BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, November 21, 2008
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
SANDAG Board Room
401 B Street, 7th Floor
San Diego

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• REPORT ON NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE U.S. - MEXICO BORDER

• RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRIBAL POLICY ISSUES TO INCLUDE IN BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDAS FOR FY 2009

• UPDATE ON THE FTA GRANT FOR THE TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAM

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING

YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING BY VISITING OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.SANDAG.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT

The Borders Committee provides oversight for planning activities that impact the borders of the San Diego region (Orange, Riverside and Imperial Counties, and the Republic of Mexico) as well as government-to-government relations with tribal nations in San Diego County. The preparation and implementation of SANDAG’s Binational, Interregional, and Tribal Liaison Planning programs are included under this purview. It advises the SANDAG Board of Directors on major interregional planning policy-level matters. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board of Directors for action.
Welcome to SANDAG. Members of the public may speak to the Borders Committee on any item at the time 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/Member Comments. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The Borders Committee 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 working days prior to the Borders Committee 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 at least 72 hours 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.

SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit. Phone 511 or see 511sd.com for route information.
ITEM #

+1. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2008, MEETING MINUTES

APPROVE

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Borders Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and shall reserve time by completing a “Request to Speak” form and giving it to the Clerk prior to speaking. Committee members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.

CONSENT ITEMS (#3 through #4)

+3. STATUS REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL BORDER SEWAGE ISSUES

INFORMATION
(Ron Saenz, SANDAG)

The Borders Committee has requested periodic updates on border-related sewage issues. This report provides an update on these issues.

+4. COMPLETION OF THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY MAJOR INVESTMENT STUDY

INFORMATION
(Heather Werdick, SANDAG)

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) recently conducted the South Orange County Major Investment Study (SOCMIS). SANDAG participated in this study on the Policy and Technical Advisory Committees. OCTA staff provided an overview of the study at the July 2008, Borders Committee meeting. This report provides an update on the outcome of the SOCMIS.

CHAIR’S REPORT

5. NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

INFORMATION

What started at the turn of the century as a tribal effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994. In San Diego, there will be various activities to celebrate the contributions of Native American culture across the county.
+6. **REPORT ON NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE U.S. – MEXICO BORDER** (Paul Ganster, Good Neighbor Environmental Board and COBRO Chair)

This is the 11th in a series of reports from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board advising the President and Congress on environmental protection along the U.S. – Mexico border. This report shows how U.S. and Mexican officials can improve their cooperation in coping with floods and other natural disasters that occur along their shared border.

+7. **RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRIBAL POLICY ISSUES TO INCLUDE IN BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDAS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009** (Chairman Chris Devers, SCTCA)

At its October 24, 2008, meeting, the Borders Committee discussed its calendar of meetings and topics. The Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) Board discussed this calendar to provide input and report back with recommendations for tribal issues. Chairman Devers will present the recommendations for tribal policy issues to include in the Borders Committee calendar. The Borders Committee will be asked to include these tribal issues in the Fiscal Year 2009 calendar of meetings.

+8. **DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE SAN DIEGO REGIONAL TRIBAL SUMMIT IN FISCAL YEAR 2010** (Jane Clough-Riquelme, SANDAG)

At its May 23, 2008, meeting, the Borders Committee Chair requested that staff evaluate options for the next Tribal Summit, including dates and topics for consideration. Input was sought from the SCTCA Board and SANDAG management. Staff will provide a brief report and matrix of options for consideration.
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<tr>
<th>ITEM #</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANT FOR THE TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAM (Boxie Phoenix, RTA Chairman)</td>
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<td>INFORMATION</td>
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<td>On behalf of the tribal governments in the San Diego region, the Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA) successfully applied for a grant for the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA’s) Tribal Transit program. This is a grant program only open to tribes and consortia of tribe to improve the connections between reservations and urban transit systems. For year one of their four year program the RTA received $425,101. RTA Chairman Boxie Phoenix will update the Committee on grant activities.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>UPCOMING MEETINGS</td>
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<td>The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, January 9, 2009, at 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>ADJOURNMENT</td>
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+ next to an item indicates an attachment
The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 12:31 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

1. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

   Chair McCoy requested permission to introduce Item# 8 before Item# 5. The Committee agreed by consensus.

   **Action**: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Greg Cox (County of San Diego) and a second by Deputy Mayor Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal), the Borders Committee approved the minutes from the July 25, 2008, meeting. Councilmember John Minto (East County) abstained.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS**

   Chair McCoy introduced and welcomed Julia Coleman, Associate Legal Counsel (SANDAG).

   Councilmember Ben Hueso (City of San Diego) updated the Committee on a meeting of the United States – Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Group, comprised of both Mexican and U.S. government officials, on the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration Project. He presented the Committee’s concerns regarding pedestrian and transit circulation and he felt very confident that they are in the process of developing a new configuration, which will be more transit and pedestrian user friendly.

   Chair McCoy thanked Councilmember Hueso, commenting it was a troublesome issue for most Committee members.

   Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) agreed it was good news. He asked if the southbound pedestrian crossing on the east side was included.

   Councilmember Hueso responded it had been considered, and that the Committee’s comments were really taken to heart. The process will likely take place in phases, including improvements to the current bridge on the Mexican side. It will also explore the possibility of having a connection on both the east side and west sides, which will allow people direct access into Mexico. Those taking the trolley will enter into a new pedestrian area on the
Mexican side. Mexico is also working toward having potential linkage to rail on both sides of the border. Councilmember Hueso assured the Committee both parties are working hard to turn this into a very positive development for pedestrians at the border.

CONSENT ITEMS (#3 through #4)

3. REPORT ON THE TRIPLE BORDER FENCE (INFORMATION)

4. UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION BORDER CONGESTION RELIEF PROGRAM (INFORMATION)

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Cox and a second by Councilmember Minto, the Borders Committee approved Consent Items #3 and #4.

