



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 24, 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-01- 3-C  
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

**JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE AND BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING  
DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS  
Meeting of January 17, 2003**

The joint meeting between the Borders and the Regional Planning Committees was called to order by Borders Committee Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal) and Regional Planning Committee Vice- Chair Patty Davis (South County).

Borders Committee members and alternates in attendance were Patricia McCoy (South County), Hal Martin (North County Inland), Jill Greer (East County), Ralph Inzunza (City of San Diego), Judy Ritter (North County Inland), and Phil Monroe (South County). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Consul General Rodolfo Figueroa (Republic of Mexico), Victor Carrillo (Imperial County), Thomas Buckley (Riverside County), Pedro Orso Delgado (Caltrans), and Elsa Saxod (COBRO).

Regional Planning Committee members and alternates in attendance were Ron Roberts (County of San Diego), Ron Morrison (South County), Judy Ritter (North County Inland), and Jill Greer (East County). Ex-officio members in attendance were Pedro Orso Delgado (Caltrans), and Gail Goldberg (Regional Planning Technical Working Group).

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. **ACTIONS FROM THE DECEMBER 6, 2002 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE DECEMBER 20, 2002 BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING (INFORMATION)**
2. **REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOPS (INFORMATION)**

Action: The consent agenda was moved forward based on group consensus.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no public comments or communications.

4. **OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND REGIONAL VISION (INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION)**

Vice-Chair Davis made a brief presentation on the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), the regional vision, public involvement and outreach activities, and the decision-making process. Chair Crawford applauded the Regional Planning Committee for making significant progress over a short time period.

## **5. OVERVIEW OF BORDERS ISSUES AND CORE VALUES (INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION)**

Chair Crawford provided an overview of issues related to our international border with Baja California, and our interregional borders with the counties of Riverside, Imperial, and Orange. She also reviewed the border-related core values that the Borders Committee has developed over its past several meetings and invited Committee members to make comments.

The following comments were made:

- For the first time since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we are beginning to see some positive changes at the international border. The recent meeting between Mexican Commissioner of Migration Magdalena Corral and U.S. Attorney John Ashcroft resulted in positive outcomes, such as the opening of the new SENTRI enrollment office, and the extension of the SENTRI passes from one year to two years. Other issues, however, still need to be addressed, such as changing the criteria to grant humanitarian waivers for people who do not carry visas or passports. But generally, relations are improving, and there is significant goodwill after the stagnation resulting from 9/11.
- The relationship between Riverside County, Imperial County, and Baja California is like a marriage. We need a lot of communication, a lot of give and take, and a spirit of cooperation. We still need to continue working on the water transfer issue, on air quality issues posed by power plants, and on housing and commuting issues.
- Riverside County is growing tremendously, with over 145,000 residential permits in the pipeline in the southwestern part of the county. Riverside is working on the Riverside County Integrated Plan (RCIP), but more work needs to be done on interregional coordination. One positive step is that Caltrans is hosting quarterly meetings with the various transportation agencies from the San Diego and Riverside regions.
- The dream for the Borders Committee is to not only hear about important border-related issues, but to act upon them. We should be sending position papers to the Board on issues such as the border crossing wait times, extending the time frame for SENTRI passes, trade and commerce issues, and related infrastructure issues.

Chair Crawford mentioned that one of the goals of the meeting was to heighten the awareness of the important border issues facing us, and to hear from the Regional Planning Committee about issues that they believe should be addressed in the Borders Component of the RCP.

## **6. BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE RCP (INFORMATION / DISCUSSION)**

Committee members discussed the structure and content of the Borders Chapter. Members noted that border issues will sprinkle across all of the chapters. One suggestion was to focus the Borders chapter on international border issues, which are unique to our region, and address other border issues, such as water, energy, the jobs/housing imbalance, and related congestion issues, in the other chapters, such as the Transportation, Housing, and Ecosystems chapters. This approach would allow us to focus on solutions to the issues. In general, the Committee members agreed with this approach, but wanted to make sure that the key issues for the other border areas would not get lost. We face significant issues on all of our borders, and we should address the key pieces in the Borders Chapter and the other chapters.

Committee members also discussed the regional vision and core values. Members liked the regional vision proposed in the presentation, (*"Make the San Diego region a better place to live, work, and play, with a healthy natural environment and an outstanding quality of life for everyone."*), and the concise nature of the core values. Committee members also agreed that the goals of fairness, equity, and respect for our counterparts that were described in the Borders presentation should be integrated into, and reflected in, the general core values.

Members discussed the role of the RCP, suggesting that it should change the culture of our region. For example, we know that vast development is occurring in Temecula. Should we facilitate that development with a wider I-15? We know that our federal government continues to push for additional fencing at the international border. Is that what we really want in our region? What are we going to do to "move the rudder?"

The RCP should serve as a planning tool to get us where we want to be; not as a projection of where we are headed. The San Diego region has failed to meet its housing responsibilities. We cannot solve our transportation issues if we continue to move our housing units further away. The RCP has to come to grips with that, and we have to show communities that there are housing opportunities, even in existing communities. It is about design, not density, but it is a difficult subject to address because of people's perceptions. In the RCP, we have to provide the housing for the jobs that we are creating, not build the infrastructure to facilitate moving housing units out of the County.

Staff described the upcoming workshops on the RCP, and encouraged Committee members to attend, and to invite their colleagues and constituents to attend, as well. The workshops will help get many people from throughout the region involved in preparing the RCP.

A public comment was made that the Borders component should include performance objectives (such as how long the SENTRI passes should last, or wait times to cross the border), and that groundwater issues should be addressed. It was cited that Imperial County has an excellent groundwater program.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)**

The next Borders Committee meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2003 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Temecula. The next Regional Planning Committee will be held on March 7, 2003 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Members from both Committees were encouraged to attend the upcoming RCP Workshops.

GARY L. GALLEGOS  
Executive Director