COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2009
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA  92101-4231

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

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• OTAY MESA-MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN - 2009 DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT

• OVERVIEW OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (SDCWA) ACTIVITIES

• THE ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CESPT IN THE BINATIONAL REGION

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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SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit. Phone 1-800-COMMUTE or see www.sdcommute.com for route information.
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

+2. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) MEETING SUMMARY


3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

**CONSENT ITEMS (#4 through #6)**

+4. UPCOMING EVENTS

+5. UPDATES TO THE BINATIONAL CONTACTS GUIDE (Jeff Wheeland, SANDAG)

The Binational Contacts Guide was updated and now reflects new border government officials after the November 2008 election.

+6. UPDATE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 2009 BINATIONAL SEMINAR "CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CROSSBORDER CLIMATE CHANGE COLLABORATION" (Hector Vanegas, SANDAG)

The 2009 SANDAG annual binational event is scheduled for June 2, 2009. The attached report provides an overview of the agenda for this binational seminar.

**REPORT ITEMS (#7 through #9)**

+7. OTAY MESA - MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN - 2009 DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT (Ron Saenz, SANDAG)

SANDAG staff will provide a draft progress report on the implementation of key actions included in the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan in the areas of transportation, economic development, housing and environment.
ITEM # | RECOMMENDATION
--- | ---
+8. **OVERVIEW OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (SDCWA) ACTIVITIES** (Halla Razak, SDCWA) | INFORMATION

An overview will be provided on SDCWA’s work on crossborder water issues, including a proposed desalination plant in Baja California as well as the lining of the All-American canal.

9. **THE ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CESPT IN THE BINATIONAL REGION** (Hernando Duran and Toribio Cueva, Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana or CESPT – State of Baja California’s Commission for Public Utilities in Tijuana) | INFORMATION

CESPT is a State of Baja California agency that supplies water for the cities of Tijuana and Playas de Rosarito. To address the effects of drought and limitations in water sources, CESPT is undertaking a series of measures to ensure the supply of water, including the reuse of low-quality waters through the implementation of the Purple Pipes Program, the Zero Water Discharge Program, the construction of new infrastructure, education programs, etc. This presentation will provide an overview of CESPT’s efforts related to the binational region.

10. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION** | INFORMATION

In lieu of the regular June meeting, COBRO members are invited to attend the 2009 binational seminar “Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration” on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, from 1 to 5 p.m., at Caltrans District 11.

+ next to an item indicates an attachment
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)
MEETING SUMMARY OF MARCH 3, 2009

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The March 3, 2009, 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 Lydia Antonio, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego; Vice Chair Cindy Gompper-Graves, South San Diego County Economic Development Council; Past Chair Elsa Saxod, SAXOD Enterprises/San Diego County Water Authority; Sergio Pallares and Anthony Aguirre, Caltrans; Denice Garcia and Maxx Stalheim, City of San Diego; Gary Brown, City of Imperial Beach; Minerva Padilla, City of Tijuana; Megan Jones, County of San Diego; Arturo Montfort, Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana (DEITAC); Juan Manuel Rodriguez, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF); Yolanda Walther-Meade, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C.; Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Angelika Villagrana and James Clark, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Clay Phillips, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve; Plinio Herrera and David Fernández Mena, Universidad Iberoamericana Tijuana; and David Fege, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Border Liaison Office.

Advisory member present was: Kirk Lanz, Border Trade Alliance.

SANDAG staff present were: Hector Vanegas, Elisa Arias, Ron Sænæs, and Cheryl Mason.

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Chair Paul Ganster entertained a motion to approve the February 3, 2009, meeting summary. The motion was seconded and approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Yolanda Walther-Meade, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, announced that the Dos Aguilas annual event of the San Diego National History Museum is being held Friday, March 6th. The sponsors were pleased that, despite the difficult economic situation, the event was due to have 400 attendees.
James Clark, Mexico Business Center of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, announced that the new Consul General for the United States in Tijuana is Steven Kashkett, the Vice President of the American Foreign Services Association in Washington. He will arrive at the new position in mid- to late-summer. Also, Mr. Clark announced that there was a joint Tijuana-San Diego trip to Mexico City on April 20-23. Any interested participants can contact him or Viviana Ibañez at the Chamber of Commerce.

