

San Diego Association of Governments

# BORDERS COMMITTEE

March 22, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2013

The meeting of the Borders Committee was called to order by Chair John Minto (East County) at 12:33 p.m. See the attached attendance sheet for Borders Committee member attendance.

Chair John Minto welcomed the Borders Committee members and guests.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Action: Upon a motion by Mayor Teresa Barth (North County Coastal) and a second by Councilmember Al Ovrom (South County), the Borders Committee approved the minutes from the January 25, 2013, Borders Committee meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Kevin Swanson (Syntropic Systems), member of the public, introduced himself to the Committee and spoke on various projects in the San Diego Region such as Balboa Park and the Port of Entry (POE).

Supervisor John Renison (Imperial County) welcomed and introduced the new appointed alternate member Mayor Pro Tem Bill Hodge, City of Calexico (Imperial County), to the Borders Committee. Supervisor Renison provided a brief report of a recent meeting held this week with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and the U.S. Customs Border Protection (CBP) on the realignment of the SENTRI lane which is located at the Calexico East POE in Calexico, California. The SENTRI lane is currently located on the far left and will be relocated to the far right. Supervisor Renison announced that he and the Board of Supervisors will attend the upcoming National Association of Counties Conference scheduled on March 2-4, 2013, in Washington, D.C. The Imperial County Board of Supervisors will be meeting with GSA, CBP, and others in Washington, D.C. on public-private partnerships and encouraged the Committee to provide input or submit any questions.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 3)**

3. UPDATE ON SANDAG'S REQUEST TO U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE SAN YSIDRO PORT OF ENTRY MODERNIZATION PROJECT (INFORMATION)

This report updated the Committee on the response from the GSA to the request from the SANDAG Board of Directors related to the future Intermodal Transportation Center at Virginia Avenue.

Chair Minto introduced this item.

David Alvarez, Councilmember (City of San Diego), commented on this item. Councilmember Alvarez reported that a meeting with the GSA will be held next week and will provide a report to the Committee next month on progress of funding allocated for the new pedestrian border crossing infrastructure.

Chair Minto (East County) thanked Councilmember Alvarez for providing this update and thanked him for representing SANDAG and the Committee on various border crossing issues.

Chair Minto presented the item and responded to questions.

Action: This item was presented for information purposes only.

### **REPORTS (4 through 10)**

4. PROPOSED THEME AND DATE OF THE 2013 SANDAG ANNUAL BINATIONAL EVENT (APPROVE)

Every year since 1997, SANDAG organizes an annual binational event. The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) proposed that the 2013 binational event be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, focusing on regional competitiveness two decades after the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Chair Minto, introduced this item and speakers.

David Alvarez, Councilmember (City of San Diego), commented on this item and inquired about the Tijuana River Valley – Los Laureles, Tijuana, Baja California.

Kevin Swanson (Syntropic Systems) spoke in favor of the binational event.

COBRO Chair Paul Ganster and Consul General of Mexico Remedios Gómez Arnau presented the item and responded to questions.

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember David Alvarez (City of San Diego) and a second by Supervisor John Renison (Imperial County), the Borders Committee approved the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) proposal that the 2013 binational event be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, focusing on regional competitiveness two decades after the signing of the NAFTA among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

5. SUBREGIONAL REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS (INFORMATION)

Members of the Borders Committee reported issues and activities within their subregion that are of interest or under the purview of the Committee.

Chair Minto introduced this item and speakers.

Mayor Teresa Barth, City of Encinitas (North County Coastal), provided a brief update. Mayor Barth reported that the North County subregion has been an unofficial POE to illegal immigrants landing by boat and the Coast Guard has been actively engaged on this issue.

Councilmember David Alvarez, City of San Diego, provided an update on the construction of the Cross Border Facility, the passenger terminal at Otay Mesa connecting to the Tijuana International Airport, which should be completed by Fiscal Year 2014.

Action: This item was presented for information purposes only.

6. REPORT FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO (INFORMATION)

The Consul General of México in San Diego, Hon. Remedios Gómez-Arnau, contributes to the Borders Committee dialogue by providing periodic reports on binational activities within the purview of the Committee.

Chair Minto introduced the item and speaker.

Hon. Remedios Gomez-Arnau, Consul General of México in San Diego, presented the item and responded to questions. Ms. Gomez-Arnau provided a brief overview on two community programs of the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego that address health needs in the county: Ventanilla de Salud and the Binational Health Week.

Maria Lourdes Reyes, Consultant to the Consulate of México in San Diego, commented on this item and responded to various questions from the Committee.

Supervisor John Renison (Imperial County) commended this group for implementation of the two community programs provided by the Consulate in San Diego and commented on item.

Kevin Swanson (Syntropic Systems) spoke in favor of programs and commented on a public-private partnership of schools funded by the government in México.

Maria Lourdes Reyes, Consultant to the Consulate of México in San Diego, provided a brief update on the collaboration and movement of these two community programs.

Daniela Alvarado, American Red Cross representative, spoke on the ongoing collaboration between the American Red Cross and the Consulate General of México in San Diego

Action: This item was presented for information purposes only.

7. UPDATE FROM THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SCTCA) (INFORMATION)

Chairman Mark Romero, representative of the SCTCA on the Borders Committee, briefed the members on issues and activities affecting tribal nations in the region and the state.

Chair Minto introduced the item and speaker.

Councilmember Ed Gallo (North County Inland) commented on this item and asked Chairman Romero to send the Borders Committee members an e-mail invitation to an upcoming event.

