

## Members

Crystal Crawford, Chair  
(Representing North County Coastal)  
Councilmember, **Del Mar**

Patricia McCoy, Vice Chair  
(Representing South County)  
Councilmember, **Imperial Beach**

Hal Martin  
(Representing North County Inland)  
Councilmember, **San Marcos**

Jill Greer  
(Representing East County)  
Councilmember, **Lemon Grove**

Ralph Inzunza  
Councilmember, **City of San Diego**

Greg Cox  
Supervisor, **County of San Diego**

## Alternates

Carol McCauley  
(Representing North County Coastal)  
Councilmember, **Oceanside**

Judy Ritter  
(Representing North County Inland)  
Councilmember, **Vista**

Phil Monroe  
(Representing South County)  
Councilmember, **Coronado**

Dick Ramos  
(Representing East County)  
Councilmember, **El Cajon**

Jim Madaffer  
Councilmember, **City of San Diego**

Dianne Jacob  
Supervisor, **County of San Diego**

## Ex-Officio Members

County of Imperial

County of Riverside

County of Orange

Consulate General of Mexico,  
San Diego

San Diego County Water Authority

Caltrans

Gary L. Gallegos  
Executive Director, **SANDAG**



# BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, September 20, 2002  
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
**SANDAG, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**401 B. Street, Suite 800**  
**San Diego, CA 92101**

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**
- **2002 COBRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **BORDERS COMMITTEE SIX MONTH REVIEW**

### 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). The preparation and implementation of SANDAG's Binational Planning and Interregional Planning Programs are included under its 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.*

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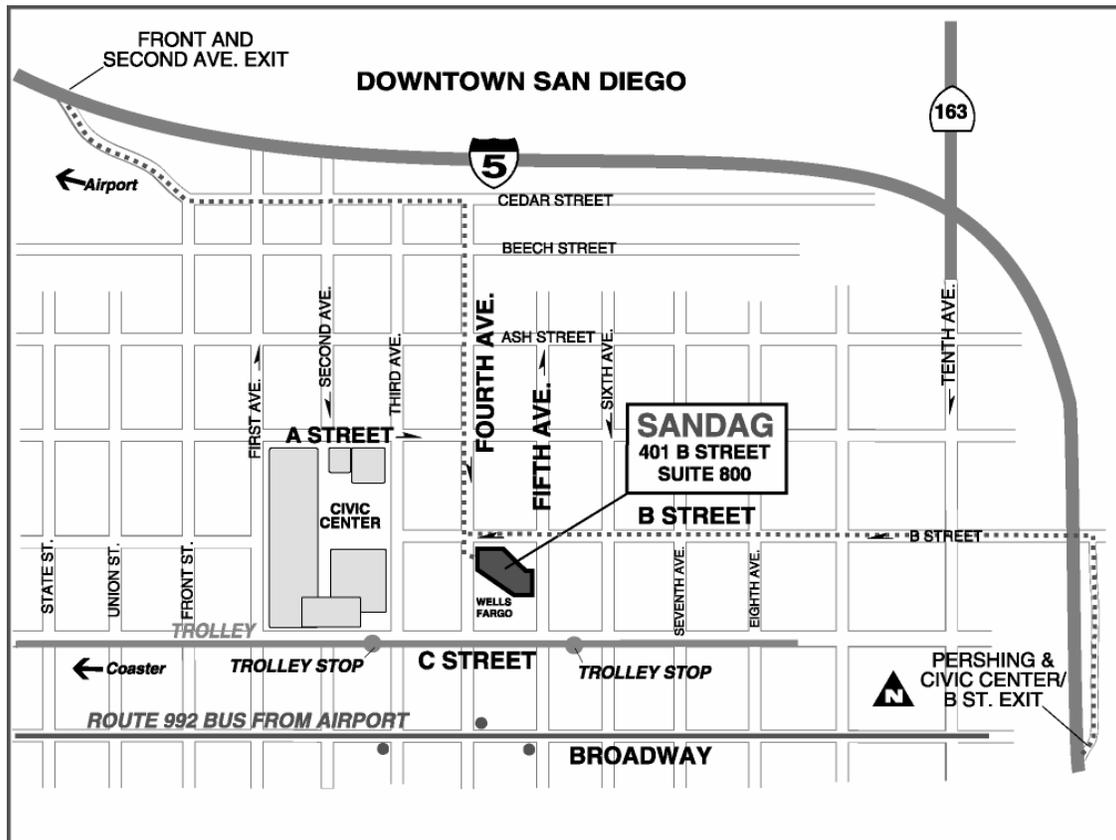


Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the Borders Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker's Slip which is located in the rear of the room and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The Borders Committee may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

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# BORDERS COMMITTEE

Friday, September 20, 2002

Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas  
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ITEM #		ACTION
1.	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
+2.	<b>MEETING SUMMARY OF AUGUST 7, 2002 (pp. 5-7)</b>	<b>APPROVE</b>
3.	<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b> (Each speaker limited to three minutes.)	
	<b>CONSENT</b>	
+4.	<b>COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (pp. 8-9)</b> Attached you will find a summary of the August 6, 2002 COBRO meeting.	<b>INFORMATION</b>
+5.	<b>STAFF REPORT (pp. 10-11)</b> Legislative update  Report on Senate Bill 1731 (Polanco), creating the California and Mexico Border Economic Infrastructure Financing Authority.	<b>INFORMATION</b>
	<b>REPORTS</b>	
6.	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBER'S REPORTS</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
+7.	<b>REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (Hon. Lori Pfeiler, Chair of the Regional Planning Committee) (pp. 12-13)</b>  SANDAG is preparing a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for the San Diego region. The Borders Committee, with the assistance of COBRO, will take the lead in preparing the Borders element of the RCP. Hon. Lori Pfeiler, Mayor of Escondido, will brief the Committee on the status of the RCP work.  The Committee will discuss the benefit of a joint meeting with the Regional Planning Committee.	<b>SUPPORT</b>

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<b>ITEM #</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
+8.	<p><b>2002 COBRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS (Elsa Saxod, Chair of COBRO) (pp. 14-15)</b></p> <p>Ms. Elsa Saxod, Chair of COBRO, will present the COBRO 2002 Summer Conference recommendations approved at its September 3rd meeting.</p>	<b>APPROVE</b>
+9.	<p><b>BORDERS COMMITTEE SIX MONTH REVIEW (Hector Vanegas, Staff) (pp. 16-18)</b></p> <p>The Borders Committee has discussed topics related to oversight of issues that impact the borders of the San Diego region, particularly in binational and interregional planning programs. In order to frame future discussions, a brief review of the Borders Committee efforts is provided.</p>	<b>APPROVE</b>
+10.	<p><b>I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (Jeff Martin) (p. 19)</b></p> <p>Staff will provide preliminary results of the survey from the Technical Working Group meeting. The next IRP meeting will be on Friday, October 18th in Escondido.</p>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
11.	<p><b>NEXT MEETING TOPICS, DATE AND LOCATION</b></p> <p>A joint meeting of the Borders Committee and the I-15 Interregional Partnership Policy Committee will be held on Friday, October 18, 2002, at the Escondido City Hall, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p>The Committee will discuss a tentative date for a one-day "Borders Workshop." A proposed date for the workshop is Monday, October 28, 2002, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p>	<b>INFORMATION/ APPROVE</b>

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# BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2002

AGENDA REPORT NO.: **2**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## MEETING SUMMARY OF AUGUST 7, 2002

The August 7, 2002 meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal). Committee members in attendance were Hal Martin (North County Inland) and Greg Cox (County of San Diego), and alternates Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Phil Monroe (South County), and Dick Ramos (East County). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Thomas Buckley (County of Riverside), Larry Grogan (County of Imperial), Rodulfo Figueroa (Republic of Mexico), and Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans).

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Crystal Crawford welcomed the Committee members and guests to the meeting. Mr. Andy Horne from the Imperial Irrigation District, Mr. Hank Kuiper, Imperial County Supervisor and Chair of the Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG), and Mr. Wally Leimgruber, Imperial County Supervisor, were introduced as special guests.

### **2. MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 21, 2002**

There were no changes to the June 21, 2002 meeting actions.

