

Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities Working Group Charter

Purpose

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), established in 1996, serves as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of binational border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.

Line of Reporting

The COBRO reports to the Borders Committee, which in turn reports to the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities

Its mission is to provide input to the Borders Committee concerning both short- and long-term binational-related activities, issues, and actions; provide input regarding binational border-related planning and development; and identify ways to assist and coordinate with existing efforts in the binational area. Every year since 1997, the COBRO has been tasked to support the organization of SANDAG's annual binational event, which is held in coordination with the Office of the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego and the Office of the Consul General of the United States in Tijuana. Input provided by COBRO will be reported to the Borders Committee for consideration at its regularly scheduled meetings.

Membership

COBRO brings together representatives from cities, government agencies, businesses, academia, and other organizations located on both sides of the United States-Mexico border. The Committee has regular members, as well as advisory members. If a member fails to attend three consecutive meetings without having such absences excused by the Chairperson in advance of the meetings, SANDAG will reevaluate its membership, including considering adjusting its status to become an advisory member. The Committee should keep a minimum membership of 15 voting members. Membership of Advisory Members that fail to attend three meetings within a year will be reevaluated, including considering being removed as members of COBRO. COBRO informs the Borders Committee regarding its membership as needed.

Meeting Time and Location

COBRO meets at 3 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every other month based on a pre-approved calendar of meetings. At least one meeting per year is held in Baja California.

Selection of the Chair

SANDAG selects the Chair from COBRO's members for a two-year term, and there is no limit on consecutive terms. The criteria for selecting Chair and Vice Chair of COBRO are the following:

- Experience with COBRO;
- Significant experience with and understanding of a broad range of binational border issues;
- Understanding of systems and "rules of the game" of both sides of the border; and
- Bilingual preferred.

The Consulate General of Mexico is Co-Chair of COBRO.

Duration of Existence

Ongoing.