San Diego Association of Governments

BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 8, 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 1

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of June 23, 2006

The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order at 12:52 p.m. by Chair McCoy (South County). The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

Chair McCoy noted that because of the late start time, the agenda will be taken out of order to accommodate some presentations. Item 6 will be heard first, followed by Items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 4.

6. THE UCSD PARTNERSHIP WITH MEXICO (INFORMATION)

Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), introduced her colleagues Chris Woodruff, Director of the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies; Graciela Platero, Director for External Affairs for the Center; Mary Walshok, Dean of UCSD Extension; and Moises Aguirre, UCSD Community Relations Representative.

Chancellor Fox began her presentation by describing the vision for UCSD’s Partnership with Mexico. The vision is to bring together leaders from education, business, government, non-profit organizations, and civil society in a series of UCSD/Mexico partnerships to address national, regional, and crossborder issues that affect the welfare of our people.

To realize this vision, the following are the four proposed Partnership Initiatives: 1) increase UCSD’s relationships and involvement in Mexico; 2) enhance quality of life through the sciences and engineering (e.g., improved air quality); 3) improve economic prospects through improved policies and structures; and 4) provide support for technology design and production in Baja California/San Diego. To support these proposals a UCSD staff member will be appointed at the UC Casa de California in Mexico City.

A basis for implementing the Partnership has been Chancellor Fox and her leadership team’s efforts to develop new relationships on behalf of the University and to strengthen existing friendships in the community. Some examples of the University’s efforts include: establishing a joint lecture series for Baja California and San Diego; and joining Mexico to address public health issues, particularly those involving sexually transmitted diseases.

Chancellor Fox mentioned that the University’s medical school is collaborating with medical schools across the border to research tuberculosis as well as sexually transmitted diseases, specifically focusing on HIV/AIDS. They’ve done so by linking their medical schools through a mobile testing lab that will allow them to analyze and diagnose these and other illnesses.
In addition to the University’s existing projects, Chancellor Fox recognized that a number of its institutes will contribute to this partnership. For example, the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Rim Studies’ (IR/PS) focus on Pacific Studies and collaborations between the United States and its nearest neighbors, as well as the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies’ focus on research and dialogue, can both contribute to strengthening the University’s Partnership. Other contributing University institutions include the Schools of Medicine, Engineering, Extended Studies, the New School of Management, as well as the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and the Humanities Division.

Prominent faculty members also contribute to this Partnership. Chancellor Fox mentioned that Nobel Laureate Mario Molina has joined the UCSD Faculty and has worked very hard to establish a program to research the crossborder air basin.

Chancellor Fox concluded her presentation by thanking the Borders Committee for the opportunity to join them and extended the University’s willingness to collaborate with SANDAG on these efforts.

Chair McCoy thanked Chancellor Fox and stated that the Borders Committee is most appreciative for her presence here today. The collaborative approach is by far the sanest approach to many of the issues that are common to both populations.

Chancellor Fox indicated that she is very appreciative of the Borders Committee’s recognition of their collaborative efforts and the University stands ready to help in any partnerships that develop between SANDAG and the University.

Chair McCoy requested that Chancellor Fox and her colleagues keep the Borders Committee up to speed on what’s going on with UCSD, and, in turn, the Borders Committee will keep UCSD informed on what they’re doing.

Chancellor Fox stated that she’d be happy to do so and offered that one of her colleagues in the future could expand on some of the programs that she summarized today.

Councilmember Monroe (South County) asked where UCSD’s voice is being heard regarding the immigration issue.

Chancellor Fox noted that UCSD has a strong voice regarding immigration. There is a center at UCSD that focuses on immigration studies, not only with respect to the U.S.-Mexican border, but immigration worldwide. The Center for U.S./Mexican studies also deals with this issue as an economic variable.

Professor Woodruff, Center of U.S.-Mexican Studies, added that the Center accomplishes this through public opinion pieces, conferences, and trying to establish a dialogue. The voice comes through the media, academic journals, and conversations with policy makers in Washington, D.C.

Chancellor Fox stated that she really appreciated the question because that is one of the challenges for the University. They do so much research that really could help in both policy
formation and implementation. She would be delighted to have the chance to assist the Borders Committee as they formulate questions and try to derive answers to them.

