BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2006

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 12:32 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27, 2006, MEETING MINUTES

   Action: Upon a motion by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) and a second by Councilmember Ben Hueso (City of San Diego), the minutes from the October 27, 2006, Borders Committee meeting were unanimously approved. It was noted that Pia Harris-Ebert abstained.

   Chair McCoy announced that SDG&E will be addressing the “greening,” or environmental future of San Diego, during a program scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. on Channel 10. Senator Kehoe, Councilmember Atkins, and Councilmember Crawford will sit on the panel along with various individuals from environmental groups. She requested SANDAG to obtain copies of the program for those that may be interested.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

   Action: There were no public comments or member communications

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 3 – 4)

3. STATUS REPORT ON THE PROPOSED HUNTINGTON BEACH SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT (INFORMATION)

4. JOINT MEETING WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (INFORMATION)

   Action: Upon a motion by Pia Harris-Ebert (North County Inland) and a second by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego), the Borders Committee voted to approve Consent Items 3-4.
CHAIR’S REPORT (Item 5)

5. NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH (INFORMATION)

Chairman Robert Smith (Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association) stated that the month of November 2006 was designated as “National Native American Heritage Month” by President Bush to honor the people and highlight the significant contributions the first Americans made in the United States (U.S.). It is hoped that through activities occurring throughout the U.S., the non-tribal community will learn of past and present contributions to making this a great society. He urged everyone to visit the National Museum of American Indians in Washington D.C. in order to obtain further knowledge on diversity and indigenous cultures. Locally, the Kumeyaay Exchange, in which the tribal communities of San Diego and Baja California will come together to share cultures, will take place at Viejas on November 18 and 19 and also at the Pala Cultural Center on December 6. He invited all to attend the Exchange in order to meet the finest traditional artists of Baja California. There also will be similar activities at SDSU and Grossmont College.

Chairman Smith stated the increase in communication and coordination between tribal nations and SANDAG is very much appreciated. It is an important regional collaboration mechanism for the exchange of information.

Chair McCoy thanked Chairman Smith for his report and asked that Borders Committee members attend the December 6 presentation at the Pala Cultural Center, which will be open to the public.

Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) announced that in recognition of “Native American Heritage Month,” Chairman Smith has been invited to speak at the Rotary Club in Coronado.

REPORTS (Items 6 - 8)

6. UPDATE ON I-15 IRP PHASE II – DRAFT REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT CLUSTER STUDY (INFORMATION)

Pia Harris-Ebert (North County Inland) reported that on November 9, 2006, the second Joint Policy Committee meeting was held in Temecula. One of the strategies of the I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) is to understand how the Riverside and San Diego economies are linked and identify ways in which this relationship can be strengthened.

Marney Cox, Chief Economist (SANDAG), presented a draft report on the findings of a cluster analysis and opportunities for cooperative economic development. He also provided information to develop collaborative economic strategies.

The objectives of the report were to:

- Determine and analyze the relationship or linkages between economies so it may be looked at as one seamless economic region
- Identify any shared challenges or opportunities to the combined economies
- Recommend some actions that would address the challenges or build upon those opportunities
The Committee and Policy Group chose the economic cluster analytical approach to examine the economic development strategies. Clusters drive regional prosperity and influence wage rates. They enhance competitiveness and are a source of new business. Clusters also bring in new forms of capital investment and venture capital, and they reinvent themselves as the market changes over time. Current trends show continued diversification into many other areas, which are not solely dependent upon one particular entity for sales and purchases of goods and services.

A summary of the Riverside area revealed 17 traded clusters for economic development. Some of the clusters were old and some were new. The highest concentration of jobs in Riverside is located in the east and northwest portions of the county. More than half of the job growth between 2001 and 2005 occurred in the area of low wage/high growth. The majority of the high wage growth occurred in the area of high wage/slow growth. Overall, the average annual wage for Riverside County is approximately $33,000.

A summary of the combined Riverside-San Diego clusters revealed 16 traded clusters between the two economies. Overall, approximately 17 percent of the jobs fall within these cluster areas, and the cluster wages and salaries are about 23 percent higher than the combined economy wages and salaries.

Some key findings of the combined cluster analysis include:

- They share a large number of cluster industries which gives them the opportunity to develop/expand and shape clusters
- Large, fast-growing clusters have low wages
- Most high-wage clusters grow slowly
- Consulting services is a fast growing and high wage cluster

Four areas for opportunities to improve collaborative regional development are: (1) raise the standard of living; (2) expand and shape the cluster base; (3) develop and support shared infrastructure; and (4) target workforce training and education.

Supervisor Slater-Price added that the County Board of Supervisors has also been investigating possibilities of expanding and shaping clusters. The Board would like to have some changes via the 2020 General Plan process to make smaller farms possible, especially in Ramona and Julian, and changes to address zoning in those areas.

Mr. Cox mentioned that presentations have been made to different economic development groups in Riverside, and one more workshop is scheduled to include the North County and Riverside economic development groups.

Kevin Viera, Program Manager of Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), pointed out that the whole emphasis of the interregional partnership is to address the jobs/housing imbalance between the two regions. It provides options to those that commute between Riverside and San Diego by building and retaining jobs in Riverside and maintaining the region as a powerful economic engine for the future.

Supervisor Slater-Price excused herself to attend the Public Safety Committee.

Action: This item was presented for information only.
Ron Saenz, Associate Regional Planner (SANDAG), briefed the Committee on the implementation of the Environmental Early Action Plan. He then introduced Keith Greer, Senior Environmental Planner (SANDAG), to speak about the California Biodiversity Council (CBC), which met in September 2006 to discuss biodiversity along the Mexican border.

Mr. Greer stated that the purpose of the CBC is to improve the coordination and cooperation between the various federal, state, and local agencies working on resource management and environmental protection and to provide a comprehensive solution to regional problems, in this case, shared concern of biodiversity preservation and resource management.

As a result of the meeting, the Council on Biodiversity Along the Borders Committee was formed to explore the following areas:

- Implementation of the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative
- Reviewing the use of conservation easements to protect lands in Mexico
- Reviewing specific items to address sediment and water quality in the Tijuana River Valley

Mr. Greer then turned the discussion over to Chair McCoy and Mayor Crystal Crawford (City of Del Mar) who co-hosted the meeting in September.

Mayor Crawford thanked everyone for their support, especially Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) for facilitating the meeting to take place in Coronado.

The CBC was able to facilitate communication among the participants, and as a result, they made invaluable connections with agencies and stakeholders that work on environmental issues on both sides of the border. Projects highlighted at the conference included the Los Laureles Project, where work is being carried out to reduce sedimentation flowing into the Tijuana River and estuary with California Coastal Conservancy funding.

Ed Gallo (North County Inland) asked whom the CBC reports to.

Mayor Crawford answered the CBC was established through an MOU in 1991 and is dependent upon funding from the Governor’s budget and driven by the Governor’s agenda. The State Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Secretary of the California Resources Agency direct the committee. The CBC’s current projects include investigating opportunities for prevention and elimination of invasive species and biodiversity in general.

Councilmember Ben Hueso (City of San Diego) asked if the CBC would take a primary role in the watershed.

Mr. Greer replied that the CBC was tasked with three specific items, and one was to evaluate a larger watershed role.
Councilmember Hueso asked if efforts will be duplicated and if there is federal and state staff on the CBC.

Mr. Greer said efforts will not be duplicated and a specific staff member will be assigned to the Biodiversity Committee.

Councilmember Hueso stated that he was interested in having a watershed management program developed for the area that would serve as a blueprint for future planning. He asked if there was a timeframe for this evaluation.

Mr. Greer stated that the CBC meeting scheduled for December 14, 2006, has an agenda item to discuss this issue.

Mayor Crawford added that the meeting in September with the CBC, federal, state, and local agencies was quite unique in that the participating agencies showed a willingness to make the commitment toward working together on a shared watershed management plan.

Chair McCoy interjected that the Tijuana River Natural Estuary Research Reserve, under the leadership of Clay Phillips with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, is working on transborder issues and mapping the watershed with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funding.

Bob Leiter (SANDAG) added that through the California Biodiversity Council, Co-Chairman Mike Chrisman has committed several important departments at the state level, including the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Conservation, and the State Water Resources Board, to create a committee to come to the San Diego and the border region to work with SANDAG on these issues. In the next few months, SANDAG will be working with senior level staff from those agencies to develop a work program for a watershed planning program along the lines of what Councilmember Hueso was describing.

Joaquin Sandoval, Council of Native Americans, asked who would be in control and provide funding for the program.

Mr. Greer answered that the state is currently seeking staff to address the needs of coordinating the federal, state, and local governments. Right now it is unclear. However, at the meeting scheduled for December 14, 2006, the Biodiversity Council will announce the staff who will be in charge of this project.

**Action:** This item was presented for information only.

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8. TRIBAL INFORMATION SERIES

8A. STEWARDING SACRED LANDS (INFORMATION)

Kurt Russo, Executive Director of the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC), presented information regarding the Conservancy Board, which is composed of 18 individuals from different backgrounds, both tribal and non-native.

The objectives of the NALC are to:
• Purchase endangered landscapes, such as the Old Woman Mountains that contain significant biological and cultural resources

• Ensure protective management, as in the Desert Cahuilla Prehistoric Area where many archaeological sites and critical habitats for at-risk species are found

• Educate through the Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Fund for Cultural and Environmental Education

• Provide public outreach through the Healing Landscapes Program sites

• Secure long-term relationships

Mr. Russo invited SANDAG to attend the NALC conference to be held on February 8 and 9, 2007, with the Kumeyaay Conservancy and the Sycuan Band of Indians. The conference will be held at the Sycuan Resort and Casino. Many tribes and conservation groups, foundations, and state and federal agencies will be on hand to discuss and participate in various issues.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

8B. WATER SYSTEMS INITIATIVE FOR BAJA CALIFORNIA TRIBES (INFORMATION)

Paula Stigler (Pala Tribal Government) informed the group on the binational tribal efforts to improve the water quality of the tribes in Baja California.

It was found that the Kumeyaay, Cocopah, and Pai Pai communities are located within the 100-kilometer border region and are directly related to the tribes in the United States. The water issues experienced by the Baja tribes are the same ones experienced by those in the U.S. in that they: (1) lack infrastructure, (2) have insufficient capacity for operation and maintenance, (3) have poor quantity and quality of water, (4) suffer from non-point source contamination, and (5) lack source water protection.

Water samples showed high levels of E. Coli bacteria and health surveys conducted within the communities showed a large number of gastrointestinal problems. Warnings were given to community members and recommendations were made for improvements to the water systems.

New water systems have been installed at San Jose de la Zorra and San Antonio Necua through funding from both the Mexican government and the Pala Band of Mission Indians. It is the first time these communities have had access to potable water right up to their property lines. They have newly dug wells, storage tanks, and a distribution system. Crossborder training is being performed with water technicians in the U.S. to understand how to maintain the new systems. Also, an epidemiological study sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization, will be performed in December 2006 or January 2007 to examine health conditions of those with pre- and post-access to potable water systems and to determine if the disease rates are lower in these communities.

Ms. Stigler stated that the Pala Band of Mission Indians has shown a definite commitment toward improving the communities and building the capacity of the tribes in Mexico by sponsoring several projects and supporting the Baja Inter-Tribal Council. She thanked Instituto CUNA, JAJAN Coalition, Aqualink, and Chairman Smith for their support and leadership.

Action: This item was presented for information only.
9. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2006, at 12:30 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet
## CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
### BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
**November 17, 2006**
**12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

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<td>Shari Mackin</td>
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