James Clark announced that on Tuesday, March 10th, LEAD San Diego will be taking a trip to Tijuana to visit various businesses and government officials, including the Governor of Baja California and the Mayor of Tijuana.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, announced that most ports of entry along the California-Mexico border have been equipped with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for the full implementation in June of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The new technology was presented last week in an event, where Alejandra Mier y Teran and Hector Vanegas tested it successfully.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

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

5. UPDATE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF SANDAG’S 2009 ANNUAL BINATIONAL EVENT (Hector Vanegas, SANDAG)

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, announced that Angelika Villagrana presented the COBRO recommendation of the 2009 annual binational event to the Borders Committee. The recommendation was accepted and the event will officially be held on Tuesday June 2, 2009, at the Caltrans facilities. The title of the event is “Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration.” A Task Force that was created at the February 3, 2009, COBRO meeting met on March 3, 2009. This Task Force includes COBRO members David Fege, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Border Liaison Office; Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Minerva Padilla, City of Tijuana; and SANDAG staff.

The Task Force created a draft agenda following the same format as the 2008 binational event. The 2009 binational event will include the following: a presentation by the San Diego Foundation on the “Adaptation 2050 Study” which describes how climate change will affect the San Diego region by the year 2050; an overview of SANDAG’s draft Climate Action Plan; and an overview of Baja California’s Climate Action Plan. After these presentations, experts will have a roundtable discussion on the “Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration.” The event will finish with an open discussion and summaries of what was concluded from the seminar.

The Task Force recommended that the 2009 annual binational event be held from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., to increase attendance among those people who would otherwise be unable to attend a full-day conference. The Task Force also provided a list of names of speakers and experts to participate in the seminar.
Chair Ganster added that any suggestions or input on the 2009 annual binational event should be given to SANDAG staff. He further noted that the event should be very informative, especially in regards to the exchange of information with Mexican experts who have advanced their Climate Change plans beyond what has occurred in the San Diego region.

6. BRIEFING ON THE FINAL SAN YSIDRO MOBILITY STRATEGY - PHASE 1 (Steve Otto, San Ysidro Transportation Collaborative; and Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning)

Steve Otto, coordinator of the San Ysidro Transportation Collaborative (SYTC), discussed the organization’s work on bringing mobility conditions in San Ysidro up to San Diego County standards. The SYTC is a group of local stakeholders and nine community-based organizations. Over the last four years, SYTC has worked with the City of San Diego to develop a San Ysidro Mobility Plan, from which 19 major road recommendations were created. These recommendations were presented by Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning.

Vicki Estrada stated that there are many strategies and plans underway in San Ysidro to enhance aspects of the Mobility Strategy. First, the Mobility Plan was designed to: encourage alternative transportation from San Ysidro; second, implement the Community Plan and City Smart Growth goals to enhance transportation in San Ysidro; and third, to encourage business growth in the city.

After doing a comprehensive assessment of the city’s streets and sidewalks, the following projects were developed to address existing conflicts: fixing the gap in the trolley and rail lines in the middle of the road so pedestrians are able to cross it; increasing of bicycle routes in the city to enhance alternative transportation; improving flow of traffic on Via San Ysidro and San Ysidro Boulevard; narrowing specific roads to increase more alternative transportation; and improving pedestrian traffic.

The 19 road recommendations from Phase 1 of the Mobility Strategy were adopted by the SYTC to be incorporated into the San Ysidro Community Plan Update.

7. CROSSBORDER AIRPORT TERMINAL (Keith Wilschetz, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority; and Mark J. Rowson, Land Development Strategies, Inc.)

Vice Chair Cindy Gompper-Graves, South San Diego County Economic Development Council, discussed the benefits of the Crossborder Airport Terminal. San Diego is in need of further airport capacity assistance, which Tijuana International Airport (TIJ) has the ability to provide since it is extremely close to the border fence, and has the capability of operational expansion. A market demand report showed that favorable passenger demand for a crossborder terminal between San Diego in Otay Mesa, and TIJ would help assist in expanding airport capacity for the region.

Keith Wilschetz, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, gave a presentation on the need for the expansion of airport facilities in San Diego. In 2006 voters defeated the measure to build a new airport in Miramar, thus spawning a need for new ideas to expand airport services for the region. In 2007 a consultant examined the feasibility of a crossborder terminal and what market demand would be for such a project. The first consultant determined that not only was the crossborder terminal feasible, but there was a market demand for it. Surveyed potential passengers and focus groups stated that regardless of the type of crossborder terminal (parking lot/bridge to TIJ or full-service terminal in U.S.) or the existence of such a terminal, the demand for TIJ would increase. It
was determined that by 2020 there would be 3.2 million people that would cross the border to use Tijuana (TJ), (which is up from about 500,000 who do so today), 1 million of whom would use it due to the crossborder terminal project, and the other 2.2 million crossing the border regardless. By 2030 about 6.4 million passengers are expected to use the border crossing, with about 2 million using the crossborder terminal. Unfortunately this would not have a major impact on reducing the traffic of San Diego International Airport. It was then decided to support the crossborder terminal, but not fund it further, despite the fact that the direct impact to South County San Diego would be about $20 million by 2020, and $60 million in 2030. Thus, no direct action has been taken by the Airport Authority, due to the lack of clear beneficial impact of a crossborder terminal.