Councilmember Monroe mentioned that the Borders Committee looked at that issue a while back and heard a report from the California State Legislature’s Little Hoover Commission. They were presented with a very helpful report, but he doesn’t see any of that information being implemented. He’s looking for a stronger voice from entities like UCSD that do that type of work.

Chancellor Fox reiterated that the University would be delighted to work with the Borders Committee on figuring out a plan to allow that voice to be heard more universally.

Chair McCoy welcomed and introduced the Borders Committee’s newest member, El Cajon Councilmember Jillian Hanson-Cox, the alternate member for East County.

Councilmember Hanson-Cox commented that she looks forward to serving on the Borders Committee and thanked them for welcoming her.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

   Action: Upon a motion made by Vice Mayor Gallo (North County Inland) and a second made by Councilmember Hanson-Cox (East County), the Borders Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from April 28, 2006.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

   Chair McCoy noted that SANDAG staff member Jane Clough-Riquelme has just released a book entitled, “Equity and Sustainable Development: Reflections from the U.S./Mexico Border.” She was the co-editor with Nora Bringas from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte. She mentioned that the book is a great collection of essays and facts for those that are interested in sustainable development and border issues. She congratulated Ms. Clough-Riquelme on her efforts.

REPORTS (Items 3-6)

3. STATUS REPORT ON THE I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP – PHASE II (APPROVE)

   Jane Clough-Riquelme, SANDAG’s Associate Regional Planner, provided the Borders Committee with an update on the I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP) – Phase II. SANDAG and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) received a grant from Caltrans to continue with the I-15 IRP to pursue medium-term strategies in the areas of economic development, transportation, and housing identified in Phase I of the project, which was completed in 2004. Since the last update provided to the Borders Committee meeting in February, the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee was formed and held its first
meeting on May 26 at Temecula City Hall. At that meeting, the group of elected officials from San Diego and Riverside reviewed the Committee Charter and requested that a modification be made to the membership. The group agreed that the policy committee should consist of three members from SANDAG and four members from Riverside. The Riverside participants would be distributed in the following manner: two from WRCOG; one from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC); and one from the Riverside Transportation Authority (RTA). The list of members is included in the staff report. It may be necessary for the Borders Committee to identify an alternate so that three SANDAG representatives attend each of the next two meetings. The group selected Pia Harris-Ebert from SANDAG and Charles White from WRCOG as Co-chairs. An integrated work plan was developed for the three components of the project. Advances made in each of these areas were reported to the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee and are also included in the staff report.

First, in the area of economic development strategy, WRCOG and SANDAG are collaborating on the implementation of an employment cluster analysis for Riverside, which will then be compared with existing data for San Diego. A working group was created to provide feedback to the consultants working on this study. The initial cluster work has been completed. Driver industries have been identified – those that generate high value jobs, as well as those that take advantage of resources unique to Riverside. The next step will be to join the database on Riverside clusters with that of San Diego and analyze how the two economies are related. It is expected that findings from the cluster analysis would assist local economic development corporations (EDCs) and others to identify goals and strategies for economic cooperation for Riverside and San Diego Counties.

Second, on the transportation strategy, the following efforts were summarized:

- Caltrans in its draft “I-15 County Line Study” has developed a list of transportation project proposals. The four broad areas are Capacity Enhancing, Transit, Operational Improvements, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM).

- RCTC provided an update on its passenger rail planning study for I-15. The purpose of this study is to perform an objective evaluation of the potential for commuter rail extensions along the I-15 corridor from Temecula to Corona and Temecula to San Diego. RCTC will create a technical advisory committee that will include SANDAG and local governments to provide input into this process.

- In the area of transit service coordination on the I-15 corridor, SANDAG, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), and the North County Transit District (NCTD) have developed a draft I-15 Bus Rapid Transit Operations Plan that identified a fairly significant transit demand between Riverside and San Diego Counties. SANDAG will be working the RTA and RCTC staff to further analyze these travel forecasts and develop operational strategies to address commuter travel demand between southern Riverside County and San Diego County.

