

San Diego Association of Governments  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE**

September 28, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS  
MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2007

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 12:34 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

Chair McCoy welcomed Honorable Kurt Honold, Mayor of the City of Tijuana and introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Mayor John Minto (East County) and a second by Mayor Jim Desmond (North County Inland), the Borders Committee approved the minutes from the May 25, 2007 meeting.

Chairman Christopher Devers (Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association) requested a correction to the May 25, 2007 sign-in sheet to reflect Chairman Mark Romero as representing Mesa Grande, not Pala.

Chair McCoy stated the minutes would be accepted and then amended as suggested by Chairman Devers.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Former Congressman Jim Bates introduced a scrap tire conversion project from Energy and Environmental Solutions LLC which would develop a new type of re-locatable plant that can convert scrap tires into useable commodities through a chemical process called "Catalytically Activated Pyrolysis" (CAP).

Chair McCoy stated that the item would not be commented on at this time. However, should the Board like to bring it back as a future item, she would ask staff to give it consideration.

Councilmember Ben Hueso (City of San Diego) recommended the Committee entertain this item and become more involved by working collaboratively with Tijuana, as it would benefit San Diego, Tijuana and the Tijuana River Valley. He also reported that there was a \$20,000 EPA grant that is being used for a study on how to reuse disposed tires on the Mexican side of the border as it relates to the Tijuana River Valley.

Chair McCoy commented on the importance of this issue and asked staff to set this as an agenda item and include the grant as an information item.

Vice Chair Greg Cox, Supervisor (County of San Diego) informed that the two biggest problems involving trash and debris in San Diego County regarding the 11 major local river valleys are tires and shopping carts.

Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) asked what, in particular, the group was seeking from SANDAG.

Mr. Bates stated they agreed that this item be referred to staff to review the possibilities.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

3. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (I-15 IRP) JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (APPOINT)

The I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee will meet at least twice in FY 2008. Two members of the Board of Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), one from the Board of Riverside Transportation Authority (RTA), and one from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) have been chosen.

In an effort to update the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee membership for Phase III participation, Chair McCoy announced Councilmember Ed Gallo (North County Inland), Councilmember Dave Allan (East County), and Councilmember Jack Feller (North County Coastal) will be asked to become members of the I-15 IRP. Councilmember Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal) and Mayor Jim Desmond (North County Inland) volunteered to serve as alternates.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Hueso and a second by Vice Mayor Minto, the Borders Committee unanimously appointed Councilmember Ed Gallo, Councilmember Dave Allan, and Councilmember Jack Feller to serve as members, and Councilmember Crystal Crawford and Mayor Jim Desmond to serve as alternates on the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee for FY 2008, upon their approval of acceptance.

### **REPORTS (Items 4 – 7)**

4. DRAFT FINAL OTAY MESA-MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN (APPROVE)

Elisa Arias, Principal Planner (SANDAG), presented the Draft Final Strategic Plan for the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor focusing on an overview of the proposed initiatives, including Early Actions, and next steps.

Tijuana Mayor Honold informed that Tijuana is expected to reach approximately 3 million residents by 2010. He invited members of the Committee to attend meetings on July 12 and

13 in which four Secretaries of State and others will discuss various border issues. Mayors from many U.S. cities, including those from the San Diego region will be invited to attend on July 13. Mayor Honold informed that Mexican President Calderon has been asked to add border issues to his binational agenda in order to expedite decisions regarding the existing ports of entry.

Mayor Honold also made a request to present a proposal before the Borders Committee at their next meeting for a new border crossing point to be located east of Playas de Tijuana. It would serve the tourist corridor which extends from Playas de Tijuana to Ensenada. He stated the new proposed ecological border crossing would not affect the environmental protection of the area and would include plans for funds to be dedicated to protecting adjacent sensitive habitat.

Mayor Honold stated that in order to improve infrastructure, the City of Tijuana will be increasing property taxes and construction permit fees. Also, 70% of the tax revenue received from the Mesa de Otay section of Tijuana will be dedicated to the reconstruction of all streets in the Mesa de Otay industrial area

Councilmember Monroe asked if the San Diego County Airport Authority's Impact Zone had been addressed in the Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Hueso stated that this issue, among others, is addressed in the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update and that they are presently working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the environmental analysis. Regarding the report, he recommended the development of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the area.

Vice Mayor Minto stated that It seems we have made a lot of progress in addressing issues that impact the Tijuana River Estuary. Since I am a new member on the Borders Committee, I would like to have a short sentence that describes how we have been able to move forward on some of these issues. How come we don't tell people about all that has been done?

