

San Diego Association of Governments
BORDERS COMMITTEE

July 25, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

**JOINT MEETING OF THE BORDERS COMMITTEE, COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO), AND THE CITY OF TIJUANA
JUNE 13, 2008**

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

The joint meeting of the Borders Committee, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), and the City of Tijuana was called to order by Chair Patricia McCoy (South County) at 1:01 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

Chair McCoy welcomed members from the Borders Committee, COBRO, and the City of Tijuana.

Mayor Jorge Ramos (City of Tijuana) expressed his commitment to regional development and stated the City of Tijuana welcomed the opportunity and looked forward to participating in the discussions.

Chair McCoy announced the release of a new book entitled *A Barrier to Our Shared Environment*, and said copies of the book can be obtained from Committee Coordinator Hector Vanegas.

Chair McCoy announced that the order of the agenda would be revised as follows: Item No. 8 would go first followed by Item No. 5, Item No. 6, Item No. 7, and then Item No. 4.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember John Minto (East County) and a second by Vice Chair Greg Cox (County of San Diego), the Borders Committee unanimously approved the revised agenda order.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Cox and a second by Deputy Mayor Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal), the Borders Committee unanimously approved the minutes from the May 23, 2008, meeting.

Chair McCoy announced Item No. 3 as Consent, only for information.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Cox and a second by Deputy Mayor Crawford the Borders Committee unanimously approved Agenda Item No. 3 on Consent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Consul General Remedios Gómez-Arnau welcomed Mayor Jorge Ramos and invited everyone to join them at the Mexican Independence Day celebration the Consulate is planning for September 9. She requested that SANDAG supports and participates at this event. She also informed Mexico will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2010 and also was interested in SANDAG participating at that time.

Chair McCoy commented she was sure everyone would save the date on their calendars.

CONSENT ITEM (#3)

3. STATUS REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL BORDER SEWAGE ISSUES (INFORMATION)

Action: This item was presented for information only.

REPORT ITEMS (#4 through #10)

8. CITY OF TIJUANA MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (INFORMATION)

Mayor Ramos briefly commented on some of the characteristics of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), the three-year plan which contains a vision for Tijuana. The MDP allows for unprecedented coordination between federal, state, and local governments and already has \$500 million dedicated toward infrastructure and public facilities projects. Mayor Ramos also highlighted the public participation process which involved over 9,500 citizens, including educational and academic institutions, and others which led to the creation and unanimous approval of the MDP.

Alonso Hernandez, Deputy Director, Tijuana's Municipal Planning Institute (IMPlan) reported the City of Tijuana continues to meet with representatives from Tecate, Rosarito, and Ensenada to obtain their input regarding the various challenges, goals, opportunities, and dynamics associated with the region. He also provided more detailed information regarding Tijuana's planned urban and regional development; including infrastructure, urban mobility, land preservation, and binational planning.

Mayor Ramos presented information regarding Valle de Las Palmas, Tijuana's future planned community for 376,000 citizens which involves two of Mexico's most important private housing development firms. He stated street construction has already begun and soon approximately 80,000 houses will be built.

Mr. Hernandez added the MDP contains tools which facilitate the identification of conservation areas and aided in planning for Tijuana's Downtown, Los Laureles, and Mesa de Otay sites; as well as in the binational planning process, by minimizing any potential impacts to either side of the border.

Chair McCoy requested questions be held until the end due to the tight agenda. She announced Item No. 5 would be presented.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

5. BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN (INFORMATION)

Bob Leiter, Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning (SANDAG), presented an overview of the events leading up to the adoption of the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan by the Tijuana City Council and the SANDAG Board of Directors. He stated the Strategic Plan has led to excellent collaboration at the staff, community, and policy levels and has expedited the implementation of the Otay Mesa East Border Crossing and related connecting highways.

Mr. Hernandez stated soon, the federally funded study of Arroyo La Rinconada will begin. The study is designed to determine the feasibility of developing the area as an access point for the new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry. He also stated they are working jointly with the State to develop a final project definition of the Arroyo Alamar, including a water filtration ecological project. .

Action: This item was presented for information only.