REPORT ITEMS (#5 through #8)

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2008 BINATIONAL SEMINAR “SMART GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY ON THE BORDER: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AMONG STRATEGIC PARTNERS” (ACCEPT/RECOMMEND)

Vice Mayor Crawford presented a PowerPoint highlighting the 2008 Binational Seminar, held in June, which was very well attended by individuals from several different agencies on both sides of the border. She gave a brief summary of the seminar participants and what took place. Presentations were made from the various planning institutes and agencies and a roundtable discussion allowed panelists to comment on issues related to crossborder development. A question and answer period was held at the end of the seminar, which has been posted on the COBRO page of the SANDAG Web site.

Angelika Villagrana, (San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, representing the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities, COBRO) thanked Vice Mayor Crawford for moderating the seminar. She informed that COBRO Chair Dr. Paul Ganster formed a subcommittee to review the outcomes, recommendations, and comments made at the seminar. Their first recommendation was to explore the feasibility of developing a map of the regional transportation infrastructure of both the San Diego region and the municipality of Tijuana through 2010. The map would allow a better awareness of where all the transportation infrastructure and border links were located and interconnected, along with assisting with future planning activities on both sides of the border. Their second recommendation was to develop a map of existing and planned water, sewer, energy, natural gas, and other infrastructure in both the San Diego and Tijuana region. Their third recommendation was to begin investigation immediately towards gathering data for the development of a baseline on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on both sides of the border. The fourth recommendation was for SANDAG to accept the invitation to become a permanent Advisory Board Member of Tijuana’s Municipal Planning Institute, IMPlan (Tijuana’s municipal planning agency) in order to facilitate collaboration with Mexico.
Ms. Villagrana commented the proposed map containing the regional transportation infrastructure, GHG emission data, and other planning efforts could be included in the next update of the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. Another issue which came up at the seminar was to discuss best practices of borders around the world such as in Singapore, Bilbao, Cordoba, and Bogota.

Deputy Mayor Crawford requested further information regarding the IMPlan meetings.

Elisa Arias, Principal Planner (SANDAG), responded IMPlan’s Advisory Board is scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis in Tijuana, and staffing options will be brought back to the Borders Committee for their consideration next month.

Deputy Mayor Crawford added the Board of Directors would want to know all of the factors related to staffing the IMPlan meetings such as how it will be staffed, what the level of commitment will be, and how it will be funded.

Mayor Jim Desmond (North County Inland) stated he would like to know the costs involved also before he approved the recommendations.

Chair McCoy said those should be included in the recommendation for acceptance.

Ms. Arias informed some SANDAG and IMPlan in-house resources will be used to begin some of the mapping efforts, especially on the transportation side. There are not sufficient resources in the current fiscal year for GHG emission data gathering. Resources will be proposed for consideration by the Board for Fiscal Year 2010. At this point, the recommendation is to explore the feasibility of conducting this work, and then options for the Committee's consideration will be presented on whether we can move forward with the other items.

Mayor Desmond clarified that this is to explore the feasibility of implementing these recommendations.

Ms. Arias replied he was correct.

Chair McCoy commented particulate matter is an existing transborder issue that requires study as we have a shared air basin and we’re going to be constrained with our own legislation on GHGes. Sitting down face to face with people from both sides of the border will help resolve these issues.

Councilmember Monroe said he was interested in the best practices at other borders and asked the Committee to also look at the European common market, which doesn’t have a border in terms of stopping people.

Deputy Mayor Crawford moved to accept the COBRO recommendations and proceed with taking the item to the Board for further discussion. She reported she had a couple of more comments.

Chair McCoy seconded the motion.
Deputy Mayor Crawford commented the Borders Committee had worked on GHG and energy issues for some time. When the Borders Committee began meeting, the discussions on energy issues lead to the formation of the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG). The actions we take and programs we develop in concert with cities across the border can help us meet our AB 32 goals and objectives due to the shared air basin. The California Biodiversity Council meeting in March will focus on renewable energy and energy resources in the Imperial County area. She said she is encouraging the planners of that meeting to include issues in the crossborder region also as it provides another opportunity to educate other individuals from federal, state, and local agencies on what is happening in the border region.

Mayor Desmond said he favored moving forward and asked if the Committee is asking for the Board of Directors to look at the feasibility of the recommendations.

Chair McCoy replied yes, because it gets a wider forum and it’s important to do that.

Mayor Desmond stated to look at the feasibility, not necessarily accept the recommendations “as is.”

Chair McCoy said he was correct, and referred him to the grey highlighted section of Item #8 in which it says quite clearly, “...recommend approval by the Board of Directors with direction for staff to explore resources…”

Councilmember Hueso asked if moving forward with this process was one of the recommendations from the various stakeholders from the seminar.

Deputy Mayor Crawford clarified the purpose of the seminar in June was to inform and discuss issues of Smart Growth and Sustainability on the border. A summary of the seminar was presented to COBRO, and these recommendations were derived from COBRO’s discussions of the results of the seminar.

Councilmember Hueso commented this will move the discussion forward in a formalized fashion.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said he was correct.

**Action:** Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Crawford, and a second by Chair McCoy the Borders Committee unanimously accepted the following recommendations from the 2008 Binational Seminar and recommended approval by the Board of Directors, with the direction for staff to explore resources in the FY 2010 Overall Work Program/Budget for their Implementation. 1) Explore the feasibility of developing a map of the regional transportation infrastructure of the San Diego Region and the Municipality of Tijuana through 2010; 2) Explore the feasibility of developing mapping of existing and planned water, sewer, energy, natural gas, and electrical infrastructure in the San Diego/Tijuana Region; 3) Evaluate coordination with the appropriate agencies on both sides of the border to investigate and gather existing baseline data on GHG emissions in the San Diego/Tijuana Region and corresponding target reductions. If baseline data on GHG emissions can be gathered by sector, create a graphic of the San Diego/Tijuana Region carbon footprint.
Sectors may be defined as transportation, electricity, industrial, natural gas end uses, agriculture, and other waste); 4) Proceed with the appropriate arrangements for SANDAG to accept IMPlan’s invitation to become its permanent advisory member on its Advisory Board; 5) When the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan is next updated, include a new action to incorporate coordination of Smart Growth and Climate Change planning efforts between the San Diego Region and Baja California; and 6) Explore opportunities for COBRO members to invite practitioners to discuss best practices at borders around the world to evaluate San Diego/Tijuana border crossings.

5. SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL COUNTY INTERSTATE 8 (I-8) CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN JOINT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER AMENDMENT (DISCUSSION)

Chair McCoy informed the Joint Policy Advisory Group’s membership presently consists of herself, Councilmember Dave Allan from the City of La Mesa, and Councilmember John Minto from the City of Santee. A tribal government representative expressed interest in his nation’s participation in the Joint Policy Advisory Group. Based on this request, the Policy Advisory Group requested staff to amend the Joint Policy Advisory Group Charter and present it to the Borders Committee for approval. The Borders Committee is asked to authorize San Diego – Imperial County I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan Joint Policy Advisory Group to appoint the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) as a designated representative to participate as a non-voting member of this advisory group. The proposed charter amendment would also allow the Policy Advisory Group’s voting members to approve additional advisory members.

Councilmember Monroe informed the South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) recently received a federal grant, which included both counties, and asked if these two issues could be combined, or if they were two totally separate issues.

Mr. Vanegas said he was aware of the $50,000 grant from the Department of Commerce and considering the possibilities of complementing the work and becoming incorporated as much as possible.

Councilmember Monroe stated it seemed initially the same work is being done in both organizations and efforts could be maximized if they were combined.

Mr. Vanegas concurred.

Councilmember Gallo remarked he has been an advocate for tribal participation in all borders discussions. He was glad to see tribal participation being added to this group and commented this probably should have been done from the very beginning.

Chair McCoy informed the group’s next meeting will be October 31st in El Centro and most likely there will be an SCTCA representative attending.

Jane Clough-Riquelme, Senior Regional Planner and Tribal Liaison (SANDAG), reported SCTCA Board will be meeting on Wednesday October 29, 2008, and they will decide which tribe will represent them on the Joint Policy Committee.
Councilmember Dave Allan (East County) said he attended the first meeting, which was more or less a brainstorming opportunity, and the meeting on the 31st is an opportunity to go to Imperial County.

**Action:** Upon a motion by Councilmember Minto and a second by Councilmember Hueso, the Borders Committee unanimously authorized the San Diego – Imperial County I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan Joint Policy Advisory Group to appoint the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) designated representative to participate as a non-voting member of this Advisory Group.

6. **UPDATE ON THE SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL COUNTY INTERSTATE 8 (I-8) CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN (DISCUSSION)**

Warren Whittaker (PMC) informed on the results of the recently completed interregional public survey. It was found that 70 percent of the commuters on the corridor resided in San Diego County; 60 percent of the residents reported the overall quality of life is “good” or “excellent” within the Imperial Valley; 85 percent of respondents rated access to nearby jobs is “fair” to “poor”; and, the lack of job opportunities was the primary reason that someone would consider moving out of the Imperial Valley. It was also found that traffic congestion is not perceived as a critical problem. Regarding how people would be willing to commute in the future, there is a definite interest in alternatives such as carpooling, vanpooling, ridesharing, and public transit.

Deputy Mayor Crawford recalled there were approximately 176,000 residents in Imperial County and asked if there were any updates to the numbers regarding population, housing permits, and new proposed residential housing. She also asked if there was any feedback regarding commuters’ future commuting plans as they approach retirement age.

Mr. Whittaker replied the survey did not ask the specific question about future commuting plans; however, some of the attributes of the drivers showed they did tend to be older; were earning more money; and, have been doing the commute for several years. Regarding building permits, the number of permits has drastically slowed due to the lessened demand.

Deputy Mayor Crawford asked if her recollection of the county’s population was correct.

Mr. Whittaker answered she was correct.

Chair McCoy informed the Committee that Supervisor Carrillo was scheduled to attend the meeting; however, due to a bereavement in the family he was not able to attend.

Councilmember Monroe reminded the Committee that this study began as a result of the work done on the I-15. He said the challenge now is to find actions to keep the corridor from becoming too congested.

Councilmember Gallo stated he had advocated for the I-8 study because the I-15 study was a reactive approach and he wanted to take a proactive approach. He said the goal now is to plan for the future instead of waiting for it to happen.
Chair McCoy commented on the recent news regarding the SDG&E PowerLink and how it may run down a portion of I-8. She said it’s important to have this incorporated into the plans somehow.

Chair Pro Tem Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) stated the report actually said that no matter where it’s located, it’s a bad investment.

Chair McCoy clarified attention should be given to this item as the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will rule in November or December.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said she agreed on the need to stay ahead of the problem and include review of the changes to the border crossings in Imperial and East San Diego County.

Bill Figge, Deputy District Director of Planning (Caltrans), informed the other border crossings in Imperial County were Calexico and Calexico East.

Deputy Mayor Crawford asked if there were others even further east.

Mr. Figge answered another is Andrade, which is as far as the Arizona Border and then there’s also discussion of what is called “Silicon Border” which would be in the Calexico area.

Deputy Mayor Crawford stated all of those areas should be included in the plan in order to study how San Diego and Imperial County are going to work together on the shipment of goods.

Mr. Figge commented an interesting statistic is that there is a much higher rideshare component in this corridor than others. From a future standpoint, there are a number of people that might be interested in carpooling or vanpooling, perhaps doubling the number of people that are even open to it. He suggested the next phase of the study be focused on GHG emissions and air quality issues.

Mr. Whittaker said he will present this information at the upcoming meetings of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Working Group.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

7. BORDERS COMMITTEE WORK ELEMENTS AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 (DISCUSSION)

Hector Vanegas briefed the Committee members on the roles and responsibilities of the Committee, provided an overview of the Committee’s accomplishments during fiscal year 2008, and described the main activities included in the calendar of meetings.

