MEETING 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, August 7, 2007
3:00 p.m. 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

- REPORT ON SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION

- PRESENTATION ON IMPLAN'S “PROGRAMA PARCIAL DE CONSERVACIÓN Y MEJORAMIENTO URBANO PARA LA ZONA DEL ARROYO ALAMAR: PRIMER ETAPA” (SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR CONSERVATION AND URBAN IMPROVEMENT FOR THE ARROYO ALAMAR ZONE: FIRST PHASE)

- BRIEFING ON THE SAN YSIDRO MOBILITY PLAN - PHASE 1

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 input 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.
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<td>MEETING SUMMARY APPROVE</td>
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<td>Summary of June 5, 2007 meeting.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS INFORMATION</td>
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<td>Each speaker is limited to three minutes.</td>
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<td>UPCOMING EVENTS INFORMATION</td>
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<td>REPORTS (Items 5 - 8 )</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>REPORT ON SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION</td>
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<td>(JASON WELLS, SAN YSIDRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)</td>
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<td>The San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition is a voluntary community-wide coalition formed to promote a &quot;Port of the Future&quot; at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. This report will present the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition’s purpose and goals for the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry. The Committee will be asked to support the Coalition’s purpose and goals.</td>
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<td>IMPlan staff will summarize proposals to restore riparian areas, provide habitat conservation, and establish compatible land uses within this riparian corridor. The plan also includes proposals to channelize the river using pervious material and construction of a new lineal ecological park along the Alamar River. Its implementation would require the relocation of 600 families living in irregular housing settlements throughout the Alamar River.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>BRIEFING ON THE SAN YSIDRO MOBILITY PLAN - PHASE 1 DISCUSSION</td>
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<td>(Steve Otto, San Ysidro Transportation Collaborative, and Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning)</td>
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<td>This report will present an overview of the project and a brief update on the progress of the San Ysidro Mobility Plan - Phase 1.</td>
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8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 3 p.m. at SANDAG.

+ next to an item indicates an attachment
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
(COBRO) SUMMARY OF JUNE 5, 2007

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The June 5, 2007 Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Cindy Gompper-Graves. The meeting was held at SANDAG.

Members present were: Cindy Gompper-Graves, South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC); Consul Ricardo Pineda, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego; Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Yolanda Walther-Meade, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad; Sergio Pallares and Mark Baza, Caltrans; Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach; Larry Van Wey, City of San Diego; Tatiana Suro, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce; Horacio Hanson, City of Tijuana; Jason M-B Wells and Thomas Currie, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Jose Luis Castro, COLEF; Clay Phillips, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve; and Toby Sosbee, Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Advisory member present: Lisa Dye, U.S. Federal Highway Administration.

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, entertained a motion to approve the April 3, 2007 meeting summary. Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, seconded the motion. The meeting summary was approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, made a recommendation to change the San Ysidro Chamber’s report on the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition from an informational item to a request for recommendation item. This item was changed, when quorum was reached.

Nathan Owens announced that the Forum Fronterizo along with Mexico Economic Outlook will host a conference on June 13, 2007, that will include speakers Guillermo Diaz, from the Bank of Mexico, and Alberto Ortega, Chief adviser to Mexico’s Secretary of Economy.

Toby Sosbee introduced himself as the new U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) San Diego Field Office Community Relations Liaison. Mr. Sosbee stated that he replaced James Snider and would be attending future COBRO meetings. He also reported that Adele Fasano held a press conference earlier that to clarify rumors regarding the closure of the pedestrian bridge at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. He said there are no plans to close the bridge but CBP is in the process of establishing a working group to come up with solutions to address CBP’s concerns regarding the bridge.
On September 20, the SCEDC and local chambers of commerce will host an Elected Officials reception. This is a free event scheduled from 4-6 p.m. at the City of Chula Vista’s Bayside Park.

On September 28, the SCEDC will be hosting its 17th Annual Economic Summit at the San Diego Convention Center. The Mayor of Tijuana has agreed to speak at this event. More information will be forthcoming at a future COBRO meeting.

4. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

SANDAG staff provided an attachment of upcoming events.

5. **DRAFT OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN:**

(A copy of the presentation is available upon request)

Elisa Arias, SANDAG, stated that the Draft Strategic Plan was presented at the March 6, 2007, COBRO meeting, which also marked the initiation of its 30-day public comment period. In addition to comments provided by members of COBRO, the Borders Committee and the City of Tijuana’s Subcommittee on Binational Affairs at their meetings in March 2007, written comments on the Draft Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan were received from Caltrans, the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, the Metropolitan Transit System, and the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce. At its meeting in May 2007, COBRO discussed comments received and proposed responses. These changes were incorporated into the Draft Plan and progress was updated on some of the early actions.

Ms. Arias gave an overview of the strategies included in the Strategic Plan, both the Early Actions approved in September of 2006 and the other initiatives identified later. An outline of the schedule to finalize this project also was presented.

Some of the next steps include continuing to work with stakeholders in the implementation of proposed actions; and holding periodic meetings to follow up on implementation status.

Ms. Arias concluded the presentation by requesting that COBRO recommend the Borders Committee approve the Final Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. Ms. Graves expressed concern on the potential for this plan not being in sync when the City of San Diego’s Otay Mesa Community Plan is updated later this year. Ms. Arias stated that SANDAG could review the plan when it is approved to make sure there are no conflicts.

After discussion, COBRO recommended the Borders Committee approve the Final Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. The Committee also recommended that staff monitor approval of plans currently underway by stakeholders (e.g., City of San Diego Otay Mesa Community Plan Update and County of San Diego’s East Otay Mesa Specific Plan Amendment) to ensure consistency between those plans and the strategies included in the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan and report findings to COBRO, in case the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan needs to be revised to be consistent with the other plans.
6. **UPDATE ON OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN’S ACTION: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE ASSESSMENT ON POTENTIAL MITIGATION OF IMPACTS FROM SR 11 AND EAST OTAY MESA PORT OF ENTRY IN MEXICO**

(A copy of the presentation is available upon request)

Ron Saenz, SANDAG, described the project background. Mr. Saenz 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.

Mr. Saenz stated that environmental stakeholders agreed that an environmental baseline assessment would be the first necessary step towards preparing a binational mitigation strategy. The primary goals of Phase I of this environmental baseline assessment are to refine a focused study area based on reasonable biological connectivity and collect existing baseline data for an expanded Phase II study that would evaluate the feasibility of mitigating for the impacts created by the future SR 11 and East Otay Mesa POE. 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.

Keith Greer, SANDAG, continued the presentation by describing how biodiversity and ecosystems processes are not restricted by borders, and that protecting the investment made in the U.S. requires a binational strategy for conservation. Mr. Greer added that based upon discussions with the IMPlan and Caltrans, and a review of the Las Californias Initiative, it was determined that the still undeveloped areas between Tijuana and Tecate represent one of the greatest threats to biodiversity conservation and one of the biggest natural resources conservation opportunities.

Mr. Greer stated that this area represents the best opportunity for maintaining critical habitat linkages across the border between growing urbanizing areas of Tijuana and Tecate, and is in close proximity to the proposed SR 11, the future POE, and proposed road connection from the POE to the Tijuana-Tecate Toll Road. He concluded his presentation by describing legal, biological, digital, and land use information and gaps.

Mr. Saenz stated staff would continue to collect available information until the conclusion of the public comment period. SANDAG staff will be making this presentation at the June Borders Committee meeting and at the July East Otay Mesa POE Interagency Work Group. This fall SANDAG staff will report to the committee on whether the Caltrans Partnership Planning grant was funded. If this grant funding is not secured, staff would seek additional resources to complete this study. Also this fall, SANDAG staff will work with the California Biodiversity Along the Border Committee to seek support from the California Biodiversity Council. SANDAG staff will keep COBRO updated on progress made.
7. REPORT ON SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION

Jason M-B Wells reported that the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce put together a coalition to ensure the inclusion and accommodations of business within the configuration of the San Ysidro POE project. He emphasized that the San Ysidro POE is San Diego’s door to Latin America. The Coalition came up with seven issues for the General Services Administration (GSA) to consider. One issue is to include a design that allows business space within the structure of GSA. Currently, there is nothing that allows GSA to collect rent or charge private entities within the same facility. The Coalition would like laws changed to allow this. Another request is that a study be done into how many more double stacking booths could be added. The San Ysidro Chamber will be going to Washington with letters of support from this Coalition. Mr. Wells stated that the recommendation is that COBRO approve support for this Coalition.

Mr. Pallares, Caltrans, stated he did not think the Committee had enough information to take action and preferred to have this item come back to a future COBRO meeting.

Ms. Graves asked Hector Vanegas to put this as one of the first items on the COBRO agenda for its August meeting.

8. PRESENTATION ON PALOMA TECHNOLOGIES AND PALOMA TECNOLOGIA A.C.:
(A copy of the comments and proposed responses matrix was included in the COBRO agenda)

Mr. David Dumas of Paloma Technologies began his presentation by giving an overview of this company. Mr. Dumas described it is a non for profit company that was established about 2 ½ years ago and is focused on creating and promoting a globally competitive binational life science economic sector. The potential synergy between California’s investment and leadership in basic research with the possibility for offshore development and manufacturing in Baja California will create a sustainable competitive advantage unequaled anywhere in the world. Realization of this vision will re-establish San Diego as an industry leader while propelling development and prosperity on both sides of the border. They have a laboratory in Ensenada and a medicinal plant research field in Valle de Guadalupe. They are working on a Malaria drug that is being bought by the World Health Organization. This product will be sent to San Diego to develop eco-friendly technology to extract the drug.

Paloma’s objectives are the following:

- Demonstrate binational pharmaceutical development and manufacturing through nonprofit pharmaceutical operations
- Develop workforce
- Promote innovation, applied research, and the creation of technology-focused start-ups
- Serve as focal point for cross border development and collaboration

Mr. Dumas concluded his presentation by summarizing Paloma Technologies’ need with assistance in accessing state and regional funding.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting of the COBRO meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at 3 p.m. at SANDAG.
UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, COLEF  
25th Anniversary  
WHEN: Thursday, August 9-30, 2007  
WHERE: COLEF  
MORE INFO: www.colef.mx or 011 52(664) 631-6300 Ext. 1152

WHAT: Tijuana River Natural Estuarine Research Reserve  
25th Anniversary and Grand Reopening  
WHEN: Thursday, August 16, 2007  
WHERE: Tijuana River Natural Estuarine Research Reserve  
MORE INFO: (619) 575-3613

WHAT: Tijuana Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Viva Tijuana in San Diego  
WHEN: Thursday, August 30, 2007  
WHERE: North Embarcadero Marina Park  
MORE INFO: Juan Saldaña at 011 52(664) 684-0537 or juansaldana@tijuanaonline.org

WHAT: South County EDC  
Elected Official Reception  
WHEN: Wednesday, September 19, 2007  
WHERE: Chula Vista Bayside Park  
MORE INFO: South County EDC at cindy@sandiegosouth.com or (619) 424-5143

WHAT: South County EDC  
17th Annual Economic Summit  
WHEN: Friday, September 28, 2007  
WHERE: San Diego Convention Center  
MORE INFO: South County EDC at cindy@sandiegosouth.com or (619) 424-5143
| WHAT: | San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
One Region - One Voice: San Diego Delegation to Washington D.C. |
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<tr>
<td>WHEN:</td>
<td>September 30 - October 3, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE:</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td>Judith Andry at (619) 544-1341 or <a href="mailto:jandry@sdchamber.org">jandry@sdchamber.org</a>.</td>
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<th>WHAT:</th>
<th>United States - Mexico Border Energy Forum</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN:</td>
<td>October 18-19, 2007</td>
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<td>WHERE:</td>
<td>Doubletree San Diego Mission Valley</td>
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<td>MORE INFO:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.borderenergyforum.org">www.borderenergyforum.org</a></td>
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REPORT ON SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION

The San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition is a voluntary community-wide coalition formed to promote a "Port of the Future" at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. This report will present the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition's purpose and goals for the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry. The Committee will be asked to support the Coalition's purpose and goals.

Attachments related to this item include:

1. San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition: Background, Purpose, and Conclusion
2. San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition Position Paper
3. Support letters from Elected Officials
SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION

Background
As the busiest land-border in the World, the San Ysidro Port of Entry, through its reconfiguration, offers an unparalleled opportunity to create a showcase of the integration of security, commerce and community; and set precedence for the rehabilitation and construction of land ports of entry throughout our Nation.

Purpose
1. San Ysidro must have a “Port of the Future” – including and accommodating commerce and the community of San Ysidro, especially pre-existing and location-dependent businesses; and
2. The reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry must be a positive influence to the economic development of the community - integrating operational interests with opportunities for existing and new commerce within the border crossing facilities; and
3. GSA must be given the appropriate authority and provisions to include the community and commerce within border facilities, including the ability to pay or collect rents to/from private interests; and
4. Port of Entry facilities (Border Stations) must be given separate and undivided attention from other GSA projects (i.e. federal court houses); and
5. The community and stakeholders of San Ysidro must have a voice and vote in the design of the San Ysidro Port of Entry reconfiguration. This is to ensure, among other things, that community mobility, environmental tranquility and a welcoming impression to our international visitors are included and appropriately prioritized; and
6. Proper coordination must be made with appropriate Mexican parties to ensure seamless international integration

Conclusion
The San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition will work with our elected officials, GSA, CBP and other appropriate agencies to ensure the commerce and community of San Ysidro, especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses, are included and accommodated in the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration.

Founding partners

*Signature pending
Position Paper
SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION
A voluntary group of key leaders and stakeholders in the immediate region of the
San Ysidro Port of Entry

The San Ysidro Port of Entry (SYPOE) is the busiest land border in the World – where
130,000 people cross each day, generating over $3 billion to the San Diego regional
economy. In fact, one of every ten persons entering the US through any point
comes through the SYPOE. An estimated US$6 billion in gross output were lost in 2005 between traffic congestion and border wait times at San Diego land port of entries, resulting in the sacrifice of 51,325 jobs. Crossings at the SYPOE are estimated to increase over 50% by 2020. Reconfiguration of the SYPOE is an immediate must.

The reconfiguration project of the SYPOE offers an unparalleled opportunity to create a showcase of the integration of security, commerce and community; and set precedence for the rehabilitation and construction of land ports of entry throughout our Nation. San Ysidro must have a “Port of the Future” – including and accommodating commerce and the community of San Ysidro, especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses. While efficiently maximizing our country’s security, a successful reconfiguration will bring ease of use, pride, and economic sustainability to the areas immediately adjacent to the border crossings, as well as improve the overall economic success of the region. Conversely, an ill-conceived border – a single-service security compound, will be extremely deleterious for the region. It would be an enormous obstacle for users, it will cripple local and regional commerce, it will make nearby communities unsustainable and force them into position of permanent and perpetual need. It is also in America’s best interest to ensure those borders so close and heavily used by our neighbors are efficient and user-friendly as to entice their best effort in developing or redeveloping their own border facilities and security.

Inclusionary Concept

Border reconfiguration, in addition to security needs, must include border users – pedestrian and vehicular, the commercial and/or business entities whose very lifeline is the border, and the community in which the POE is situated. The POE does not singularly affect its adjacent area, but is an economic engine driving the region of San Diego and the State of California. The end-result of the border reconfiguration will also have national and bi-national implications. It will have political, economic, and environmental impacts, as well as effects to human rights and respect. Therefore, the impacted entities must be consulted and included in the designing and vetting of any reconfiguration plans.

Design

The design of the SYPOE must fully embrace functional diversity. While the identification, inspection and crossing of people and goods is the primary function of the POE, the port can and must serve many functions. The POE should offer users a secure and friendly crossing amidst a pleasant, environmentally tranquil setting and a commercially vibrant and diverse locale. The aforementioned aspects must be a fundamental part of the reconfiguration design, and not left as collateral requirements forced on the community and/or local governments. This will be achieved by immediately integrating operational interests with opportunities for existing, and even new, commerce within the border crossing facilities.
Implementation/ Next Steps

Long Term (overall project requirements):

1. CBP and GSA shall use the anticipated FY 2008 project funding of $37.7 million, in addition to any other monies allotted for the subject project to complete design plans for the SYPOE. This design shall be immediately made available to the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition; and

2. The San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition requests 60 days from the submission of the CBP/GSA design for public input, before any further promulgation by GSA of said designs; and

3. Design of the SYPOE must include and accommodate commerce and the community of San Ysidro, especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses; and

4. CBP employee parking lots shall only be allowed if underground or are within the existing footprint of SYPOE operation buildings. Should it be budgetarily beneficial, alternative means for CBP employees to arrive at their stations must be further explored and factored into the budget; and

5. Routes for returning to northbound lanes from the southbound lanes, as well as routes for emergency vehicle access must also be provided and factored into the project's design and budget; and

6. All appropriate studies regarding traffic mobility throughout San Ysidro must be considered in the SYPOE reconfiguration – not only for project funding, but to ensure for seamless integration. These include but are not limited to those conducted by SANDAG, Caltrans and the City of San Diego; and

7. CBP and GSA shall coordinate design, planning and mobility implications of the SYPOE with appropriate Mexican officials.

Short Term – (Steps for immediate action):

1. The San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition (SYSBC) fervently requests an official focus within the structure of the US GSA for border stations projects – separate from personnel designated to work on courthouse projects. These are two very different projects requiring very different attention, resources and personnel. The creation of a border stations program will facilitate resolution of all issues herein scribed; and

2. We respectfully request changes immediately be made to GSA policy, guidelines, design guides and federal building fund allowances permitting the inclusion of private commerce within border facilities – to include but not be limited to authorizing GSA the ability to create space within border facilities for private rental, to charge rents to private companies, lease from private companies and coexist with private companies within same facilities; and

3. The SYSBC requests CBP conclude studies as to the efficiency of “double-stacking” – the placement of two inspection booths (also known as Wal-Mart scheme) in SYPOE lanes, currently being tested on lane #5. We further request study results be made available to the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition within 10 calendar days of their conclusion; and

4. We request CBP concurrently conduct design feasibility and cost estimates for placement of the maximum number of “stacked booths” throughout the 24 northbound vehicle lanes at the SYPOE. These “stacked booths” shall be temporary, as to maintain costs for such addition at a minimum, in light of a larger reconfiguration in the future; and

5. Should “double-stacking” studies conclude a decrease of border-crossing wait times, we respectfully request the US government immediately make available the full and necessary funds, and CBP personnel, to add temporary “stacked booths” to the maximum possible number of SYPOE lanes; and
6. The San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition VERY STRONGLY requests the hours of operation of the SYPOE Pedestrian SENTRI lane are immediately expanded to no less than 12 hours per day, 7 days a week, minimum; and

7. We request a formal study of a southbound pedestrian crossing on the eastern side of the POE, which would abate Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) security concerns with regard to unwanted visual access to CBP operations on the current pedestrian bridge adjacent to their building. Coordination with appropriate Mexican authorities is necessary, and the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition avails itself to assist in this regard.