6. FIRST ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES INCLUDED IN THE OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN (DISCUSSION)

Elisa Arias, Principal Planner (SANDAG), stated the Strategic Plan has received an "Honorable Mention" from the Transportation Planning Excellence Program, co-sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Planning Association (APA); and the award for Smart Growth from the San Diego/Tijuana Chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

Ron Saenz, Associate Planner (SANDAG), gave an update on transportation, economic development, housing and environment initiatives identified in the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Phil Monroe (South County) indicated in regards to land uses in Otay Mesa that the San Diego Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy (REPS) recommends conducting an employment lands inventory. In the past, inventories of industrial and commercial lands were performed. Now, however, the new study recommends preserving "employment lands," which is a shift from the industrial/commercial concept.

Mr. Saenz also reported on the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) Las Californias Group's efforts to secure lands on both sides of the border to create binational conservation corridors; actions to retrofit trucks with diesel oxidation catalyst filters and diesel particulate filters; and, the truck stop electrification study.

Deputy Mayor Crawford commented on the recent Smart Growth and Sustainability on the Border: Opportunities for Collaboration with Strategic Partners seminar held at Caltrans on June 3, 2008, which involved dignitaries and representatives from both sides of the border. She said discussions yielded a desire for the creation of a better mechanism in which to communicate regional border planning needs to state and federal government officials, and the creation of better financing mechanisms for infrastructure.

Chair McCoy stated she had received many positive reports and thanked Ms. Crawford for moderating the event.

Mr. Saenz said staff will continue to work with stakeholders on the implementation of actions and hold periodic meetings to inform members from COBRO, the City of Tijuana, and the Borders Committee.

Mark Baza, Senior Transportation Planner (Caltrans) reported on recent progress concerning the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry and State Route 11 and reviewed the project's schedule. He highlighted various milestones such as the completion of the GSA's Feasibility Study, the introduction of the Otay Mesa East Toll Facility Act, or SB 1486, and the Phase I Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (PEIR/PEIS). He also reviewed the next steps Caltrans plans to take in relation to the project.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, District 11 Director (Caltrans), stated the Phase I Environmental Document was presently being reviewed by the Department of State, Council on Environmental Quality, Federal Highway Administration, and others in Washington D.C., and he was hopeful that a Conditional Presidential Permit would be issued soon.

Chair McCoy invited comments from the Consul General.

Consul General Gomez-Arnau stated four technical commissions were created to handle the border crossings between California and Baja California. The Otay Mesa Technical Commission has met twice this year, with a third meeting scheduled for July 8 in Tijuana. Recently Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes or SCT) concluded studies on the Conceptual Master Plan, cost benefit, and financing feasibility related to the Otay II Port of Entry. The Mexican government is considering allowing private contractors to handle construction and tolling of the new Otay II facility; charging \$19 pesos per passenger vehicle and \$86 pesos per truck. In April, a diplomatic letter of support for the Presidential Permit process was sent by the Mexican Embassy in the United States to the U.S. Department of State. Also, work on the new Otay II Port of Entry is expected to begin in 2009.

Mr. Hernandez, IMPlan, commented studies are in progress for the areas of Arroyo La Rinconada and the Alamar river. By the end of the year, it is anticipated the Arroyo Alamar Specific Plan, along with a plan for the access to the new Otay II POE will be completed.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

7. OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACTIONS (DISCUSSION)

Jennifer Williamson, Senior Planner (SANDAG), stated work toward accessing property for a coordinated transit center at the existing Otay Mesa Port of Entry is presently under way. The South Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system would utilize buses to emulate rail without that expense. Regarding the future Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, it has been determined that it is premature at this time to make any decisions regarding BRT. A number of meetings have been held with IMPlan regarding their existing and proposed transit network for the existing Otay Mesa Port of Entry. As Tijuana's existing transit is comprised of many dispersed travel patterns, recommendations have been shared in an effort to provide better access for transit, private vehicles, and pedestrians to the POE. The South Bay BRT is entering the environmental phase, with implementation scheduled for 2012.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

4. REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES – MEXICO BORDER EFFICIENCY CONFERENCE (INFORMATION)

James Clark, Mexico Business Center of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, reported recommendations regarding border wait times derived from the first Mexico Border Efficiency Conference were forwarded to President Bush, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Department of Homeland Security and Mexico's President Calderón, the Secretariat of Economy and Secretariat of Governance. He state a second conference will be conducted to examine the progress that has been made at the border crossings and the results will be presented at the Border Governors Conference to be held in August.