### **3. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) REPORT**

Ms. Saxod, COBRO Chair, provided the Committee with an overview of the July 19, 2002 COBRO Summer Conference that had over 200 attendees. The keynote speaker, Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow, emphasized that in order to improve border infrastructure, elected local officials must get the attention of the federal government. At the September Borders Committee meeting, COBRO will forward recommendations from the conference.

Ms. Saxod also mentioned that the Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Conference will be held in San Diego in October. COBRO supported Consul General Figueroa's request to promote the official recognition of the Consular identification cards by local jurisdictions in San Diego County.

### **4. CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT**

Councilmember Patricia McCoy was appointed by the Chair of SANDAG as new Vice Chair of the Borders Committee.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Hon. Mitch Beauchamp, Councilmember from National City and member of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board, commented on the need to reopen the desert rail line to Imperial Valley. It would improve freight shipments and enhance coordination with Tijuana's public transportation services to increase trolley ridership.

Ms. Kristen Allioti introduced Mr. Howard Shatz from the Public Policy Institute of California who is researching U.S./Mexico economic integration resulting from NAFTA. She also introduced Mr. Jose Flores Bringas, staff for Hon. Nicolas Osuna Aguila-socho, a legislator from Tecate who is President of the Committee on Border Affairs in Baja California.

## **6. PROPOSED I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (IRP)**

Jeff Martin, SANDAG Staff, reviewed the monthly status report for the IRP short-term transportation strategies. The Committee approved the short-term strategies to forward to the Transportation Committee for inclusion in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan.

## **7. SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL VALLEY WATER TRANSFER**

Mr. Bob Campbell, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), made a presentation on the proposed water transfer from the Imperial Irrigation District to the SDCWA, which would be the largest agriculture to urban water transfer ever attempted in California. Mr. Campbell outlined several remaining challenges: environmental issues from water diversions that affect habitat; whether the water transfer is growth inducing in San Diego County; and the impacts on the Salton Sea as a result of accelerating the salinity level. He stated that the deadline for the approval of the transfer is December 2002.

Mr. Andy Horne, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), emphasized the importance of exploring reciprocal cooperation on transborder issues. He believes that short-term solutions are not the answer to long term infrastructure and supply problems. Mr. Horne agreed with Mr. Campbell that time is of the essence; however, the current proposal is unacceptable to the IID. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, IID sent a letter to Gov. Davis offering to explore an interim fallowing program for five years. Mr. Horne stated that solutions to future water supplies need to be evaluated and that agriculture to urban water transfers should not be the "cure all", given the high economic and social costs. For example, desalinization of ocean water may ultimately be more feasible with the implementation of federal subsidies. He stated that Southern Californians should minimize water uses for landscaping and that land use planning must coincide with the available water supply. He welcomes mutually beneficial and constructive solutions to this challenging issue.

Special guests Imperial County Supervisors Hank Kuiper and Wally Leimgruber were asked to provide additional insight on the water transfer. They highlighted concerns regarding the economic impacts of fallowing to citizens in the Imperial Valley. Imperial County recognizes the importance of economic development and diversification and welcomes new opportunities for investment. San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox reiterated that it is necessary to find common ground and keep the dialogue open to solve this issue. Mayor Larry Grogan expressed his trepidation about San Diego's lack of willingness to make commitments that would enable an acceptable agreement. Mr. Grogan stated that now is the time for crisis management because only a few months remain before the December 31, 2002 water transfer agreement deadline.

Gary Gallegos, Executive Director of SANDAG, said that the discussion is broader than water. It also is about equity, economic development and the need for partnership between San Diego County and Imperial County. Chair Crystal Crawford, invited representatives from Imperial and San Diego counties and any other water agencies to offer suggestions and next steps for the Borders Committee. Ms. Crawford mentioned that this meeting was a starting point and she would welcome additional meetings with Imperial County.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Friday, September 20, 2002.

#### **9. ATTENDANCE**

Attendance list available upon request.

San Diego Association of Governments  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE**

September 20, 2002

AGENDA REPORT NO.: **4**

**Action Requested: INFORMATION**

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
MEETING SUMMARY OF AUGUST 6, 2002.

**Introduction**

The August 6, 2002, COBRO meeting was called to order by Chair Elsa Saxod.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Elsa Saxod, welcomed the COBRO members and guests to the meeting and asked for self introductions. The Chair stated that she was pleased to have such a large Mexican representation at the meeting.

**MEETING SUMMARY OF JULY 2, 2002**

After Gustavo Perez was added to the attendance list, the meeting summary for July 2, 2002, was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION**

No public announcements were made.

**CHAIR AND COBRO MEMBERS REPORT**

The Chair thanked the 2002 COBRO Conference Task Force participants, the panel facilitators, and Hon. Crystal Crawford for moderating the Conference.

Several Committee members discussed and supported COBRO's participation in the U.S.-Mexico Binational Group on Bridges and Border Crossings meeting which will be held in San Diego in early October.

Mr. Cruz Gonzalez, City of San Diego Transportation Department, mentioned that he is on a Committee, together with the U.S. and Mexican Customs agencies and Caltrans, that currently is working on short- and long-term solutions to the southbound trucking. He will continue to report any progress at future COBRO meetings.

Consul General Figueroa, Mexican Consul General, mentioned that he presented the new Mexican Consular ID at the last Board of Directors meeting. He asked Committee members to support and encourage the acceptance of this document by the different cities within San Diego County.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Hector Vanegas reported on HR 4967, the Border Commuter Student Act, and on HR 5288, the Commuter Students from Border Nations Act of 2002.

## **2002 COBRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Hector Vanegas provided an overview of the COBRO 2002 Annual Summer Conference and the Committee discussed their initial reactions to the Conference.

## **CALTRANS' UPDATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Sergio Pallares gave an update on Caltrans's involvement in the Smart Border: 22 Point Agreement.

## **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (ICF)**

Mr. Richard Kiy, CEO, gave a brief introduction on the International Community Foundation (ICF). ICF's mission is to promote sustainable communities by building partnerships, mobilizing resources, leveraging technology, engaging U.S. based immigrants in transnational philanthropic endeavors, and strengthening communication among community leaders across international borders.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING TOPICS, DATE, AND LOCATION**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2002.

## **ATTENDANCE**

An attendance list is available upon request.

# BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2002

AGENDA REPORT NO.: **5**

**Action Requested: INFORMATION**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: SB 1731 (POLANCO) – CALIFORNIA AND MEXICO BORDER ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AUTHORITY

## **Introduction**

This report was presented at the Executive Committee meeting on September 13, 2002. In light of the added safeguards and the possibility that the bill's provisions could serve as a tool for border infrastructure improvements, it was recommended to re-examine the provisions contained in the bill and asked the Board that it change its oppose position to a neutral or support position.

SB 1731, which would create the California and Mexico Border Economic Infrastructure Financing Authority, was originally opposed by the Board. The bill has changed considerably, however, since the Board last considered it. The bill now contains provisions that show recognition of the strong role the San Diego region should take concerning decision-making for border zone development. It includes a role for SANDAG on its nonprofit public benefit corporation board and requires SANDAG's approval of activities in this region. The bill has passed the Legislature and is now awaiting action by the Governor.

## **Discussion**

SB 1731 was formerly known as SB 865. SB 865 was discussed by the Board at its meeting in July 2001. At that time the Board decided to oppose the bill because it called for creation of an unnecessary layer of government, provided no new funding for the infrastructure projects that would be developed, did not allow for border counties to veto projects they did not approve of, and did not provide for adequate representation of the San Diego region.

Due to significant amendments, SB 1731 does not contain many of the components that the Board objected to when reviewing SB 865 last year. First, it establishes a nonprofit public benefit corporation instead of a new layer of government. Second, it mandates approval of border region projects by the MPOs in the border region. Third, the non-state sources of funding from which the Authority is now required to obtain funding are not funding sources typically utilized by SANDAG. Finally, it calls for a minimum of two and as many as three representatives from the San Diego region to sit on its five-member board of directors.

