



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 27, 2006**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 06-10-1B
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

**SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCUSSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2006**

Chairman Mickey Cafagna (Poway) called the special meeting of the SANDAG Board of Directors to order at 1:18 p.m. The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no public comments, communications, or member comments.

2. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH RUBEN BARRALES, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (DISCUSSION)

Chair Cafagna welcomed Mr. Barrales and Congressman Brian Bilbray. He asked for self-introductions of attendees.

Congressman Bilbray expressed his excitement at being elected by the voters of San Diego to represent them as part of the federal delegation in Washington, D.C. He said that the power to affect the daily lives of our constituents rests at the city, county, and special district levels. Through good lines of communication we in Washington can help local officials do their jobs better. He said that Ruben Barrales is someone who is available to help communicate important issues. He is one reason for the recent success regarding the Mt. Soledad memorial.

Mr. Barrales said that he came to San Diego for the League of California Cities conference, and Congressman Bilbray suggested he meet with SANDAG officials. His job is to work with state and local governments around the country to make people aware of the resource of his office and to help local agencies solve the issues in their regions. He is a former San Mateo County Supervisor and is familiar with local issues. He also has worked for the private section in the Silicon Valley. He noted that SANDAG is known as a leader in working together as a region to solve problems. He wanted SANDAG to know that it has a friend in the White House. His office works with different levels of government to solve problems. He said he wants to listen to the issues that are important to the San Diego region.

Councilmember Joe Kellejian (Solana Beach) said there were two issues: goods movement and Managed Lanes. The decision the SANDAG Board made today with regard to goods movement shows how important it is for the San Diego region. We have a tremendous amount of trucks coming from the maquiladoras in Mexico. Trucks carrying goods from the maquiladoras travel through our county and affect traffic congestion on our freeways. He asked Gary Gallegos, SANDAG Executive Director to address this issue.

Councilmember Kellejian said that the Board also had an opportunity to talk about the Managed Lanes concept and how excited we are about this program for our Interstate 15 (I-15) and other local freeways.

Mr. Gallegos said that we are a binational region in terms of economic prosperity. We are served by two existing commercial border crossings: one at Otay Mesa and another at Tecate. SANDAG is coordinating land use and transportation planning efforts with our neighbors to the south. A recent study concluded that the number of export goods is expected to double in the next 20 years. Border wait times affect our global competitiveness both today and in the future. We are working on several initiatives to enhance goods movement in the region and on public/private partnerships to generate revenue for transportation projects.

We also are in the process of conducting a feasibility study for a third border crossing, to evaluate whether the potential revenue stream could fund the regional highways connecting to the border crossing, the cost of the new crossing itself, and/or the border crossing operations. If we are successful, we will need help at the federal level to make all of that happen. The third border crossing is an important project both for San Diego as well as for the entire state of California.

Luis Cabrera Cuaron, Mexican Consul General, said that with regional problems you need regional solutions. We are working together on the new port of entry, and security is a concern. He agreed that we need to make the crossing of people and goods easier. He said that they have created technical commissions to work on these issues, and they are meeting regularly.

Mr. Barrales asked if some of the private partners are Mexico based. Mr. Gallegos responded that first we have to determine whether the third border crossing is in fact feasible, and then determine the interest in implementing it.

Mayor Crystal Crawford (Del Mar) said that the issues with a third border crossing are deep and numerous. We live in a border region and are interconnected with Mexico. Transportation is a key issue, but we also have others including water, sewer, air quality, and habitat. These are some of the issues SANDAG has been working on with our friends across the border. What we need assistance with is protocol for working across the border, such as the development of a mechanism for true cross-border communication. The solutions to these problems have to be on a government-to-government level.

Mr. Barrales asked which federal departments have been good partners.

Marilyn Dailey, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), stated that the Department of the Interior and Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers have been good to the SDCWA. She stated that the levees in California are being eaten away and the state needs federal help to rebuild this infrastructure.

Mr. Gallegos said that Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, and the U.S. Department of Transportation have been helpful to us. Mary Peters, in her former position as the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has been a friend to SANDAG, and we are looking forward to her confirmation as the new Secretary of Transportation. We also have been working very closely with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in terms of getting the necessary federal dollars to get our projects done.

Ms. Dailey stated that the SDCWA has finally been able to get the federal government interested in desalination. We are making some progress on that.

Mayor Christy Guerin (Encinitas) said that we invited our military representatives to provide them an opportunity to ask questions. She told the military representatives that Mr. Barrales has been briefed on the upcoming advisory measure on a new airport at Miramar.

Colonel Christopher O'Connor, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, said that the Secretary of the Navy has articulated a position regarding the airport to the local community. We abide by the Administration's position, but also aim to be good neighbors with local governments. We have a mission to do and our forces are serving the country with distinction. The whole idea that the military could be forced out of a community is a challenge, especially during a time of war. We will continue to meet and be engaged in discussions regarding the upcoming airport advisory measure on the November ballot. Mr. Barrales noted that there is quite a bit of support for what the military does in this community.

