MEEING NOTICE AND AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

3 to 4:30 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA  92101-4231

Staff Contact:  Héctor Vanegas
(619) 699-1972

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- WELCOME AND BRIEFING TO NEW MEMBERS
- UPDATED COBRO CHARTER
- PROJECTS OF BINATIONAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) will advise the Borders Committee of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) concerning both short- and long-term binational related activities, issues, and actions; provide recommendations regarding binational border-related planning and development; and identify ways to assist and coordinate with existing efforts in the binational area. The COBRO will serve as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of the binational border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.
Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the COBRO on any item at the time that the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker’s Slip which is located in the rear of the room and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The COBRO may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at www.sandag.org under meetings on SANDAG’s Web site. Public comments regarding the agenda can be forwarded to SANDAG via the e-mail comment form also available on the Web site. E-mail comments should be received no later than noon, two days prior to the COBRO meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SANDAG will accommodate persons who require assistance in order to participate in SANDAG meetings. If such assistance is required, please contact SANDAG at (619) 699-1900 in advance of the meeting. To request this document or related reports in an alternative format, please call (619) 699-1990, (619) 699-1904 (TTY), or fax (619) 699-1905.

SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit.
Phone 1-800-COMMUTE or see www.sdcommute.com for route information.
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

+2. MEETING SUMMARY

   APPROVE

   Summary of October 3, 2006, meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

   INFORMATION

   Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

**CONSENT ITEMS (4 – 5)**

+4. UPCOMING EVENTS

   INFORMATION

+5. OTAY MESA-MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR EARLY ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UPS: ENVIRONMENTAL EARLY ACTIONS PROGRESS REPORT

   A) ENVIRONMENTAL EARLY ACTIONS PROGRESS REPORT
      (Ron Saenz, SANDAG)

   This report provides a briefing on the California Biodiversity Council’s September meeting and its proposal to create a committee on binational environmental issues. Staff will discuss how SANDAG plans to collaborate with this group to implement some of the environmental early actions included in the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Early Action Plan.

   B) TRANSPORTATION EARLY ACTIONS PROGRESS REPORT
      (Elisa Arias, SANDAG)

   On behalf of Caltrans District 11, SANDAG is conducting a financial feasibility assessment of developing State Route 11 and the East Otay Mesa Port of Entry as toll- or fee-based facilities. This report describes the study’s main tasks, schedule, and progress to date.

**REPORT ITEMS (6 – 7)**

+6. WELCOME AND BRIEFING TO NEW MEMBERS
    (Chair Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, SDSU; John Kirk, SANDAG)

   INFORMATION

   This report will present guidelines for SANDAG working group members, as well as COBRO’s background and adopted policies regarding membership, leadership, attendance, quorum, and vacancies.
+7. UPDATED COBRO CHARTER (Héctor Vanegas, SANDAG)  
APPROVE

At its September 5, 2006, meeting, COBRO approved revisions to its membership and reaffirmed its leadership (Chair and Vice Chair). This information was presented to the Borders Committee on September 26, 2006, for review and comment. The Committee is asked to approve modifications to its Charter to reflect the revisions to its membership.

8. PROJECTS OF BINATIONAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE TJUANA RIVER WATERSHED (Oscar Romo, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve)  
INFORMATION

This presentation will describe the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve’s vision for the Tijuana River Watershed and present strategies and projects for achieving that vision.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION  
INFORMATION

The next meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at 3:00 p.m.

+ next to an item indicates an attachment
SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 3, 2006, MEETING

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Tuesday, October 3, 2006, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Consul Ricardo Pineda. The meeting was held at SANDAG.

Members present were: Ricardo Pineda and Monica Adame, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego; Arnold San Miguel, Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC); Sergio Pallares, Caltrans; Gustavo Pérez, City of Chula Vista; Carlos de Orduña, Asociación de la Industria Maquiladora y de Exportación de Tijuana; Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach; Larry Van Wey, City of San Diego; Gerardo Chávez, City Tecate; Olivia Maldonado, City of Tijuana; José Luis Castro, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte; Yolanda Walther-Meade, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad; Tatiana Suro, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce; Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Virgilio Muñoz, Tijuana Trabaja A.C.; and David Fege, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

2. MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting summary for September 5, 2006, COBRO meeting was approved. Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, entertained a motion to approve. Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue, seconded the motion.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Elisa Arias, SANDAG, announced that the next State Route 11-East Otay Mesa Port of Entry Financial Feasibility Study meeting will be held on November 2, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at SANDAG and invited interested parties to attend.

