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MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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- and
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ADVISORY MEMBERS

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- Metropolitan Transit System
- North County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

City of Tecate
 Presidencia Municipal
 Ortiz Rubio y Callejon Libertad No. 1310
 Zona Centro
 Tecate, Baja California 21400
 Mexico

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

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- CITY OF TECATE'S STRATEGIC PROJECTS
- UPDATES ON THE TIJUANA-TECATE SHORT RAIL LINE

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.

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DIRECTIONS TO CITY OF TECATE CITY HALL

FROM SAN DIEGO

TAKE INTERESTATE 94 EAST, AFTER 35 MILES GO TO HIGHWAY 188 SOUTH INTO DOWNTOWN TECATE.

- **CROSS THE BORDER**
- **KEEP ON CARDENAS STREET**
- **LEFT TURN ON JUAREZ AVENUE**
- **RIGHT TURN ON ORTIZ RUBIO STREET**

FROM TIJUANA

TAKE THE TIJUANA-TECATE HIGHWAY (EITHER TOLL ROAD OR *CARRETERA LIBRE*)

- **TAKE JUAREZ AVENUE**
- **RIGHT TURN ON ORTIZ RUBIO STREET**

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

ITEM #	RECOMMENDATION
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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

+2. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) MEETING SUMMARIES OF SEPTEMBER 2 AND OCTOBER 7, 2008

APPROVE

a) Meeting summary of September 2, 2008.

b) Meeting summary of October 7, 2008.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

INFORMATION

Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

CONSENT ITEMS (#4 through #5)

+4. UPCOMING EVENTS

INFORMATION

+5. 2007 SAN DIEGO-BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER CROSSING STATISTICS

INFORMATION

This report, through a series of graphs and charts, shows the number of crossings by type (trucks, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians) over a 12 year period beginning in 1996 and ending in 2007.

REPORT ITEMS (#6 through #8)

6. CITY OF TECATE'S STRATEGIC PROJECTS (Alberto Morghen, City of Tecate, Baja California)

INFORMATION

Alberto Morghen, Director of Urban Administration of the City of Tecate, will present updates on various strategic projects that are part of the Tijuana-Tecate-Playas de Rosarito Metropolitan Zone, including the modernization of the commercial port of entry and plans for wind energy generation.

7. PRESENTATION ON MEXICO'S PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TIJUANA-TECATE SHORT RAIL LINE (Jorge Monraz, Admicarga)

INFORMATION

Jorge Monraz, Director of Admicarga, will present updates on the Tijuana-Tecate short rail line that connects the Tijuana-San Diego region, and Tecate to the east.

ITEM #

RECOMMENDATION

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

INFORMATION

The next COBRO meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., at SANDAG.

+ next to an item indicates an attachment

San Diego Association of Governments
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

December 2, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2a**

Action Requested: APPROVE

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)
MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

Introduction

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The September 2, 2008, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Ganster. The meeting was held at SANDAG.

Members present were: Chair Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias; Vice-Chair Cindy Gompper-Graves, South County Economic Development Council; Past Chair Elsa Saxod, Saxod Enterprises; Elvira Felix, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego; Sergio Pallares, Caltrans; Alicia Scolari and Ivy Cervantes Cruz, State of Baja California; Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach; Alberto Morghen and Carlos Cañedo, City of Tecate; Lorena Flores, City of Tijuana; Megan Jones, County of San Diego; Arturo Montfort, Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana (DEITAC); Tito Alegria, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF); Yolanda Walther-Meade, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C.; Alonso Hernandez, Instituto Municipal de Planeación de Tijuana (IMPlan); Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Currie and Jason Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Clay Phillips, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR); and Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Advisory members present were: Amy Radetsky, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana; and Angelica Suarez, Southwestern College.

SANDAG staff members present were: Elisa Arias, Héctor Vanegas, Ron Saenz, and Marianne Veach.

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, entertained a motion to approve the August 5, 2008, meeting summary. Yolanda Walther-Meade, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C., and Thomas Currie, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, seconded the motion. The meeting summary was approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, briefed the group on events on Sunday and Monday, August 31st and September 1st, Labor Day weekend. Customs and Border Protection carried out the test phase of the opening of lanes at the Otay Mesa commercial facility for passenger traffic. As successful tests were already done, they wanted to try it on a busier weekend like Labor Day weekend. Although, there were some difficulties in contacting the City of Tijuana's Municipal Police to assist in directing traffic into the open lanes, the test was seen as successful. Within a two-hour period on Sunday, 217 cars were processed in these lanes and wait times were reduced from 40 minutes to 20 minutes. On Monday from 5:00 to 7:50 p.m., 490 cars were processed and wait times were less than 15 minutes. This test phase was seen as a success as it reduced wait times by more than half. These lanes will be used on weekends and significant holidays when high volume of traffic is expected. The frequency of use of these lanes is still undecided, but it is likely that it will soon be on a scheduled basis.