Councilmember Monroe commented that the Committee should receive periodic reports on the eastern environmental corridor, which spans both sides of the border.
Deputy Mayor Crawford informed on a meeting regarding environmental and infrastructure issues relating to border crossings earlier. There was discussion of performing a programmatic EIR for the Otay Mesa crossing in order to obtain further information on the environmental issues.

Councilmember Monroe said this was not the actual area he was speaking of.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said it was Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative.

Councilmember Monroe reiterated the area should be in the plans somewhere.

Deputy Mayor Crawford said it hasn’t been forgotten about and it is being worked on by the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) in order to keep discussions moving forward and preserve the habitat corridors.

Chair McCoy commented there are a lot of issues that are peripheral and unfortunately there’s not the time, money, or staff time etc., to do these things. But it’s not that we shouldn’t get reports from time to time on issues that are of importance to us.

Councilmember Hueso asked what type of budgetary involvement the Committee will have in terms of Otay Mesa East Port of Entry.

Chief Deputy Executive Director Diane Eidam (SANDAG) said that the California legislature passed SB 1486 this last session, which establishes the SANDAG Board as the tolling authority; therefore, the SANDAG Board will be intricately involved in developing the financing approaches and taking the next steps to make the facility happen.

Councilmember Hueso asked if the Committee would be involved from a planning perspective.

Chief Deputy Executive Director Eidam responded the role of the PAC and the advice to the Board is something that would be brought back to the Borders Committee to discuss the possibilities and options based on direction from the SANDAG Board.

Councilmember Hueso said he would like to understand what the Committee’s role is in order to ensure they have some level of participation.

Chair McCoy suggested perhaps something could be presented in the January meeting.

Mr. Figge updated the Committee on the status of SR 11 and Otay Mesa East Port of Entry. He said the program level document for the project has been approved, with the Record of Decision obtained in October. The Presidential Permit should be obtained within a couple of weeks. The next step for the project includes a project level environmental document, which includes details on the toll collection process.
Ms. Arias informed she attended a meeting of the Border Liaison Mechanism last month where there was discussion of a meeting to be hosted by the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations to discuss the possibility of a binational tolling agreement as a possible approach to the tolling project.

Councilmember Hueso said this could also be an opportunity to discuss the preservation of environmental lands also.

Chair McCoy said it was a great suggestion. She also informed on the tragedy, which took the lives of Commissioners Carlos Marin and Arturo Herrera, United States – Mexico International Boundary and Water Commission or IBWC.

Vice Chair Cox said hopefully by the next meeting the Presidential Permit will have been approved and suggested the Committee recognize and express its appreciation to Gary Gallegos and Pedro Orso-Delgado for their work in bringing this to fruition in such a short period of time and in such a professional manner.

Vice Chair Cox said they have through January 20th, but the key is to make sure we get it before otherwise it will be an extensive time before all the key positions are filled.

**Action:** This item was presented for discussion only.

9. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, November 21, 2008, at 12:30 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet
## CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
### BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
**OCTOBER 24, 2008 - 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

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<th>NAME</th>
<th>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</th>
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<td>South County</td>
<td>City of Imperial Beach</td>
<td>Patricia McCoy (Chair)</td>
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<td>City of Coronado</td>
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<td>Imperial County</td>
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<td>North County Coastal</td>
<td>City of Del Mar</td>
<td>Crystal Crawford</td>
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<td>City of San Diego</td>
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<td>Ben Hueso</td>
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<td>Toni Atkins</td>
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<td>Tony Young 2nd</td>
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<td>County of San Diego</td>
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<td>Greg Cox (Vice Chair)</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Pam Slater-Price</td>
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### ADVISORY/LIAISON MEMBERS

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<tr>
<th>COBRO</th>
<th>Dr. Paul Ganster</th>
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<td>Cindy Gomppers-Graves</td>
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<td>Angelika Villagrana</td>
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<td>County of Riverside</td>
<td>City of Lake Elsinore</td>
<td>Thomas Buckley</td>
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<td>Remedios Gomez-Arnau</td>
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<td>Deputy Consul General of Mexico</td>
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<td>Debbie Cook</td>
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STATUS REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL BORDER SEWAGE ISSUES
File Number 3003200

Introduction

Following a presentation by the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) in July 2005, the Borders Committee requested that SANDAG staff provide periodic updates on border sewage issues. Pursuant to this request, staff has prepared this status report.

Discussion

As previously reported at the June 23, 2008, Borders Committee meeting, the IBWC decided to expand the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) based on a federal judge ruling that gave the IBWC discretion on whether to support construction of the Bajagua, LLC, or to expand the existing SBIWTP. The drawings and specifications for the SBIWTP expansion project were finalized in June 2008 and the project is expected to be completed in June 2011.

Other advances implemented by the State of Baja California’s Public Services Commission of Tijuana (Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana or CESPT) include the inauguration of the Monte de los Olivos wastewater treatment plant on September 25, 2008. Monte de los Olivos is located in southeastern Tijuana just north of the Rodriguez Dam. When fully operational, the plant will treat approximately 12 million gallons of sewage per day to a tertiary level. The amount of sewage treated is the equivalent to treating the sewage generated by 265,000 residents.

Both Monte de Los Olivos and La Morita, a similar wastewater treatment plant nearby that is scheduled to open in December 2008, will dramatically decrease the flow of untreated sewage down the Tijuana River channel. The operation of the two plants also will relieve Tijuana’s main sewage treatment plant located at Punta Bandera, south of Playas de Tijuana. By mid-2009, representatives of CESPT and IBWC expect the operation of the new plants will largely eliminate the coastal discharges of untreated sewage at Punta Bandera. In addition to improving beach water quality, the plants’ treated water will be recycled and used to irrigate parks and ball fields.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to provide periodic updates to the Borders Committee on international border sewage issues.