Kevin Swanson (Syntropic Systems) spoke about tribal councils and land. Mr. Swanson further commented on establishing various intergovernmental relationships.

Chairman Mark Romero presented the item, and responded to questions.

Action: This item was presented for information purposes only.

8. SAN DIEGO FORWARD: THE REGIONAL PLAN - STATUS UPDATE AND APPROACH FOR REFINING, DEVELOPING, AND INCORPORATING THE POLICY AREAS FROM THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (INFORMATION)

Last month, the SANDAG Board of Directors received reports on what we have been hearing from the public and our local jurisdictions on the regional plan, and a final work program and schedule. This report provided this information to the Borders Committee and proposed an approach for how the various regional policy areas that were addressed in the Regional Comprehensive Plan and some new emerging policy areas will be incorporated into San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan.

Chair Minto introduced the item and speaker.

Chair Minto (East County) encouraged SANDAG staff to provide a brief update to the Committee on San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan.

Rudy Ramirez, Deputy Mayor, City of Chula Vista (South County), commented on the proposed white paper and asked SANDAG staff about the diverse outreach efforts integrated within our region.

Ed Gallo, Councilmember, City of Escondido (North County Inland), commented on item and asked SANDAG staff if a deadline has been established to complete this project.

Charles "Muggs" Stoll, Department Director (SANDAG), commented on item and responded to questions.

Phil Trom, Senior Transportation Planner (SANDAG), presented this item.

Action: This item was presented for discussion purposes only.

9. UPDATE ON THE SAN YSIDRO INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER STUDY (INFORMATION)

SANDAG (in partnership with the City of San Diego, Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transit System, and the community) is conducting a study to develop a concept and implementation strategy for an Intermodal Transportation Center in the vicinity of the San Ysidro Land POE. Staff provided an update on the study.

Chair Minto introduced the item and speaker.

David Alvarez, Councilmember (City of San Diego), Hon. Remedios Gomez-Arnau, Consul General of México in San Diego, and Rudy Ramirez, Deputy Mayor, City of Chula Vista (South County), commented on the financing strategy and various outreach aspects on this item.

Kevin Swanson (Syntropic Systems) spoke in favor of item and read personal e-mail from Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Mr. Swanson provided several suggestions on proposed intermodal transportation survey.

Rachel Kennedy, Senior Planner (SANDAG), presented this item and responded to questions.

Action: This item was presented for information purposes only.

10. BINATIONAL SEAWATER DESALINATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (INFORMATION)

The San Diego County Water Authority is participating in a binational feasibility study of a large-scale seawater desalination plant that would be constructed in Playas de Rosarito, Baja California, México. An overview and status of this project was provided.

Chair Minto introduced the item and speaker.

Ed Gallo, Councilmember, City of Escondido (North County Inland), commented on item and asked about a timeline on the feasibility study.

Hon. Remedios Gomez-Arnau, Consul General of México in San Diego, questioned the demand of water usage and serving population on both sides of the border.

Supervisor John Renison (Imperial County) spoke on this item and reiterated to the Committee the importance of having other water plans implemented because Imperial Valley may not be able to provide water to San Diego County.

Elsa Saxod, San Diego County Water Authority, presented this item and responded to questions.

Action: This item was presented for information purposes only.

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Borders Committee is planned to be a Joint Meeting with COBRO and the Cities of Tijuana, Tecate, Playas de Rosarito, and the State of Baja California, scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2013, at 12:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Minto adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

Meeting Start Time: 12:33 p.m.  
Meeting Adjourned Time: 2:22 p.m.

**CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE  
FEBRUARY 22, 2013  
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA/ ORGANIZATION	JURISDICTION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING
South County	City of Coronado	Al Ovrom	Member	Yes
	City of Chula Vista	Rudy Ramirez	Alternate	Yes
North County Coastal	City of Encinitas	Teresa Barth	Member	Yes
	City of Carlsbad	Lorraine Wood	Alternate	No
North County Inland	City of Escondido	Ed Gallo	Member	Yes
	City of Poway	Jim Cunningham	Alternate	No
East County	City of Santee	John Minto (Chair)	Member	Yes
	City of La Mesa	Ruth Sterling	Alternate	Yes
City of San Diego	----	David Alvarez	Member	Yes
	----	Mark Kersey	Alternate	No
County of San Diego	----	Greg Cox (Vice Chair)	Member	No
	----	Dave Roberts	Alternate	No
Imperial County	Imperial County	John Renison	Member	Yes
	City of Calexico	Bill Hodge	Alternate	Yes
COBRO	-----	Dr. Paul Ganster	Member	Yes
	-----	Vacant	Alternate	---
	-----	Vacant	Alternate	---
County of Riverside	WRCOG – Western Water Board	S.R. Al Lopez	Member	Yes
	City of Lake Elsinore	Brian Tisdale	Alternate	No
Republic of Mexico	Consul General of Mexico	Remedios Gomez-Arnau	Member	Yes
	Deputy Consul General of Mexico	Francisco Javier Olavarria	Alternate	No
	Deputy Consul General of Mexico	Alberto Diaz	Alternate	No
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Mesa Grande	Mark Romero	Member	Yes
	Jamul	Raymond Hunter Sr.	Alternate	No

Caltrans		Laurie Berman	Member	No
		Bill Figge	Alternate	Yes
San Diego County Water Authority		Farrah Douglas	Member	No
		Elsa Saxod	Alternate	Yes
SCAG		Rich Macias	Member	No
		Mathew Gleason	Alternate	No
County of Orange		Vacant	Member	---
	County of Orange	Bill Campbell	Alternate	No