Mark J. Rowson, Land Development Strategies, Inc., discussed his representation of a group of three buyers who purchased the land directly across from the Tijuana in Otay Mesa with the specific purpose of building the crossborder terminal. Their intent is to build a full-service crossborder passenger facility that consists of an elevated toll bridge and a full-service passenger terminal in the United States. It was estimated in a market demand study by this group of investors that 4 million passengers use Tijuana, 2/3 of which cross the border from the US. It is projected that there could be a 4-5 percent annual growth in passenger border crossings. It also was estimated that 90 percent of the people who currently cross the border to use Tijuana would use a new crossborder terminal, as opposed to using the traditional border crossing ports.

8. CALIFORNIA – BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER MASTER PLAN (Sergio Pallares, Caltrans; Elisa Arias, SANDAG; and Cheryl Mason, SANDAG Service Bureau)

Sergio Pallares, Caltrans, introduced the California-Baja California Border Master Plan as a comprehensive binational approach designed to coordinate planning and delivery of projects at land ports of entry (POE) and transportation infrastructure serving those POEs. The California-Baja California Border Master Plan covers the California-Baja California border region and was commissioned by the U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee (JWC) to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Secretariat of Infrastructure and Urban Development of Baja California (SIDUE). Elisa Arias, SANDAG, and Cheryl Mason, SANDAG Service Bureau, presented the objectives and findings of the Border Master Plan.

The objectives of the California-Baja California Border Master Plan are to:

- Increase the understanding of POE and transportation planning on both sides of the border and create a plan for prioritizing and advancing POE and related transportation projects
- Develop evaluation criteria and rankings for prioritizing projects related to existing and new POEs, as well as transportation facilities leading to California-Baja California POEs
- Establish a process to institutionalize dialogue among federal, state, regional, and local stakeholders in the U.S. and Mexico to coordinate projects and identify future POE and connecting transportation infrastructure needs

The Scope of the California-Baja California Border Master Plan includes seven tasks:

- Task 1: The process for stakeholder participation was established through a Policy Advisory Committee and a Technical Working Group.
• Task 2: The State of the Planning Practice was accomplished through a questionnaire that we prepared to gather information on exiting POE and transportation planning practices used by the agencies.

• Task 3: Conducted an assessment of the existing capacity and demand and identified short-term needs and projects.

• Task 4: Gathered forecasts of travel demand and other socio-economic factors.

• Task 5: Developed evaluation criteria next.

• Task 6: Obtained mid- and long-term POE and transportation projects; applied the criteria and produced a ranking of projects.

• Task 7: The draft report was presented to the TWG in July. The TWG recommended the PAC approve the report.

The key outcomes of the California-Baja California Border Master Plan are:

• Binational evaluation criteria for POEs, roadways and interchanges, and rail projects that can be applied in the California and Baja California border region

• Prioritized list of POE projects and associated transportation projects

• Recommendations for stakeholders to use these outcomes in own planning processes, to compete for funding, and to follow systematic and orderly approach to implement border projects

• Recommendations for institutionalizing the Border Master Plan process

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next COBRO meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, is cancelled. The next COBRO meeting will be held May 5, 2009, from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., at SANDAG.
UPCOMING EVENTS

**WHAT:** Institute of the Americas
**Violence Against Journalists as a Threat to Democracy Journalism Workshop**
**WHEN:** May 4-8, 2009
**WHERE:** La Jolla, CA
**MORE INFO:** http://www.iamericas.org/events/

**WHAT:** Institute of the Americas
**The Geopolitics of Energy in Latin America and the Caribbean**
**WHEN:** May 8-13, 2009
**WHERE:** La Jolla, CA
**MORE INFO:** http://www.iamericas.org/events/

**WHAT:** Institute of the Americas
**18th Annual Latin American Energy Conference. The La Jolla Conference**
**WHEN:** May 12-13, 2009
**WHERE:** La Jolla, CA
**MORE INFO:** http://www.iamericas.org/events/

**WHAT:** Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce
**Mexport Trade Show**
**WHEN:** May 14, 2009
**WHERE:** 1725 Dornoch Court, San Diego, California 92154
**MORE INFO:** Rebecca Torra at (619) 661-6111 or rtorra@otaymesa.org