Chair McCoy commented on the new San Diego-Baja California Border Region View From Space map which was distributed to all.

Chairman Chris Devers, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association (Pauma), welcomed representatives from Mexico to the ancestral land of the Kumeyaay nation. He stated additional tribal nation involvement from both sides of the border is imperative to the border region's activities especially in the area of ancestral lands' cultural and burial sites. He acknowledged Chairman H. Paul Cuero, Jr. from the Campo Band of the Kumeyaay nation.

Chair McCoy commented he was correct and an effort will be made to ensure tribes are included in the future. She also thanked Chairman Cuero for his attendance.

Chairman Devers added Chairman Cuero of the Kumeyaay Repatriation Committee or Louis Guassac of the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians as resources that may be contacted regarding binational projects.

Mr. Orso-Delgado commented that he had received information from the Mexican federal government that the Otay Mesa II border crossing project would not progress until the land was secured either by the City of Tijuana or the State of Baja California.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

9. FUTURE JOINT MEETINGS (DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Chair McCoy solicited comments regarding a future meeting.

Councilmember Ed Gallo (North County Inland) complimented and congratulated Mayor Ramos on his efforts and stated he was in favor of an annual meeting.

Chair McCoy apologized for the meeting's time constraints and said the next meeting will allow enough time for discussion to take place.

Deputy Mayor Crawford noted the California Biodiversity Council has been working across the border with counterparts to preserve land, corridors, and habitat and suggested tribal representation and involvement on the California Biodiversity Council Binational Working Group. She also invited the local tribes to participate in this working group as tribal ancestral lands cross south of the border

Chair McCoy asked if there were any objections to having another meeting. There were none. She announced the possibility that the upcoming Borders Committee meeting scheduled for July 25 might be changed to August 1, 2008.

Action: This item was presented for discussion only.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Borders Committee is scheduled for Friday, July 25, 2008, at 12:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McCoy adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
JOINT MEETING OF THE BORDERS COMMITTEE, COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO), AND THE CITY OF TIJUANA
JUNE 13, 2008 - 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING	
				Yes	No
South County	City of Imperial Beach	Patricia McCoy (Chair)	Member	✓	
	City of Coronado	Phil Monroe	Alternate	✓	
Imperial County	County of Imperial	Victor Carrillo	Member		✓
	City of Calexico	David Ouzan	Alternate		✓
North County Coastal	City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford	Member	✓	
	City of Oceanside	Jack Feller	Alternate		✓
North County Inland	City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond	Member		✓
	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Alternate	✓	
East County	City of Santee	John Minto	Member	✓	
	City of La Mesa	David Allan	Alternate		✓
City of San Diego	----	Ben Hueso	Member		✓
	----	Toni Atkins	Alternate	✓	
	----	Tony Young	2 nd Alternate		✓
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member	✓	
	----	Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	✓	
ADVISORY/ LIAISON MEMBERS					
COBRO	----	Dr. Paul Ganster	Member		✓
	----	Cindy Gomppers-Graves	Alternate		✓
	----	Angelika Villagrana	Alternate	✓	
County of Riverside	City of Lake Elsinore	Thomas Buckley	Member		✓
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Remedios Gomez-Arnau	Member	✓	
	Deputy Consul General of Mexico	Ricardo Pineda	Alternate		✓
	Consul	Lydia Antonio	Alternate		✓
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Pauma	Chris Devers	Member	✓	
	Mesa Grande	Mark Romero	Alternate		✓
Caltrans	----	Pedro Orso-Delgado	Member	✓	
	----	Bill Figge	Alternate	✓	
San Diego County Water Authority	----	Howard Williams	Member	✓	
County of Orange	----	Debbie Cook	Member		✓

