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, October 2, 2007
3:30 to 5 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING TIME

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

Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas
(619) 699-1972
hva@sandag.org

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• U.S.-MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND MID-TERM REPORT: 2007
• UPDATE ON SAN DIEGO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT’S (APCD) CROSS-BORDER CLEAN AIR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
• BORDER-CROSSING VEHICLE AIR MONITORING STUDY

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) 699-1900, (619) 699-1904 (TTY), or fax (619) 699-1905.

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<th>ITEM #</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<td>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>MEETING SUMMARY</td>
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<td>The summary of the September 4, 2007, meeting is included for information. The committee will be asked to approve this summary.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS</td>
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<td>Each speaker is limited to three minutes.</td>
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<td>+4.</td>
<td>UPCOMING EVENTS</td>
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<td><strong>CONSENT ITEMS (5 through 8)</strong></td>
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<td>+5.</td>
<td>COBRO MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL EVENT TASKFORCE</td>
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<td>(Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce)</td>
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<td>At the September 4, 2007, COBRO meeting, a taskforce was formed to review COBRO member attendance and to make recommendations on the COBRO Annual Event format and topic. The taskforce met on September 12, 2007, and staff has prepared a report describing the taskforce’s recommendations.</td>
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<td>(Dave Fege or Tomas Torres, U.S. EPA Border Office)</td>
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<td>U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program (Border 2012) is a collaboration program between the U.S. and Mexico to improve the environment and protect the health of the nearly 12 million people living along the border. The binational program focuses on cleaning the air, providing safe drinking water, reducing the risk of exposure to hazardous waste, and ensuring emergency preparedness along the U.S.-Mexico border. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff will provide a briefing on the 2007 Implementation and Mid-term Report.</td>
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ITEM #  

7. UPDATE ON EARLY ACTION FROM THE OTAY MESA-MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN: SAN DIEGO COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT’S (APCD) SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA CLEAN DIESEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (Domingo Vigil, APCD)  

The APCD is implementing the San Diego/Tijuana Clean Diesel Demonstration Project, which retrofits heavy-duty trucks with diesel oxidation catalyst. This presentation will provide a progress report on this project.

8. BORDER-CROSSING VEHICLE AIR MONITORING STUDY (Jenny Quintana, Ph.D., San Diego State University)  

This study involves using an air quality monitor that records air pollution exposures in private vehicles that cross through regular private vehicle and SENTRI lanes at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry. Approximately 100 vehicles are being monitored in this study which concludes in December 2007.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION  

The next meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., at SANDAG.
SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2007, MEETING

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The September 4, 2007, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Ganster. The meeting was held at SANDAG.

Members present were: Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, SDSU; Ricardo Pineda and Lydia Antonio, Consulado Consulate General of México en San Diego; Wilfrido Ruiz, South San Diego County Economic Development Council; Bill Figge, Caltrans; Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach; Kathya Yruretagoyena and Claudia Pedrero, City of Mexicali; Tatiana Suro, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce; Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Currie and Jason MB Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Olivia Maldonado, City of Tijuana; Luis Ruben Rodriguez, Instituto Municipal de Planeación de Tijuana; Megan Jones, County of San Diego; Arnold San Miguel, Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisor Committee (BTTAC); Evangelina Ceballos and Jorge D’Garay, State of Baja California; Tito Alegria, Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF); Claudia Basurto, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad; Oscar Romo and Clay Phillips, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR); Advisory member present: Jesse Hereford and Kirk Lanz, Border Trade Alliance; and Héctor Vanegas, Ron Saenz, Elisa Arias, Heather Werdick, and Antoinette Meier, SANDAG staff.

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Arnold San Miguel, Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC), stated for the record that he attended the June 5, 2007, meeting and requested that his name be added to the meeting summary. Wilfrido Ruiz, South San Diego County Economic Development Council, SCEDC, entertained a motion to approve the June 5, 2007, meeting and the August 7, 2007, meeting summaries. Jason MB Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, seconded the motion. The meeting summaries were approved.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Wilfredo Ruiz, SCEDC, invited members to attend the 17th Annual South San Diego County Economic Development Council’s Economic Summit to be held on September 28, 2007, at the San Diego Convention Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event includes an elected officials’ panel with the Mayors of Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, and Playas de Rosarito. One of the highlighted keynote speakers is the current Mayor of Tijuana.

