



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 23, 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-05- 4-D
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of May 16, 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), and 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 Thomas Buckley (Riverside County), Javier Diaz (Mexico), Gene Pound (Caltrans), and Angelika Villagrana representing the COBRO.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and guests to the meeting and asked for self introductions from those who do not regularly attend the Borders meetings.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF APRIL 18, 2003

Action: The Borders Committee approved the April 18, 2003 Borders Committee summary.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

No public comments were made.

CONSENT ITEM (4)

4. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (INFORMATION)

The Committee accepted the COBRO meeting summary of May 6, 2003.

REPORTS

5. CHAIR AND MEMBERS REPORTS (INFORMATION)

Chair Crystal Crawford asked the members to report on any recent meetings or other information of interest to the committee. Members reported the following:

- Councilmember Monroe reported that the Transportation Committee is developing transit policies for the consolidated agency. One of the potential policies being discussed

- would encourage interregional cooperation and coordination regarding the use of transit facilities in the region. This relates directly to discussions by the Borders Committee as part of the I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) work and should be followed up at the next IRP meeting in Escondido next month.
- Vice Chair McCoy reported that a new flood warning system for the Tijuana River Valley was unveiled and a CD Rom, with a presentation of the program, was provided to SANDAG. Staff will review the presentation and assess whether the Committee should see it as well.
 - Mr. Diaz reported that on April 23, 2003, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, met in San Diego with the Secretary of Governance of Mexico, Santiago Creel. The two released a "Joint Statement on Progress Achieved" and pledged to work together to develop strategies for improving efficiency at the border.
 - Mr. Diaz also reported that two new pieces of legislation regarding the use of consular identification cards have been introduced in the state legislature: AB 25 and AB 522. These bills are supported by the Office of the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego. The Borders Committee members were interested in following progress on these bills and continuing to foster dialogue regarding the pros and cons of such legislation.
 - Chair Crawford reported that she attended a joint SCAG/SANDAG meeting on May 8, 2003 in Temecula where interregional issues and projects (including the Borders Committee and the I-15 IRP project) were discussed. The representatives from the two agencies agreed to calendar two joint meetings per year (each April and October) to continue the dialogue.
 - Vice-Chair McCoy also reported that SANDAG Board members participated in a South County/border tour on May 9, 2003. It was the first of the sub-regional tours planned for the Board. Part of the tour highlighted ports of entry infrastructure and the Tijuana River estuary. Committee members reminded staff of their interest in completing a Borders Committee tour on the south side of the border.
 - Chair Crawford invited the Committee members to attend a binational energy meeting to be held Monday, May 19, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at the University of California, San Diego with Dr. Armando Jimenez San Vicente, Director General for Energy Policy Formation, Secretariat of Energy of Mexico.

6. COBRO RECOMMENDATIONS (APPROVE)

Angelika Villagrana presented two recommendations for the Borders Committee's approval. The first item was regarding the *Secure and Fast Entry at the Border Act of 2003* (SAFE Border Act of 2003) and the second item was regarding the objectives of the San Diego Alliance for Border Efficiency (ABE).

The SAFE Border Act is an update to similar legislation introduced last year which was supported by the SANDAG Board. The SAFE Border Act of 2003 seeks to implement the Port Passenger Accelerated Service System (PortPASS) as a permanent pre-inspection technology program for land border inspection facilities which will speed the passage of low-risk travelers into the U.S. This program would:

- Utilize interoperable technology;
- Have dedicated staff with appropriate training and instruction, and greater resources to facilitate and expedite the processing of applications for the Secure Electronic Network for Travelers' Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) program;
- Create a pre-inspection low-risk traveler dedicated commuter lane for pedestrian land border crossers; and
- Approve a minimum two-year validity for the SENTRI Program for non-commercial vehicles.

The Committee discussed the need for increased use of technology at the border and made note that different types of technology are used at the southern and northern borders of the U.S. Supervisor Victor Carrillo suggested seeking support for this legislation from agencies and elected officials in Imperial County as well as from individual jurisdictions and agencies throughout San Diego.

Action: The Borders Committee took action to support the *Secure and Fast Entry at the Border Act of 2003* (SAFE Border Act of 2003) and to recommend that the SANDAG Board of Directors send a letter of support for this legislation.

In regards to the ABE, Ms. Villagrana provided the Committee with an overview of its formation, members and mission, and requested that the Committee support the objectives developed by the ABE for improving efficiency at our ports of entry.

The Committee suggested that in regards to "mitigating impacts of implementation of Entry-Exit controls," the wording of the first objective be revised to reflect the goal more accurately. The suggested wording is "Developing the infrastructure necessary to avoid increased border congestion due to the implementation of related programs."

Action: The Borders Committee took action to support the objectives (as revised) developed by the San Diego Alliance for Border Efficiency and to request that a presentation be made to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

7. BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (REVIEW/COMMENT)

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG staff, presented the "Actions and Implementation" component of the chapter outline for review and comment. The Committee made suggestions regarding the wording of a number of actions and requested that, in general, the items reflect a more action oriented perspective. It was determined that the actions presented would more appropriately be labeled as "strategies" for which more detailed actions or tasks still need to be identified.

The Committee agreed that the I-15 IRP Meeting in June will provide more details that can be used for further developing the Jobs/Housing Balance component as well as the Transportation component. The Committee also noted that the COBRO Summer Conference will likely be a source of more specific recommendations relating to the National Security component. Because the Committee will not be reviewing the Borders Chapter again until July, members agreed to provide further suggestions directly to staff for inclusion. The

Committee also discussed forming a small sub-group to work with staff on further developing specific action items for each component as well as the potential for calling a special meeting if needed, to meet the timelines for completion of the Borders Chapter. Committee members McCoy, Monroe, Ritter and Buckley volunteered to work on the sub-group and to meet immediately after the next Interregional Partnership (IRP) meeting on June 13, 2003 in Escondido to discuss this further.

Staff will prepare a draft of the Borders Chapter for Committee review in July.

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

Action: The Borders Committee approved the next meeting date of Friday, June 13, 2003. This will be a joint IRP meeting and will be held in Escondido. Representatives from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) will be joining the next I-15 IRP meeting. The agenda will include a brief orientation session for the new RCTC members prior to the start of the regular meeting. All Committee members are welcome to attend.

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Executive Director