Third, regarding the housing strategy, SANDAG is undertaking a pilot project/feasibility analysis with a focus on the production of workforce (or moderate income) housing in North County along the SPRINTER rail line in collaboration with one or two major employers.
Initial meetings have been held with major employers in North County who have expressed interest in collaborating on this project.

Each of these components will be proceeding over the next few months, and initial draft reports will be presented to the I-15 RTP Joint Policy Committee in late September.

Vice Mayor Harris-Ebert (North County Inland) commented that at the meeting, there was a full agenda and it was quite interesting. She mentioned that most likely she will be chairing all the meetings. The Joint Committee was presented with very in-depth reports which highlighted each of the components. It was very beneficial for the group to review the strategies that took place in Phase I, and they discussed progress being made in the areas of housing, transportation, and economic development. She believed that this comprehensive, coordinated approach is going to bring positive results and move the region forward on resolving some of its interregional issues. Once the various studies are completed, the Committee can then determine how they have advanced on their interregional partnerships and decide where they want to continue to focus. Because she was not involved in the first Phase of the partnership, she invited observations and comments from the Borders Committee to take back to the Joint next meeting.

Action: Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Mackin (North County Coastal) and a second made by Councilmember Monroe (South County), the Borders Committee voted to accept the staff report for information and approve the revised I-15 Interregional Partnership Joint Committee Charter.

Mayor Pro Tem Gallo (North County Inland) stated that what happens with the I-15 IRP will go along to understanding the dynamics of the I-8 corridor and the relationship between Imperial County and San Diego County. There will be a lot of lessons learned from some of the things that weren’t done in the past for southern Riverside County and San Diego. Now the region has the same kind of scenario happening to the east. It is important that the region take these issues seriously so that they can be addressed in the I-8 Corridor.

5. OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN: DRAFT EARLY ACTION PLAN (DISCUSSION)

Elisa Arias, SANDAG Senior Regional Planner, commented that Dr. Paul Ganster (Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO)) would first make some opening remarks, and then she would provide the Committee with her presentation.

Dr. Ganster (COBRO) stated that he was pleased to present this Draft Early Action Plan that resulted from the COBRO’s workshops which were held last October in Tijuana and in San Diego. He noted that today’s presentation summarizes the results of that fairly complicated effort that SANDAG staff has worked very hard on. The COBRO discussed this draft plan at its June 12, 2006, meeting. Overall, the objective was to coordinate planning efforts effectively across the border, and he thinks that it is a very innovative activity that helps set the pattern for years to come as the region is forced to deal with more and more issues that spill across the border. Today, staff will present the report, and they will be able to answer questions once the presentation is over.
Ms. Arias indicated that she is pleased to present to the Borders Committee, the draft Early Action Plan (EAP) of the Otay-Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. Today’s presentation summarizes the work the team has done since the binational workshops last October. She indicated that she will first go over the background, continue with the collaboration and planning processes, describe the proposed early actions, and conclude with next steps. The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for the San Diego region, which was adopted by the SANDAG Board in 2004, recognized the need for binational planning in our region. The Plan called for the creation of a partnership with Mexico to address binational border planning issues, including transportation, infrastructure, and the environment. In 2004, at SANDAG’s Binational Conference, participants discussed the state of border cooperation in the region and concluded that future efforts should focus on implementation of effective planning strategies rather than strictly collaboration. In 2005, the Borders Committee recognized the binational area of Otay Mesa as an area of opportunity to implement effective planning. At that time, findings of the Border Wait Times Study also highlighted the importance of crossborder travel and trade to the economies of the San Diego and Baja-California region.

The collaboration process for this project started with the two binational workshops that were sponsored by IMPlan and SANDAG in October 2005. Nearly 200 people attended these workshops and provided input on issues to be addressed in the strategic plan. Issues were prioritized using interactive polling technology. The Borders Committee has provided guidance in the development of the strategic plan, and COBRO has served as its primary stakeholders working group. Input was requested from several COBRO members and other stakeholders, including the cities of Chula Vista and San Diego, the County of San Diego, San Diego Dialogue, the Air Pollution Control District, the municipality of Tijuana, and housing agencies and developers in Tijuana. The technical work has been conducted by staff from IMPlan, SIDUE, Caltrans, and SANDAG.