Ricardo Pineda, Consulate General of México in San Diego, announced that the Consulate will be hosting a Mexican Independence Day celebration on September 16, 2007, at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Fifteen thousand people are expected to attend. This will be Consul General Luis Cabrera’s last public appearance in San Diego. Formal invitations will be sent to all COBRO members.

Clay Phillips, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), gave an update on the California Biodiversity Council’s (CBC) recent efforts. After the CBC meeting in September 2006, a Biodiversity Along the Border Committee was established and divided into two subcommittees: The Las Californias Work Group, focused on the implementation of the Las Californias report, and the Tijuana Estuary Issues subcommittee, focused on specific actions to benefit the Tijuana River Valley. The subcommittee’s combined draft plan will be presented in October 2007, to Secretary Mike Chrisman and Regional Director Mike Pool at the California Biodiversity Council Meeting in Sacramento. Once they approve the document, it will be available for the general public.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Chamber will host the Mayor elect of Tijuana next Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Ms. Villagrana distributed invitations to committee members.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, directed the committee members to the upcoming events report in their agenda packets.

5. CHAIR’S REPORT - RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING CO-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) HONORABLE LUIS CABRERA C., CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO

Chair Paul Ganster announced that the Consul General of Mexico, Honorable Luis Cabrera C., will be leaving San Diego for a new post as Mexico’s Ambassador to South Africa. Consul General Luis Cabrera C. was represented by Ricardo Pineda who accepted a certificate of appreciation recognizing the Honorable Luis Cabrera C. for his leadership and contributions as Co-Chair of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) from January 2004 to September 2007.

Ricardo Pineda read a letter from the Honorable Luis Cabrera C. to COBRO members thanking them for the opportunity to participate in COBRO and recognizing COBRO’s leadership in binational planning.
6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ISSUES

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, presented a staff report on COBRO member attendance. Chair Ganster introduced Hector’s staff report by explaining that maintaining diverse membership while ensuring attendance from committee members has been a difficult task. Turnover in membership from government representatives is problematic on both sides of the border.

Hector reported that in November 2006, COBRO approved an increase in membership from 23 to 27 members. Previously, the COBRO charter was modified to add a category of advisory members and a rule was established to move members into the advisory capacity if they missed three consecutive COBRO meetings per year. The charter states that COBRO will maintain at least 15 voting members.

Since November 2006, COBRO has held seven meetings, cancelled three meetings, and hosted two mobile seminars in San Diego and Tijuana. Fourteen percent of members have shown inconsistent attendance and 19 percent are missing meetings regularly. The committee was unable to meet a quorum once and regularly the quorum is lost prior to the end of the meeting.

Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach, asked if it was possible to Web cast the meetings in an effort to assist COBRO members with avoiding traffic and border crossing issues. Hector explained that only the SANDAG Board conference room has the capacity to Web cast meetings and it is expensive to utilize this technology. Hector will explore the possibility. Ron Saenz, SANDAG, asked about the Brown Act implications for Web casting. Hector stated that COBRO is not ruled by the Brown Act.

Chair Ganster recommended that the members who have missed more than three meetings be rotated into the advisory capacity as stated in the current proviso and every six months we will revisit attendance to ensure that it is functioning.

Arnold San Miguel, BTTAC, asked if the quorum would change if members are moved to the advisory capacity. Chair Ganster confirmed that the quorum would change.

Hector Vanegas announced that every year COBRO is tasked with hosting a binational event and a volunteer taskforce is needed to support the event organization. Paul asked for volunteers to join the taskforce to plan for the annual event and to review the COBRO membership. Angelika Villagrana, Arnold San Miguel, Megan Jones, Olivia Maldonado, Lydia Antonio, and Paul Ganster volunteered to participate. Staff will follow-up with taskforce members to schedule a meeting.

7. REPORT ON SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION

Jason MB Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, gave a report on the Smart Border Coalition, a group formed to deal with concerns regarding the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE). On August 20th, the Coalition received a letter from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) describing the expected site conceptual layout plan for the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro POE. To date, the proposed footprint is smaller than it initially appeared to be. With the exception of the new vehicle south bound lane, it is almost within the size of the current site footprint. According to the letter from the U.S. GSA, a final decision on the site layout is expected to be reached by the end of September. The biggest issue that the Coalition and Chamber are now faced
with is supporting displaced businesses. Considering the progress that has been made on the San Ysidro POE, the coalition does not need formal support from COBRO members at this time. As the project progresses, they may come back to COBRO for formal support from members of this committee of their position on the expansion project.

Chair Ganster asked how much interaction there has been with Mexican authorities regarding the reconfiguration. Ricardo Pineda, Consulado General de México en San Diego, stated that Mexican authorities are actively working on improving the pedestrian bridge crossing and vigilance on the Mexican side of the border.

Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, stated that there has been a high level of cooperation and communication between the U.S. and Mexico regarding this project.

Gary Brown asked about the timeframe for project completion. Jason reported that according to the U.S. GSA, construction will begin in 2009 and end in 2014.

Hector Vanegas announced that the Border Committee will hear a progress report from the U.S. GSA at their September 28 meeting.

8. PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT 2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN
(A copy of this presentation is available upon request)

Heather Werdick, SANDAG, gave a presentation on the Draft 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is the public policy blueprint for how people and goods will move around the San Diego region over the next 23 years. The Draft 2007 RTP is based on the Reasonably Expected Revenue scenario. This includes an additional $17 billion of improvements and services over the Revenue Constrained plan of $41 billion, totaling $58 billion of projected revenues to fund the recommended improvements and services. The additional revenues would go for more highway and transit projects, some projects to deal with the increasing volume of freight moving through our region, and funding to assist jurisdictions complete their local transportation improvements.

The RTP is divided into four components: Land Use/Transportation Connection, Demand Management, Systems Management, and Systems Development. Key north/south corridor improvements are: Interstate 15 (I-15), I-5 North, I-5 South, I-805. East/west freeway improvements include: State Route (SR) 905, SR 78, SR 52, SR 94, and a section of I-8 in East County. Conventional highway improvements include: SR 76 in North County and SR 67 in East County. Due to funding constraints, toll facilities were assumed for the additional lanes on I-5 and I-15 in North County, as well as SR 11 and the soon to open South Bay Expressway in South Bay.

On June 22, 2007, the SANDAG Board of Directors accepted the Draft 2007 RTP for distribution. September 17, 2007, is the closing date for public comments on the RTP and October 5, 2007, is the closing date for public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). SANDAG Board adoption of the RTP is expected in late November. Both the Draft RTP and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are available for review on SANDAG’s Web site.
Arnold San Miguel (BTTAC) asked about projects that will impact the border area and where the $17 billion of revenue for the proposed projects will come from. Heather responded that $3 billion of revenues are assumed from toll facilities. The RTP includes a list of other potential revenue sources although no specific sources have been identified at this time. Elisa Arias, SANDAG, highlighted several projects, including two High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-5, managed lanes on the I-805, SR 11, the new border-crossing, and improved transit service.

Paul Ganster asked if a modeling exercise was used to project the future traffic impacts from south of the border into San Diego. Elisa Arias confirmed that a cross-border model using population growth projections was used to determine expected future vehicle travel across the border crossings in the San Diego region.

Oscar Romo, TRENRR, asked if any improvements were planned for SR 94 from Tecate. Heather Werdick responded that there were some improvements planned for SR 94. Elisa Arias further explained that operational improvements are planned for that corridor but no capacity increases are planned.

Angelika Villagrana asked if the cross-border passenger terminal was considered in the modeling exercise. Elisa Arias said that it was not included.

Tito Alegria, COLEF, asked how border-crossing projections are assumed. Elisa Arias explained that historic and current border-crossing data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is used to determine a baseline. The year 2004 was the baseline used and population growth and employment growth were projected through the year 2030. Mr. Alegria asked to see documentation for the modeling exercise. Paul Ganster suggested that he follow-up with Ms. Arias after the meeting for the requested documentation.

9. **PRESENTATION ON THE MEXICAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S CLEAN WATERSHED (CUENCA LIMPIA)**

   (A copy of this presentation is available upon request)

Oscar Romo, TRNERR, presented information on the Mexican Federal Government’s Clean Watershed Program. The program, which is the first of its kind for Mexico, is supported by Mexico’s President Felipe Calderon. It is an initiative under Mexico’s Office of the Federal Environmental Attorney (PROFEPA), a branch of the EPA of Mexico. The program has received four environmental certifications: Clean Industry, Environmental Compliance, Environmental Tourism Quality, and Environmental Excellency. The program consists of three steps: 1) Watershed diagnostic, 2) Identification of issues, and 3) Definition of responsibilities. The following objectives have been identified in order to meet the goal of developing a healthy urbanized watershed:

- Identify the physical elements that constitute the natural systems
- Prevent and control negative urban impacts on natural systems
- Establish a spatial definition of the sub-basins to identify appropriate land uses
- Create a sub-basin risk and vulnerability index
- Strengthen the interaction mechanisms between government and civil society
- Turn recommendations into public policies
Clay Phillips asked which federal U.S. agencies are interested in supporting the project. Mr. Romo confirmed that the U.S. EPA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are involved.

Ron Saenz asked who was involved from the City of San Diego and stated that City of San Diego Councilmember Ben Hueso is very interested in improving the watershed. Oscar Romo responded that he had contacted Councilmember Hueso’s office, but that he was not yet working with the City of San Diego on this project. He is also talking with Gary Brown from the City of Imperial Beach. Mr. Saenz announced that a presentation on the recycled tire program, which is a project relevant to the Tijuana watershed clean-up, is planned for the September 28 Borders Committee meeting.

Ron Saenz asked if the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) had been made aware of this project. Mr. Romo said that he had not yet contacted CBC, but planned to do so once he received a draft project report from Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA).

Chair Ganster asked if Mexico’s National Water Commission (CNA) was involved with the project. Mr. Romo stated that they were not yet involved. Chair Ganster expressed concern that the project would not progress without the CNA’s support. Mr. Romo said that the project has the support of President Calderon, so involving the necessary organizations should not be problematic.

Chair Ganster asked if the City of Ensenada was involved in the program and Mr. Romo stated that they were not. PROFEPA has only identified Tijuana and Tecate as the lead municipalities involved at this time.

Chair Ganster asked what mechanisms were in place for involving U.S. authorities in the program so that the focus was not just the Mexican portion of the watershed. Mr. Romo explained that the Mexican authorities intend to focus on the entire watershed and will collaborate with the appropriate U.S. authorities.

Chair Ganster asked what the incentives were for the environmental certifications other than the Clean Industry certification. Oscar explained that they do not know exactly what the incentives will be as it is a new program and it’s still being defined. It is possible that the certifications could lead to outside funding opportunities.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Chair Ganster announced that the next meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., at SANDAG. The meeting start time has been changed from 3 to 3:30 p.m. to accommodate a speaker from San Diego State University (SDSU) who will be presenting a recent commuter study.

After determining that there were no other questions or concerns, Chair Ganster adjourned the meeting.
UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
One Region – One Voice: San Diego Delegation to Washington D.C.
WHEN: September 30 – October 3, 2007
WHERE: Washington, D.C.
MORE INFO: Judith Andry at (619) 544-1341 or jandry@sdchamber.org.

WHAT: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies. UCSD
Distinguished Speakers Series
WHEN: October 5, 2007
WHERE: Weaver Center Institute of the Americas Complex UCSD Campus
MORE INFO: Greg Mallinger at (858) 822-1696 or by e-mail at gmallinger@ucsd.edu

WHAT: Urban Land Institute’s San Diego Tijuana Chapter
Tijuana: Reality and Vision
WHEN: October 9, 2007
WHERE: Tijuana – Hotel Camino Real
MORE INFO: www.sandiego.edu/tbi/events/tbi_usd.php

WHAT: Trans-Border Insitute, USD
Border Brief Release: Education In The Border Region
WHEN: October 9, 2007
WHERE: Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Building, USD
MORE INFO: (619) 260-4090 or transborder@sandiego.edu

WHAT: Institute of the Americas
InfoCom – México 07
WHEN: October 10-11, 2007
WHERE: María Isabel Sheraton, Mexico City
MORE INFO: Jana Kopyciok at (858) 453-5560 x111 or jana@iamericas.org

WHAT: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies. UCSD
Mexico, The Illusion of Democracy. Lorenzo Meyer
WHEN: October 11, 2007
WHERE: International Great House, UCSD
MORE INFO: (858) 534-4503 or usmex.ucsd.edu
WHAT: San Diego City College  
Lessons for Immigration Policy: The Bracero Guest Worker Program  
WHEN: October 15, 2007  
WHERE: San Diego City College  
MORE INFO: Enrique Davalos, 388-3634, edavalos@sdccd.edu

WHAT: United States - Mexico Border Energy Forum  
WHEN: October 18-19, 2007  
WHERE: Doubletree San Diego Mission Valley  
MORE INFO: www.borderenergyforum.org

WHAT: Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
Member Showcase Breakfast  
WHEN: October 23, 2007  
WHERE: California Pizza Kitchen (Otay Ranch Town Center), Chula Vista  
MORE INFO: Tatiana Suro at (619) 661-6111 or tsuro@otaymesa.org

WHAT: Trans-Border Institute, USD  
Muertos: A Day of the Dead Play  
WHEN: October 23-27, 2007  
WHERE: Shiley Theatre in Camino Hall, USD  
MORE INFO: (619) 260-4090 or transborder@sandiego.edu

WHAT: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
San Diego/Baja California Mission to Guanajuato  
WHEN: October 24-28, 2007  
WHERE: Guanajuato, Mexico  
MORE INFO: Viviana Ibañez at (619) 544-1362 or Vlbanez@sdchamber.org

WHAT: Center for U.S.-Mexico Studies, UCSD  
Mexico Binational Conference on Migration and Social Policy Research  
WHEN: November 8-9, 2007  
WHERE: Institute of the Americas complex, UCSD  
MORE INFO: (858) 534-4503 or usmex.ucsd.edu or caaltamirano@ucsd.edu

WHAT: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Seventh Annual International Tribute Awards Gala. Honoring Secretary of the Economy Eduardo Sojo.  
WHEN: December 6, 2007  
WHERE: San Diego Natural History Museum  
MORE INFO: Viviana Ibañez at (619) 544-1362 or Vlbanez@sdchamber.org
San Diego Association of Governments
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

October 2, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5

Action Requested: RECOMMEND

COBRO MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL EVENT TASKFORCE

File Number 3003200

Introduction

At the September 4, 2007, COBRO meeting, a taskforce was formed to review COBRO member attendance and to make recommendations on the COBRO Annual Event format and topic. The taskforce met on September 12, 2007, and staff has prepared this report describing the taskforce’s recommendations.

Recommendation

- To reclassify the Asociación de la Industria Maquiladora, Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC), City of Mexicali, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana, Foro EstaRegión, and Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana, A.C. (DEITAC) to advisory members.
- Invite the immediate past Chair of COBRO and Universidad Iberoamericana as members of the committee.
- The annual event will build upon and advance actions identified in the Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan.

Discussion

COBRO Membership

According to the 2007 COBRO attendance record, the following organizations have missed three or more consecutive COBRO meetings: Asociación de la Industria Maquiladora, BTTAC, City of Mexicali, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana, Foro EstaRegión, and Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana, A.C. (DEITAC). The current COBRO Charter states that members who have missed more than three meetings will be considered as advisory members. In accordance with the COBRO Charter and in an effort to ensure a consistent quorum at COBRO meetings, the taskforce recommends reclassifying the above-listed organizations to the advisory member capacity. Additionally, it recommends that the immediate past Chair of COBRO and Universidad Iberoamericana be invited to participate as full voting members due to their consistent attendance and participation.
This recommendation would bring the COBRO membership to 23 full members (15 U.S. members and eight Mexican members) and ten advisory members. Only 12 members would be needed for a quorum. The COBRO Chair has the authority to reinstate full membership at anytime assuming that the advisory member has consistent attendance and expresses interest in reinstating their membership.