Sergio Pallares, Caltrans, notified the Committee that the upcoming Bridges and Border Crossings meeting will be held from October 16 through 18 in the City of Monterrey, Mexico.

Arnold San Miguel, BTTAC, invited the Committee to the next regular Southwest Compact Task Force meeting, which will be held on November 16, 2006, in Los Angeles. Following this meeting, there will be a Southwest Compact Mega Region Binational Hearing, which will be held from October 24 through October 25 in the City of Yuma, Arizona.
Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, reported that the United States Congress approved the implementation of the Western Hemisphere a week prior. The extra identification requirement for land travelers entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Panama is scheduled to start on June 1, 2009, or earlier if the Department of Homeland Security completes its technological and administrative goals ahead of schedule. The initiative will require U.S. citizens returning to the United States to present a valid U.S. Passport.

4. STAFF REPORT

SANDAG staff provided a list of upcoming events.

5. SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES INTERNATIONAL PORT OF ENTRY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

The complete presentation of the San Diego & Imperial Counties International Port of Entry Efficiency Improvements is attached for your information.

Sergio Pallares, Caltrans, gave a presentation on the recommendations provided at the Border Governors Conference held last August in Austin, Texas.

As listed in the attachment, there were four recommendations from this conference. Each of these recommendations elicited the following remarks.

Per the first recommendation, Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach, asked what is the idea behind security.

Sergio Pallares responded that a mechanism could be implemented to equip tracking devices to trucks and other maquiladora vehicles to expedite their process to cross back into the United States. Trucks and drivers would have a designated route to make sure they do not diverge from their route.

Lisa Dye, Federal Highway Administration, mentioned in context of the second recommendation that the U.S. Department of Transportation is working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other agencies to have the same interpretation as the Border Governors Conference in terms of presidential permits for projects at ports of entry (POEs).

In addition to recommendation number four, Sergio Pallares added that funding for coordination has been allocated through the Federal Highway Administration for the Border Master Plan in the San Diego region.

Related to recommendation number four, David Fege, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, asked if there was coordination between the environmental and the border crossings work tables since there is a direct link in crossing vehicles faster and reducing environmental impacts.

In response, Sergio Pallares mentioned that there is communication between the California representatives from the environmental and border crossings work tables.

Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach, asked if the border crossings work table mentioned the creation of a new port of entry.

Sergio Pallares responded by saying that all decisions are made by consensus among the Border Governors’ Border Crossings Work Table members not by the Border Governors, and POEs would be unique to particular states.
6. 2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP): DRAFT REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT ACTION PLAN

The complete presentation of the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Draft Regional Goods Movement Action Plan is attached for your information.


In reference to slide five of the presentation, Ricardo Pineda, Consul General of Mexico in the U.S., asked if the 446 percent increase in trade growth was only for the California corridor.

In response, Elisa Arias said the volume of trade growth included Southern California in a 16-year projection. These projections come from a national level perspective and are not necessarily developed for the San Diego region.

In the context of slide eight, Ricardo Pineda, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, asked what type of land conflicts may arise from the existing conditions.

Elisa Arias responded that expansion of freight facilities may cause concerns about road, noise, and truck impacts, which may be mitigated as they are addressed.

Per slide 20, Gustavo Perez, City of Chula Vista, asked whether ungrounded lines through the City of Chula Vista are included in rail projects.

Elisa Arias responded that she would follow up on this question.

Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach, asked per slide 24, if there was a conflict with the maritime top-ranked project in National City (Tenth Avenue and National City MT improvements) and building a football stadium.

Elisa Arias responded that some of the land where the stadium would be built is owned by the Port of San Diego. Some of the discussions on competing land uses will be addressed by the Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy, which is currently being evaluated and updated.

Also, per slide 24, Larry Van Wey, City of San Diego, asked whether top-ranked projects are for goods movement only; will they have to compete against the other projects?

Elisa Arias mentioned that top-ranked projects will compete with regional projects when the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the RTP.

Consul Ricardo Pineda mentioned that the Borders Committee will review the new COBRO membership on October 27 at 12:30 p.m. COBRO members and the public are invited to attend this meeting.
7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at SANDAG.

Attachments: 1. The San Diego and Imperial Counties International Port of Entry Efficiency Improvements.

Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO)

SANDAG
October 3, 2006

Border Governors Conference

Texas-Sonora
Arizona, Chihuahua, New Mexico, Baja California,
Nueve Leon, California, Coahuila, Tamaulipas

2 Representatives per Governor

Agriculture Border Crossings Economic Development Education Energy Water
Wildlife Environment Health Science and Technology Security Tourism

Border Governors Conference

• Cycle/Products

1. Annual Conferences
2. Work Table Meetings and Communication
3. Yearly Joint Declarations
   • Precede/Special Recommendations - Governor Representatives
4. 3 Recommendations per Work Table
5. Follow up and Yearly Reports

XXIV Border Governors Conference

Border Crossings Work Table

2006 Recommendations

1. Fund, schedule and accelerate SENTRI and FAST lane projects
2. Promote a "New Vision" for trade and people along the U.S.-Mexico border

Border Crossings Work Table Presentation

Austin, Texas
August 24 - 25, 2006
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Border Crossings Work Table</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Request the Department of State to:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Clarify applicability of Executive Order # 13337 for Presidential permits for projects at existing POEs</td>
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<td>- Allow the Border Governors Conference to be a reviewing agency</td>
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<tr>
<th>Planning Coordination</th>
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<td>U.S. and Mexican Agencies</td>
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<td>Federal</td>
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<td>State</td>
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<td>Committee With</td>
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<td>Joint Working Committee</td>
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<td>Border Crossings Working Committee</td>
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Launch a Pilot Program to improve POE Processes for:  
- Long Term Planning  
- Funding Coordination

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Border Crossings Work Table</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Request the U.S. Department of State to provide the necessary and reasonable means of identification of U.S. citizens required by the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Border Crossings Work Table</th>
<th>Special Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>PROPOSED</td>
<td>The Governor of the State of Nuevo León, José N. González Paras, proposed the creation of a Logistics Worktable in order to increase competitiveness in the region through the studying of strategies, adopting measures, and carrying out projects related to cargo transportation, railroads, airports, seaports, multimodal infrastructure, customs, and any other aspects aiming to improve cargo timing and movement.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Border Crossings Work Table</th>
<th>Special Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>Modify POE &amp; Industry Operating Business Model (SOAB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>POE:</td>
<td>Modify existing facilities, staffing, operations, and reduce inspection redundancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry:</td>
<td>Modify business practices and logistic chains to level peak crossing periods</td>
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</table>

Include the study of the logistics involved in the cross border movements of people and trade in the two possible scenarios within and outside POEs.
Border Crossings Work Table

What are the Group & Individual States' Needs?

What are our next steps?

Questions?

Contact
Sergio Pallares at
(619) 688-3610 or
Sergio.pallares@dot.ca.gov
Objective

- Develop Regional Freight Intermodal Strategy for 2007 RTP
  - Develop and Adopt Goods Movement Action Plan
  - Quick Turnaround to Meet Schedule for Potential State Infrastructure Bond Funding

Goods Movement Action Plan Schedule

- September 8: Board Policy Meeting
  - Project List
  - Project Evaluation Criteria

- September 22: Adopt Initial Prioritized Projects List to Submit to State

- November: Adopt GMAP

- December/January: Input for the RTP

- May 2007: Draft RTP

- November 2007: Final RTP

General Findings – Global Trade

Changes in Goods Movement

- Shift to global economy
- Shift in trade flows
- Emergence of new gateways
- Unprecedented growth in international trade
- Overall system constrained, increasing delay
- Agencies worldwide unprepared

Projected Trade Growth

Volume of trade, 2004 and 2020

National Freight Policy - Vision

- Freight system which ensures the efficient, reliable and secure movement of goods
- Supports the nation's economic growth while improving environmental quality
Study Framework

- **Form Freight Working Group**
  (Air, Border, Maritime, Pipeline, Rail, Road)
- Identify needs for each freight system
- Demonstrate how systems can work together
- Integrate with adjacent regions and the national supply-chain

Study Approach

- Document existing freight systems and operations
- Evaluate system gaps, integration requirements, and opportunities
- Identify improvements and concepts to provide future capacity
- Evaluate connectivity with Southern California and Baja California
- Prepare draft Regional Freight Intermodal Strategy for RTP

General Findings - San Diego Region

Response to Trade Shift
- Unprepared
- Losing ground against increasing demand for goods
- Lacks clear role in trade
- Lacks strategy, plan, actions
- Losing economic opportunities

General Findings - San Diego Region

Existing Conditions
- Domestic goods circulation
  - Overall system constrained, increasing delay, economic loss

General Findings - San Diego Region

Existing Conditions
- International trade movement
  - Severe bottlenecks
  - Lack of infrastructure constraints opportunities at airport, border, marine terminals, and railways
  - Business expansion stalled
  - Land use conflicts

Existing Infrastructure & Volumes

- Air (San Diego)
  60,000 annual truck trips
- Border (Otay Mesa Port)
  1.4 million annual truck trips
- Maritime (TAXI/ NCLT)
  310,000 annual truck trips
- Pipeline (KM Mission Valley)
  420,000 annual intermodal truck trips
- Rail (NCTD, MTS, Seaway) Volumes: 285,000 annual truck trips
- Roads/Truck (Cabrillo)
  7-12% trucks (I-5, I-15, 805 & SR 905)
Freight Strategy – Regional Role?

