

San Diego Association of Governments
BORDERS COMMITTEE

December 20, 2002

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

MEETING SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 15, 2002

The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Patricia McCoy (South County). Other members in attendance were, Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal), Hal Martin (North County Inland) and Ralph Inzunza (City of San Diego); and alternates Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Phil Monroe (South County), and Dick Ramos (East County). The Chair, Crystal Crawford, joined the meeting shortly after it started. Ex-Officio members in attendance were Gene Pound (Caltrans), Jim Turner (SDCWA), Francisco Anza (Mexico), Kevin Viera (Riverside County), and COBRO Chair Elsa Saxod.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Patricia McCoy welcomed the Committee members and guests to the meeting, and asked for self introductions.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 18, 2002

The Borders Committee approved the October 18, 2002 Borders Committee summary with one change regarding attendance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Chair McCoy announced an upcoming meeting that she plans to attend of the Comision Estatal de Servicios Publicos de Tijuana, the water and wastewater operating agency in Tijuana, on November 21st at San Ysidro Middle School, and invited others to attend.

CONSENT ITEMS (4 and 5)

4. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (INFORMATION)

COBRO Chair Elsa Saxod was available to report and answer questions.

5. STAFF REPORT (INFORMATION)

The Borders Committee approved the consent agenda items 4 and 5.

REPORTS

6. CHAIR AND MEMBERS REPORTS (INFORMATION)

Vice Chair McCoy reported on the Border Tour that the Committee Members participated in.

7. BORDERS VISIONING PROCESS (Crystal Crawford) (DISCUSSION)

The Committee began its Visioning process by hearing from Scott Anders, San Diego Regional Energy Office (REO), who presented the Committee with an overview of the Sustain San Diego visioning project. Mr. Anders noted that the REO entered an International Energy Competition whose purpose is to stimulate new ideas, approaches, concepts, and design in urban planning. Key issues to be dealt with include energy, water and wastewater, transportation, land use, housing and urban design, by-product management, and governance.

After Mr. Anders concluded his presentation, the Committee members discussed their ideas for the future of San Diego's borders. Chair Crawford pointed out that this committee's views and feedback on the Regional Planning Committee's vision and core values will be discussed at a joint meeting of both Committees in January. Committee members identified many important issues and concepts to be considered. Issues of importance included:

- Communication
- Economic parity
- International trade
- Economic development
- Jobs/housing balance
- Seamless transportation systems
- Binational or shared infrastructure projects

Important concepts that surfaced include:

- The notion that the San Diego region has more in common with Baja California than it does with the state and federal government. The idea of the "borderlander" as a regional phenomenon.
- The consideration of actions of people and non-governmental organizations on either side of the border since they are the segments of society that are on the cutting edge and will determine the way the region grows.
- The region's notion of itself changing as the population changes
- The importance of understanding cultural differences and developing respect for them.
- The need for defining sustainability, and encouraging sustainable development.
- The notion that common interests guiding economic progress.
- The potential for a new type of border agency beyond SANDAG, to include both Mexico and the United States.
- Better cross border cooperation to improve the economy in Mexico as well as Imperial County.

Committee members echoed the concern that Orange County thus far has not been involved in the Borders Committee and, therefore, there is a gap in perspective from that border.

Action: Staff will take the Border Committee's comments, and develop a list of core values to bring back to the next meeting for review.

8. THE SAN DIEGO TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE (Elsa Saxod) (INFORMATION)

COBRO Chair, Elsa Saxod, gave a presentation on the San Diego Transportation Alliance. Her presentation included statistics on the number of border crossings, ports of entry hours of operation, and the number of trucks traveling to and from Mexico. The San Diego Transportation Alliance has made recommendations regarding border crossing procedures and the dynamics and infrastructure needs of the region's ports of entry.

9. CROSS BORDER TRANSPORTATION FORECASTING MODEL (Elisa Arias) (INFORMATION)

Staff provided a brief overview of the cross border transportation forecasting model. The model is being used as a tool to evaluate proposed ports of entry or expansion of existing ones, to forecast traffic volumes on the main highways that connect ports of entry, and to provide input to border-wide planning studies. Staff mentioned that SANDAG recently received two awards for this model. SANDAG also would like to update the model to include enhanced 2030 cross border projections and plans from Tijuana.

10. NEXT MEETING TOPICS, DATE, AND LOCATION (INFORMATION/APPROVE)

The full Board has moved its December meeting to December 20. It was suggested that the time of the December meeting be changed to 2:00 p.m. Staff will present the Borders Committee with a meeting schedule for 2003 at that meeting.

Action: The Borders Committee approved changing the December meeting time to 2:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Committee members expressed interest regarding the passage of the sales tax extension measure in Riverside County, and asked to hear from the Riverside representative on this issue. The Committee also expressed concern about a disconnect in I-15 corridor planning.

Garry Bonelli, SANDAG, reported that the sales tax extension is to be discussed at the retreat in January when the Board will receive a presentation from the Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission.