1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) was called to order by Chair Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias at San Diego State University, at 3:08 p.m.

Chair Ganster welcomed members of COBRO and members of the public, and welcomed the new members of COBRO.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Efrain Ibarra, South San Diego County, and a second by Nathan Owens, Global Connect, COBRO approved the minutes from the June 7, 2016, meeting. Yes – Chair Ganster; Vice Chair Ibarra; Toby Sosbee, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Viviana Ibanez; Andy Hall; Alicia Lopez, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego; Nicola Bernard, Caltrans; Vivian Salazar, City of Tijuana; Justine Kozo, County of San Diego; Dr. Tito Alegría, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte; Heidy Salum; Nora Marquez, IMPLAN; Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Paola Avila, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; and Rodolfo Argote, Universidad Iberoamericana. No – None. Abstain – None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Laura Araujo, Tijuana Innovadora, notified the group of Tijuana Innovadora’s bi-annual event to be held from November 3-10, 2016.

Andy Hall, City of Imperial Beach, provided an update on the Fiesta Del Mar event held on April 30, 2016. Mr. Hall mentioned that he would like to work with COBRO to be involved for next year’s event.

Alicia Lopez, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego, announced that Consul General Remedios Gomez-Arnau’s successor, Consul General Marcela Celorio, will arrive in the coming days.

Chair Ganster shared an update on behalf of Cindy Gomper Graves, South County Economic Development Council (EDC), on the passing of Doug Perkins, the past Executive Director of South County EDC and long-time member.
Denise Moreno Ducheny, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UC San Diego, added that the funeral services for Mr. Perkins will be held on Friday, June 10, 2016, in Solana Beach.

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, introduced Nicola Bernard, Caltrans District 11.

CONSENT

4. UPCOMING EVENTS (INFORMATION)

Chair Ganster announced the item and asked the group to refer to their agenda packet for more details on the item.

Action: This item was presented for information.

5. RECENT SANDAG EFFORTS TO SUPPORT BORDER TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE (INFORMATION)

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, presented the item.

Chair Ganster announced the item and asked the group to refer to their agenda packet for details on the item.

Action: This item was presented for information.

REPORTS

6. CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT ACTION PLAN: UPDATE REPORT (INFORMATION)

Chris Schmidt, Caltrans, presented the item and provided an update on the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan released by state agency leaders on July 29, 2016, in response to Governor Brown’s Executive Order B-32-15. The Action Plan is a comprehensive document that serves as a blueprint for transforming the state’s multi-billion dollar freight transport system into one that is environmentally cleaner, more efficient, and more economically competitive than it is today.

Action: This item was presented for information.

7. 2016 TIJUANA INNOVADORA EVENT UPDATE (INFORMATION)

Laura Araujo, Tijuana Innovadora, presented an update on Tijuana Innovadora an organization composed of border region residents who work together to promote innovative ideas to improve the City of Tijuana and the region.

Action: This item was presented for information.
8. UPDATE ON THE BINATIONAL REGION’S STUDENT POPULATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDY (INFORMATION)

Melissa Floca, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UC San Diego, provided an update on research findings and future plans for the Binational Student Population and Workforce Development Study. The focus of this study was to understand the nexus between the binational region’s workforce development needs, available opportunities, and challenges that the binational student population faces as they prepare to integrate into the workforce post-graduation.

Action: This item was presented for information.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE (INFORMATION)

The next COBRO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 3 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ganster adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.