For the continued prosperity of San Ysidro and our bi-national region,
We sign on the 23rd day of April 2007,

Jason M-B Wefts
Organizer
San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition

Andrea Skorepa
President/ CEO
Casa Familiar

Carlos Vazquez
President of the Board
San Ysidro Business Assoc.

Thomas M. Currie
President of the Board
San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce

David Flores
Chairman
San Ysidro Planning Group

Juan Antonio Lopez
Border Transportation Council

Steve Otto
Coordinator
San Ysidro Transportation Collaborative

Alicia Jimenez
Hearts and Hands Working Together

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1 San Diego Association of Governments; California Department of Transportation, District 11 “Estimating Economic Impacts of Wait Times at the San Diego-Baja California Border Region”, 2006
June 1, 2007

San Ysidro Border Coalition
663 E San Ysidro Blvd.
San Ysidro, CA 92173

Dear Friends:

I would like to commend the Community of San Ysidro for uniting as the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition to ensure the community’s inclusion in the planning, design and implementation of the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration.

The San Ysidro Port of Entry (SYPO) is the busiest land border in the World - where 130,000 people cross each day, generating over $3 billion to the San Diego regional economy. The businesses that drive this revenue, and the community that houses and is affected by it, must be included and accommodated in whatever reconfiguration takes place - especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses.

I am delighted to support your efforts and advocate the inclusion and accommodation of the San Ysidro Community in the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration. I further look forward to working with you as we ensure San Ysidro houses a “Port to the Future.” As our district includes America’s Finest City, we must ensure San Ysidro is America’s Finest Front Door.

Sincerely,

Ben Hueso
Councilmember
District 8
June 5, 2007

San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition
663 E San Ysidro Blvd
San Ysidro, CA 92173

Dear Friends:

I would like to commend the Community of San Ysidro for uniting as the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition to ensure the community’s inclusion in the planning, design and implementation of the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration.

The San Ysidro Port of Entry (SYPOE) is the busiest land border in the World – where 130,000 people cross each day, generating more than $3 billion to the San Diego regional economy. The businesses that drive this revenue, and the community that houses and is affected by the Port of Entry, must be included in planning whatever reconfiguration takes place - especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses.

I am delighted to support your efforts and advocate the inclusion of the San Ysidro Community in the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration. I further look forward to working with you as we ensure San Ysidro houses a “Port of the Future.” As my district includes parts of America’s Finest City, San Diego, we must ensure San Ysidro is America’s Finest Front Door.

Sincerely,

Greg Cox
Vice Chairman
June 4, 2007

San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition
663 E San Ysidro Blvd
San Ysidro, CA 92173

Dear Friends:

I would like to commend the Community of San Ysidro for uniting as the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition to ensure the community’s inclusion in the planning, design and implementation of the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration.

The San Ysidro Port of Entry (SYPOE) is the busiest land border in the World – where 130,000 people cross each day, generating over $3 billion to the San Diego regional economy. The businesses that drive this revenue, and the community that houses and is affected by it, must be included and accommodated in whatever reconfiguration takes place - especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses.

I am delighted to support your efforts and advocate the inclusion and accommodation of the San Ysidro Community in the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration. I look forward to working with you as we ensure San Ysidro houses a “Port of the Future.” As our district includes America’s Finest City, we must ensure San Ysidro is America’s Finest Front Door.

Sincerely,

Mary Salas
Assemblymember, 79th Assembly District
San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition  
663 E San Ysidro Blvd  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

June 5, 2007

Dear Coalition:

I would like to commend the Community of San Ysidro for uniting as the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition to ensure the community’s inclusion in the planning, design and implementation of the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration.

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I am delighted to support your efforts and advocate the inclusion and accommodation of the San Ysidro Community in the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration. I further look forward to working with you as we ensure San Ysidro houses a “Port of the Future.” As our district includes America’s Finest City, we must ensure San Ysidro is America’s Finest Front Door.