Regarding the planning process, first the study area was identified, then the issues of transportation, economic development, housing, and environmental conservation were discussed with stakeholders. The study area includes the eastern portion of Chula Vista east of I-805 and south of Olympic Parkway, the City of San Diego’s Otay Mesa Community Planning area, the County of San Diego Otay Community Planning area, and the planning areas of Mesa de Otay, and the Alamar River in Tijuana. After defining the study area and identifying the issues to be addressed, a joint work program was developed and presented to the Borders Committee and COBRO in November 2005. A profile of the study area was prepared, including current and projected population, housing, land use, and employment. An analysis of crossborder travel surveys for trips crossing at the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Port of Entry (POE) was also conducted. The Project Development Team met monthly to share research on transportation, economic development, housing, and environmental issues, which helped to determine which issues could be advanced in the first phase of the study. Staff will continue to work on the remaining issues that require further analysis or depend on ongoing planning activities of the stakeholders, such as Brown Field’s Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and the Otay Mesa Community Plan update.

Results from the surveys conducted at the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay POE, in terms of why people cross the border, showed that those that live in Mexico who cross at the Otay Mesa POE into the United States. travel mainly for shopping or work purposes. Those that live in
the United States have different patterns for crossing into Mexico. Their most common purpose is visiting family/friends, followed by shopping or errands, and recreation or vacation. On average, crossborder travelers who live in the United States reported crossing about 8 times into Mexico, while travelers who live in Mexico crossed 12 times northbound. Truck traffic continues to grow at the Otay Mesa POE. Mexico is the United States’ second largest trading partner after Canada and is also California’s number one export market. The Otay Mesa POE is the busiest in the California-Mexico border and ranks third along the entire U.S.-Mexico border in terms of value of trade.

Ms. Arias explained that the proposed early actions can be implemented or initiated in the next six months and there is concurrence from stakeholders. One key early action is to establish a binational technical commission under the San Diego-Tijuana Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM) to advance planning and implementation of the future East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE and connecting roads on both sides of the border. With regard to the need for improvements to the existing Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay POE, proposed early actions include: coordinating with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Mexican Customs on a process to fund and implement identified short-term capital and operational improvements at the commercial inspection facility; exploring the feasibility of short-term operational and capital improvements at the passenger inspection facility; collaborating with the City of San Diego on the Otay Mesa Community Plan update in relation to transportation implications of future land use changes under consideration; initiating advanced planning for the Otay Mesa segment of the South Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service (SANDAG FY 2007 OWP); completing the Otay Mesa POE Paseo de la Amistad Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation Study; performing property appraisal for potential South Bay BRT Transportation Center; and evaluating the Draft City of Tijuana Public Transportation Plan for proposed transit routes to serve the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay POE.

Regarding economic development, some proposed early actions are to: develop the 2006 San Diego Regional Economic Evaluation and Prosperity Strategy with participation from the Consulate of Mexico in San Diego, San Diego Dialogue, and the Tijuana Economic Development Corporation, among other stakeholders; collaborate with the City of San Diego in the Otay Mesa Community Plan update to evaluate future land demand for high value industrial clusters; and finally, within the framework of San Diego Dialogue’s Crossborder Innovation and Competitiveness Initiative, establish the Crossborder Innovation and Competitiveness Center, initiate a crossborder program to foster scientific and technology relationships, awareness of research, and commercialization of new technologies, and work with Baja-California to establish crossborder clinical research.

With regard to housing, some proposed early actions are to: collaborate with the City of San Diego in the Otay Mesa Community Plan update to evaluate the potential to convert industrial land use to residential and its regional implications; and promote comprehensive housing developments within the Tijuana portion of the study area, which would include providing space for recreational activities, sports, green areas, and public facilities and services to improve the quality of life.