**WHAT:** Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UCSD
**Becoming Mexican-American: Assessing Mexican-origin Assimilation in the United States**
**WHEN:** May 16, 2009
**WHERE:** IOA Deutz Room
**MORE INFO:** http://usmex.ucsd.edu/
WHAT: Transborder Institute at University of San Diego
2009 Border Studies Seminar
WHEN: May 24 - June 20, 2009
WHERE: Tijuana, Mexico
MORE INFO: http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/

WHAT: 2009 SANDAG Binational Event
Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration
WHEN: June 2, 2009, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Caltrans, District 11. Garcia Conference Room
4050 Taylor Street, San Diego, CA 92110
MORE INFO: (619) 699-7316 or jwh@sandag.org

WHAT: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Second Annual United States-Mexico Border Efficiency Conference
WHEN: June 26, 2009, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (by invitation)
WHERE: Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego
MORE INFO: (619) 544-1376 or (619) 544-1362.

WHAT: El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF)
Seminario internacional de evaluación de políticas públicas: diagnóstico, retos y experiencias para México
WHEN: July 8-10, 2009, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: COLEF – Tijuana, Baja California.
MORE INFO: consorci@colef.mx or +52(664) 631.63.00 Ext. 3410

WHAT: South County EDC
20th Anniversary Celebration
WHEN: July 23, 2009, 5 p.m.
WHERE: Old Town, San Diego.
MORE INFO: Cindy@SanDiegoSouth.com or (619) 424-5143

WHAT: South County EDC
19th Annual Economic Summit
WHEN: September 18, 2009
WHERE: San Diego Convention Center
MORE INFO: (619) 424-5143 or cindy@sandiegosouth.com

WHAT: Transborder Institute at University of San Diego
Greening Borders for Security
WHEN: November 19-22, 2009
WHERE: Joan B. Kroc Building, University of San Diego
MORE INFO: http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/events/tbi_usd.php

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, hva@sandag.org
UPDATES TO THE BINATIONAL CONTACTS GUIDE

The SANDAG Binational Contacts Guide, first published in March 2007, was recently updated for 2009. Revisions include the following:

- The contact information for all listed organizations was verified and updated as necessary.
- Defunct organizations were removed.
- The Border Elected Officials were updated to reflect newly elected officials in the United States after the November 2008 election.
- The Borders page on the SANDAG Web site now has a link directing visitors to the current Binational Contacts Guide on SANDAG’s Web site.

The Binational Contacts Guide will continue to be updated annually and will be presented to COBRO.

The SANDAG Binational Contacts Guide is posted on the SANDAG Web site (www.sandag.org) on the Borders Program page, on the right-hand side under the “Publications” heading. A copy of the Draft 2009 Binational Contacts Guide is available upon request.

Key Staff Contact: Jeff Wheeland, (619) 699-7316, jwh@sandag.org
UPDATE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 2009 BINATIONAL SEMINAR
“CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CROSSBORDER CLIMATE CHANGE COLLABORATION”

Introduction

On February 27, 2009, the Borders Committee accepted the recommendation from the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) that the 2009 binational event be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, and that it follows up on recommendations from the 2008 Binational Seminar with a focus on “Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration.”

Discussion

The 2009 binational seminar “Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration” will be held at Caltrans District 11 offices, and will include presentations from the San Diego Foundation on its Regional Focus 2050 study, an overview of SANDAG’s draft Regional Climate Action Plan, and a presentation on the State of Baja California’s efforts on climate change. The event will also provide an opportunity for SANDAG and the City of Tijuana Municipal Planning Institute (Instituto Municipal de Planeación or IMPlan) to share information on port of entry planning activities, as well as other projects that could present opportunities to address climate change in the San Diego and Tijuana region. In addition, a panel of experts from both sides of the border will share their perspectives on the potential challenges and opportunities for crossborder climate change collaboration. Attachment 1 is the flyer announcing the 2009 binational seminar.

Attachment: 1. Save the Date for the 2009 Binational Seminar

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, hva@sandag.org
Challenges and Opportunities for Crossborder Climate Change Collaboration

In 2007, SANDAG and the Tijuana City Council approved the Otay Mesa—Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan. This plan served as the framework for the 2008 binational event that focused on smart growth and sustainability along the region’s international border. One of the recommendations that came out of the 2008 event called for evaluating coordination between agencies on both sides of the border on greenhouse gas emissions data. For this reason, the theme of the 2009 Binational Seminar is crossborder collaboration on climate change.

At the 2009 annual event, a panel of experts will discuss the opportunities and challenges for binational climate change collaboration among agencies on both sides of the border. Organizers hope to create opportunities to share information about how Baja California and the San Diego region are approaching climate change planning activities and learn from each other’s experiences.