BOB LEITER
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619) 699-1922; rsa@sandag.org
Completion of the South Orange County Major Investment Study

Introduction

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) conducted an assessment of various strategic alternatives for improving travel between the San Diego County border and State Route 55 (SR 55) in south Orange County. This conceptual planning process, which began in early 2006, is called the South Orange County Major Investment Study (SOCMIS). OCTA staff provided an overview of the study including the locally preferred strategy at the July 25, 2008, Borders Committee and the August 1, 2008, Transportation Committee meetings. The OCTA Board of Directors approved the SOCMIS recommendations and approved the locally preferred strategy in October 2008.

Discussion

Background

The SOCMIS assessed various alternatives for improving north-south travel from the Orange/San Diego County border to SR 55 and east-west travel from the foothills to the coast. The ability to efficiently move people and goods is critical for the sustained economic growth and quality of life in Orange County. Due to rapid growth in both residential development and employment, south Orange County residents are finding it increasingly difficult to avoid traffic congestion. The main transportation corridor in the south Orange County area is Interstate 5 (I-5), an eight-lane freeway with traffic volumes as high as 350,000 vehicle trips per day. Without a long-term strategic vision, the I-5 corridor and surrounding transportation infrastructure will experience increasing levels of congestion.

The study objectives for the SOCMIS were developed based on feedback from elected officials, agency staff, and stakeholders in the study area. As listed below, these objectives are critical to assure that the SOCMIS provides solutions for transportation issues in south Orange County.

- Reduce freeway congestion in the study area
- Minimize freeway travel times
- Provide continuity of facilities along south Orange County freeways
- Improve freeway access at the interchanges
- Evaluate public transit options
Study Oversight

Three committees provided feedback and oversight to the SOCMIS.

Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC was formed to inform elected officials within the project area about the progress of the study and seek policy direction to help guide the study process. The 21-member PAC consisted of 18 voting members representing each city and supervisory district in the study area and a public member from the OCTA Board of Directors, and three nonvoting members, representing SANDAG, Caltrans, and Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA). City of Del Mar Mayor David Druker represented SANDAG on the PAC.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Each city within the study area, as well as the County of Orange, Caltrans, TCA, Federal Highway Administration, and SANDAG, had a designated staff member to serve on the TAC. The TAC provided the study team with detailed technical analysis and feedback on every element of the study.

Stakeholder Working Group (SWG)

The SWG provided feedback throughout the study process. Each SWG member represented a constituency and was charged with helping to build consensus for regional transportation solutions. SWG members represented a broad range of interest groups, including: business, environmental, public safety, developers, homeowner associations, transportation, and the community.

SOCMIS Process

The study began in early 2006 and was completed in fall 2008. The study team developed 14 initial multimodal transportation alternatives, which were later reduced to six alternatives for further study. The six alternatives include a mixture of roadway, arterial, and transit/rail improvements at various investment levels. This reduced set of alternatives was evaluated and based on findings on benefits, impacts, and costs, the TAC developed a draft locally preferred strategy that included the best performing arterial, freeway/toll road, and transit system elements. On July 16, 2008, the PAC selected a final multi-modal locally preferred strategy to recommend to the OCTA Board of Directors. OCTA staff made a number of presentations to local jurisdictions and other agencies on the locally preferred strategy. On September 29, 2008, the Regional Planning and Highways Committee recommended the locally preferred strategy to the OCTA Board of Directors.

The final locally preferred strategy includes a combination of arterial, freeway/toll road, and transit improvements. Freeway/toll road improvements include adding general purpose lanes to sections of I-5 and I-405, extending the high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lane to the San Diego county line, and reduced tolls and improvements to the toll roads. Proposed transit features include increased local, express, and bus rapid transit services and double-tracking the LOSSAN Rail Corridor with increased passenger service between Orange and San Diego Counties.
**SOCMIS Recommendations**

Four recommendations were approved by the OCTA Board of Directors on October 10, 2008:

- Accept the locally preferred strategy recommendations from the Policy Advisory Committee.

- Establish the Renewed Measure M freeway plan as a priority for improving transportation in south Orange County followed by additional proposed improvements to I-5 and I-405, as defined in the locally preferred strategy and based on funding availability.

- Continue to evaluate the feasibility of the locally preferred strategy by: (1) working with the TCA and Caltrans to maximize the efficiency of south Orange County’s freeway and toll road facilities; (2) affirming local agencies’ decisions to further study east-west arterial improvements identified in the locally preferred strategy; and (3) conducting a comprehensive review of the Master Plan of Arterial Highways improvements with the input of local agencies.

- Seek further public input on the transportation concepts included in the locally preferred strategy through the Long-Range Transportation Plan update starting in late 2008.

**Next Steps**

As part of the Borders Planning and Coordination work program, SANDAG will continue to meet regularly with staff from OCTA to discuss items of joint interest.

**BOB LEITER**  
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Heather Werdick, (619) 699-6967; hwe@sandag.org
REPORT ON NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE U.S. – MEXICO BORDER

Introduction

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) is an independent federal advisory committee. Its mission is to advise the President and Congress of the United States (U.S.) on good neighbor practices along the U.S. border with Mexico. Its recommendations are focused on environmental infrastructure needs within the U.S. states contiguous to Mexico.

The GNEB operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and meets three times per year at locations along the U.S. – Mexico border. GNEB submits its advice to the President and Congress in the form of reports containing recommendations for action. This year, GNEB prepared its 11th report, which focuses on natural disasters and the environment along the U.S. – Mexico border.

Discussion

Recommendations in this year’s report call for federal policymakers to concentrate on four areas when working with other authorities to manage natural disasters along the U.S. – Mexico border: (1) Support local initiatives to implement appropriate zoning codes, building codes, and other types of strategic planning; (2) Build capacity for transboundary cooperation when responding to natural disasters, as well as cooperation at the local, state, regional, and tribal levels; (3) Better integrate existing emergency management systems and practical exercises, including ensuring that they cover natural disasters as well as hazardous materials emergencies; and (4) Expand current domestic and international agreements so that they reflect the need for border-specific measures to effectively manage natural disasters. Copies of this report will be available at the Border Committee meeting.

SANDAG staff will continue to schedule presentations of GNEB’s annual report to the Borders Committee.