- What is the region's desired role as a gateway for binational and international trade?

- What improvements are needed until the long-range vision is evaluated?

Studies and Plans

- RTPs - 2007 and Beyond
  - Update Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy
  - SD&AE Gateway Study
  - Managed Lane Truck Study
  - Master Plans for the Port, Airport, Border
  - Freight Agencies Master Business Plans
  - RCP and Cities/County General Plans

Draft Goods Movement Action Plan

- Baseline strategy until region's role defined
- Provides reasonable expansion of region's freight capacity
- Based on incremental improvements to meet existing and forecasted needs
- Includes concepts for long-term capacity

Freight Project Evaluation Criteria

- Drafted by the Freight Working Group
- Follows RTP template
- Reflects RTP and State GMAP goals

Draft Freight Infrastructure Projects

- Maritime
- Rail
- Border
- Road/Truckway
- Air Cargo
- Pipeline

Border Crossing Projects

- In RTP: SR 905, SR 11
- New Projects: New Port of Entry at East Otay Mesa, additional throughput at the border
Maritime Projects
- In RTP: Improved truck access
- New Projects: Improved rail access, terminal capacity and efficiency (on deck, inland port), channel dredging

Rail Projects
- In RTP: Coastal capacity improvements
- New Projects: South Line capacity improvements; intermodal yard improvements; improve Mexican and Desert Line; logistics centers
- Long-Term Concepts: High Speed/Inland Rail Line (N-S); Desert Line (E-W)

Truckway Projects
- In RTP: Widening and managed lanes; air/border/port access
- New Projects: Pipeline terminal access
- Long-term Concepts: Study truck lanes, safety, guidance, logistics centers; additional truck routes

Pipeline Projects
- In RTP: None
- New Projects: Ground access improvements; increase pipeline size/system capacity
- Long-Term Concepts: Extension to Mexico, reverse flow from port for alternate emergency supply

Air Cargo Projects
- In RTP: Improve ground access and increase efficiency at SDIA facilities
- New Projects: Additional air cargo facilities and improved ground access, at SDIA or new site

Top Ranked Projects
- Border
  - State Route 11, State Route 905, East Otay Mesa POE
- Maritime
  - Tenth Avenue & National City MT Improvements
- Rail
  - Coastal Rail Improvements
- Roadway
  - I-15 - SR 94 to SR 78
- Pipeline
  - Ground Access to Mission Valley Tank Farm
- Air Cargo
  - Ground Access to Lindbergh Field Air Cargo
Goods Movement Action Plan Schedule

September 8: Board Policy Meeting
   - Project List
   - Project Evaluation Criteria

September 22: Adopt Initial Prioritized Projects List to Submit to State

November: Adopt GMAP

December/January: Input for the RTP

May 2007: Draft RTP

November 2007: Final RTP
### UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>WHAT:</th>
<th>WHEN:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce “18th Annual Business Expo”</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 7, 2006</td>
<td>Town and Country Resort &amp; Convention Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dparnell@sdchamber.org">dparnell@sdchamber.org</a> or (619) 544-1344</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce “Technology Recycling Won’t Take the Holidays Off”</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 8, 2006</td>
<td>Northern Trust Bank</td>
<td><a href="mailto:avillagrana@sdchamber.org">avillagrana@sdchamber.org</a> or (619) 544-1361</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce New Member Reception</td>
<td>Thursday, November 9, 2006</td>
<td>Holiday Inn On the Bay</td>
<td>San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce at <a href="mailto:eventregistration@sdchamber.org">eventregistration@sdchamber.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Incubator Training Center</td>
<td>Thursday, November 9, 2006</td>
<td>City of El Centro</td>
<td>Deborah Harrold at (760) 337-3176 or Rachel Guzman at (760) 337-4543</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Diplomacy – The Challenge of Political Change in Latin America</td>
<td>Saturday, November 11, 2006</td>
<td>Institute of the Americas, UCSD</td>
<td>Sherry White at (858) 453-5560 or <a href="mailto:sherry@iamericas.org">sherry@iamericas.org</a></td>
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<td>Sixth Annual International Tribute Awards Gala - Honoring Foreign Affairs Minister of Mexico, Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 14, 2006</td>
<td>San Diego Marriott Hotel &amp; Marina</td>
<td>San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce or <a href="mailto:eventregistration@sdchamber.org">eventregistration@sdchamber.org</a></td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 28, 2006</td>
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<td>WHERE:</td>
<td>San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina</td>
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<tr>
<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td>Mexico Business Center (619) 744-7462 or <a href="mailto:vibanez@sdchamber.org">vibanez@sdchamber.org</a></td>
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<th>WHAT:</th>
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<td>WHEN:</td>
<td>December 12-13, 2006</td>
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<td>WHERE:</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Hotels and Resorts, Tucson, AZ</td>
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<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td>Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy <a href="http://www.scerp.org">www.scerp.org</a></td>
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<th>WHAT:</th>
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<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:harrison@aimericas.org">harrison@aimericas.org</a> or <a href="http://www.iamericas.org">www.iamericas.org</a></td>
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<th>WHAT:</th>
<th>Border Media Briefing</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN:</td>
<td>January 24, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE:</td>
<td>Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace &amp; Justice, Room 253</td>
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<tr>
<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td>Trans-Border Institute (619) 260-4090 or <a href="mailto:transborder@sandiego.edu">transborder@sandiego.edu</a></td>
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<th>WHAT:</th>
<th>Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce “2007 Annual Installation Dinner and Auction”</th>
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<td>WHEN:</td>
<td>Thursday, January 25, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE:</td>
<td>Holiday Inn on the Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td>Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce at (619) 661-6111</td>
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Introduction

The Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Early Action Plan identified several early action strategies in the environmental conservation area. This report is an update on two of this plan’s environmental early actions. It also provides a briefing on the California Biodiversity Council’s (CBCs) September meeting and the possible role its proposed “Biodiversity along the Border” committee could play in implementing these early actions.

Discussion

Staff from Tijuana’s Municipal Planning Institute (IMPlan) and SANDAG have been working to initiate the implementation of the environmental early actions listed below. A summary of next steps to implement each action is described under each strategy.


   • SANDAG staff will explore opportunities to collaborate with the newly formed “Biodiversity along the Border” committee of the CBC to develop an overall framework for preparing and implementing a comprehensive binational watershed management plan for the Tijuana River Watershed and habitat corridor conservation.

2. Explore the feasibility of a binational land use/open space conservation study for State Route 11 (SR 11), the future East Otay Mesa-Otay II Port of Entry (POE), and proposed connection from the POE to the Tijuana-Tecate Toll Road (Route 2D), including consideration of binational environmental mitigation strategies.
SANDAG and IMPlan staff will meet with environmental stakeholders and staff from local jurisdictions, state, and federal transportation and resource/wildlife agencies; and non-profit environmental organizations working in the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay binational region. These meetings will be an opportunity for future discussion on this and other early actions. These meetings are anticipated to occur during the next three months. Some of the agenda topics will include discussions on similar ongoing binational conservation efforts, legal and financial barriers and/or opportunities to conduct a binational land use/open space conservation feasibility study, and expanding environmental analysis of the draft Partial Program for Conservation and Urban Improvement of the Alamar River Zone to further assess the habitat conditions in the Alamar River area.

SANDAG staff has recently submitted a Caltrans Partnership Planning Grant application to seek funding for conducting this early actions proposed land use/open space conservation study. Depending on the feasibility of this study, it would document baseline conditions, obtain and review existing data, and research the legal mechanisms and feasibility for conservation of land in Mexico. Where data gaps are found, additional research would be conducted. If the grant is approved, funding would become available in early 2008.

SANDAG staff also will explore opportunities to collaborate with the newly formed “Biodiversity along the Border” committee on this action.
CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING

Introduction

The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) met on September 27-28, 2006, at the Coronado Community Center. The CBC is a statewide council established to design a strategy to preserve biological diversity and coordinate implementation of this strategy through regional and local institutions. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, The Resources Agency, and Mike Pool, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, co-chair the Council. Del Mar Mayor Crystal Crawford represents SANDAG on the Council. The theme of the meeting was “Biodiversity along the Border – Working Together in a Binational Watershed.” A summary of the discussion from the meeting is presented below.

The CBC holds biannual meetings around the state to improve coordination among state and federal land management agencies and local interests.

Discussion

The two-day meeting focused on three main topics:

- biodiversity, habitat, wildlife corridors, and water quality along the border;
- trends in growth and development and the underpinnings for those trends; and
- conservation challenges facing the three levels of government (from both sides of the border) to accommodate the needs of the largest commercial border crossing in the world.