It also is recommended that when the new Mexican administration at the municipal and state levels settles in office, the taskforce should consider reviewing COBRO’s scheduled meeting day, time, and number of meetings to determine if it is convenient for the Mexican committee members.

**SANDAG’s Annual Event**

SANDAG’s upcoming annual event is an opportunity to cultivate a working relationship with the new Mexican administration and promote collaboration on binational issues. Given that collaborative border planning is increasingly important, it was suggested that the annual event build upon and advance actions identified in the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. Therefore, the taskforce suggests exploring possibilities for an early staff-level mobile seminar between SANDAG and the new staff at the City of Tijuana, including Instituto Municipal de Planeación (IMPLAN), and the State of Baja California. The purpose of the mobile seminar would be to brief the new administration about SANDAG’s binational work and to learn about the new administration’s priorities as they relate to border issues. This staff-level seminar will lay the groundwork for the main event later in the fiscal year.

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 669-1972, hva@sandag.org
Introduction

In May of 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) released its U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program Implementation and Mid-Term Report. The following discussion provides background information on the Border 2012 Program and highlights from the recently released report.

Discussion

U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program (Border 2012) is a collaboration between the U.S. and Mexico to improve the environment and protect the health of the nearly 12 million people living along the border. Border 2012 builds upon the 1996 Border XXI Program and establishes a regionally focused border plan to facilitate environmental priority setting and planning at the regional and local levels. The border-wide environmental goals identified for the U.S.-Mexico Border region are:

- Reduce water contamination
- Reduce air pollution
- Reduce land pollution
- Reduce exposure to pesticides, particularly children’s exposure
- Reduce exposure to chemicals as a result of accidental chemical releases and/or deliberate acts of terrorism

For each of the above goals, 22 measurable objectives have been established. The organizational structure for implementing these goals and objectives consists of National Coordinators who provide guidance and oversight for three types of coordinating bodies: regional work groups, border-wide work groups, and policy forums. Every two years these coordinating bodies publish an implementation report that describes the status of current and proposed activities under the Border 2012 Program.

This year’s report, U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program Implementation and Mid-Term Report, highlights many examples of how both countries have been able to align binational resources with the environmental needs of border communities. It also describes environmental improvements along the border from 2003-2005 attributable to the Border 2012 Program and details the region’s unique environmental challenges and the projects and programs addressing these issues. Finally, the report outlines the overall program investment from 2003 to 2005.
For further information on the Border 2012 Program, please see the attached program fact sheet.

Attachments: 1. Border 2012 Program Fact Sheet

Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619)669-1922, rsa@sandag.org
Border 2012 Program Fact Sheet

**What is Border 2012?**
The U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program, Border 2012, is a government-sponsored program whose purpose is to improve environmental conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border.

**What is Border 2012 doing?**
Monitoring air quality, eliminating piles of tires that have been carelessly discarded, building sewage collection systems and treatment plants, addressing children’s environmental health problems (asthma), developing quick responses to emergencies such as hazardous chemical spills, tracking hazardous waste crossing the border, and other projects.

**Where is the Program?**
Border 2012 operates in the four U.S. Border States and the six Mexican Border States. In the U.S., it covers Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In México, it covers Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California. Most projects are located within 60 miles (100 km) of the border. You can find them in large cities like El Paso, Texas and Tijuana, Baja California, as well as small towns like Las Cruces, New Mexico and San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora.

**Who is participating?**
Border 2012 depends on cooperation from many partners. Federal governments, all ten Border States, tribes, and many community groups are involved. Chambers of Commerce, universities, environmental groups, public health groups, and local government officials also are participating. Most of the ideas for projects come from the communities themselves.

**Will Border 2012 make a difference?**
Border 2012 projects have been designed with strong community input. They have specific goals with measurable outcomes. The information will be publicly available, and government officials coordinating the program will be held accountable for achieving the outcomes.

**Where can I get more information?**

**How can I get involved?**
The best way to get involved is to attend an upcoming Border 2012 work group or task force meeting in your area or contact a Border 2012 task force co-chair. Contact details and meeting dates are available on the web site or from the EPA regional offices.

See Overview for more information
Introduction

The Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan identified strategies to support the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District’s (APCD) San Diego/Tijuana Clean Diesel Demonstration Project and its efforts to implement the SmartWay Transport Partnership in the San Diego region. This report provides an update on these strategies.

Discussion

In 2005, the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund the San Diego/Tijuana Clean Diesel Demonstration Project, with the objective of mitigating the air quality impact of increased cross-border, heavy-duty diesel truck traffic. To date, a total of 41 cross-border trucks have been retrofitted with Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs) plus a Spiracle crankcase filtration system. (A total of 48 DOCs have been installed, with seven trucks requiring two DOCs each due to their dual exhaust-pipe configuration.) There are nine additional pending installs needed to meet the grant goal of at least 50 retrofitted border-crossing trucks.

Presently, the U.S. EPA and Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) are working on finding the most effective ways to promote clean freight strategies in the border region. The outreach is focused on establishing a partnership between shippers and carriers, following the lines of EPA’s SmartWay Program. As part of these efforts, SEMARNAT has recently presented an overview of the SmartWay Program to the Maquiladora Industry Association in Tijuana. Strategies from a border-wide clean freight program would be implemented as the second phase of this demonstration project. While the first phase of the project focused on DOC purchase and installation, the second phase, titled the SmartWay Phase, integrates the demonstration of other clean freight strategies currently promoted by EPA’s SmartWay Transport Partnership.

Staff will continue to provide status reports on this project at future meetings.

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BORDER-CROSSING VEHICLE AIR MONITORING STUDY

Introduction

This study titled ‘Air pollution inside cars crossing the US-Mexico Border’ is attempting to measure air pollution exposure in private vehicles that cross through regular private vehicle and SENTRI lanes. This study is being funded by a grant from the U.S. EPA, through the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP). Dr. Jenny Quintana, Associate Professor of Environmental Health at San Diego State University (SDSU), heads the study with the assistance of Dr. Adriana Vargas, School of Medicine, and Dr. Guillermo Ventura, Department of Chemistry from the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC) campus in Tijuana.

Discussion

The border-crossings between the San Diego - Tijuana region are the busiest in the world. Many residents commute across the border by car and frequently encounter long delays in heavy, slow, and stopped traffic at the ports of entry entering the U.S. This results in extended exposure to idling vehicles.

Since exposure to traffic-related air pollution is increasingly being associated with adverse health effects, this study will evaluate the air pollution exposure profiles experienced by area residents during the border-crossing. Of particular concern is the potential for exposure to short-term high levels of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5 and smaller), as peaks in PM levels have been shown to trigger asthma attacks and cardiovascular events. Previously, monitoring instruments could only measure average levels and were not able to characterize short duration peaks in PM. New monitoring devices make it possible to record personal exposures to PM and other traffic related pollutants in one-minute sampling intervals and to correlate exposures with the locations and activities of the monitored vehicle.

The study characterizes air pollution exposures on a minute-by-minute basis in a sample of cross-border commuters in the San Diego/Tijuana area. Both commute directions are included in the study, i.e., those commutes originating in San Diego and those originating in Tijuana. The study plans to evaluate 100 round-trip commutes. In the study, participant cars arrive at either SDSU or UABC prior to their commute and pollution-measuring equipment is placed in their car (one-minute averaging data-logging monitors for fine particulate air pollution, particle-bound poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and black carbon (PAHs are carcinogenic pollutants found in vehicle exhaust and black carbon is associated with diesel exhaust), carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide (to estimate ventilation), temperature, and humidity. Location and speed of the vehicle is tracked using
a global positioning system (GPS) logging monitors placed in the vehicle. Participants are given a paper diary and a hands-free voice-activated recorder to record conditions during the commute such as window position and use of air conditioning.

The following hypotheses are being tested:

a) exposure to significant short-term peaks in air pollution, specifically particulate (PM) air pollution, will occur when the participant is crossing the border,

b) traffic-related exposure profiles to toxic components of air pollution can be identified and will be related to the length of time participants are waiting at the border, and

c) participant behaviors such as use of air conditioning will affect pollutant levels experienced during the commute.

The study is scheduled to be completed in December 2007 and the results of the study should be published in Spring of 2008.

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