BOB LEITER
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619) 699-1922; rsa@sandag.org
RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRIBAL POLICY ISSUES TO INCLUDE IN BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDAS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

File Number 7000600

**Introduction**

At its October 24, 2008, meeting the Borders Committee reviewed its calendar of meetings for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The Borders Committee continues its themed approach for meetings, alternating its focus each month on a different partnership: binational, interregional, or tribal. Chairman Devers, the representative from the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA), requested the opportunity to get feedback from the tribal leadership regarding tribal policy issues to include in the schedule. At its October 28, meeting, the SCTCA Board directed Chairman Devers to convene the SCTCA representatives to SANDAG to develop a recommendation. The SCTCA representatives on SANDAG’s Policy Advisory Committees met on November 3, to discuss their approach and to identify tribal policy issues they would like to pursue through Borders Committee and other Policy Advisory Committees. The SCTCA has submitted their recommendations for tribal policy issues for the Borders Committee’s consideration (Attachment 1).

**Recommendation**

The Borders Committee is asked to include several tribal policy issues in the FY 2009 meeting schedule, as well as coordinate with the SCTCA and staff on several issues that can be followed up at a technical level.

**Discussion**

Staff has reviewed the recommendations on tribal policy issues made by the SCTCA for consideration for the Borders Committee schedule for FY 2009.

As stated by the SCTCA, several issue areas were identified in FY 2008 and should be developed into more specific action plans during this year. For example, the Regional Planning and Borders Committees received an overview regarding tribal energy planning. Several key characteristics of tribal energy planning were highlighted that could provide the basis for further collaboration. Further development of this concept may require staff to staff level work with tribal governments in order to bring back additional recommendations later in FY 2009. SANDAG is in the process of updating its growth forecast and developing a new forecasting model known as PECAS. Discussions regarding data sharing protocol would fold into this effort as it will be important to have complete data for the region in the modeling process.
Other issues are ongoing planning projects, specifically in transportation planning, that are currently being implemented through the Tribal Transportation Working Group. Status reports on these projects will be scheduled into the FY 2009 Borders Committee calendar for the next tribal-focused meeting in May of 2009 (Attachment 2).

One action directly requested by the SCTCA is to follow the precedent of the I-8 Interregional Partnership (IRP) and add the SCTCA to the I-15 IRP Joint Policy Committee. Staff recommends this amendment go to the Borders Committee at its earliest convenience.

Finally, SANDAG staff and executives have discussed the possibility of a Tribal Summit in 2009. The staff report in Item #8 of this agenda elaborates in more detail staff recommendations regarding the possibility of holding a San Diego Regional Tribal Summit in 2009.

BOB LEITER
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Attachments: 1. SCTCA Letter regarding Tribal Policy Recommendations for Borders Committee
              2. Revised Schedule of Borders Committee Meeting Agenda Items for FY 2009

Key Staff Contact: Jane Clough-Riquelme, (619) 699-1909; jcl@sandag.org
November 6, 2008

As the SANDAG Borders Committee develops its calendar of meetings and policy agenda items for consideration for the Fiscal Year 2009, the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA) would like to share our thoughts on our participation in SANDAG this past year and what policy issues we would like to work on in the coming year.

On January 25, 2007 SANDAG and the SCTCA signed an historic document that provided a mechanism for tribal involvement in the regional planning process in the San Diego region. Through our seats on Borders, Transportation, Public Safety, and Regional Planning we have observed the process and shared our views regarding the development of various regional initiatives and policies.

Over the past year we have brought several key tribal policy issues to the various Policy Advisory Committees, mostly in the form of information reports intended to provide a basis for mutual respect and understanding that many of our issues parallel those of local jurisdictions and some we have identified as key areas in which we can work together to develop collaborative solutions.

It is the opinion of the tribal leadership that we build on some of the areas identified over the past year and begin to develop more specific action plans and activities in areas of mutual interest.

Tribal Policy Issue Areas:

- **Transportation**
  Through the Tribal Transportation Working Group, the tribal nations in the region are working closely with SANDAG, Caltrans, the County, and the transit agencies on several specific transportation planning activities. The Working Group Chair will bring updates to both the Transportation and Borders Committee as these evolve.

  - Tribal Transportation Demand Management Program
  - FTA Tribal Transit Grant(s)

- **Renewable Energy**
  Tribal nations in the region are pursuing their own energy planning efforts. The SCTCA would like to collaborate actively in the development of the Regional Energy Strategy as tribes will be able to make a significant contribution to the regional approach.

- **Affordable Housing**
  As our representatives have observed the regional discussions related to affordable housing, the notion of a possible role for tribes in the provision of affordable housing on fee-based land has been suggested. The SCTCA would like to explore this issue further.
o **Information Sharing Protocols**
   There are several areas in which the SCTCA would like to pursue further dialogue on developing mutually acceptable protocols for sharing data needed for the functioning of tribal nations and the region.
   
   - Land Use Data for Regional Models
   - Public Safety/Crime Data

o **Long Term Recovery from Firestorm**
   After the 2007 Firestorms devastated Indian Country, the tribes in the region formed a foundation for long term recovery. Updates on this initiative will be provided to the Borders and Public Safety Committees with the hope that there could be more collaborative planning for fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

**2009 San Diego Regional Tribal Summit:**

It is the opinion of the tribal leadership that the 2006 Regional San Diego Tribal Summit, jointly planned and hosted by the SCTCA and SANDAG was a watershed event in the building of a government to government framework between local governments and the tribal nations in the region. The action plan that came out of that meeting has guided our collaborative efforts since then. The tribal leadership shares the opinion with the Borders Committee that it is time to hold another summit to take stock of our mutual accomplishments and craft a share action agenda for the next few years.

