TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS/
SANDAG BOARD
SUMMIT AGENDA

Friday, October 11, 2002
10:15 a.m.

SANDAG
401 B Street, 7th Floor Board Room
San Diego, CA 92101

• PUBLIC COMMENT

• PROMOTING COOPERATION
BETWEEN SANDAG AND TRIBAL
GOVERNMENTS

  - Overview of SANDAG’S
    Responsibilities
  - Overview of Tribal Governments
    in the San Diego Region

• COMMENTS BY TRIBAL
REPRESENTATIVES

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MISSION STATEMENT
The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus, makes strategic plans, obtains and allocates resources, and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region’s quality of life.

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Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the Board on any item at the time the Board 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 the Clerk of the Board. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Board on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The SANDAG Board may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at www.sandag.org/whats_new/ 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 on the Wednesday preceding the Friday SANDAG Board meeting.

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Introduction

SANDAG’s Board of Directors, sitting as the Policy Board, has invited the leaders of the region’s tribal governments to meet and learn about SANDAG’s responsibilities and how they may relate to the Reservations. SANDAG anticipates that today’s summit will be the first of reoccurring summits between it and the tribes. SANDAG would like to use this summit to promote mutual respect, cooperation, and coordination between it and the region’s tribal governments.

What is SANDAG and what does it do?

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) was organized in 1972 to provide a forum for the cities and the County to meet regularly to discuss and resolve regional issues. It also was assigned to prepare regional plans that affected these jurisdictions and allocate funds to help implement these plans.

SANDAG Mission Statement is:

“The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG, serving as the forum for regional decision making. SANDAG builds consensus, makes strategic plans, obtains and allocates resources, and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the San Diego region’s quality of life.”

Voting members of SANDAG consists of elected officials from all 18 cities in the region and the County of San Diego. There are seven advisory, non-voting, members representing the US Navy, Caltrans, Port District, County Water Authority, two transit districts, and the government of Mexico.

SANDAG has adopted Regional Plans for transportation, air quality, housing, and environmental preservation, among others. It is preparing a Regional Comprehensive Plan. However, its major work concerns the many transportation and transportation-related issues in the region, as described in its Regional Transportation Plan.

Attachment 1 is the Fact Sheet, “The Forum for Regional Decision-Making,” with a more complete description of SANDAG’s roles and responsibilities, and its membership.

What is SANDAG’s role in transportation planning?

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the San Diego region, one of SANDAG’s major responsibilities is the development and adoption of the region’s long range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This plan is updated every three years. The plan is being revised and updated this winter; the draft RTP will be released at the end of October for two months of public review and comment. Attachment 2, “Upward Mobility,” describes SANDAG’s current planning activities for the RTP.

The RTP is the blueprint to improve the regional transportation system. The existing regional network consists of 600 miles of highways, 87 miles of regional transit service, and more than 700 miles of regional arterial roads. When the plan is implemented in 2030, the improvements listed in it will substantially improve the region’s highways and arterial roads, and provide high-quality transit services in the region.
SANDAG also is responsible for the development of the Regional Transportation Development Program (RTIP), a short-range program to fund major highway, transit, arterial and non-motorized projects which are funded by federal, state, TransNet local sales tax, and other local funds.

How is SANDAG changing?

In September 2002, the Governor signed Senate Bill 1703 authored by Senator Steve Peace, which creates a new consolidated transportation agency with all of SANDAG’s responsibilities effective January 1, 2003. By July 2003, the new agency will include the planning and programming functions that are currently the responsibilities of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board and the North County Transit District. The project development and construction functions of those transit districts will be consolidated in 2004. The new law mandates that all of the area’s 18 cities and county government are voting members of the new agency. Voting is weighted and based on both membership and on the number of people who reside within each jurisdiction.

What Reservations are in the San Diego Region?

There are 18 Reservations and 17 tribal governments in the San Diego region. San Diego County has more Reservations than any other county in the U.S. While each Reservation has its own government, Barona and Viejas also jointly administer one Reservation, Capitan Grande. Only about 25% of the American Indian population in the region live on Reservations. Some of San Diego’s Indians move between the Reservation and other communities in the region for work, family, school, and other purposes, as the opportunity or preference arises.

Attachment 3 is a map showing the 18 Reservations and the 18 cities in San Diego County. Note that the State has designated I-8 through the region as the Kumeyaay Highway, in honor of the region’s first residents.

How Does SANDAG’s Work Benefit Tribes Now?

Given the sovereignty of the Reservations and their governments, SANDAG has no authority over Reservation programs. However, SANDAG has worked with the Tribal Governments in the following ways.

Indian Reservation Roads Projects

Attachment 4 lists the funds allocated by the federal government to this region’s Reservations through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program. This program provides funds available only to tribal governments for roads within Reservation territory. San Diego’s tribes must compete nationally for these funds. To allow local governments to be informed of the IRR allocation in the region, the allocation of these funds is required to be included in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), which is adopted by SANDAG. As the Table shows, nine of the region’s reservations will receive allocations for Reservation road improvements, totaling nearly $7.2 million (Fiscal Years 1999-2004). SANDAG is required to list all federal, state, and local funds allocated for transportation improvements in this region in its RTIP.

Vehicle Grant Awards

SANDAG is the agency responsible for approving the region’s applications for the federal transportation funds under the TEA-21 “Section 5310” grant program. This federal program helps non-profit agencies acquire vehicles to transport seniors and persons with disabilities to health and human service programs. The Indian Health Centers in Alpine and Pala will receive three vehicles through the last two year’s programs, as supported by SANDAG. These vehicles will be used to
transport tribal Elders to health services and tribal functions. These awards will help address the critical need for Reservation residents for improved access to health care.

Informational Activities

Using our Regional Information System (RIS), SANDAG developed, with the assistance of the region’s tribal offices, a map of the Reservations, which is available to the public. SANDAG also produced aerial photos of the Rincon Reservation for the tribal government. The Regional Information System contains a wealth of information that could further benefit the tribal governments.

In addition to these activities, staff has assisted Caltrans at several training programs for tribal governments on transportation planning for Reservations.

It will be mutually beneficial to both SANDAG and the tribal governments to initiate discussions on how to cooperate in the planning and programming of infrastructure and other projects. The following questions may help give some discussion about potential next steps:

- How can SANDAG and the tribal governments learn more about each other?
- Are “Summits” a useful way to proceed with cooperation and coordination?
- Should there be enhanced cooperation between SANDAG and the tribal governments?
- What issues would be mutually beneficial for the tribal governments and SANDAG to address in a cooperative and coordinated manner?
- How can enhanced cooperation and coordination of programs be carried out in a mutually respective manner?

Attachments

1. Fact Sheet: The Forum for Regional Decision-Making
2. Brochure: Upward Mobility
3. Governments
   Table A: Jurisdictions in the San Diego Region
   Table B: Indian Reservations in the San Diego Region
4. Indian Reservation Roads Program
5. Map of the San Diego Region’s Local Jurisdictions and Reservations