Patricia McCoy responded that a report by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board touches on these issues and also that SANDAG staff could provide you with a summary of activities focused on managing the Tijuana River Valley.

Councilmember Hueso said he was a strong proponent for a crossborder plan and supported the crossing at East Otay Mesa and the possibility of a pedestrian terminal linking Otay Mesa with the Tijuana International Airport, as this would allow Brown Field to become a functional international airport for executive travel, small businesses and aviators. It would also promote infill development and growth in the area along with aeronautical manufacturing. Regarding the report, he recommended adding that even without intensive development, Bus Route 905 is the busiest in San Diego County. He recommended that a comprehensive transportation plan be developed for the area and making some recommendations as to how to achieve some of the goals with this Plan.

Bob Leiter, Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning (SANDAG), informed that staffs from SANDAG and Caltrans District 11 have been working directly with the staff from the City of San Diego Planning Department throughout the update of the Otay Mesa

Community Plan. SANDAG also attended the City of San Diego's Planning Commission hearings in which the Draft Plan elements were discussed. SANDAG will continue to work with City staff to help formulate a final Draft Circulation Element. SANDAG's goal is to assist with the creation of a circulation element which meets regional needs, provides access to the border, connects the highways and regional transit system, and ensures the people have a good transportation system. SANDAG is committed to working with the City of San Diego staff to develop a workable transportation plan which addresses the issues of residential land.

Councilmember Hueso stated that it would be helpful to have a reference to the Border Development Zone in the report as it is an important piece of legislation that should be implemented by the local agencies.

Mr. Leiter responded that SANDAG, City of San Diego Planning Directors, and Caltrans District 11, are working together to be responsive to the issues and will meet soon to discuss the final process for formulating the Draft Plan. The report takes a "regional view" on many issues and it is true that some of these issues will need to be addressed at the city plan level in which Councilmember Hueso could provide more specific direction.

Councilmember Hueso stated that he was very pleased with the report and suggested further discussions in order to add supplemental items.

Chairman Devers inquired about the process to invite the local tribal governments along the border to the meeting in Tijuana on July 13. Although they have not participated in the past regarding border issues, they have important knowledge regarding environmental issues on tribal lands. He asked if cultural studies had been performed within the area that may have significant impacts to the San Diego County tribal history.

Ms. Arias responded Caltrans follows the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which require cultural resources studies to be conducted in connection with planned infrastructure projects like the SR 11 and the future East Otay Mesa Port of Entry.

Chairman Devers asked if this would be separate from the report presented at this meeting.

Ms. Arias said it would.

Chairman Devers asked if, as part of that process, the tribes within that area will have an opportunity to provide information to Caltrans

Pedro Orso-Delgado, District Director Caltrans, informed that they are currently working on the environmental documents for SR 11. At some point in time, the draft document will be released for public review. It is at this point that the public has the opportunity to provide feedback and comments.

Vice Chair Cox expressed his appreciation to Mayor Honold for attending as his presence represents his commitment to a joint planning effort with the City of San Diego and County of San Diego in East Otay Mesa. He informed that on August 1, 2007, an Amendment to the

East Otay Mesa Specific Plan will be presented and that there are many opportunities in regards to the border crossing and infrastructure issues with positive working meetings between the County of San Diego and City of San Diego staff.

Councilmember Monroe reiterated that the Border Development Zone should be brought into the Plan.

Ms. Arias responded that an action to collaborate with the City of San Diego in the development of the Public Facilities Financing Plan for the Otay Mesa Community Plan Update is described on page 53 of the Report. One of the potential funding mechanisms that was identified, which has also been discussed with City staff, is the evaluation of the formation of an Infrastructure Financing District under SB 209.

Councilmember Crawford commended staff and recognized the work by COBRO. She stated the report provides the essential data and information for the funding of the next steps.

Alfonso Bustamante, City of Tijuana Office of Binational Affairs, spoke of the positive communication and interactions over the years which have been mutually beneficial to the United States and Mexico.

