, ensuring a regular flow of communication between Washington and U.S. supply chain stakeholders will be more important than ever."

The Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness will act as a liaison between industry and government, and is an important step toward ensuring regular contact with the supply chain industries, including manufacturers, distributors and exporters. The Committee's advice will also be useful in the development of a national freight policy and in executing the President's National Export Initiative, which aims to double U.S. exports by the end of 2014.



Cynthia Ruiz.

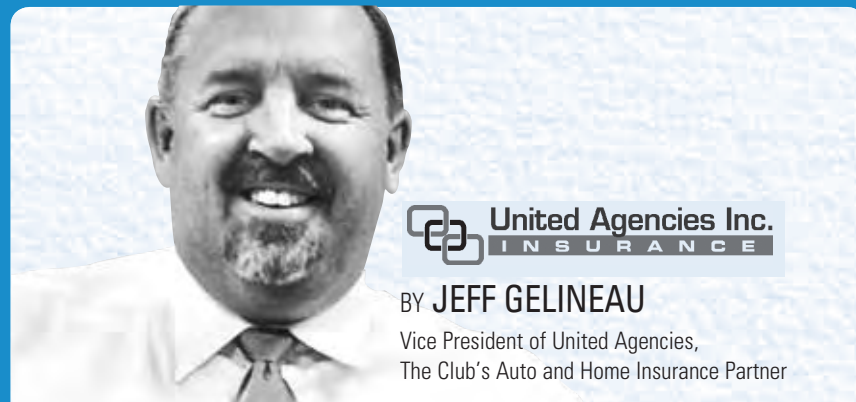
Committee members are leaders in their fields of expertise and represent supply chain firms, associations, stakeholders, community organizations, and also include experts from academia.

Ruiz's appointment will provide the Port and regional stakeholders an important opportunity for input on critical supply chain issues. As external relations deputy executive director at the Port, Ruiz is responsible for providing strategic external relations leadership and support to Port senior management and Harbor Commissioners regarding legislative policy, communications and regional economic opportunities that require Port and City collaboration.

Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson will serve on the Committee as non-voting members, and the Department of Commerce will work closely with those and other agencies to coordinate government activities and programs to implement Committee recommendations.

U.S. supply chains are critically dependent on the quality and capacity of America's freight transportation network – the largest and most extensive freight infrastructure in the world. The network serves over 7.5 million U.S. business establishments, carrying some 13 billion tons of raw materials and finished goods annually between production and consumption centers.

# REST INSURED



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INSURANCE

BY JEFF GELINEAU

Vice President of United Agencies,  
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner

## Wildfire Safety

Southern California doesn't have many "seasons," so we joke about it being "Wildfire Season." But, if you have a fire roaring down on your house and family, it is not funny.

If you live in an area susceptible to wildfires, the following list includes things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your property.



- You should have an emergency kit ready with some food, water and medical supplies.
- Landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Use fire-resistant or noncombustible materials on the roof and exterior structure of the dwelling, or treat wood or combustible material used in roofs, siding, decking or trim with fire-retardant chemicals evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Plant fire-resistant shrubs and trees. For example, hardwood trees are less flammable than pine, evergreen, eucalyptus or fir trees.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters.
- Inspect chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them at least once a year. Keep the dampers in good working order. Equip chimneys and stovepipes with a spark arrester that meets the requirements of National Fire Protection Association Standard 211. (Contact your local fire department for exact specifications.)
- Use one-eighth-inch mesh screen beneath porches, decks, floor areas, and the home itself. Also, screen openings to floors, roof and attic.
- Install a dual-sensor smoke alarm on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change the batteries at least once each year.
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it's kept.
- Keep handy household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, axe, hand-saw or chain saw, bucket and shovel.
- Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.
- Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.
- Clear items that will burn from around the house, including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecue grills, tarp coverings, etc. Move them outside of your defensible space.
- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool, or hydrant.
- Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
- Install freeze-proof exterior water outlets on at least two sides of the home and near other structures on the property. Install additional outlets at least 50 feet from the home.
- Consider obtaining a portable gasoline powered pump in case electrical power is cut off.

### Be safe and have fun!

#### About United Agencies

United Agencies is the Club's partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Check out our City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at [www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub](http://www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub). This website lists the upcoming visits we'll be making to City Department meetings where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

#### Have a question?

Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at [jgelineau@unitedagencies.com](mailto:jgelineau@unitedagencies.com), and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.

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Our vision is of a society in which every family can provide a loving, healthy and secure home where children can grow and thrive.

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By empowering those we serve to lift themselves up and change their lives, Bienvenidos is helping build healthier families, brighter futures and more vibrant communities.

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