## **Summary of Key Provisions of SB 1731 as Passed by the Legislature**

- Creates the CalMex Border Economic Infrastructure Financing Authority as a nonprofit public benefit corporation
- Prohibits the Authority from commencing operations until it has received sufficient non-state funding from sources such as the federal Community Reinvestment Act and the California Organized Investment Network

- Authorizes Authority to issue revenue bonds for infrastructure projects along a 100 kilometer band on either side of the California/Mexico border
- Board of Directors for the Authority will consist of:
  - ❖ One director appointed by the Governor who is a resident of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, or Los Angeles County
  - ❖ One director appointed by the Governor from San Diego County
  - ❖ One director appointed by the Governor from San Diego or Imperial County
  - ❖ One director designated by SANDAG
  - ❖ One director designated by the Imperial Valley Association of Governments
- Calls for the Governor to designate at least four residents of Mexico to serve as an advisory body to the Authority
- Requires Authority to identify principal needs and priorities for border development in consultation with SANDAG and the Imperial Valley Association of Governments
- Requires Authority to obtain approval from the MPO in the county or counties in which a project is located
- Requires Authority to create a draft master plan within one year after incorporation

San Diego Association of Governments

# BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2002

AGENDA REPORT NO.: **7**

**Action Requested: SUPPORT**

## REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP)

### **Introduction**

In the context of the regional governance discussions and our projected population and employment growth, SANDAG has called for the preparation of a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The RCP is based on the premise that we must plan our future differently than we have in our past. The RCP recognizes that, although we are 19 separate jurisdictions, we are one region that requires a seamless plan. And, we require additional coordination with our neighboring counties and international border.

One of the Plan's primary goals is to prepare for future growth. The objective is to be smart about growth, planning and preparing in advance of its occurrence. Local jurisdictions and SANDAG have identified smart growth areas, and are considering an incentive-based approach designed to encourage and channel growth into these smart growth areas and communities. Growth and change will continue in the region over the next several decades, and all jurisdictions, even "built out" ones, can make positive contributions toward preparing for that change.

### **Benefits of the RCP**

1. Opportunity to define a vision for the region and prioritize the regional policies and actions to help us achieve the vision;
2. Opportunity to reward the implementation of smart growth by local jurisdictions with infrastructure funding;
3. Opportunity to address key regional infrastructure funding needs, in addition to transportation, in a comprehensive manner, and to set forth a public investment strategy for regionally significant infrastructure;
4. Opportunity to address issues relating to our county boundaries and international border.
5. Framework for monitoring our progress.

### **Components of the RCP**

The RCP is proposed to include six topical chapters, based on the regional priorities identified by the Regional Planning Committee. The proposed chapters (Urban Form, Transportation, Healthy Ecosystems, Borders, Economic Prosperity, and Housing) would be organized around a regional vision. Each chapter would address social equity and environmental justice, with public involvement integrated throughout the planning process. These chapters, along with the planned infrastructure needs assessment, would then serve as the building blocks from which the regional infrastructure

financing strategy would be built, culminating into the Final RCP Report and Action Plan. The Final RCP Report is seen as a policy document that spells out the regional vision and core values, with regional maps and key regional policies and actions. The RCP Action Plan would describe specific implementation recommendations including incentives, tools, and performance monitoring and evaluation measures. Performance monitoring and evaluation measures will build upon the 3 E's (Environment, Economy, Equity) discussed by the Board as part of the Indicators of Sustainable Competitiveness for the San Diego Region back in June.

(For details, the SANDAG Policy Board Agenda for September 13, 2002, regarding the Regional Comprehensive Plan is available and will be further discussed at upcoming meetings of the Borders Committee.)

# BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2002

AGENDA REPORT NO.: **8**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## 2002 COBRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction

During the July 19<sup>th</sup> Binational Summer Conference, several possible actions were discussed within the context of border infrastructure needs and financing. The most relevant topics were transportation infrastructure, energy and water. However, it was agreed that other priorities should include: air quality, airports, education, health, housing, mass transit, national security, railroad, sea ports, solid and hazardous waste, street paving, telecommunications, and waste water.

### Recommendations

Based on the Conference, it is COBRO's recommendation that the Borders Committee request that the SANDAG Board of Directors to:

1. Recognize the importance of addressing border infrastructure needs and financing, and authorizing the inclusion of these issues in regional plans such as the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan.
2. Authorize the Borders Committee to brief the region's federal and state elected representatives and border agencies on local border infrastructure needs.
3. Authorize the Borders Committee to help expedite the formation of the Binational Energy Forum.