Field Trip

A day-long field trip on September 27, 2006, took the CBC members and guests to East Otay Mesa to see firsthand the biodiversity and natural resources occurring along this section of the border and to hear an overview of the development plans for East Otay Mesa and the Tijuana region. Then, the group traveled east along Telegraph Canyon Road, Otay Lakes Road, and State Route 94, terminating at Barrett Junction where they heard from United States (U.S.) and Mexican biologists working together to plan for binational conservation easements along the border to ensure connections to the Multiple Species Conservation Program on the U.S. side of the border.
The group then traveled to Los Laureles Canyon, where the Honorable Hank Rhon, Mayor, City of Tijuana, dedicated a community park equipped with play equipment for the children of Los Laureles. The CBC provided support for locating and installing the play equipment. The Council participated in a ground breaking ceremony for 40 model homes utilizing sustainable design principles by the Ibero-American University of Tijuana Architecture Department. The CBC learned about a project being funded by the State Coastal Conservancy, where local residents are trained to build pervious pavers in an effort to effectively manage stormwater and control erosion. A grant from the Coastal Conservancy also is funding the purchase and installation of native plants to stabilize manufactured slopes in the neighborhood.

The last stop was Border Field State Park and the Tijuana Estuary to view first hand how the sediment from Los Laureles Canyon and other canyons in Mexico impact the southern half of this estuary.

In the evening following the tour, the Council’s dinner speaker was Dr. Ezequiel Ezcurra, Director of the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias for the San Diego Natural History Museum. Dr. Ezcurra discussed his views and experiences on conservation in Mexico and California.

**California Biodiversity Council meeting**

On September 28, 2006, the Council welcomed and introduced Mexican officials from Baja California and the City of Tijuana, who were invited to participate in the discussion. The Council discussed challenges and opportunities for transborder cooperation along the U.S.-Mexico border, and heard presentations on the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative and the Otay Mesa/Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. Tijuana Mayor Hank Rhon and Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Department of Parks and Recreation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on biodiversity cooperation between the City of Tijuana and the National Marine Estuary Reserve.

The Council concluded their meeting with a motion to form a new “Biodiversity along the Border” committee to identify specific strategies to improve cross-border biodiversity and water quality. Committee members would include staff representatives from California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, Integrated Waste Management Board, and SANDAG.

To ensure the success of the committee, non-CBC members with specific expertise and interests will be asked to join the committee. These members include government agencies such as U.S. Department of Homeland Security, International Boundary and Water Commission, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego, and nongovernmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and the International Community Foundation.

The committee will work with the appropriate federal, state, and local authorities in Baja California. The committee will explore the following projects: Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative, conservation easements along the border, Tijuana River sediment basins, a sewer system for Los Laureles Canyon, and a tires and trash action plan.
The creation of this committee provides an excellent opportunity for SANDAG to obtain support for initiatives contained in its Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay Corridor Early Action Plan as well as other border initiatives being pursued by SANDAG. We will keep the Board of Directors informed on the progress of this committee.

GARY L. GALLEGOS  
Executive Director

Staff Contact: Keith Greer, (619) 699-7390, kgr@sandag.org

Funds are budgeted in Work Element #8006300
Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Early Action Plan Follow Ups: Transportation Early Actions Progress Report

Introduction

The Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Early Action Plan includes several initiatives to address transportation issues identified by stakeholders. One of the early actions is the creation of the East Otay Mesa-Otay II Port of Entry (POE) Technical Commission to advance planning and implementation of the future POE and connecting roads as a binational project. As part of this early action, one of the objectives of the Technical Commission is to evaluate the feasibility of financing the new POE and connecting roads through tolls and other innovative financing mechanisms. This report describes progress on this early action, as well as next steps.

Discussion

In June 2006, the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego and the Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana established the East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE Technical Commission under the umbrella of the San Diego-Tijuana Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM). The BLM enables the Consuls General to convene the three levels of government from both sides of the border to discuss issues of mutual interest, such as infrastructure and POEs, public safety, environmental, and natural resources.

The East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE Technical Commission held its first meeting in July 2006. The United States Federal Highway Administration and Mexico’s Secretariat of Communications and Transportation are the co-chairs. The Technical Commission agreed to develop a joint work program and master calendar of tasks to align implementation activities for the new POE and connecting transportation facilities in the United States and Mexico. The next meeting of the Technical Commission is anticipated in mid-November 2006.

A feasibility analysis to determine the viability of financing State Route 11 (SR 11) and the East Otay Mesa POE using tolls or fees was identified as one of the studies to advance this project. SANDAG is conducting this feasibility study with consultant assistance, on behalf of Caltrans, District 11.

An expert peer review panel with participation from local, state, and federal government agencies and universities from both sides of the border is providing input on methodology, data, and key study assumptions. Other interested parties also have been invited to attend. The first meeting of the expert panel was held in September 2006, and two additional sessions are scheduled on November 2 and November 16, 2006.
The study will develop a traffic and toll revenue forecasting model using risk analysis for three scenarios (SR 11 only, as well as SR 11 and the East Otay Mesa POE including and excluding POE operating costs), assess the investor market, and provide recommendations for the next phases of the project. The financial feasibility analysis is anticipated to be completed in December 2006.

**Next Steps**

Staff will provide periodic status reports of the East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE Technical Commission’s activities. Findings from the financial feasibility study also will be presented to this committee in early 2007.

Key Staff Contact: Elisa Arias, (619) 699-1936, ear@sandag.org
November 7, 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

Action Requested: INFORMATION

WELCOME AND BRIEFING TO NEW MEMBERS  

File Number 3003200

Introduction

At the September 5, 2006, meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), the Committee reaffirmed its leadership (Chair and Vice Chair) for the coming two years and approved a new membership list (Attachment 1). Also, COBRO created a new category of Advisory Members. As a SANDAG working group, COBRO follows the guidelines established for committees and working groups (Attachment 2).

Attachments 1: COBRO Membership List
Attachments 2: SANDAG Committee and Working Group Member Guidelines

Key Staff Contact: Héctor Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, hva@sandag.org
## COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
### MEMBERSHIP LIST

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<th>Chair:</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Co Chair:</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Vice Chair:</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Asociación de la Industria Maquiladora</td>
<td>Current Member</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Caltrans</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>City of Chula Vista</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>El Colegio de la Frontera Norte</td>
<td>Current Member</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Instituto Municipal de Planeación de Tijuana</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>San Diego Dialogue</td>
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<td>United States EPA Border Liaison Office</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>County of San Diego</td>
<td>Reinstall</td>
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<td>San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>United States Customs and Border Protection</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana, A.C.</td>
<td>New Member</td>
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### Advisory Members:

- International Community Foundation [Current Member]
- Universidad Autónoma de Baja California [Reinstall]
- Border Trade Alliance [New Member]
- United States Federal Highway Administration [New Member]
- United States General Services Administration [New Member]
SANDAG COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MEMBER GUIDELINES

I. PURPOSE

SANDAG thanks you for your willingness to serve on one of its committees or working groups. SANDAG’s committee and working groups are created by SANDAG’s Board of Directors to allow stakeholders in the region to reach consensus and provide input to the Board. These guidelines are intended to provide you with information regarding your responsibilities as a member of one of SANDAG’s committees or working groups.

II. ROLE AS A REPRESENTATIVE

You were most likely asked to serve on a SANDAG committee or working group due to your experience and/or position as an elected official, or as a representative of a public agency, regional interest group, or community stakeholder. SANDAG assumes that persons sent to represent a group of people on a SANDAG committee or working group have the appropriate level of authority and understanding to serve in a representative capacity for their organization. If you were selected as the representative of a public agency, regional interest group, or other community stakeholder, SANDAG encourages you to provide input regarding the interests of the organization you represent and assumes that you will communicate information obtained at SANDAG meetings to the appropriate persons in your organization. If you are unable to continue as a SANDAG committee or working group member, please notify SANDAG’s project manager and the organization that you represent. SANDAG will work with you and your organization to ensure that a new representative is selected.

III. ADVISORY CAPACITY

As a member of one of SANDAG’s committees or working groups, it is important to work toward consensus with other members on particular issues and then provide recommendations to SANDAG’s Board or its Policy Advisory Committees regarding those issues. The advice and recommendations provided by committee and working group members will be taken into account by the Board or a Policy Advisory Committee in its decision-making process. Please remember that SANDAG’s Board has sole authority to take action on behalf of SANDAG, make a final determination on behalf of SANDAG, and/or take a position on behalf of SANDAG.

IV. CONDUCT AT MEETINGS

As an official member of a SANDAG committee or working group, you should either sit at the conference room table located in the room being used for the meeting or a nameplate or some other device will be used to delineate your status. Attendees who are not members of the committee or working group should request permission to speak from the Chair of the committee or working group. The Chair should recognize requests from non-members to speak and ask them to identify themselves, if they have not already been introduced.
SANDAG has implemented policies that apply to all persons attending SANDAG functions. These policies include prohibitions against harassment, discrimination, and violence. A copy of these policies can be obtained upon request. Persons who violate the policies will be asked to leave SANDAG’s premises.

V. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest are a consequence of the many and varied roles that SANDAG committee and working group members play in our community. One of the goals of these guidelines is to manage real or perceived conflicts of interest. SANDAG has determined that a system of self-disclosure will be the most effective since conflicts of interest must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Discussion and disclosure generally can resolve issues related to conflicts of interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when there is a divergence between an individual's professional, private, or personal relationships or interests and his/her obligations to SANDAG as a committee or working group member such that an independent observer might reasonably question whether the individual's actions or decisions are determined by considerations of personal benefit, gain or advantage. A conflict of interest, or the appearance of it, depends on the situation and not necessarily on the character or actions of the individual. The appearance of a conflict of interest can be as damaging or detrimental as an actual conflict. Thus, individuals are asked to report potential conflicts so that appearances can be separated from reality.

Potential conflicts of interest are not unusual and must be addressed. For example, conflicts of interest can arise out of the fact that some SANDAG committees and working groups assist SANDAG in shaping requests for proposals and specification documents that are, in turn, used as criteria for competitive selection of consultants. Representatives from private sector organizations may be selected to serve as a member of one of SANDAG’s committee or working groups by virtue of their experience in a particular industry. Therefore, it is expected that situations may arise where a committee or working group member is asked for input on the scoping of a project for which their organization may later want to submit a bid or proposal. This situation presents a potential conflict of interest if the committee or working group member will be rewarded for their participation in SANDAG activities because the member or his/her organization eventually receives consulting fees.

It is wrong for an individual’s actions or decisions made in the course of his or her SANDAG activities to be determined by considerations of personal financial gain. Such behavior calls into question the professional objectivity and ethics of the individual and it also reflects negatively on SANDAG. As a SANDAG committee or working group member you must respect SANDAG’s status as a recipient of public funds and conduct your affairs in ways that will not compromise SANDAG’s integrity.

All SANDAG committee and working group members have an affirmative duty to disclose any significant potential financial interest to the SANDAG project manager assigned to the committee or working group. Notification of the actual or potential conflict should be given to the project manager. Committee and working group members with an actual or potential conflict of interest should be asked to leave all meetings or portions of meetings where the conflict may arise. If a member must leave their post due to a conflict of interest, the former member may continue to attend the meetings as a member of the public.
VI. SANDAG’s RESOURCES

Except in a purely incidental way, SANDAG’s resources, including but not limited to facilities, materials, personnel, or equipment may not be used in external activities by a committee or working group member unless written approval has been received in advance from the executive director or his/her designee. Such permission shall be granted only when the use of SANDAG’s resources is determined to further SANDAG’s mission.

VII. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Proprietary or other confidential information that a SANDAG committee or working group member may be exposed to at SANDAG may never be used in external activities unless written approval is given in advance by SANDAG’s executive director.
UPATED COBRO CHARTER

Introduction

At the September 5, 2006, meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), the Committee agreed to amend its charter to reflect that the Committee is the working group that reports to the Borders Committee, and to revise its membership. The draft charter was reviewed by the Borders Committee at its October 27, 2006, meeting.

Recommendation

COBRO is asked to approve the updates to its charter.

Discussion

COBRO approved its first Charter on July 5, 2005. On June 12, 2006, COBRO updated its charter and made clarifications to better describe its role as a working group reporting to the Borders Committee.

COBRO is asked to approve changes to its charter to include a new category of Advisory Members. This new category would have a rule for those members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings. Those members failing to attend the required number of meetings would have their status changed from member to “advisory member.” COBRO also wishes to reaffirm its role as a working group that reports to the Borders Committee.

Attachment: 1. COBRO Working Group Charter

Key Staff Contact: Héctor Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, hva@sandag.org
Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities  
Working Group Charter

Purpose
The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) was formally established in 1996 as a policy advisory committee to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board of Directors. In 2002, COBRO was changed to serve as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee in order 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, and the Borders Committee reports to the Board of Directors. COBRO approves its own charter and periodically presents information to the Borders Committee.

Responsibilities
Its mission is to “advise the Borders Committee of the SANDAG 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 regular scheduled meetings.

Membership
Since 2002, 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. COBRO follows policies regarding vacancies, attendance and quorum, approved by SANDAG’s Board on January 10, 2003. Members that fail to attend three consecutive meetings will be considered as advisory members, and the Committee should keep a minimum membership of 15 voting members. COBRO informs the Borders Committee regarding its membership every two years or as needed.

Meeting Time and Location
COBRO meets at 3 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. At least two meetings a year are held in Baja California.

Selection of the Chair
COBRO informs the Borders Committee regarding its leadership every two years or as needed. Appointments are for a two-year term, but would have 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.