With regard to environmental issues, the proposed early actions include: analyzing the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), the Binational Vision for the Tijuana River Watershed, and the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative to
develop a framework for a binational approach for habitat corridor conservation and watershed management for the Tijuana River Watershed; expanding environmental analysis of the Draft Partial Program for Conservation and Urban Improvement of the Alamar River Zone to further assess habitat conditions in the Alamar River area; and supporting plans for habitat restoration and rehabilitation along the Alamar River riparian corridor. With respect to addressing conservation of sensitive habitat corridors, the proposed early actions are to: explore the feasibility of a binational land use/open space conservation study to develop an environmental assessment and mitigation strategies for SR 11, the future POE, and road connection to the Tijuana-Tecate Toll Road; in Mexico, explore possibilities for cooperative agreements between private and public sectors and community groups to build partnerships to incorporate environmental mitigation into fees and tolls; and to use existing legal mechanisms to acquire private or public land for conservation. With respect to the issue of air quality, the proposed early action is to: support the San Diego Air Pollution Control District’s crossborder clean air demonstration projects; link the creation of conservation areas to the objectives and goals established in “A Binational Vision for the Tijuana River Watershed” and the Border 2012 programs, including estimation of potential motor vehicle emissions for mitigation in conservation areas.

Ms. Arias expressed her thanks to the stakeholders that have participated in this study. The next steps are to: accept comments on the study for a 30-day period ending on July 12, 2006; review the comments received and request Borders Committee approval by July 28, 2006; distribute the Final Draft Early Action Plan to the Board of Directors in August or September 2006; conduct public outreach and the Final Draft Strategic Plan by December 2006; present the Final Draft Strategic Plan to the Borders Committee by January 2007; and submit the Final Plan to the Board of Directors for approval by February 2007.

Mayor Pro Tem Gallo noted that when the Board took the tour of the Otay Mesa area, there was a road that was unfinished. He asked if this effort will continue that road. Ms. Arias indicated there will be a 2.5-mile road that will be built east of the SR 125/SR 905 interchange, referring to the future SR 11.

Councilmember Monroe mentioned that during the tour on the Mexican side of the border, the Mayor of Tijuana stated that the connecting roads cannot be built yet because the land has not been purchased. He asked if there was a timeframe established for purchasing the land.

Ms. Arias responded that the City of Tijuana’s work program has the intention of starting negotiations for land acquisition in the near future. In terms of the five-year reservation period for that land, staff understands that the land has been reserved for some kind of POE use and that the process to acquire the property from its current owners would need to begin within a five-year period.

Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans) explained that during the five-year reservation period, there needs to be a Mexican federal action that corresponds with the appropriate land use that is being reserved. So, if some sort of a Mexican Customs operation is created, they would fulfill that requirement. On the other hand, Caltrans is in the process of conducting a two-tiered approach to environmental documents for this project, so that hopefully with
18 months or less, Caltrans could work with any agency in regard to dedications and preservations of the right-of-way by narrowing down the alignments that are needed.

Councilmember Hueso (City of San Diego) stated that the City of San Diego has approved the creation of a Tijuana River Watershed Management Program, which is mentioned in the study. He noted that the study area covers a portion of the Tijuana River Valley Watershed. He asked if the work plan for the watershed will encompass the entire watershed and not just the portion that is identified in the study.

Ms. Arias explained that this strategy relates to an issue that was discussed at the workshops related to conservation of sensitive habitat corridors and water quality, and one strategy that is being proposed is to analyze the San Diego County MSCP, the Binational Vision for the Tijuana River Watershed, and the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative with the goal of developing an overall framework for preparing and implementing a Binational Watershed Management Plan for the Tijuana River Watershed, looking also at institutional mechanisms and the resources that would be needed to prepare this kind of plan.

Councilmember Hueso asked if this study would include the Rosarito and Guadalupe Watershed.

Ms. Arias stated that it is her understanding that those are different watersheds and are not being considered at this time.

Councilmember Hueso pointed out that a binational approach to the Watershed Management Program is essential. He commended staff for coming forward with a very comprehensive and visionary plan for this area and addressing this huge issue. He would like to see a lot of emphasis being put forth in this area in the future. He also indicated that he was very impressed by the proposal of an environmental conservation fee regarding the toll road. The third border crossing at the border and the second border crossing for the Otay Mesa community is something that needs to move forward. He would like to see a second POE that would include a toll truck crossing because he felt that it would bring a lot of economic development to the region. In terms of transportation funding priorities, he also would like to ask staff to investigate a bill that was enacted in 1999 by former Senator Peace for the Border Infrastructure Financing Zone. This mechanism could be used for funding along the border and could be an enormous benefit to the community. He is interested in looking at the District and seeing how it could help the area. He commented that he would like to look at the community as an international community along the border. It will be a very exciting place to do business, live, and visit. He wants to attract the type of investments that San Diego needs and could create a Silicon Valley to the South with an international theme. This is a very exciting concept not only for San Diego, but also for Tijuana.