Tuesday June 2, 2009
Caltrans, District 11
4050 Taylor Street, San Diego, CA 92110
Garcia Conference Room
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

This event is free of charge, but space is limited. We appreciate if you confirm your attendance at jwh@sandag.org or (619) 699-7316. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have comments or suggestions.
En 2007, SANDAG y el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Tijuana aprobaron el Plan Estratégico del Corredor Binacional Mesa de Otay – Otay Mesa. Este plan sirvió de marco para los trabajos del seminario binacional de 2008 que se enfocó en el crecimiento inteligente y sustentable en la frontera. Una de las recomendaciones del evento de 2008 fue la de evaluar en coordinación con agencias de ambos lados de la frontera, la información sobre emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI). Por esta razón, el tema del seminario binacional de 2009 es la colaboración transfronteriza en materia de cambio climático.

En el evento anual de 2009, un panel de expertos discutirá las oportunidades y los retos para la colaboración en material de cambio climático en ambos lados de la frontera. Los organizadores esperan crear las oportunidades para compartir cómo las regiones de Baja California y San Diego abordan las actividades de planeación del cambio climático y aprenden de las experiencias mutuas.

**Martes 2 de junio de 2009**
**Caltrans, District 11**
**4050 Taylor Street. San Diego, CA 92110**
**Garcia Conference Room**
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Este evento no tiene costo, pero el cupo es limitado. Le agradeceremos nos confirme su intención de asistir en jwh@sandag.org o al (619) 699-7316. Por favor no dude en comunicarse con nosotros si tuviera algún comentario o sugerencia.
OTAY MESA-MESA DE OTAY BINATIONAL CORRIDOR STRATEGIC PLAN - 2009 DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT

The attached draft report summarizes progress on the implementation of key actions included in the Strategic Plan in the areas of transportation, economic development, housing, and environment.


Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619) 699-1922, rsa@sandag.org
OVERVIEW OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (SDCWA) ACTIVITIES   File Number 3003200

Introduction

Staff from the SDCWA will report on progress made on water issues in the San Diego, Imperial County, and Baja California region such as the Imperial Irrigation District Water Transfer agreement, the lining of the All-American and Coachella canals, and SDCWA’s involvement with planned desalination plants in Baja California.

Discussion

In October 2003, SDCWA, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the State of California, and the U.S. Department of the Interior completed a set of agreements to conserve and transfer Colorado River water. One of the key agreements is the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement (CRQSA). As part of this agreement, the SDCWA obtained the rights to line the All-American and Coachella canals to reduce water seepage by 77,700 acre-feet per year for 110 years.

The Coachella Canal Lining Project was completed in December 2006, when conserved water began flowing to project beneficiaries. The All-American Canal Lining Project began construction in June 2007 and the last of three phases of construction is expected to be completed in 2010.

The canal lining projects will help the SDCWA achieve its goals of water supply diversification and improved water supply reliability. This project is a critical component of the agency’s water supply diversification efforts as it is anticipated that by 2020, the canal lining transfer will constitute nine percent of its water supply portfolio. Over the 110-year term of the agreement, 8.5 million acre-feet will flow to San Diego County.

Project opponents from Mexicali, Baja California rely heavily on groundwater supplied by the canal seepage for agricultural irrigation. As a result, federal, state and local government officials from Mexico have expressed fear that the lining of the canals would dry up agricultural areas, thereby reducing economic output and eliminating jobs. Environmental groups from north and south of the border also raised concerns that three wetlands would be adversely impacted due to the loss of groundwater from the lining of the canal. Based on these concerns, several lawsuits were filed in U.S. Courts by the Mexican government and a binational coalition of environmental groups. U.S. Courts ruled in favor of the defendant’s rights to line the All-American and Coachella canals.
This report will also focus on the Government of Baja California’s response to increased water demand and shortages. It is looking at desalination projects as a way to create new sources of water supplies for the region. An example is the planned El Salitral Planta Desaladora, or Water Desalination Plant, in Ensenada. Construction is scheduled to begin this year and will take approximately 18 months to reach maximum capacity. It will have the capacity to desalinate 250 liters (66 gallons) of seawater per second, and create fresh water for nearly 100,000 people in Baja California. SDCWA recognizes the potential of benefiting from plants like these and is currently evaluating opportunities for the potential purchase of excess water, thus helping mitigate water shortages in the San Diego region.

**Next Steps**

Staff will provide COBRO members with updates on progress made on these efforts.

Key Staff Contact: Ron Saenz, (619) 699-1922, rsa@sandag.org