Olivia Maldonado, Secretary of Economy of Mexico, informed the committee of the Regional Forum of Competitiveness in the Northwest of Mexico, to be held in Tijuana on September 18, 2008. This event is to present the competitiveness index and methodology used to weigh the region's cities in the areas of economics, socio-demographics, urban and institutional development. Ms. Maldonado offered to send electronic invitations to COBRO members.

Thomas Currie, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about the thousands of laser visas that will expire next year. His first concern is that there is not a facility in Mexicali to renew these visas. This means that all expired visa holders will have to travel to Tijuana to get them renewed. Jason Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, stated that 70,000 laser visas will expire by the end of this year with another 120,000 expiring the following year. He proposes a temporary facility in Mexicali. The other concern expressed was that when renewing a laser visa, the visa holder has to surrender his or her visa for 30 days while the renewal process takes place. Mr. Currie pointed out that for some visa holders this means missing school or work for 30 days. The San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce proposes that there be a temporary visa issued while visa holders are waiting for their permanent renewed visa.

Amy Radetsky, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana, responded that in addition to the consulate in Tijuana there is an annex dedicated to renewing visas. This annex was built in expectation of the surge of renewals next year. Building a facility in Mexicali is not possible due to logistical issues. She added that the 30-day wait period for renewed visas is a logistical issue. She will ask for more information from experts in the area and will report back at the next meeting.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, said that she would make it an agenda item when her group visits Washington, D.C.

On October 8, 2008, San Diego Dialogue and the Mexico Business Center will be hosting the Forum Fronterizo. Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico, will be a potential speaker on renewable energy on the border. Other solar and renewable energy providers in the San Diego/Imperial/Baja California Region have also been invited to speak. An electronic invitation will be sent to everyone on the San Diego Dialogue list serve.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

Chair Paul Ganster requested that any upcoming events be sent to Ron Saenz and Hector Vanegas, SANDAG.

Mr. Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, announced that on September 19th the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce is holding a Casino Night as a fundraiser for the Chamber and the Business Association. All are welcome to attend.

5. SANDAG's BINATIONAL SEMINAR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Paul Ganster and Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, reported on the binational seminar task force recommendations to be presented to the Borders Committee at their next meeting.

The first recommendation is to "explore the feasibility of developing a regional transportation infrastructure map that would include the regional transportation projects of the San Diego Region and the Municipality of Tijuana through 2010." There was discussion about what is meant by regional infrastructure. Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, mentioned that this recommendation includes transportation infrastructure projects on both sides of the border.

The second recommendation is to "explore the feasibility of developing mapping of existing and planned water, sewer, energy, natural gas, and electrical infrastructure in the San Diego/Tijuana region."

The third recommendation is to "evaluate coordination with the appropriate agencies on both sides of the border to investigate and gather existing baseline data on greenhouse gas (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)." Chair Paul Ganster added that both Baja California and California are moving quickly on calculating GHG emissions.

The fourth is to "proceed with the appropriate arrangements for SANDAG to accept IMPlan's invitation to become its permanent advisory member on its Advisory Board." Paul Ganster expressed that he thinks this a good step in formalizing the relationship between the two agencies.

The fifth recommendation indicates "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."

The final recommendation includes "exploring opportunities for COBRO members to invite practitioners to discuss best practices at borders around the world in order to evaluate San Diego/Tijuana border crossings."

Jason Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, reported that Senator Ducheny's office would be supportive of these and suggested that her office may also consider providing assistance for the mapping project.

Jason Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, made the motion to accept the recommendations made by the task force. Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Thomas Currie, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

6. REPORT ON THE XXVI BORDER GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

Sergio Pallares, Caltrans, reported on the Border Governors Conference held in Hollywood, California from August 13 to August 15, 2008. There were three handouts distributed. The first being the Joint Declaration which includes the signatures of all ten border governors and their representatives, the second is a matrix which explains the summary worktable progress report, and the third is a matrix showing the schedule of implementation of the recommendations.

Mr. Pallares gave a brief overview of the structure of the conference explaining that there are different worktables under each governor that make recommendations to improve the border region. Each worktable covers a different area including: Agriculture, Border Security, Logistics and International Crossings, Economic Development, Education, Emergency, Energy, Environment, Health, Science, Tourism, Water, and Wildlife. These recommendations are included in the Joint Declaration. The Joint Declaration is made up of three sections: the Preamble, the Specific Recommendations (from the 13 worktables), and the Addendum. The Addendum includes items that do not fall under a topic of a specific worktable, but that a governor wants discussed.

Last year, it was indicated that Caltrans had been representing the State of California, but that COBRO did not have a voice. In response to this, Caltrans is extending an invitation to COBRO to provide input in order to be brought to the worktable next year. He asked COBRO to develop the process to provide this input.

There was discussion on how to initiate the process to give input on recommendations. Mr. Pallares indicated that he would make contact information for each worktable head available. He also added that Caltrans' invitation is extended for contributions to the Logistics and Border Crossing worktable.

Mr. Pallares also indicated that recommendations do not get reflected in the Joint Declaration without consensus of all the governors. If the implementation of a recommendation is to take place within one state, then that state is responsible to bring it to fruition.

The next meeting will be in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and in two years it will be held in Arizona.

There was further discussion on other parts of the conference including the sections on human trafficking moderated by Maria Shriver and economic development.

All of the speeches are posted on the Border Governors Conference Web site.

7. REPORT ON THE TIJUANA MUNICIPAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Alonso Hernández, Sub-Director of IMPlan, reported on the Tijuana Municipal Urban Development Plan. The plan was last updated 21 years ago. Several public hearings were held: one in March with stakeholders from the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC) and two other hearings with the Tijuana City Council's Urban Planning Subcommittee. IMPlan is now in the process of preparing to present it to the entire City Council. Once the City Council approves the plan, it will be presented to the State of Baja California.

The plan includes three chapters: urban development, environment, and quality of life. These three chapters are based on five strategies: the region as a metropolitan area, environment, competitiveness, urban development, and administration of development. From these three sections and five strategies 70 different themes and programs were developed. Each theme or plan has an identified stakeholder and a timeline.

Another aspect of the Municipal Urban Development Plan considers the Tijuana region as a binational metropolitan region. This aspect of the plan will include establishing a formal regional agency in order to gain access to different funds that are available. To continue their work they are also starting an urban development plan for the population center.

Clay Phillips, TRNERR, raised discussion about the Los Laureles Specific Plan. Mr. Hernandez indicated that under the Municipal Urban Development Plan no modifications will be made to Los Laureles. In the development plan involving the population center, Los Laureles will be included.

Ron Saenz, SANDAG, highlighted that Tijuana's Municipal Urban Development Plan is the first one that has been done since 1981. It is also the first one that adopts strategies from the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Strategic Plan. Additionally, it establishes a technical committee with SANDAG. It also identifies strategies for global climate change and for conservation in line with the Las Californias plan.

Tito Alegria, COLEF, pointed out that there was a similar urban development strategic plan done seven years ago by the previous administration in Tijuana and the private sector. He also raised the water quality issue that the proposed Valle de las Palmas presents since runoff from this area would drain into the Abelardo Rodriguez Reservoir. He reported that when people settle in the new Valle Las Palmas development, 250,000 cars, many of which will leak oil, will be added to the area and that the risk of runoff that will contaminate the water supply is high.

Mr. Hernandez responded that Valle Las Palmas has been one of the most studied areas in the region. This project is included in the specific plan and IMPlan will continue to follow up with these issues. This is a long-term development plan and redirecting water away from the arroyo is included in the first phase.

Alberto Morghen, City of Tecate, added that Tecate has been working jointly with IMPlan to harmonize efforts in the area of a regional metropolitan area. Last week members of the Mexican Congress visited Tecate to learn about these efforts towards creating the Tijuana-Tecate-Rosarito metropolitan zone additional to the current existing seven metropolitan zones in Mexico. This new classification as a metropolitan zone will bring additional resources to their budget that can help with urban facilities and transportation infrastructure which will be the first time these decisions will be made on a more local level. Mr. Morghen offered to give a report on Tecate's efforts, new policies (specifically renewable energy policy) and projects at a future meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next COBRO meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., at SANDAG.

San Diego Association of Governments
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

December 2, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2b**

Action Requested: APPROVE

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)
MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 7, 2008

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The October 7, 2008, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Ganster. The meeting was held at SANDAG.

Members present were: Chair Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias; Co-chair Elvira Felix, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego; Efrain Ibarra, South County Economic Development Council; Past Chair Elsa Saxod, San Diego County Water Authority; Carlos Cañedo & Alberto Morghen, City of Tecate; Lorena Flores, City of Tijuana; Lina Ojeda & Gabriela Muñoz, Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF); Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Currie, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Clay Phillips, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR); Lorena Santana, Universidad Iberoamericana Tijuana; Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and David Fege, U.S. EPA Border Liaison Office.

Advisory members present were: David McCawley and Amy Radetsky, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana.

SANDAG staff present were: Elisa Arias, Héctor Vanegas, Ron Saenz, Susan Freedman, and Marianne Veach.

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Due to the lack of a quorum, the approval of the September 2, 2008, meeting minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, announced that the chamber had a successful trip to Washington, DC. They are now working on the next steps that came out of the trip and she will give an update on those during the next COBRO meeting. She also announced that the Chamber's Mexico Business Center will hold their Seventh Annual Mexico Economic Outlook & 22nd Forum Fronterizo on October 8, 2008.

Clay Phillips, TRNERR, announced that he attended a meeting with John Robertus, Chair of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Board. Mr. Robertus has devised a system to manage current and future sediment and trash in the valley. Mr. Phillips will give further updates as these plans progress.

Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, announced that hours at the Otay Mesa Commercial Facility will be expanded at both the import and export facilities. As of October 20, 2008, the import facility will be open two hours later until 10:00 p.m., and the export facility will open two hours earlier at 6:00 a.m.

Clay Phillips, TRNERR, commented on the new pedestrian gate that will be put in the fence that is currently under construction in Border Field State Park and asked CBP about the outstanding issue of how the new gate will be accessed.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, announced that Senator Denise Ducheny's SB 1486 passed meaning that tolls will be able to be charged at the new border crossing.

Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, announced that in response to decreasing number of his students studying in Mexico due to the fear of violence there, he did some research into the crime rates in Tijuana. In Tijuana, the projected homicide rate for 2008 is 34.4 per 100,000 citizens. He compares this to homicide rates of 43.7 per 100,000 in Detroit in 2006.

Chair Ganster requested that staff update COBRO on member attendance rates at the next meeting and update any necessary changes in membership status in order to maintain a quorum.

4. UPCOMING EVENT

A list of upcoming binational events was provided by SANDAG staff and included in the meeting's agenda packet.

5. NEW STRATEGIES TO FACILITATE UPCOMING VISA RENEWALS IN TIJUANA

David McCawley, Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana, reported on current trends and programs at the consulate. He reported that the consulate in Tijuana will see a large surge due to the expiration of a large amount of border crossing cards that were issued as 10-year visas in 1998 and 2003. They will also see a large amount of passport applications due to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The peak of this surge will be seen in 2011 with the most significant increase in Tijuana. The steps that have been implemented to deal with this surge are: increasing the number of interview windows, opening the world's biggest consulate in Ciudad Juarez, uniting the American Citizen Services unit and visa unit to form a new facility, building a new consulate in Tijuana, and increasing the number of adjudicators in Mexico.

Another way to deal with the surge was to come up with a way to exempt applicants from participating in visa interviews. This has led to a new group visa program that will work through major employers in the United States. This new program will be for employees of recognized employers in the U.S. and their family members that need to revalidate their visas. Group appointments can be made directly through calling the consulate and up to 50 appointments can be

made at one time. The contact e-mail for questions about this new program is tijuanagrupo@state.gov.

With these new ways of processing renewals the wait time for a renewed visa will be approximately one week.

6. PRESENTATION ON THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA) TRUCK STOP ELECTRIFICATION STUDY

David Fege, U.S. EPA, gave a presentation on truck stop electrification (TSE).

The first part of the presentation was an overview of the TSE concept. Mr. Fege explained that TSE provides electricity and air conditioning to normally idling trucks without having the truck's engine turned on which in turn reduces emissions. There are many truck stops in the U.S. that provide this technology. On average trucks idle 1824 hours per year if they are used 52 weeks a year. He also covered the costs and reductions in emissions related to the implementation of TSE programs.

The objective of the study is to develop a feasible concept for using TSE at U.S.-Mexico Ports of Entry to reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality. The largest source of diesel emissions near the border comes from commercial trucks. Approximately 3,000 trucks per day cross the border at the Otay Mesa port of entry (POE). Other statistics on the number of truck crossings at various POEs in the U.S. were given. Maps of the congestion from commercial trucks and potential TSE sites were shown. The two options provided were that either trucks could wait at a TSE facility along the access road in Mexico and receive an appointment to enter the Mexican export customs facility or trucks could wait at a TSE facility between the U.S. and Mexico customs facilities and receive an appointment to enter the U.S. import facility.

Next steps include further stakeholder discussions and refinement of the concept. Further questions that remain are: to what extent could the TSE be integrated into POE customs processes?; how would the TSE be owned, operated, and financed?; what incentives and disincentives would drivers have to use the facility?; are there any advantages to U.S. and Mexican customs agencies?; is there a suitable TSE location near the Otay POE? A draft report is expected to be completed by March 1, 2009.

7. BORDER CROSSING VEHICLE AIR MONITORING STUDY UPDATE

Jenny Quintana, Professor at San Diego State University, gave an update on the Border Crossing Vehicle Air Monitoring Study. The objective of the study was to quantify exposures to toxic air pollutants experienced by frequent commuters during their commute across the U.S.-Mexico border, especially in regards to border wait times. The two areas of concern, from a public health perspective, are chronic exposures which increase risk of lung cancer and cardiac problems and acute high exposures which can lead to increased cardiac events and asthma attacks. Participants in the study drove with pollution measurement and GPS equipment from the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC- Universidad Autónoma de Baja California) to San Diego State University (SDSU) through the border crossing at San Ysidro. Other factors included were the participants' window use, time of day, etc. The results show that there is a peak in exposure to black carbon and especially to carbon monoxide when waiting to cross the border. Limitations as well as strengths of the study were discussed. The conclusion of the study is that pollutants measured inside cars (carbon

monoxide, particulate matter, ultrafine particles) are elevated during waiting time at the border. Measures to protect yourself include driving cars with cabin filters, using recirculation mode and air conditioning.

8. REPORT ON LAND USE TRANSITIONS IN THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED

Lina Ojeda, Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), delivered a presentation on land use transitions in the Tijuana River Watershed. She presented a series of chronological land use maps from 1938 to 2005 in order to show the land use changes that the border region, especially the watershed area, has experienced. In 1938 the area was largely agricultural. By 1972, the United States side of the border began to see a lot of small urban areas while Tijuana's compact urban area began to grow.

Another impact shown by the maps is that of the effects of growth on the Coastal Sage Scrub areas. These areas are most impacted by these land use transitions on both sides of the border. Chaparral vegetation areas are also being isolated. These growth patterns are not positive for conservation of natural resources. Land use transitions are more complex on the Mexican side of the border because grasslands and agriculture are shifting which also plays an important role in the dynamic of fires.

Alberto Morghen, City of Tecate, made the comment that these graphics are not as critical as the reality because the last graphic is from 2005 and from 2005 to 2008 there have been even more dramatic changes. He asked what the region on the Mexico side of the border is doing to assist in smarter growth. Ms. Ojeda responded that she does not think that the region is not doing much. There are clear, centralized laws to prevent growth like this, but they are not respected or enforced. As an example of how little the region does, she added that between 1989 and 2008 there have not been any new parks built while Tijuana has grown three times in land and more than double in population. She believes that Mexico should rely less on laws and try to push voluntary programs based on incentives (tax, etc.) because more laws and regulations can be made, but if there is not anyone to enforce them, they are ineffective.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next COBRO meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., at SANDAG. The December meeting is tentatively planned to be held in Tecate.

San Diego Association of Governments
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

December 2, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **4**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

File Number 3003200

WHAT: Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce
On the Radar: Seminar on Fines and Penalties
WHEN: December 3, 2008
WHERE: South Bay Fish & Grill, Chula Vista, CA
MORE INFO: www.otaymesa.org or (619) 661-6111

WHAT: Institute of the Americas (IOA) at UCSD
Book Presentation: Mexico-U.S. Migration Management: A Binational Approach
WHEN: December 5, 2008
WHERE: IOA Complex: Deutz Conference Room
MORE INFO: <http://www.iamericas.org/>

WHAT: SANDAG
Borders Committee (Binational topics)
WHEN: January 9, 2009
WHERE: SANDAG Board Room
MORE INFO: www.sandag.org or (619) 699-7316

WHAT: San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce
87th Installation Dinner and Gala
WHEN: January 30, 2009
WHERE: Admiral Kidd Club
MORE INFO: (619) 428-1281

WHAT: Transborder Institute at University of San Diego
Cross-Border Media Roundtable
WHEN: February 12, 2009
WHERE: Joan B. Kroc Building, University of San Diego
MORE INFO: http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/events/tbi_usd.php

San Diego Association of Governments
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

December 2, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **5**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

2007 SAN DIEGO-BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER CROSSING STATISTICS

File Number 3003200

Introduction

The San Diego region is connected with Baja California through three ports of entry: (1) the San Ysidro – Puerta México port of entry connects the region with Tijuana and is the busiest land border crossing in world; (2) the Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay port of entry is also a connection to the City of Tijuana and is California’s largest commercial port of entry; and (3) the Tecate – Tecate port of entry connects the eastern portion of the San Diego region to the City of Tecate.