Ms. Arias noted that staff would be happy to look into the legislation.

Diane Eidam, SANDAG Chief Deputy Executive Director, indicated that staff could come back with an analysis of the legislation to let the Borders Committee know what their options are.
Consul General Cabrera (Baja-California/Mexico) agreed with many of the ideas that Councilmember Hueso mentioned. He stated that his office is working in that direction with SANDAG through the Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM), which is co-managed by the Consulates General of Mexico and the United States. There are different committees within the BLM, and one of them has to do with natural resources, which has a working group to focus on the Tijuana River Basin. Concerning the border crossing points between California and Baja-California, a regional meeting was recently held. At that meeting it was agreed to form a Technical Commission, which will be a working group concerning the East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE, under the umbrella of the BLM and will be chaired by the Federal Highway Administration on the U.S. side and by Mexico’s Secretariat of Communications and Transportation on the Mexican side. He commented that those agencies are aware of this issue and are working in the same direction.

Chair McCoy mentioned that this is really important because the vision is the first step. There is nothing like this area to the South or to the North. The border area is one of the most dynamic areas on the globe, for all sorts of reasons, which has created an intense interest from many groups and agencies. This report can be used as a tool for developing that area.

Supervisor Cox (County of San Diego) addressed the economic development early actions, and stated that other participants could include the South San Diego County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) and the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce, which are both interested in being actively involved in the discussions regarding Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay. The County of San Diego is exploring options that can incorporate benefits from the Border Development Zone legislation, which consists of a three-mile wide band of land, from the Pacific Ocean to the State of Arizona. Within that three-mile band, a City or County could create an infrastructure financing district. This would allow those cities in that area to take a project area and take the tax increment that can be generated from that and use it as a way to leverage bonds for other improvements that would help expedite economic development for that area. It hasn’t be utilized yet because there hasn’t been the economic development opportunity to capture. He has also been made aware of some federal legislation that is looking at another boundary line, possibly from I-8 to Arizona, which would give higher consideration for Department of Commerce Economic Development Grants, focusing on projects that would generate creation of jobs. He will take a closer look at the legislation as it moves through the Legislature.

Ms. Arias responded that regarding the Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy, the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce, the SCEDC, and the different economic development departments from the cities also will be invited to participate in the group.

Chair McCoy again congratulated staff on an excellent report and mentioned that the July 28, 2006, meeting will need to be rescheduled so the proposed timeline will change slightly. Staff will inform the Borders Committee of the correct meeting date.

Bob Leiter, SANDAG Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning, indicated that staff will bring the document back to the Borders Committee in September for review. He commented that if the Borders Committee agrees, staff can begin to work on some of the
early actions that don’t require any amendments to the Overall Work Program and will come back with any issues that require formal action or direction.

Councilmember Hanson-Cox (El Cajon) commented that this is her first Borders Committee meeting, and she felt that the report was very informative and helped bring her up to speed on what the Borders Committee is all about.

**Action:** The Borders Committee received this item for information.

4. **REPORT ON THE SAN DIEGO – BAJA CALIFORNIA MISSION TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Consul General Luis Cabrera reported on the San Diego-Baja California Mission to Washington, D.C., that took place on May 21-24, 2006. This binational delegation consisted of 30 businessmen, leaders of private organizations, and government officials from both San Diego and Baja-California. The delegation was led by Governor Elorduy of Baja-California and Mayor Sanders of the City of San Diego. Gary Gallegos, Executive Director of SANDAG, also was part of this delegation. The trip was a follow-up to a binational Mission to Mexico City that took place in December 2005. The main objective of the Mission was to convey to the public and private sectors of Washington, D.C., the connections that exist between San Diego and Baja California, to promote the border region, and to identify and promote projects of common interest that can enhance the San Diego and Baja California border region. The delegation held meetings with officials from the Department of State, the International Development Bank (IDB), the U.S. General Services Administration, and the Secretary of Commerce. Among other important topics included for the binational region that were discussed included: the construction of a new Port of Entry (POE) in Otay Mesa East-Otay II; the expansion of the San Ysidro POE, including the Virginia Avenue-El Chaparral parcel that currently is closed; the construction of a binational terminal at the Tijuana International Airport; the impact of the US-Visit Program; and the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative in our border region.