Mr. Gallegos stated that this is an opportunity for the federal government to see that we are doing an "extreme makeover" on our freeways. Fortunately, we have enough land available to develop our Managed Lanes, which are "freeways within freeways." The new lanes will be managed to meet demand and serve public transportation. Buses, vanpools, and carpools would have first priority on the Managed Lanes, and then any extra capacity would be made available for solo drivers. The lanes will be heavily used by commuters during the morning and evening peak periods, and we are exploring whether they can be dedicated for goods movement during the off-peak.

Councilmember Kellejian said that this will get the trucks off the general purpose lanes.

Mr. Barrales agreed that we need to use public transit to maximize our transportation system.

Councilmember Kellejian noted that we intend to attract choice riders to use our planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Direct access ramps to the Managed Lanes will allow BRT vehicles to get on and off the freeway easily so that transit services are direct and serve the express market.

Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler (Escondido) pointed out that this BRT system will likely require more parking lots to serve transit passengers who want to park and ride transit from the stations along the freeway corridor.

Mr. Gallegos explained that the concept for the BRT services in the Interstate 15 corridor is to provide a trunk line served by adjacent park-and-ride facilities/transit stations.

Councilmember Kellejian said that the Managed Lanes on Interstate 15 will have a movable barrier. The San Diego region could serve as a model for other areas across the country, and the federal government can play a role in recognizing the opportunity and providing assistance with pilot project funding.

Mr. Gallegos said that we need federal assistance and funding resources in the area of technology investments. The Managed Lanes in San Diego have the ability to be a good test bed in areas such as guidance system technology. The Managed Lanes are a barrier-separated facility. Smaller areas cannot support research and development costs for new technologies. However, we can partner with other areas and the federal government to explore new strategies for improving mobility and reducing traffic congestion.

Mayor Guerin noted that SANDAG is a unique organization. We have ability to bring in the Mexican Consul General, the military, local jurisdictions, and other regional agencies. We have a regional perspective, and because we encompass one county, we usually are able to get regional buy-in more quickly, compared to other similar organizations in the state and across the country.

Mr. Barrales agreed that SANDAG is a one-stop shop.

Chair Cafagna added that San Diego is a self-help county. We passed the *TransNet* ½-cent sales tax measure in 2004, which will provide \$14 billion for critical transportation projects. He noted that partisan issues do not affect our ability to get things done.

Mr. Barrales agreed that running as nonpartisan at the local level helps to get things done in California, and that's refreshing. He said that the primary national issues are combating terrorism and preserving homeland security. The President is focused to win this war on terrorism over the long-term. The challenge is doing it in such a way that makes sense. Perhaps we could help in identifying ways in which we can both preserve homeland security and ensure economic prosperity.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, Caltrans District 11 Director, said that there is a lot of collaboration between SANDAG and state and federal agencies. He noted one obstacle is the institutional barrier between federal agencies; oftentimes one federal agency cannot transfer or accept funds from another federal agency. It seems there could be an easy fix to this problem.

Mr. Barrales offered himself as a resource. He added that the President wants to help us get things done.

Mr. Gallegos said that on the transportation side, both at the state and federal level, we are required to have a long-term transportation plan with a 20-year horizon. Given the economic importance of the border, the federal agencies also should be required to have similar long-range plans to improve the ports of entry and associated border infrastructure. Currently, the agencies only plan on a year-by-year basis, from one annual budget cycle to another. This is a difficult situation when you are trying to obtain funds for a multi-year project. He noted that it is important that we agree to a long-range plan for improvement in our border region. Mr. Barrales agreed with that statement.

Councilmember Kellejian suggested that the federal government accept or endorse a long-range plan for the border in some way.

Mayor Guerin noted that we have done that with the Public Safety Committee. We are working on a comprehensive plan for improving interoperability and communications in the region that crosses over all levels of government. We will bring this to your attention as we continue to make progress on our plans.

Chair Cafagna asked Mayor Guerin to talk about the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS).

Mayor Guerin explained that ARJIS is a technical help center. We figure that the most important issue is to be able to communicate with each other and with the agency next door, state agencies, and federal agencies. ARJIS allows critical information to be shared among officers on the streets, and we have interconnectivity with a wide variety of public safety government agencies. Through ARJIS we have deployed handheld wireless devices that are used by officers in the field. ARJIS is now working on a higher level of community and interregional cross-training. We are evaluating how to improve our communications between local agencies and state and federal agencies. Like in transportation, we feel that the San Diego region can serve as a model in the area of public safety interoperability.

Chair Cafagna said that our Department of Homeland Security funds have been reduced. Though we are a self-help county, the federal government should know that we still count on federal resources to implement our programs.