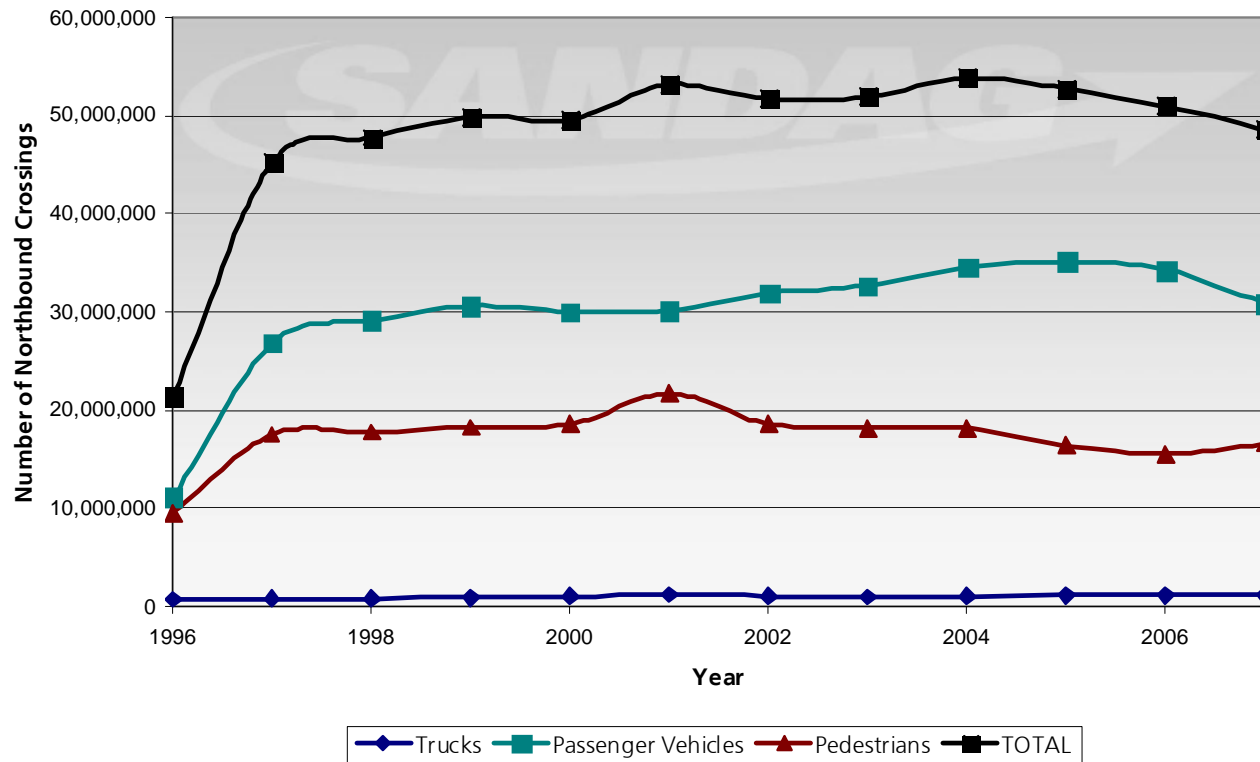
Discussion

The four attached graphs show the number of crossings by type (including trucks, passenger vehicles, and pedestrians) over the last twelve years (1996 to 2007) for each of three mentioned ports of entry and the totals for all of the San Diego region border crossings. The specific numbers of crossings are shown in a table below each graph. The data source used to create these graphs is from the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), U.S. Department of Transportation.

Attachment: 1. Border Crossing Statistics

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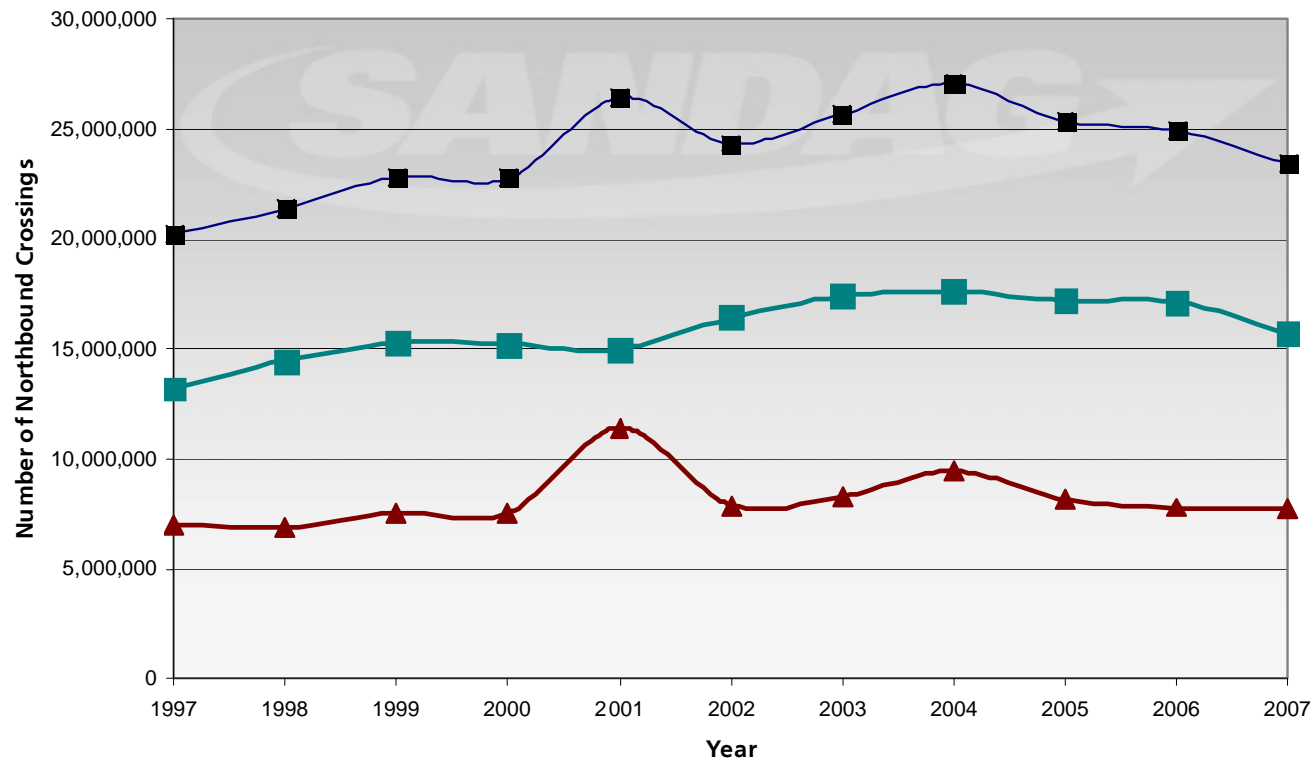
San Diego Region - Baja California Region Ports of Entry Border Crossings



	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL	21,419,029	45,234,120	47,747,852	49,864,268	49,646,206	53,139,107	51,641,584	51,887,773	53,861,479	52,731,273	50,934,790	48,590,578
Trucks	754,636	837,448	865,569	969,697	1,031,546	1,279,033	1,067,411	1,019,908	1,110,758	1,122,784	1,131,483	1,139,911
Passenger Vehicles	11,116,296	26,860,599	29,124,779	30,616,346	30,017,981	30,160,277	31,945,973	32,674,582	34,553,627	35,146,154	34,285,607	30,897,447
Pedestrians	9,548,097	17,536,073	17,757,504	18,278,225	18,596,679	21,699,797	18,628,200	18,193,283	18,197,094	16,462,335	15,517,700	16,553,220

Data Retrieved From: Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), U.S. Department of Transportation

San Ysidro Port of Entry Border Crossings

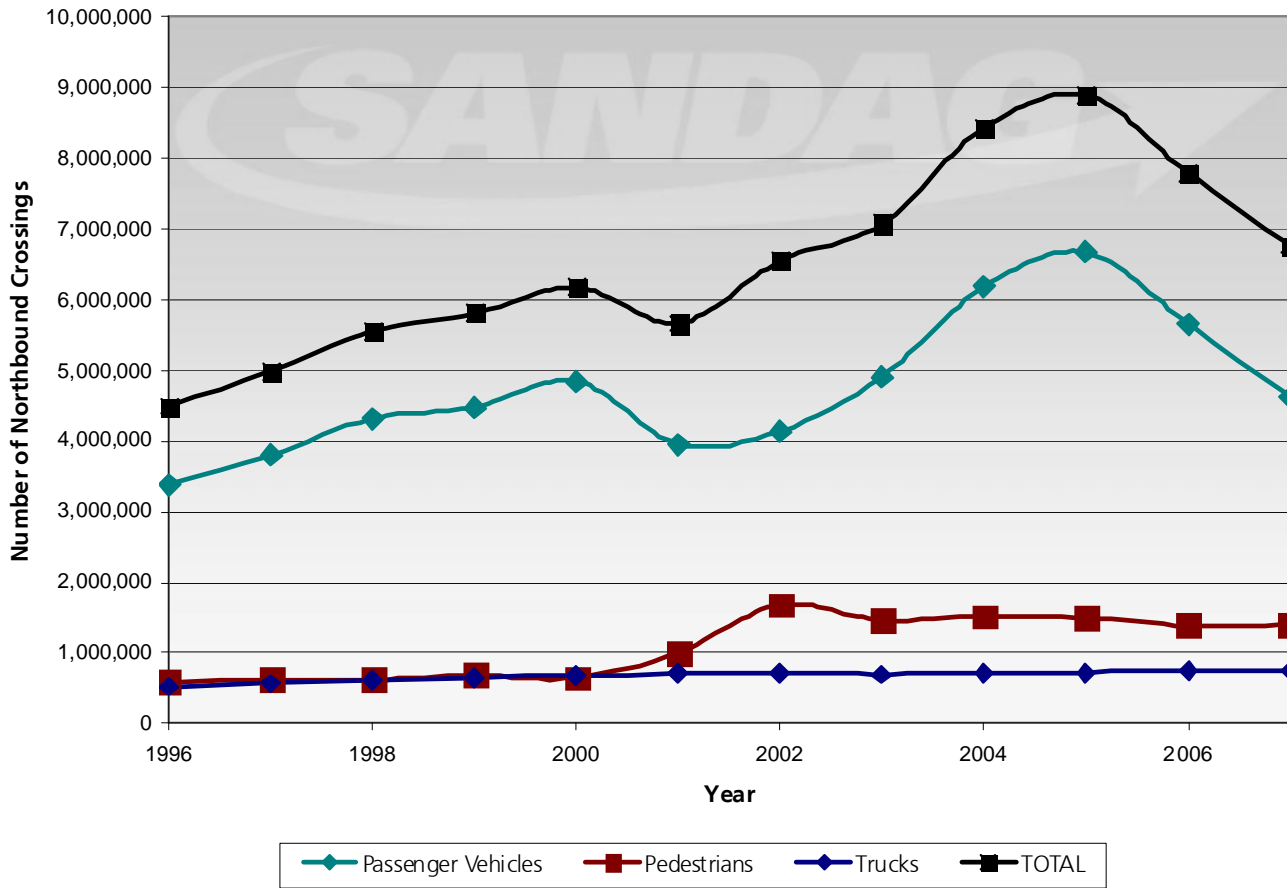


■ Passenger Vehicles
 ▲ Pedestrians
 ■ TOTAL

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL	20,260,343	21,384,068	22,827,735	22,779,878	26,437,562	24,345,249	25,710,591	27,078,630	25,364,456	24,946,777	23,452,831
Passenger Vehicles	13,213,420	14,474,686	15,269,561	15,237,428	15,001,616	16,441,766	17,408,481	17,621,030	17,208,106	17,135,163	15,696,262
Pedestrians	7,046,923	6,909,382	7,558,174	7,542,450	11,435,946	7,903,483	8,302,110	9,457,600	8,156,350	7,811,614	7,756,569