**Mechanisms of Communication, Consultation, and Coordination:**

- Our Board has directed our SANDAG Subcommittee to meet periodically to monitor tribal-related policy issues and work with SANDAG staff on the development of committee reports;

- Periodically, our Board receives reports on SANDAG-related items initiated either by the SANDAG tribal liaison or our representatives;

- Our tribal nations are actively participating in the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues which provides a regular forum for transportation for providing advise on project development, exchange of information on legislation, and funding opportunities;

- The SCTCA now has a representative on the I-8 Corridor Strategic Plan Joint Policy Committee and would like similar representation on the I-15 Interregional Partnership as those corridors are extremely important to our interests.

The SCTCA looks forward to developing an even stronger working relationship with SANDAG and participating on more defined planning efforts in the near future.

[Signature]

Robert Smith
Chairman of the Board of SCTCA
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- I-15 Interregional Vanpool and Buspool Study  
- Strategic Transportation Implementation Plan for the I-15 Interregional corridor  
- I-15 IRP Housing Program  
- Input for the I-15 Interregional Partnership Joint Policy Committee  
- Update on the I-15 IRP Economic Development Strategic Plan  
- Amendment to the I-15 IRP Charter to Include the SCTCA | Discussion  
Information  
Information  
Information  
Discussion  
Discussion |
| May 1, 2009 | Interregional | I-15 IRP Joint Policy Meeting |                        |
| May 22, 2009 (*) | Tribal  | Agenda:  
- Final Report: Tribal TDM Outreach Program  
- Status Report: FTA Tribal Transit Program  
- National Congress of American Indians/Indian Transportation Association (NCAI/ITA) Tribal Principles for the next Transportation Bill  
- Update: Tribal Nations and Renewable Energy | Information  
Information  
Information  
Discussion/ Possible Action |
| | | Update: Intertribal Long Term Recovery Plan  
Update: Planning 2009 San Diego Regional Tribal Summit | Information  
Discussion/ Possible Action |
| June 26, 2009 | Binational | Agenda:  
(Tentative) Joint Meeting of the Borders Committee, COBRO, and the City of Tijuana City Council  
Progress Report on the Implementation of Strategies Included in the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan | Discussion |

(*) indicates special/off-site meeting
DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE SAN DIEGO REGIONAL TRIBAL SUMMIT IN FISCAL YEAR 2010

**Introduction**

At its May 23, 2008, meeting the Borders Committee directed staff to develop a report on the next Tribal Summit. They requested that possible topics and dates be brought back for consideration. This report outlines issues for consideration in the planning of a potential Tribal Summit, possible topics, and potential dates.

**Recommendation**

The Borders Committee is asked to discuss and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding planning for a San Diego Regional Tribal Summit in Fiscal Year 2010.

**Discussion**

**Background**

On March 10, 2006, SANDAG and the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) held the 2006 San Diego Regional Tribal Summit drawing more than 120 participants, including elected officials from 12 tribal governments in the region, the SANDAG Board of Directors, members of SANDAG Policy Advisory Committees, various public agencies that work with tribal governments, and interested organizations and stakeholders.

The jointly sponsored Summit resulted in two major structural changes regarding tribal participation in regional transportation planning—one at a policy level and one at a technical level, as well as a mutual agenda for transportation planning. At a policy level, the SCTCA joined the SANDAG Board and Policy Advisory Committees upon the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January of 2007. Representatives of the SCTCA Board sit on Borders, Transportation, Regional Planning, and Public Safety Committees. At a technical level, SANDAG created the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues as a forum for information exchange, dialogue on issues between agencies such as the Indian Reservation Roads Inventory process, and collaboration on tribal transportation planning projects. Since its inception the Working Group has served as the project advisory group for several transportation planning projects including the Tribal Transit Feasibility Study and the Tribal Transportation Demand Management project. The action agenda developed as a follow up to the Summit has guided collaborative planning since the 2006 Tribal Summit.
**Reasons to Consider Tribal Summit in FY 2010**

There are several reasons to consider planning a Tribal Summit for the first half of Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. First, it would be three years since the last Summit. The tribal leadership stated that they would like to hold periodic summits to assess the effectiveness of the government-to-government relationships, review accomplishments, and to set new goals and objectives. Second, this is an opportunity to gather the leadership from the tribal nations, the local governments, and special use districts to discuss major regional initiatives that impact tribes and provide a forum for direct feedback at a policy level. The SCTCA provides an ongoing mechanism for communication with the tribal leadership, however, federal guidelines state that tribal nations should have an opportunity for consultation on an individual basis; each tribal government has its own policies and regulatory framework for planning. Third, many tribal governments and local governments have new elected leaders who would welcome a summit environment to meet their counterparts. Finally, there are legislative changes that have altered the planning environment and will impact the development of the next Regional Comprehensive Plan, as well as the Regional Transportation Plan. A Summit would provide an opportunity to develop protocols for government-to-government collaboration on the development of these regional planning efforts, building on the strong working relationship already established.

**Next Steps**

If the Borders Committee recommends that a San Diego Regional Tribal Summit be held in FY 2010, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for consideration. If the Board concurs, this activity will be included in the draft FY 2010 SANDAG Overall Work Program and Budget, and an ad hoc task force could be formed to develop the agenda and meeting structure during the spring of 2009. Once the content and structure of the Summit is defined, staff from the SCTCA, the host tribe, and SANDAG would follow up with event coordination.

BOB LEITER  
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Jane Clough-Riquelme, (619) 699-1909; jcl@sandag.org
Good Neighbor Environmental Board

Eleventh Annual Report
to the President and Congress
of the United States

Natural Disasters
and the Environment
along the U.S.-Mexico Border

Presentation to SANDAG
November 21, 2008

- GNEB: Independent U.S. Presidential
and Congressional advisory committee
  - To advise President and Congress about
    environmental conditions along the U.S. border
    with Mexico
  - Operates under Federal Advisory Committee Act
    (FACA)
  - Administrative activities carried out by EPA's
    Office of Cooperative Environmental Management
Board operates by *consensus* for annual report and other actions, including occasional comment letters
- Board meets in border communities at least twice per year
- Board functions as an independent partner in the Border 2012 process

Membership is diverse
- Senior federal agency representatives
- Senior state agency officials
- Tribal
- Non Governmental Organizations
- Business
- Ranching and Grazing
- Academia
- Local government
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Natural Disasters and the Environment Along the U.S.-Mexico Border

- California GNEB members
  - Paul Ganster, Chair, San Diego State University
  - Mike L. Connolly, Campo Kumeyaay Nation
  - Michael P. Dorsey, Chief, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, Community Health Division
  - Patti Krebs, Executive Director, Industrial Environmental Association
  - Rosario Marin, Secretary, California State Consumer Services Agency

Eleventh Annual Report
To the President and Congress

Good Neighbor Environmental Board

Natural Disasters and the Environment Along the U.S.-Mexico Border

11th Report Key Message
- When natural disasters strike along the U.S.-Mexico border, “local” quickly can become “international.”
- Despite some progress, on-the-ground coordinated action across the border remains limited. USA and Mexico suffer from “White Map Syndrome” and “Silo Syndrome.”
- When formulating federal policy on natural disasters, it is essential that border-specific challenges be factored into the management equation.

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Four Strategies Recommended

1) Enable municipal officials to carry out front-end prevention/minimization measures
   - zoning codes, building codes,
   - landscape requirements, watershed management, and
   - municipal strategic planning

2) Build capacity at local, state, regional, tribal, bi-national levels
   - so that communities and institutions have the resources and training they need to do their jobs

3) Better coordinate systems that are already in place
   - integrate them, clarify responsibilities
   - expand simulation exercises
   - broaden specific response systems (e.g., chemical spills) to also include natural disasters

4) Expand existing U.S. and U.S.-Mexico agreements
   - to incorporate how natural disasters play out across the border
   - to reflect other dynamics at work such as heightened security measures
Backdrop for Recommendations

- Border region remains vulnerable to natural disasters
- October 2007 - Southern California wildfires caused $2 billion in damage
- August 2006 - urban flooding in El Paso, Texas, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, and Doña Ana County, New Mexico
- Development on floodplains a problem
- Earthquakes – fact of life along California-Baja California border
- With land use changes by human development, disasters are increasing in intensity and frequency

Human Health Effects

- Flooding → environmental infrastructure (e.g., wastewater pipes), which → human health via waterborne pathogens.
- Border tribes particularly vulnerable to wildfires – dispersed housing surrounded by native vegetation.
- Nearly 1,800 colonias in Texas; flooding can turn dirt roads into impassable mud, hinder garbage pick-up.

* Additional border-region health challenge: inability to quickly move medical assistance across the international boundary.
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_Natural Disasters and the Environment Along the U.S.-Mexico Border_

**Wildlife, Ecosystem Effects**

- Human alterations of the landscape have changed border-region natural systems
  - Ecosystems become fragmented, increasing vulnerability to natural disasters
- Fire suppression can result in larger, more intense wildfires, severely affecting habitat

*Paradox: To humans, impacts of flooding often are devastating; yet a natural flow cycle, which includes periodic floods, is good for the riparian ecosystem.*

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**Emergency Management Cycle**

1. **Preparedness**
   Activities undertaken in advance of an emergency. These activities develop operational capabilities and improve effective response to disasters. Disaster plans are developed and refined to guide disaster response and increase available resources.

2. **Response**
   Recognition of an approaching disaster by coordinating resources and activating a warning system as well as responding to an actual response and sustaining support.

3. **Mitigation**
   Actions to eliminate or reduce the impact of future disasters. Specific hazard mitigation plans are prepared following a federal, state, or local disaster.

4. **Recovery**
   Both short-term activities intended to return vital life-support systems to operation, and long-term activities designed to return infrastructure systems to pre-disaster conditions.

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Institutional Framework – U.S.

- Department of Homeland Security (FEMA) oversees U.S. national effort
  - Stafford Act (statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities)

- Federal policy calls for emergency preparedness and response to be handled at the lowest jurisdictional level possible.

- State Department, USAID, Red Cross, federal agencies involved at different junctures within emergency management cycle

Institutional Framework - Mexico

- National Council for Civil Protection (Protección Civil)
  - under authority of federal Secretariat of Government (SEGOB)
  - state-level coordinators
  - National System for Civil Protection (SINAPROC)

- Good neighbor: Mexico sent response workers to U.S. in the wake of Hurricane Katrina
Bi-national Arrangements

- U.S.-Mexico 1980 Agreement (now being reviewed)
- International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)
  - U.S., Mexican Sections maintain flood control projects
  - $125 million needed to rehabilitate U.S. levees (south TX alone)
- Border 2012 emergency preparedness/response work
- U.S.-Mexico Inland Joint Contingency Plan

Informal Bi-national Cooperation

- South to north: April 2007 thunderstorms produced two tornadoes, struck pair of sister cities
  - Piedras Negras, Coahuila and Eagle Pass, Texas
  - State of Coahuila and City of Piedras Negras offered help with clean-up in Eagle Pass
- North to south: 1998 El Niño floods along California-Baja California border
  - City of San Diego assisted neighboring Tijuana with clearing roads of mudslides and debris
Promising Partnerships

- Security and Prosperity Partnership--2005
  - security and prosperity programs to keep borders closed to terrorism yet open to trade.
  - N.A. emergency management; natural disasters
- Border Liaison Mechanisms
- Lower Rio Grande Wildlife Corridor
- Cover the Border Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Border Agency Fire Council

Next Steps?

- Flooding: Provide outreach and education to residents living in floodplains
- Human Health: Strengthen post-impact associated disease prevention
- Ecosystems: Incorporate ecosystem health goals into urban storm water management plans

* Some next steps are applicable to all communities, not just border-region communities.
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Natural Disasters and the Environment Along the U.S.-Mexico Border

More Next Steps

- Adapt National Response Framework International Annex to better address border-region disasters.
- Continue to broaden Sister City agreements
- Establish an all-disasters binational contingency plan
- Strengthen binational collaboration, both informal and cross-agency

*Other actions are targeted specifically to daily life along the U.S.-Mexico border*

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For more information: