San Diego Association of Governments

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

November 7, 2017

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

Action Requested: APPROVE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017, MEETING MINUTES File Number 3400200

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 3:10 p.m.

Chair Ganster welcomed COBRO members and members of the public in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Action: Upon a motion by Nathan Owens (San Diego Dialogue) and a second by Laura Araujo (Tijuana Innovadora), the minutes from the February 7, 2017, and March 24, 2017, meetings were approved. Yes: Chair Ganster, Co-Chair Alejandro Romero (Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego), Vice Chair Efrain Ibarra (South County Economic Development Council), Sergio Pallares (Caltrans District 11), Denice Garcia (City of San Diego), Justine Kozo (County of San Diego), Tito Alegría (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte), Victor Rangel (Gobierno de Baja California), Fausto Castillo (Instituto Metropolitano de Planeación de Tijuana), Viviana Ibañez (Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Owens, Jennifer Goudeau (San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce), James Clark (Smart Border Coalition), Ms. Araujo, Jeremy Bauer (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA]), and Denise Moreno-Ducheny (U.S.-Mexican Studies UC San Diego). No: None. Abstain: None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Jason Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, announced the upcoming Golf Tournament on September 8, 2017, hosted by the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Araujo announced the upcoming October 4, 2017, Environmental Conference hosted by Tijuana Innovadora.

Mr. Bauer announced an upcoming San Diego-Tijuana Air Quality Task Force meeting to be held in Imperial Beach on September 13, 2017, by the U.S. EPA regional office.

Mr. Clark thanked the representative from the Consul General of Mexico in San Diego for the recent delegation trip to various cities in Mexico.

Mitch Beauchamp, City of National City, discussed recent developments involving the San Diego & Arizona Eastern railway.
CONSENT

4. COBRO CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR FY 2018 (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. 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.

REPORTS

6. 2016 SAN DIEGO–BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER CROSSING AND TRADE STATISTICS (INFORMATION)

Zachary Hernandez, Regional Planner, gave an overview of the border crossing and trade statistics relative to the San Diego-Baja California region in the year 2016.

Mr. Beauchamp commented on the crossing increases through Otay Mesa.

Chair Ganster asked about the data related to passengers crossing in vehicles.

Mr. Wells discussed other factors influencing border crossing travel behavior.

Action: This item was presented for information.

7. SAN YSIDRO AIR QUALITY STUDY (INFORMATION)

Dr. Penelope (Jenny) Quintana, San Diego State University, gave an update of the San Ysidro Air Quality Study, which is a community-based effort that aims to monitor air quality within the community of San Ysidro.

Chair Ganster commented on the air monitor previously located at the San Ysidro Port of Entry and the relationship to Customs and Border Protection staff exposure to air pollutants at the border crossing.

Mr. Beauchamp asked about the air monitors used in the study and their ability to detect extra-fine particulate matter.

Action: This item was presented for information.
8. SAN DIEGO–TIJUANA EARTHQUAKE SCENARIO (INFORMATION)

Roberto Ruiz-Salas, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute – San Diego–Tijuana Chapter, presented information on the development of a regionally-based earthquake planning scenario that considers potential physical, social and economic impacts of a seismic event in the San-Diego-Tijuana binational region.

Chair Ganster commented on lessons learned in other natural disasters along the border and emergency response events.

Ms. Araujo asked if there had been consideration of technologies and social media applications useful for emergency event notifications.

Mr. Castillo added that the City of Tijuana has held emergency response planning exercises, and a risk analysis similar to what the study has organized as part of its working groups.

Ms. Kozo mentioned a recent emergency response meeting with representatives from both sides of the border. She also added that there will be trainings and meetings scheduled in the future that the presenter should consider attending.

Action: This item was presented for information.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE (INFORMATION)

The next COBRO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 3 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ganster adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.