



San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OCTOBER 25, 2002**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 02-10- 3**  
**ACTION REQUESTED – APPROVE**

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**SUMMARY OF THE JOINT TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS/SANDAG  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING**

October 11, 2002

The meeting of the Joint Tribal Governments/SANDAG Policy Development Board was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by SANDAG Chair Ron Morrison. Attendance was as follows:

Tribal Representatives:

Campo .....	Michael Connelly, EPA / Land Use
Cuyapaipe.....	Willie Micklin, Tribal Manager
Jamul .....	Bill Mesa, Councilmember
La Jolla.....	Leroy Mendez, Roads Manager
Mesa Grande .....	Louis Guassac, Economic Development
Rincon.....	John Currier, Chair
Rincon.....	Bo Mazetti, Councilmember
Sycuan .....	Roger Simpson, Community Development Director
Viejas .....	Steven TeSam, Chair
Viejas.....	Allen Barrett, Councilmember

SANDAG Board Voting Members

City of Carlsbad .....	Ramona Finnila, Councilmember
City of Chula Vista .....	Absent
City of Coronado.....	Phil Monroe, Councilmember
City of Del Mar .....	Absent
City of El Cajon.....	Richard Ramos, Councilmember
City of Encinitas .....	Dennis Holz, Councilmember
City of Escondido.....	Lori Pfeiler, Mayor
City of Imperial Beach .....	Patricia McCoy, Councilmember
City of La Mesa .....	Art Madrid, Mayor
City of Lemon Grove.....	Mary Teresa Sessom, Mayor
City of National City.....	Ron Morrison, Councilmember
City of Oceanside.....	Jack Feller, Deputy Mayor
City of Poway.....	Mickey Cafagna, Mayor
City of San Diego .....	Dick Murphy, Mayor
City of San Marcos.....	Hal Martin, Councilmember
City of Santee .....	Hal Ryan, Councilmember
City of Solana Beach .....	Joe Kellejian, Councilmember
City of Vista .....	Judy Ritter, Mayor Pro Tem
County of San Diego .....	Ron Roberts, Supervisor

### Advisory Liaison Members

California Department of Transportation.....Pedro Orso-Delgado, District Director  
 Metropolitan Transit Development Board.....Leon Williams, Chairman  
 North San Diego County Transit Development Board.....Julianne Nygaard, Chair  
 U.S. Department of Defense.....Absent  
 San Diego Unified Port District.....Jess Van Deventer, Commissioner  
 San Diego County Water Authority.....Bud Lewis, Director  
 Consul General of Mexico.....Mario Cuevas, Deputy Consul

### **Introduction and Overview**

SANDAG Chairman Morrison recognized that each of the tribal governments is a sovereign nation, and that it will be important to address issues on a government to government basis.

After the representatives of Tribal Governments and the SANDAG Board of Directors made self-introductions, SANDAG Chair Morrison provided a brief overview of the agenda packet and outlined a suggested agenda for this meeting.

SANDAG's Board of Directors, sitting as the Policy Board, had invited the leaders of the region's tribal governments to meet and learn about SANDAG's responsibilities and how they may relate to the Reservations, and for the Board to learn more about each of the tribal governments. This summit could be the first of recurring summits between SANDAG and the tribal government representatives, which will promote mutual respect, cooperation, and coordination.

### **SANDAG's Roles and Responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities of SANDAG were presented through a video about SANDAG and a summary of the 2030 Mobility Plan (the proposed Regional Transportation Plan – RTP) by Board Member Joe Kellejian (Vice Chair of SANDAG's Transportation Committee).

### **Tribal Governments' Comments**

The tribal governments then provided comments from their individual tribal perspectives. Each representative gave a brief overview of their respective tribe's population, land size, form of government, and issues of concern. Tribal representatives reiterated that their comments are from their tribe's perspective, and that they could not speak for the other tribes. Following are a list of key comments made by the tribal government representatives:

- It was good that SANDAG took the "bold step" to invite all of them to participate.
- San Diego County has more Indian Reservations than any other county in the United States, and the Native American tribes should receive as much consideration as Mexico.
- They are elected officials, representing different jurisdictions, with different forms of government. Each is a unique, sovereign nation with some similarities and some differences.
- SANDAG should consider establishing a liaison staff member to work with each of the tribal governments.

- While some corrections need to be made before the final document is completed, the County of San Diego's recent *Update on Impacts of Tribal Economic Development Projects in San Diego County* report contains good background information on each of the tribes.
- There is a lack of understanding about how tribes relate economically, and what constraints they are under for development on their land. Tribes may need to develop to allow them to provide needed services to their residents. The local off-reservation population consists of people who have moved there in order to have a rural lifestyle, but the tribe often has conflicts with them.
- Land use planning is one of the most difficult issues, since their plans for improvements may be inconsistent with outside government planning because they have a different system.
- Many cities feel they're not getting their fair share of revenue returned. However, tribal members that work off-reservation pay taxes; yet none of the money is shared with tribal governments.
- The tribes provide services to members and non-Indian residents, yet no state funding is returned to them.
- Communities that destroyed habitat look to the reservations to offset their developments, but don't share the revenues.
- The tribes have mutual aid agreements with local jurisdictions; they work with regional water and sewer agencies and have demonstrated a willingness to work together.
- Tribes have a right to re-claim "surplus" federal land, but requests for the federal land (e.g., NTC) have not been honored.
- Money drives the world, and they are invited here today because of gaming.
- Many of the tribes stressed the importance of improving the roads to the reservation's casino facilities, to make it safer for patrons.
- SANDAG should consider taking an action similar to the Board of Supervisors regarding legislation on the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund.

## Summary

Representatives from the tribal governments and SANDAG felt that the Summit was a good FIRST step. The participants had an opportunity to: hear from each other, put issues on the table, and suggest next steps. Some of those next steps may be:

1. Providing SANDAG Board Members with background information on the tribes from the *Update on Impacts of Tribal Economic Development Projects in San Diego County* report.
2. Appointing a SANDAG staff person as a full time liaison to the tribal government;
3. Examining the opportunities for closer coordination between tribal governments and SANDAG, especially on transportation matters;
4. Taking an action similar to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund; and
5. Hosting another summit, sooner rather than later (certainly more than once per year).

SANDAG Vice Chair Cafagna thanked everyone for attending, appreciated the information provided, and didn't hear anything that couldn't be addressed.

SANDAG Chairman Morrison stated that this was our first meeting, to determine what the issues are, and now future meetings may address specific issues.

Chairman Morrison adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm

GARY L. GALLEGOS

Secretary