

San Diego Association of Governments  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE**

November 7, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

**BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

Meeting of August 15, 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), Victor Carrillo (Imperial County); and alternate Judy Ritter (North County Inland). 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.

Chair Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

**CONSENT ITEMS (1 and 2)**

1. **ACTIONS FROM JULY 18, 2003 BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING (INFORMATION)**
2. **COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETING SUMMARY OF AUGUST 5, 2003 (INFORMATION)**

Elsa Saxod, Chair of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) reported that the COBRO is still reviewing the recommendations from the COBRO Summer Conference and will share that information with the Borders Committee at its next meeting.

Action: The Borders Committee approved Consent Items 1 and 2.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans) commented that he attended the Border Governors meeting. He will keep the Committee updated as needed.

## REPORTS

### 4. GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD (INFORMATION)

Vice Chair McCoy introduced and welcomed Mayor Diane Rose (Imperial Beach) to the meeting. Mayor Rose was appointed by President Bush to be a member of his Good Neighbor Environmental Board. The purpose of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board is to advise the President on border and environmental issues and hopefully provide influence on where the federal funding is distributed in the San Diego region. The Board meets three times per year, in communities along different parts of the U.S.-Mexico border to gather information provided in its report to the President. Each meeting deals with different regional issues including some of the most important environmental and infrastructure issues including water resources, power plants, human health, natural resource conservation and homeland security. The Good Neighbor Environmental Board produces a report after each meeting.

Mayor Rose provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation of an overview of Good Neighbor Board, its mission and some of its activities. She noted that Paul Ganster of San Diego State University is currently a member of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board and Elsa Saxod, Chair of the COBRO, is a former member. She provided the Committee with the Board's Road Map which focuses primarily on the environmental, public policy and infrastructure practices along the U.S border and Mexico. The membership of the Board consists of representatives of the four border states and senior officials from federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as representatives from the academic, private, and non-profit sectors. The final meeting of the Board will be held in Imperial Beach October 22-23, 2003. Topics of this meeting will include a joint session with Consejo, an advisory group to the Mexican environmental agency, SEMARNAT. Mayor Rose provided copies of the Board's most recent report to the Committee and encouraged all members of the Committee to attend the next meeting of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board.

Vice Chair McCoy raised the issue of a hospital for children on the Mexico side of the border that has been funded by NAFTA that utilizes specialists from California, Canada and Mexico to provide services to the Mexican residents on a sliding scale. She added that this wonderful facility could be toured by the members of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board during its October meeting in Imperial Beach.

Pedro Orso-Delgado noted that he has a contact at that facility in Mexico and a tour can be arranged if necessary.

Chair Crawford commented that she'd like to figure out a way to coordinate efforts between the Borders Committee and the Good Neighbor Environmental Board on water issues and energy cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico to prevent duplication of efforts.

**5. DRAFT BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP)  
(DISCUSS/APPROVE)**

Chair Crawford noted that the final draft Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) will be discussed today.

Committee members discussed and reviewed the final draft of the Borders Chapter of the RCP. Committee members requested clarification of the importance of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern (SD&AE) rail line and the relevance of that rail line to the San Diego region and its priority funding. Members also requested that a definition of smart growth be clearly defined in this chapter, that a listing of the tribal governments be included as well, and Vice-Chair Patricia McCoy offered to make available a resolution adopted by the City of Imperial Beach on cross-border Mexican sewage and water quality issues for the water section of the chapter. Staff suggested that the Borders Committee discuss the SD&AE issue at a future meeting take and take a field trip of the rail line. Staff also indicated that for clarity, smart growth will be defined in this chapter.

Chair Crawford noted that eventually the entire RCP will be presented to the SANDAG Board. Individual jurisdictions can receive notification of the issues that will be proposed to be included and that may require additional input. Staff noted that by the end of the year, a draft document will be ready for distribution. In regards to AB 361 passing, a final RCP document will need to be prepared and adopted by the SANDAG Board by July 2004. This document will be similar to the Regional Transportation Plan in that it will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

After its discussion, the Committee directed staff to continue with the work plan and timeline and make corrections as noted. The Committee also directed staff to provide the Regional Planning Committee with a presentation regarding its comments and agreed to participate in the second round of the RPC workshops to be held during the month of September 2003.

**6. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION (INFORMATION/APPROVE)**

Chair Crawford announced that the next meeting of the Borders Committee will be a Joint I-15 Interregional Partnership Policy Committee and will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2003, at Escondido City Hall. She also noted that the next Binational Border Tour will tentatively be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2003.

Action: The Borders Committee approved the next meeting date of Friday, September 19, 2003.

**7. ADJOURNMENT (INFORMATION)**

Chair Crawford adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.