### Discussion

#### 1. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

These recommendations are seen by COBRO as an imperative part of SANDAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan, to develop a strategic borders element with a vision for the next 30 years. This plan should include an assessment of infrastructure needs and how to secure better financing mechanisms. It should also encourage the use of federal and state financing mechanisms, stakeholder participation, integration of cross border planning and coordination for the different levels of governments.

Ports of Entry were the most urgent border infrastructure issue discussed at the COBRO Conference. Specific proposals included: better coordination of harmonize data and regulation;

implementation of efficiency programs for administration, operation and use of technology, and; solving staffing problems and extending hours of operation.

2. STATE AND FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT

By supporting these recommendations from the COBRO Conference, the Borders Committee will be promoting the importance of border infrastructure that can positively impact the quality of life and development of the communities along our border regions. Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow recommended during the conference that local leaders needed to intensify the level of their involvement with their federal and state representatives in order to call the attention to the region's needs.

3. ENERGY

Energy infrastructure along the U.S./ Mexican border was another issue that generated great interest. A draft Binational Energy Strategy report has been developed for incorporation in SANDAG's Regional Energy Strategy, and the Regional Comprehensive Plan. A major recommendation of the strategy is the creation of the Binational Energy Forum (BEF) to take advantage of mutually beneficial opportunities in the emerging binational energy market. COBRO believes that the BEF is an important and timely proposal whose implementation should be pursued by the Borders Committee now, as an early action item of the developing Regional energy Strategy. An important first step for the Borders Committee in facilitating the BEF would be to seek formal support from Mexico/ Baja California.

San Diego Association of Governments

# BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2002

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **9**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## BORDERS COMMITTEE SIX MONTH REVIEW

### **Introduction**

Since its first meeting on February 15, 2002 the Borders Committee has discussed a number of planning activities that impact the borders of the San Diego region. In order to frame future discussions, a brief review of the Borders Committee efforts is provided. The Borders Committee advises SANDAG on major interregional planning and policy matters, including the regions borders with Mexico, and the counties of Imperial, Orange and Riverside. SANDAG has made the Borders Committee one of its highest priorities among other issues such as the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee members recommend that a presentation be made to the Board of Directors that briefly summarizes the first six months of progress of the Borders Committee and propose a plan of action for the future that includes the following.

- Preparation of the Borders chapter in the RCP, joint meetings with the Regional Planning Committee;
- Development of the long term strategies from the I-15 work with Riverside County and the Economic Development collaboration with Imperial County;
- Define borders infrastructure priorities and financing strategies;
- Prepare strategies to address Port of Entries issues;
- Facilitate the Binational Energy Forum.

### **Discussion**

Three important items have been identified as relevant issues for the Committee: (1) the water transfer from the County of Imperial and the potential for binational cooperation with Mexico; (2) energy challenges for the region, alignments of electricity lines, installation of power plants in Mexico, and cooperation with the neighbors of the Counties of Riverside, Imperial, and the Republic of Mexico; (3) transportation infrastructure.

The Committee also identified the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (2030 RTP) and the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) as relevant to their discussions, due to its impact on the San Diego region borders.

The Committee developed a timeline that emphasized the major projects that are within the purview of the Border Committee. The timeline continues through December 2003 and includes five areas of interest: transportation, regional planning, binational border area projects, water, and energy. Within each of the areas, major milestones were listed with corresponding dates and descriptions.

- **I-15 Interregional Partnership**

Some of the issues that affect the San Diego region borders identified by the Committee are the job-housing imbalance shared with the County of Riverside and the binational border infrastructure shared with Mexico. The Borders Committee met in April with representatives of the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) to establish the Policy Committee of the Interregional Partnership (IRP) and also approved recommendations for reorganization of the existing Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) to fit into SANDAG's new committee structure as the working group for binational issues.

- **Energy**

Dr. Alan Sweedler, Director of SDSU's Center for Energy Studies and Vice-Chairman of the San Diego Regional Energy Office addressed the Committee and recommended the formation of a binational entity called the Binational Energy Forum (BEF). The BEF would be a place where key stakeholders, including the private sector, and decision makers from both sides of the border, would meet to discuss energy related matters. Ultimately the goal would be that the BEF could evolve into a binational institution with legal and regulatory authority recognized by both countries.

