



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 25, 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-07- 3-D
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of July 18, 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) and Victor Carrillo (Imperial County); and alternates Judy Ritter (North County Inland) and Pam Slater (County of San Diego). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Thomas Buckley (Riverside County), James Bond (San Diego County Water Authority), Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans), and Elsa Saxod representing the COBRO.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and introduced Doree Henry as the official Clerk of the Board. Gary Gallegos was also introduced and welcomed. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF MAY 16, 2003

Chair Crawford noted that the meeting summary of May 16, 2003 has already been approved by the SANDAG Board of Directors; therefore, the Borders Committee did not need to take action.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

No public comments were made.

CONSENT ITEMS (4 and 5)

4. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 3, 2003 (INFORMATION)

5. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 20, 2003 (INFORMATION)

Action: The Borders Committee approved Consent Items 4 and 5.

REPORTS

6. CHAIR AND MEMBERS REPORTS (INFORMATION)

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

Chair Crawford reported that approximately 180 people attended the Committee on Bi-National Regional Opportunities (COBRO) Summer Conference, which was held on July 11, 2003 at the San Ysidro Middle School. At the next COBRO meeting, the committee members will discuss the results of the conference and bring those results back to the Borders Committee for review. Chair Crawford added that the last I-15 IRP meeting was held in June in Escondido and will be held again in the same city in September. She pointed out that the Borders Committee will be reviewing the full text of the Borders Chapter of the RCP which will be available for review by the Committee in August.

Vice Chair McCoy reported that the Mayor of Imperial Beach has been appointed to the President's Good Neighbor Environmental Board which has information on the Border and held its last meeting in El Paso. She asked if materials could be made available to the Borders Committee. Elsa Saxod noted that she has a copy of the report and will make it available to the Committee. She mentioned that the Good Neighbor Board will meet in San Diego in November and the meeting is open to the public.

Vice-Chair McCoy also reported that the Tijuana National Estuary Research Reserve Border Coordinator is hosting a meeting where planners on both sides of the border can meet to discuss issues of mutual concern. She will keep the Committee updated on this issue.

Chair Crawford invited Elsa Saxod to comment on the COBRO Summer Conference. Elsa Saxod, Chair of the COBRO, thanked Chair Crawford for being the moderator at the Conference. Ms. Saxod stated that there were interesting activities scheduled throughout the day. The speakers included: (1) Adele Fasano, Interim District Director of US Customs and Border Protection, who spoke to the issue of the new arrangement at the Border; (2) David Shirk, the USD Transborder Institute Director; (3) Commissioner Ernesto Ruffo, Mexico's Commissioner of the Northern Border Affairs; and (4) Peter Verga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense for the United States. Ms. Saxod mentioned that before the conference, participants from Mexico and SDSU developed a survey regarding Homeland Security and presented the results at the conference. She suggested that this report be brought before the Borders Committee in the future.

Chair Crawford added that Representative Susan Davis and Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny also attended the Conference.

Pedro Orso-Delgado commented that he attended a Joint Working Committee meeting in Mexico City, which consisted of all of the state Department of Transportation representatives along both sides of the border, as well as federal agencies. At that meeting, Mr. Orso-Delgado reported on some of the new provisions under SAFE-TEA, the Federal Highway Administration's version of TEA-21.

Chair Crawford announced that the Otay Mesa Port of Entry will open 24 hours per day. Mr. Orso-Delgado replied that the 24-hour traffic is for vehicular traffic only and will start on July 27, 2003. He noted that the US Bureau of Border and Customs Protection is implementing the FAST program which is the SENTRI program for trucks. Caltrans will be working to help the traffic flow in that area. He then announced that Gene Pound, Caltrans Deputy Director of Planning, retired yesterday and introduced Bill Figge, Mr. Pound's replacement.

7. DRAFT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES OF THE BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP) (DISCUSS)

Chair Crawford noted that the draft Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is not ready for the Borders Committee to review. A final draft version will be forwarded to the Committee within the next ten days and will be discussed at the August 15th meeting of the Borders Committee.

Joanna Salazar, SANDAG's consultant working on the Borders Chapter of the RCP, noted that the chapter is coming together. The information in this chapter is informative and not duplicative of what is in the other chapters of the RCP. The subcommittee for this project has provided its comments. Areas of concern were jobs/housing balance; transportation; energy and water; environment; economic development; and homeland security. Ms. Salazar reviewed the Draft Goals and Policy Objectives of the Borders Chapter of the RCP with the Committee.

Staff noted that priority areas have been identified in the RCP that needed focus and Borders is one of those areas. This is a dynamic process and all responses and input are encouraged. Workshops on this issue will be held throughout the region in September and public input will also be received.

Committee members reviewed and discussed all of the Goals and Policy Objectives for the six subdivisions and provided direction to staff to make corrections. Those corrections will be incorporated into the draft Borders Chapter which will be distributed to the members the week of July 28, 2003.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Thomas Buckley requested that all members of the Committee review a document that he distributed entitled, "Equitable Development," and provide him with comments.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION (INFORMATION)

Action: The Borders Committee approved the next meeting date of Friday, August 15, 2003.

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Executive Director