

## Summary from the Chamber's Mexican Immigration forum by Antonio Maldonado

On January 15th the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce held a forum, sponsored by Maldonado Law Group, with Rodolfo Figueroa, the Head of the Mexican Institute of Immigration (INAMI) in Baja California. The forum began with a presentation by Mr. Figueroa regarding the several functions of INAMI, including law enforcement and protection of migrants. Mr. Figueroa then discussed and answered questions on the requirement under Mexico's 2012 immigration law of visas for certain foreign nationals prior to their entry to Mexico, the significance and proper use of FMM migratory document for non-immigrant visitors, temporary and permanent residence in general, practices related to foreign workers in Mexico but not on Mexican payroll as well as practices related to proof of employer in the application of INAMI authorization for temporary residence based on employment.

### The salient information provided at the forum was:

- That Mexico's immigration law does not require a foreign national to return a FMM migratory document at the foreign national's exit from Mexico and obtain an exit stamp. Mr. Figueroa emphasized that if anyone was in a situation where INAMI officers required to see an exit stamp from a prior visit to Mexico to bring this issue up directly to the following number +52 (664) 636-6017.
- The FMM migratory document is not valid for multiple visits to Mexico. They are valid for one visit only and should be destroyed at the time of exit from Mexico.
- The FMM can be issued without a fee for visits up to seven days and with a fee of approximately \$23 for visits that have an authorized period of stay up to 180 days.
- Temporary residence based on employment (equivalent to the old FM-3) is not the proper immigration status for those foreign nationals that live in California and cross the border to work in Mexico. If the foreign national is paid outside Mexico a FMM at each visit to Mexico should be obtained.
- Although no visa is required for US citizens and legal permanent residents to visit Mexico temporarily they are required to stop at the border, at their entry into Mexico, and obtain a FMM. If they do not possess a FMM while in Mexico they are present illegally, may not be covered by insurance and are deportable from Mexico.

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