Data Retrieved From: Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), U.S. Department of Transportation

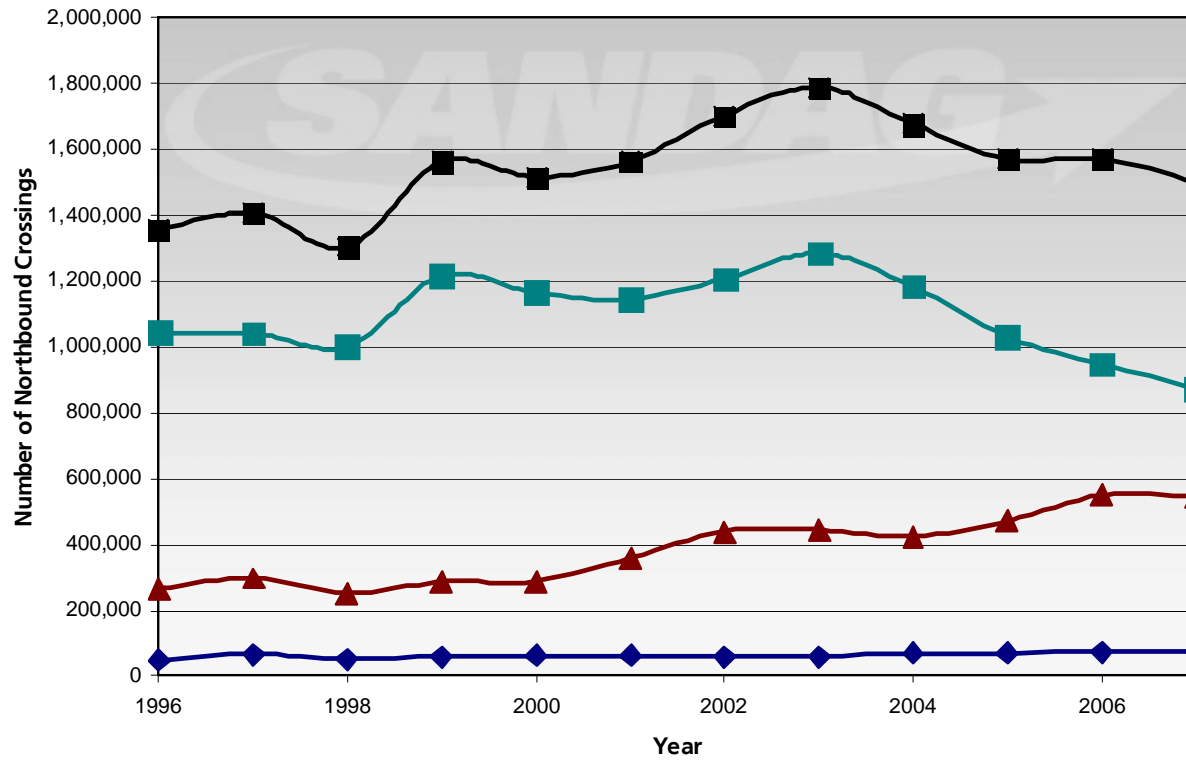
Otay Mesa Port of Entry Border Crossings



	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL	4,491,317	4,990,168	5,552,328	5,810,660	6,182,444	5,668,259	6,556,018	7,077,222	8,439,359	8,899,443	7,796,400	6,766,000
Trucks	530,704	567,715	606,384	646,587	688,340	708,446	731,291	697,152	726,164	730,253	749,472	738,765
Passenger Vehicles	3,377,407	3,800,936	4,326,786	4,480,026	4,845,348	3,956,842	4,140,610	4,912,899	6,193,568	6,672,994	5,661,794	4,616,308
Pedestrians	583,206	621,517	619,158	684,047	648,756	1,002,971	1,684,117	1,467,171	1,519,627	1,496,196	1,385,134	1,410,927

Data Retrieved From: Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), U.S. Department of Transportation

Tecate Port of Entry Border Crossings



Legend: Trucks (blue diamonds), Passenger Vehicles (teal squares), Pedestrians (red triangles), TOTAL (black squares)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL	1,358,076	1,405,527	1,302,732	1,562,051	1,514,505	1,563,879	1,702,605	1,788,812	1,676,249	1,569,486	1,571,485	1,497,553
Trucks	49,423	67,277	50,805	59,606	62,878	60,887	57,655	59,363	69,670	69,586	73,441	77,320
Passenger Vehicles	1,043,022	1,041,013	1,000,699	1,214,949	1,163,471	1,143,827	1,205,430	1,284,525	1,183,222	1,028,854	948,060	872,943
Pedestrians	265,631	297,237	251,228	287,496	288,156	359,165	439,520	444,924	423,357	471,046	549,984	547,290

Data Retrieved From: Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), U.S Department of Transportation