A presentation was made to the IDB on the border relations innovation report, which was coordinated by the San Diego Dialogue. The purpose of this report is to promote transborder cooperation, develop a crossborder innovation center, and integrate selective clusters, with the aim of enhancing innovation and competitiveness of the San Diego-Baja California region. The delegation also held meetings with members of Congress, including Senator Feinstein, Congressman Filner, and Congresswoman Davis to discuss financing options for the projects that were mentioned.

As a follow-up to the San Diego-Baja California Mission to Washington, D.C., a representative of the IDB came to San Diego on June 8, 2006, to analyze topics that were discussed in Washington, D.C. and to discuss options of financing specific projects for the Government of Baja California. Consul General Cabrera highlighted that at the June 8, 2006, meeting, the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego and the Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana organized under the umbrella of the Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM), a regional meeting to discuss the different border crossing projects between California and Baja California. And in that meeting it was agreed to create technical commissions with the different projects. One of them will be focused on the San Ysidro expansion project to incorporate the Virginia Avenue-El Chaparral parcel, the second
will focus on Otay Mesa East-Otay II POE, and a third will focus on the Tecate POE. These technical groups will be headed by federal agencies or co-chaired by federal agencies of the two governments and coordinated by the Mexican and U.S. Consulate. It is important to point out that SANDAG is a formal part of the group and will be very important with the input that they will make in these working groups, especially in the Otay Mesa East-Otay II Technical Commission.

Chair McCoy appreciated the substantive nature of the Consul General’s report and the fact that there will be some results that will be useful for both sides of the border. She thanked the Consul General for his participation.

Action: The Borders Committee received this item for information.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

James Quisquis (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians), representing the North County Inland Regional Leadership Conference (NCIRL), stated that recently there was a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) report concerning partnerships between state Departments of Transportation and Tribes. San Diego was highlighted in a nationwide study for the work of the Reservation Transportation Authority with Caltrans and SANDAG. In that report they mentioned the North County Inland Regional Leadership Conference (NCIRL) Conference. This regional leadership organization is new; it has only been in existence for the past year and was an outgrowth of the Tribal Liaison Subcommittee of the Valley Center Community Planning Group. The meetings that have been held have been attended by many regional leaders, including County Supervisor Horn’s office, the Sheriff’s Department, school districts, tribes, the Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA), SANDAG staff, and others. He expressed his appreciation for the Borders Committee and thanked them for their leadership.

Councilmember Cook (Orange County) mentioned that there is a mistake in the minutes from the last meeting which indicated that she was not in attendance even though she did attend. She asked that that correction be made. She also inquired about the status of the joint OCTA/SANDAG meeting.

Bob Leiter, Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning, responded that a date is still being determined. The meeting should be held sometime in July or August.

7. UPCOMING MEETING

Chair McCoy indicated that the Borders Committee will be notified of the next meeting date as soon as it is determined.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.
### CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
**BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING**
**JUNE 23, 2006**
**12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

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<th>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</th>
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<td>City of Imperial Beach</td>
<td>Patricia McCoy (Chair)</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Victor Carrillo (Vice Chair)</td>
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<td>Brian Maienschein</td>
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<td>Greg Cox</td>
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<td>Pam Slater-Price</td>
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### ADVISORY/LIAISON MEMBERS

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<td>Thomas Buckley</td>
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<td>County of Orange</td>
<td>City of Huntington Beach</td>
<td>Debbie Cook</td>
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<td>Luis Cabrera C.</td>
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<td>Ricardo Pineda</td>
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<td>Lydia Antonio</td>
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<td>Pedro Orso-Delgado</td>
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<td>San Diego County Water Authority</td>
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<td>Howard Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Assn.</td>
<td>Pala</td>
<td>Robert Smith</td>
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<td>Christopher Devers</td>
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<td>Dr. Paul Ganster</td>
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