



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 28, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-03- 3-D
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of March 21, 2003

An orientation session for new members of the Committee was held before the regular meeting. The Chair, Crystal Crawford, discussed the issues and projects that the Committee worked on during 2002 such as energy, homeland security, water supply and transportation. The Chair also outlined the goals for 2003: (1) to continue investigating pertinent issues and advising the SANDAG Board of Directors; (2) to prepare the Borders chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP); (3) to continue work on the I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP); (4) to brief legislative staff and, (5) to participate in the COBRO annual binational summer conference. Staff made a brief presentation on the procedures for the Policy Advisory Committees approved by the Board of Directors on January 10, 2003.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal). Other members in attendance were Patricia McCoy (South County), Ed Gallo (North County Inland), Jill Greer (East County), Ralph Inzunza (City of San Diego), Dianne Jacob (County of San Diego), Victor Carrillo (Imperial County); and alternates David Powell (North County Coastal), Phil Monroe (South County) and Judy Ritter (North County Inland). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Tom Buckley (Riverside County), Rodulfo Figueroa (Mexico), Mike Madigan (San Diego County Water Authority), Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans), and COBRO Chair, Elsa Saxod.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and guests to the meeting, and asked for self introductions.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 21, 2003

The Borders Committee approved the February 21, 2003 Borders Committee summary.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mario Lopez, South San Diego Economic Development Council, announced a workshop for Tuesday April 29; the topic is "Funding Sources for Regional Development with the North American Development Bank (NADB) and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC)."

Kristen Aliotti, Governor's Office for California-Mexico Affairs commented on the formation of a binational cultural heritage group for San Diego-Tijuana, Imperial County-Mexicali. She also summarized the actions taken by the Governors of California and Baja California regarding security issues and announced a meeting of representatives from both States to be held on March 26, 2003.

CONSENT ITEMS (4a, 4b, 4c)

4. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (INFORMATION)

The Chair pulled item 4c and asked Elsa Saxod, COBRO' Chair to brief the committee on the next Binational Summer Conference. Elsa Saxod asked the members to "Save the Date" for July 11th and announced the topic of the Conference: "Homeland Security in the Binational Region: Consequences and Opportunities."

REPORTS

5. CHAIR AND MEMBERS REPORTS (INFORMATION)

A) The Chair informed the committee about a meeting held last month in which binational border energy issues were discussed. During that meeting, some Borders Committee members participated with Mexican officials and agreed on an initiative to create a binational group to deal with these issues. The Chair also announced that this group will meet again on April 2, 2003 and invited interested members of the Committee to attend.

B) The Chair commented on the SAFE Border Act of 2003 (Rep. Susan Davis, San Diego) that will make the SENTRI program permanent. SENTRI is a program that uses technology to pre-screen low risk commuters at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa ports of entry.

C) The Vice Chair, Patricia McCoy, gave an overview of the Regional Conservation meeting held in San Diego last week, organized by the US Department of Agriculture. This meeting brought together government officials of the border region from the fields of economic development, tourism and the environment.

6. THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (INFORMATION)

Adele Fasano, Interim Director of Field Operations of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in San Diego, briefly discussed the department's structure and recent advancements, as well as future projects. The extension period from one year to two years for all SENTRI users was mentioned, as well as the addition of two more SENTRI lanes and a SENTRI site for pedestrians at the San Ysidro port of entry in the near future. The Otay Mesa port of entry is expected to operate 24 hours a day by the end of the fiscal year, and funding has been approved for the next SENTRI site in Calexico/Mexicali although no timeline has been established yet.

Ms. Fasano also addressed the issue of security inspections along the border and, due to misinformation concerning the level of alert (currently orange), clarified that there were no plans to close the port of entries at San Ysidro and Otay Mesa, as San Diego is not considered a primary target for terrorist attacks at this point. She also mentioned that the CBP is committed to minimize border waits and that the commercial port of entry at Otay is not likely to be affected by the current situation.

In response to Consul General Rodulfo Figueroa's question about a similar program to SENTRI along the U.S./Canadian border that costs less and lasts longer, Ms. Fasano stated that these decisions were made at another level in the Department, but that most likely it

was because more resources (financial/personnel) are needed along the U.S./Mexico border. Ms Fasano also responded to a question on security in border areas outside the ports of entry and made mention that they are currently under control of the Border Patrol, who maintains a similar structure as before, and reports directly to DHS in Washington.

7. INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (IRIS) (DISCUSSION/ APPROVE)

Marney Cox, SANDAG staff, described the IRIS, a key part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. The infrastructures to be considered in IRIS will include transportation, energy, waste water and solid waste as (first phase) and storm water, water supply, open space, parks, education, and ports of entry (second phase). Members raised the issue of tribal economic development impact on regional infrastructure, and a related report from the County of San Diego will be distributed to the Committee when it is finalized.

8. BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (Crystal Crawford) (INFORMATION)

The Chair opened the discussion by reviewing the Borders chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The first issue raised concerned language found in the first Core Value statement. Staff suggested changing wording from "fair and equitable planning" to "planning with consideration for interregional impacts", because of the general and potentially ambiguous nature of the original wording. After some discussion, it was agreed by the Committee members to integrate both ideas.

Furthermore, it was suggested that an additional bullet in the binational section of the Chapter should include *Jobs/Housing Balance*, because more interregional commuting is also occurring in the binational context. It also was suggested to add an additional sub-bullet that included *riding and hiking trails* under the Environment heading.

Action: The Committee approved to amend the first Core Value and have it read, "fair and equitable planning with consideration for interregional impacts". The Committee also agreed to add a Jobs/Housing bullet under the Binational portion of the Interrelated Issues, as well as a sub-bullet to include riding and hiking trails under Interregional/Environment.

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

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held on Friday, April 18, 2003 at 12:30 PM in SANDAG's Board Room.

Action: The Borders Committee approved the next meeting date of Friday, April 18, 2003.

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Executive Director