Mr. Barrales said that we are still honing the homeland security funding criteria so that it makes more sense and is as objective as possible. Part of that is how the calculation is done. Mayor Sanders has done a good job at clarifying the needs of San Diego. He is helping to educate those in Washington, D.C., so that the criteria used in future years are a true reflection of our security needs.

Mr. Barrales said that he is aware of the public safety interoperability issues. He asked if the City of San Diego can communicate with other jurisdictions in the region. Mayor Guerin replied that the interoperability between law enforcement agencies in the region is excellent. The next step is to include the fire departments across the regions. It is critical for firefighters and law enforcement officers to be able to communicate, especially in times of crisis.

Mayor Pfeiler suggested that we include public works departments and infrastructure providers, such as Caltrans, as well in our regional communications networks for public safety.

Mayor Guerin said that everyone locally is at the table. We have gotten a handle on our local needs and that is our first priority. Then we can reach out to state agencies, like the California Highway Patrol, the federal government, and our military to make sure they are on the same page and we have effective communications with them. We have a plan that has been outlined, and we will continue to work on implementing it.

Mr. Gallegos said that we have done a lot of the planning in many issue areas. The hurdle is getting the dollars. We have the will, the collaboration, and the plans in place and now we need the funding and resources to implement it. We could use help from the federal government for that piece.

Harry Mathis, Chair of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), noted that security of our transit systems is of concern in many cities these days. MTS has received Department of Homeland Security funding for emergency drills and grants to assemble a canine team of bomb sniffing dogs to put into operation. Those have been excellent programs.

Mr. Barrales asked which of the transit stations is the busiest. Mr. Mathis responded that the busiest station is at the San Ysidro Trolley Station located at the U.S.-Mexico border. We recently opened a Trolley extension to San Diego State University (SDSU) and installed an expensive closed-circuit television (CCTV) system and have a detection system at the entrances of the tunnels to the station. However, we have gaps in our system with regard to CCTV and are in the process of updating our train control system. Modernization of the train control system is an important security issue. We need support in that area.

Karen King, Executive Director, North County Transit District (NCTD) said that they operate an additional 100 miles of track and 60 miles of that is part of the interstate railroad system. This is a critical service not only for passengers but also for freight.

Ms. Dailey noted that "snail mail" to any federal office takes at least three weeks to go through the examination process. She asked Mr. Barrales what is the best way to communicate with him. Mr. Barrales provided his contact information for the group, and stated that e-mail, telephone, or fax were the best way to reach him.

Mayor Guerin said that if Board members send a message to Congressman Bilbray's office, they also can get it to Mr. Barrales quickly.

Mr. Barrales told everyone that they should feel free to pick up the phone and call him. He said he has a great team in place. There are teams that work with governors, legislators, Native American tribes, and a team that works with local governments. He thanked everyone for taking the time to meet with him.

Mr. Gallegos expressed his appreciation to Mr. Barrales for the time spent with SANDAG representatives who go back to Washington, D.C. to work on legislative issues.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

DGunn/M/DGU

ATTENDANCE SPECIAL SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

JURISDICTION/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	ATTENDING	COMMENTS
City of Carlsbad	Matt Hall (Member)	No	
City of Chula Vista	Steve Padilla (Member)	No	
City of Coronado	Phil Monroe (Member)	No	
City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford (Member)	Yes	
City of El Cajon	Mark Lewis (Member)	No	
City of Encinitas	Christy Guerin (Member)	Yes	
City of Escondido	Lori Holt Pfeiler (Member)	Yes	Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gallo attended, too.
City of Imperial Beach	Patricia McCoy (Member)	No	
City of La Mesa	Art Madrid (Member)	No	
City of Lemon Grove	Mary Sessom, Vice Chair (Member)	Yes	
City of National City	Ron Morrison (Member)	No	
City of Oceanside	Shari Mackin (Member)	No	
City of Poway	Mickey Cafagna, Chair (Member)	Yes	
City of San Diego – A	Jerry Sanders (Member A)	No	
City of San Diego - B	Jim Madaffer (Member B)	No	
City of San Marcos	Pia Harris-Ebert (Member)	No	
City of Santee	Jack Dale (Member)	No	
City of Solana Beach	Joe Kellejian (Member)	Yes	
City of Vista	Judy Ritter (Member)	No	
County of San Diego	Bill Horn (Member)	No	
Caltrans	Pedro Orso-Delgado (Alternate)	Yes	
MTS	Harry Mathis (Member)	Yes	
NCTD	Jerome Stocks (Member)	No	
Imperial County	Victor Carrillo (Member)	No	
US Dept. of Defense	CAPT Michael Giorgione (Member)	Yes	
SD Unified Port District	Vacant (Member)	No	
SD County Water Authority	Marilyn Dailey (Member)	Yes	
Baja California/Mexico	Luis Cabrera Cuaron (Member)	Yes	