Sincerely,

DENISE MORENO DUCHENY  
Senator, 40th District
Steve Baker
Project Manager
U.S. General Services Administration
880 Front Street, Room 4236
San Diego, CA  92101

Dear Steve:

I am writing in support of the letter addressed to you by the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition, dated July 7, 2007, wherein the Coalition requested the community of San Ysidro be provided an actual design for the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

The economic development of the Community of the San Ysidro is being challenged by this project. Several land owners, business owners and residents are unable or unwilling to make any kind of further investment in San Ysidro until it is better understood how the port’s reconfiguration will affect them.

As California’s Border Congressman, I must insist my communities are better kept informed of issues so critical to their existence and development. I look forward to being briefed on the draft of the reconfiguration design presented at the July 25, 2007 Community Representative Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/VV
2452525
PRESENTATION ON IMPLAN’S “PROGRAMA PARCIAL DE CONSERVACIÓN Y MEJORAMIENTO URBANO PARA LA ZONA DEL ARROYO ALAMAR: PRIMER ETAPA” (SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR CONSERVATION AND URBAN IMPROVEMENT FOR THE ARROYO ALAMAR ZONE: FIRST PHASE)  

Introduction

The Draft Specific Program for Conservation and Urban Improvement for the Arroyo Alamar Zone: First Phase (Programa Parcial de Conservación y Mejoramiento Urbano para la Zona del Arroyo Alamar: Primer Etapa) was released in January 2007. The preparation of this Plan is a joint effort between federal, state, and municipal governmental entities in Baja California. This Plan, together with the City’s Urban Development Program 2002 – 2025, serves to regulate housing development and general land use in the City of Tijuana and the corresponding specific planning areas.

Discussion

One of the principal proposals in this Plan is to channelize the Alamar River with impervious materials that allow filtration and recharging of the aquifer, which is known as the “Sustainable River Architecture” concept. Essentially this concept supports the managed development of riparian corridors that do not rely on concrete channeled river basins. A 10-kilometer lineal park also is proposed along this river. Its implementation would require the relocation of 600 families living in irregular housing settlements throughout the Alamar River.

Other proposals include plans for an expressway connecting the planning area with the Rio Zone in Tijuana, and roads that would connect the proposed East Otay Mesa-Otay II POE to the Tijuana-Rosarito Corridor. This Plan also designates compatible land uses that promote balanced development.

The City of Tijuana's City Council will be asked to approve this Plan in fall 2007.

Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619) 699-1922, rsa@sandag.org
BRIEFING ON THE SAN YSIDRO MOBILITY PLAN - PHASE 1  

Introduction

The City of San Diego and the San Ysidro Transportation Collaborative are currently working with Estrada Land Planning in completing Phase 1 of the Mobility Plan. This study will evaluate ways to improve vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit circulation within the community. Since its kickoff earlier this year, the Collaborative has convened several public workshops, a Design Charette, and a community opinion survey.

Discussion

San Ysidro encompasses approximately 1,800 acres and has a population of almost 27,310 residents (in 2006). It is bounded by the Otay Mesa-Nestor community and State Highway 905 in the north, by the Tijuana River Valley in the west, by the Otay Mesa community in the east, and to the south by the international border with Mexico.

San Ysidro is characterized by its intense commercial activity and the massive border crossing activity generated by the San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE), the busiest land POE in the world that connects the San Diego region and California with the northwestern communities of Baja California.

The international border is a gateway for people using the San Diego Trolley system, local streets, and highways of the region. It allows commuters to access jobs, shopping, and other activities in San Ysidro and throughout the region. The many shopping centers located in this area attract shoppers from south of the border and from around the region.

In light of the traffic volumes this community experiences, this Mobility Plan would help identify areas that need infrastructure improvements to facilitate the flow of traffic and people in San Ysidro. In addition, the Mobility Plan would be a mechanism to solicit funding for infrastructure projects that improve the flow of traffic in the community.

Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619) 699-1922, rsa@sandag.org