- **Legislation**

The Borders Committee recommended that the SANDAG Board of Directors send a letter of support for HR 4837, the SAFE Border Act of 2002 sponsored by Congresswoman Susan Davis, to local members of Congress. The Committee also recommended that SANDAG solicit similar actions from member agencies for the legislation based on its potential for improving the flow of people across our ports of entry while maintaining the highest levels of security. HR 4837 intends to reduce security threats and increase efficiency at the ports of entry by improving the flow of people through programs for commuters such as SENTRI.

- **Water**

As it is part of its function, the Borders Committee advises the SANDAG Board of Directors on major interregional planning policy-level matters. At the most recent Borders meeting, the Committee brought together water agencies from San Diego and Imperial Counties to discuss the pending water transfer. This meeting was a first step for the Borders Committee to expand its outreach and improve synergies in the region. This special meeting in August brought an important number of people representing different sectors of the community. It was discussed that future meetings with Imperial County might be necessary to continue the water issue discussion and other issues like economic development.

The water transfer is a time sensitive issue for San Diego's future water supply. The 200,000 acre-foot water transfer is one of the actions that the State of California is offering to reduce its excess

use from the Colorado River water allocation. The federal government has announced its intention to reduce the excess 700,000 acre-feet if no remedy is implemented by December 31, 2002. San Diego is facing a 30 percent cutback in its water supply on January 1, 2003 and is running out of time. At the beginning of September, the Imperial Irrigation District rejected a plan offered by the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) that would have paid farmers roughly \$1,500 an acre to fallow their land. The cornerstone of the SDCWA's plan was \$130 million in up-front funds to farmers who take their land out of production. Representatives from the County of Imperial are still concerned with the economic third party consequences of fallowing and also potential environmental law suits regarding the Salton Sea. This matter is an evolving and difficult issue, and the Borders Committee has offered to facilitate a continuing dialogue.

- **Outreach**

As a part of the Binational outreach, the Borders Committee has encouraged the participation of Mexican officials at SANDAG, in addition to having the Consul General of Mexico in San Diego as an Ex-Officio member to the Committee, Mayor Jesús Gonzáles, City of Tijuana; Mayor Juan Vargas, City of Tecate; and Mayor Luis Enrique Díaz, City of Playas de Rosarito, have attended Board of Director's meetings, as well as the participation of Hon. Jeffrey Davidow, Ambassador of the United States to Mexico at the 2002 Binational Summer Conference.

# BORDERS COMMITTEE

September 20, 2002

AGENDA REPORT NO.: **10**

**Action Requested: INFORMATION**

I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

PROJECT STATUS REPORT AND PRELIMINARY RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

## **Introduction**

The current focus of the Interregional Partnership (IRP) is the development of the Existing Conditions Report. Data from both regions have been integrated and is being analyzed along with survey results as the report is being prepared. The full survey results are expected in time for the I-15 IRP Technical Working Group meeting on September 18, 2002. As part of the I-15 IRP Policy Committee meeting, now scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>, a discussion of the full survey results will occur.

## **Key findings about I-15 commuters from the first wave of survey results**

1. Approximately one-third of Temecula/Murrieta area households have at least one I-15 commuter.
2. The average commute time to work for all I-15 commuters is 60 minutes and 52 miles; the commute home is 71 minutes.
3. 13 percent carpool regularly.
4. 43 percent consider their time commuting "much more than they would like to spend."
5. I-15 commuters earn more than non-commuters in Western Riverside County and have been with their current employers longer.
6. 60 percent of those who have lived in Riverside County less than 10 years moved there from San Diego County.
7. They are very satisfied with Riverside County, even more so than non-commuters.
8. The most important factors in choosing a home were: (1) affordability, (2) safety of neighborhood, (3) overall look and feel of neighborhood.
9. They are not interested in changing jobs to be closer to home if it means a cut in pay.
10. Above all, they want the single family detached home with a yard.
11. They would only be interested in moving closer to their job in San Diego County if they could get the same house for the same price.