Angelika Villagrana (COBRO) advised that in addition to COBRO's support, the San Diego Chamber's International Committee and Mexico Business Center also took a position in support of the Plan. She thanked Mayor Honold for inviting the Chamber of Commerce to visit their security center in Tijuana.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Hueso and a second by Vice Chair Cox, the Borders Committee unanimously recommended approval of the Final Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

5. UPDATE ON OTAY MESA-MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN'S EARLY ACTION: ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE ASSESSMENT ON POTENTIAL MITIGATION OF IMPACTS FROM STATE ROUTE 11 AND EAST OTAY MESA PORT OF ENTRY IN MEXICO (DISCUSSION)

Ron Saenz, Associate Planner (SANDAG), stated that the Environmental Baseline Assessment originates as a follow up to the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan environmental early action that calls for SANDAG and IMPlan to "*Explore the feasibility of a binational land use/open space conservation study for SR 11, the future East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE, and proposed connection from the POE to the Tijuana-Tecate Toll Road (Route 2D), including consideration of binational environmental mitigation strategies*" and also would serve as a supporting document to an expanded study that if awarded could be funded by a Caltrans Partnership Planning Grant.

Keith Greer, Senior Planner (SANDAG), reported that the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative (LCBI) aided staff to refine a focus planning area for the mitigation strategy and develop a binational approach towards conservation designed to protect natural resources and the investment of already preserved lands in the U.S. The LCBI which focuses on a 60 – 80 mile area along the San Diego/Imperial County border with Mexico,

identifies areas critical for long-term biological conservation, both north and south of the border. This assessment includes baseline data on existing legal, biological, digital, and land use information and a defined study area. It also identifies gaps in data and next steps that could be conducted in future efforts. The information collected would be necessary to develop future strategies to implement a mitigation effort.

Mr. Saenz stated data will continue to be collected during the 60-day comment period and would provide a progress report at a future Borders Committee meeting. Also, this fall SANDAG staff will report to the Committee on whether the Caltrans Partnership Planning grant for phase 2 of this study was funded.

Chair McCoy remarked that this item is important to development, as the quality of life is adversely affected when open space and ecological values are not preserved. She appreciated the mention of a conservation easement.

Mr. Orso-Delgado (Caltrans) reported on his most recent conversation with Dinah Bear, Council on Environmental Quality, regarding the potential implementation of the Binational Mitigation Strategy and the importance of securing mitigation credits for impacts created by SR 11. He stated that Ms. Bear was exploring this possibility with executives at the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

6. FY 2008 WORK ELEMENTS AND PRIORITIES FOR BORDERS COMMITTEE (DISCUSSION)

Hector Vanegas, Borders Program Manager (SANDAG), reviewed the Borders Committee responsibilities and informed that the Borders Committee is now responsible for recommending border infrastructure financing strategies to the Board and reviewing and commenting on significant regional projects in adjoining counties. He provided an overview of the FY 07 accomplishments, along with a description of main planning activities that are part of the FY 08 work program. He asked for the Committee's input to prepare a calendar of meetings and activities along with their opinion as to whether they would like to continue receiving informational reports. He also advised the Committee that they will need to appoint representatives to joint policy committees.

Chair McCoy suggested directing staff to add an element to the priorities to educate members on the progress of issues in order to provide them a quick reference to refer to when new members are added. She asked that, as part of the initiative, Orange County be incorporated more and the possibility of creating a policy group that travels to various counties be considered. She also recommended Members attend the ADESU tour in Ensenada and reiterated the importance of the Borders Committee to the structure of the SANDAG network of policy committees.

Supervisor Slater-Price expressed concern that only three items on the agenda were for recommendation and the others were either informational or for discussion and asked if direction will be given to staff to review, revise, and return with a more succinct package of items.

Mr. Leiter offered that the Committee could return with some restructuring of the activities in a way in which the Committee would make recommendations and take actions that would move items forward.

Councilmember Monroe agreed that action items are necessary and cited the Borders and Transportation Committee Joint Policy meeting with Orange County. He suggested the Committee should work to get the SANDAG Board to adopt a policy about the new highway proposed in Orange County.

Chair McCoy stated that one of the problems with this is that some cities have actually taken a position against it.

Councilmember Crawford expressed her support for an action item related to Orange County.

Chair McCoy reiterated the importance of the liaison with the Board.

Mayor Desmond added that in the case of Orange County, the Committee should not tell Orange County what to do; it should be a collaborative effort.

Chair McCoy suggested the item return to staff and any further Committee comments/suggestions be relayed by phone.

Vice Chair Cox concurred with Councilmember Monroe and Supervisor Slater-Price and suggested adding an update from the County of San Diego in regards to the East Otay Mesa Specific Plan to the matrix.

Mr. Leiter suggested that staff return with items they think of as "actionable" types of items. He also suggested the Committee consider having staff organizing future agendas along the three categories: binational, interregional, and tribal, in order to ensure proper representation from stakeholders. He offered a change could be made regarding meeting dates and the transmittal of information via email in order to ensure the Committee's time is utilized effectively.

Chair McCoy proposed longer meetings every couple of months and her preference to have more tribal issue positions incorporated into what the Committee does.

Chairman Devers said he would like to review the matrix with the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) in order to receive their input.

Vice Mayor Minto asked for information regarding tribal governance, how tribal governments work, and the role of the SCTCA.

Chair McCoy reported the Borders Committee received an award from the San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association for the MOU with the SCTCA on tribal representation in SANDAG.

Councilmember Monroe suggested a future meeting devoted to receiving information on tribal issues hosted by one of the tribal governments.

Action: This item was presented for discussion.

7. PERSPECTIVE ON BORDER ISSUES FROM EL COLEGIO DE LA FRONTERA NORTE (COLEF) (INFORMATION)

Action: This item was not presented at this time.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

As Chair McCoy and Vice Chair Cox will not be available for the September meeting, Chair McCoy asked for concurrence from the Committee to have Councilmember Crawford chair the September meeting.

Councilmember Crawford questioned the process to have her named as Chair Pro Tem for the September meeting.

John Kirk, Deputy General Counsel (SANDAG), stated that the Chair has the authority, under SANDAG's rules, to unilaterally assign a Chair Pro tem for a future meeting when both the regular Chair and Vice Chair would be absent. No vote is needed on the matter.

Councilmember Crawford said she would be happy to chair the September meeting.

Chair McCoy asked for the rescheduling of agenda item 7, Perspective On Border Issues From El Colegio De La Frontera Norte (COLEF) by Dr. Tonatiuh Guillen, and that it be placed on the agenda as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE  
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 22, 2007  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	
				Yes	No
South County	City of Imperial Beach	Patricia McCoy (Chair)	Member	✓	
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	✓	
Imperial County	County of Imperial	Victor Carrillo	Member		✓
	City of Calexico	David Ouzan	Alternate		✓
North County Coastal	City of Oceanside	Jack Feller	Member		✓
	City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford	Alternate	✓	
North County Inland	City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond	Member	✓	
	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Alternate	✓	
East County	City of La Mesa	David Allan	Member		✓
	City of Santee	John Minto	Alternate	✓	
City of San Diego	----	Ben Hueso	Member	✓	
	----	Brian Maienschein	Alternate		✓
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member	✓	
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	✓	

**ADVISORY/LIAISON  
MEMBERS**

COBRO	----	Dr. Paul Ganster	Member		✓
	----	Cindy Gompers-Graves	Alternate		✓
	----	Angelika Villagrana	Alternate	✓	
County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	Thomas Buckley	Member		✓
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Luis Cabrera C.	Member		✓
	Deputy Consul	Ricardo Pineda	Alternate	✓	
	Deputy Consul	Lydia Antonio	Alternate		✓
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Pauma	Christopher Devers	Member	✓	
	Mesa Grande	Mark Romero	Alternate		✓
Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	✓	
	----	Bill Figge	Alternate		✓
San Diego County Water Authority	----	Howard Williams	Member	✓	
County of Orange	----	Debbie Cook	Member		✓

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE (REVISED)**  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 25, 2007**  
**12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	
				Yes	No
South County	City of Imperial Beach	Patricia McCoy (Chair)	Member	✓	
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	✓	
Imperial County	County of Imperial	Victor Carrillo	Member	✓	
	City of Calexico	David Ouzan	Alternate		✓
North County Coastal	City of Oceanside	Jack Feller	Member	✓	
	City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford	Alternate	✓	
North County Inland	City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond	Member	✓	
	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Alternate	✓	
East County	City of La Mesa	David Allan	Member		✓
	City of Santee	John Minto	Alternate	✓	
City of San Diego	----	Ben Hueso	Member	✓	
	----	Brian Maienschein	Alternate		✓
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member	✓	
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	✓	

**ADVISORY/LIAISON  
MEMBERS**

COBRO	----	Dr. Paul Ganster	Member		✓
	----	Cindy Gompper-Graves	Alternate		✓
	----	Angelika Villagrana	Alternate	✓	
County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	Thomas Buckley	Member		✓
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Luis Cabrera C.	Member		✓
	Deputy Consul	Ricardo Pineda	Alternate	✓	
	Deputy Consul	Lydia Antonio	Alternate		✓
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Pauma	Christopher Devers	Member	✓	
	Mesa Grande*	Mark Romero	Alternate	✓	
Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	✓	
	----	Bill Figge	Alternate	✓	
San Diego County Water Authority	----	Howard Williams	Member	✓	
County of Orange	----	Debbie Cook	Member	✓	

\*Tribal representation correction from June 22, 2007 meeting+