REQUEST TO COMMENT
This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: ____________________________  Agenda Item #: ____________________________  □ In Favor □ Opposed

Name to be called: ARUN PREM  Representing: FACT

Address (optional): ____________________________

Phone (optional): ____________________________  Email (optional): ____________________________

Request to Speak: □ Yes □ No
If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

____________________________________________________________________________________
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Please Submit to the Clerk
REQUEST TO COMMENT

Date: 1-18-19

Name: John G Welzha

Agenda Item #: 2

Address: [redacted]

In Favor  Opposed

Representing: [redacted]

Request to Speak: ☑ Yes ☐ No

Phone: [redacted]

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below you want included in the public record:

1.0 Roads, Rail, Bus, Street, Airport, Bridges 5.0 Transportation-Environmental Issues
2.0 Parks and Military Issues 6.0 Transportation-Financial Issues
3.0 Water Issues 7.0 Adjoint and Other Special Issues
4.0 Parking and Tunnel Issues 8.0 Border and Border Issues

Please Submit to the Clerk of the Board
1-18-19 Transportation Committee Meeting

1.0 Roads, Rail, High-Speed Rail, Bridges, Busses, Bicycle, and Ride-share Issues

1.1 Roads

1.2 Rail

1.2.1 Interstate Freight Systems

1.2.1.2 Positive Train Control—PTC—

The San Diego North County Transit District is only 1 of 4 of the nation’s 41-railroad agencies to meet the December 31, 2018 deadline for installation and certification of a new integrated electronic safety system-Positive Train Control that alerts engineers and stops trains when unsafe conditions exist to prevent train collisions, derailments, misaligned track, switches and unauthored enters into work areas.

Ref: San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. B1

1.2.4 Urban Light Rail

San Diego’s mass transit users will be able to use their smart phones to pay for rides on buses and trolley’s in 3-years, says MTS that issued a $37.6E6-10-yr contract with German technology company INIT. The company also may get a contract in Portland, OR. The system will also allow use of the card.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-17-18 pp. B1 & B4

• Rail service for the Coaster and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner will be suspended this weekend to allow for infrastructure improvements says the North County Transit District.


• The Mayan Train and all 932-mi of rail road that comprise it will be divided into 3-routes: 1st-the Gulf route coming out of Palenque with stops in Tenosique, Chiapas, Escárcega, and Campeche; continuing north with stops in Maxcanú, Merida, Izamal. Valladolod, and Cancúm; where the 2nd-the Caribbean route will start, coming down to the Mayan Riviera, with stops in Puerto Morelos, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, and Bacalar. 3rd-the Jungle route will go from Bacalar to Xpújil and Calakmul, in Campeche, continuing toward the 1st-the Gulf route in Escárcega, Tenosique, and Palenque. The train will be designed to travel at 140 to 150-kmh [87-93-mph] improving the past system speed of 40-kmh. and haul freight and passengers.

Ref: Google.com: everything you need to know about the mayan train, Goole.com: 2012 magic cancun riviera maya (official video), and Google.com: cancun vacation travel guide expedia

• A cooperation agreement to promote a train tourism programe was signed between the Saigon Passenger Transport JSC and the Da Nang Tourism Association, of the central city of Da Nang on January 7, 2019.

Ref: Google Alert Da Nang 1-8-19
• 6-passengers were killed when a Danish train sustained damage while crossing a bridge that was closed to cars because of high winds on 1-2-18 and one train may have lost cargo. It was the deadliest accident in 30-years for the countries RR industry. The trains were traveling in opposite directions on the bridge between Islands when the side of the passenger train was ripped open, killing 6 and injuring 16-persons.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-3-19 pp. A3

1.2.6 International Freight Systems

1.2 6.1 China’s Belt and Road Initiative—B&RI—

The lead of the Asian Development Bank—ADB—on 1-10-19 warned countries against unsustainable borrowing to fund infrastructure projects. ADB President Taheiko Nakao says China’s Belt and Road Initiative—B&RI—a key program to connect regions and broaden integration and cooperation across Asia, and ADB would cooperate with China when appropriate, but cautioned on investments in the gaps. The international Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde also echoed concerns in countries where public debt is high. China’s G&RI wants to develop $8.0E12 worth of infrastructure along trade routes between Asia and Europe. The center for Global Development in Washington D.C. reported 23-countries that are at risk of debt distress related to investments in the Chinese infrastructure drive. 8-are of higher concern including: Laos, Maldives, Pakistan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. ADB estimates Asia’s infrastructure needs could reach $22.6E12 through 2030 or $1.5E12/yr. With climate change adaption measures, the cost could reach over $26E12.

Ref: Asia Journal, January 11-17-19 pp. A10

1.3 High-Speed Rail—HSR—

1.3.1 Highspeed

1.3.1.2 International

Another migrant caravan with as many as 15E3-people is preparing to leave Honduras on January 15, 2019 says a migrant rights advocates and Spanish-language media. The present thousands that left Honduras in October are stranded at the U.S.-Mexico border and crowded Tijuana border, waiting to get into the U.S. Coordinators who helped direct the 2,000-mi trek-arranging for buses and giving advice have vanished. The new caravan plans to be made up of El Salvador and Guatemalan migrants too. They plan to stay in South Mexico in Chiapas and Oaxaca and request work there with the president of Mexico offering visas and work permits for central Americans planting 2E6-trees and work on construction of his Maya Train—a 930-mi railroad linking centers in the 3-Yucaton Peninsula regions as well as Tabasco and Chiapas that is funded at $8.0E9 and will create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Mexico will invest $25E9 in the Southern States over the net 5-years, and the U.S. will contribute $4.8E9 to Mexico and $5.8E9 to the Northern Triangle of Central America made up of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The U.S. funding will come from existing programs.

The Mayan Train and all 932-mi of railroad that comprise it will be divided into 3-routes: 1st-the Gulf route coming out of Palenque with stops in Tenosique, Chiapas, Escárcega, and Campeche, continuing north with stops in Maxcanú, Merida, Izamel, Valladolid, and Cancún where the 2nd-the Caribbean route will start, coming down to the Mayan Riviera, with stops in Puerto Morelos, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Felipe Carrielo Puerto, and Bacalar. The 3rd-the Jungle route will go from Bacalar to Xpujil and Calakmul, in
Campeche, continuing toward the Gulf route in Escárcega, Tenosique, and Palenque. The train will travel at 140 to 150-kmph [90-mph] transporting cargo and passengers—an improvement over the present average speeds of 40-kmph.


1.3.2 Higher Speed—HrSR—

1.3.2.1 U.S. Systems in North America—151-230-mph

Gov. Gavin Newsom will continue to push the Bullet Train that was voted for in 2008 and it could cost $50E9 more. The project has enough money to keep it going for 2-4-years. The costs go up $1.0E9-$2.0E9/yr from inflation alone.


1.4 Bridges

Port of Danang and new bridge designs.
1.6 Bicycle

1.6.2 Bike share Program

El Cajon is addressing issues of dock less bikes and scooters, over obstructions and clutter on sidewalks, and safety issues.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-20-18 pp. 1 and 4, South + East County Section

1.6.3 Bike Trails

Hillcrest is proposing a $2E6 makeover of Normal Street to encourage walking and biking—that would promote other projects likewise. SANDAG will administer the $2.0E6 funding.


1.7 Ride-share, Delivery, and Transportation networks

Uber and Lyft will add 500-more electric scooters on San Diego’s streets this week. Uber who owns Jump deposited about 300-e bikes in November 2018 that will be free until January 9, 2019 and after $1 to start and 10¢/min after. That undercuts Bird and Lime that cost 15¢/min. Lyft will charge $1 to unlock and 10¢/min.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-21-18 pp. C1 & C4

2.0 Port and Military Issues

2.1 Ports

The U.S. Maritime Administration is moving to have a National Security Multi-Mission—NSMV—vessel training ship built in October 2018 with a Request for Proposal—RFP—that was issued to solicit a vessel Construction manager—VCM—for the NSMV training ship built. The VCM would contract with a qualified shipyard to assume qualified best practices delivery of the ship on time and budget. The 1st—will replace the Empire State VI used by SUNY Maritime College. The ship will be built by an American shipyard. The new NSMV will include a hospital, helicopter landing pad, and be able to berth up to 1,000-people.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2019 pp. 16
• Update on Mobile, AL, based Silver Ships, Inc.’s move to keep up with maritime technologies, along with Blount Boats, Warren, RI; Burger Boat company in WI; California’s Marine Group’s Boat Works; and Metal Shark in Jeanerette, LA that acquired Horizon Ship-Building; Bayou La Batre, AL. The Silver Ships team also recently completed 2 customized diver transport and training vessels for the USMC’s Combatant Dive Center and Horizon—a partner with Metal Shark in the NYC Ferry vessel project, where each builder built several vessels for the fleet at their yards, filed for bankruptcy in 2017.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 20-22

2.1.1 Container Ships

Matson Inc. welcomed the largest container ship ever built in the U.S. to HI—the 850-ft,3,600-TEU,Daniel Inouye. It is the 1st-of 2-new ships built for Honolulu-based Matson by Philly Shipyard at a total cost of $418E6 for the pair and it is the 1st-of 4-new ships Matson will put into its HI service in the next 2-years.

Ref: Marine Log, November 29, 2018

• One the world’s 1st-ConRo ships to operate on LNG, Crowley Maritime Corp.’s 26,500-dwt El Coqui Christine in October 2018, was built by VT Halter Marine. It is powered by a MAN B&W 8570ME-G18.2 main engine and 3-MAN 9L28/32DF auxiliary engines, that can transport 2,400-TEUs at speeds of 22-knots. [25.3-mph]. It features 720-ft length, ventilated and weather-tight Ro/Ro deck that protects vehicles during transit. The ship is the future of the maritime industry itself, said Alexander B. Fray, Special Assistant to the President of the Defense Industrial Base. The El Coqui will operate on the Jones Act- U.S. Mainland-Puerto Rico trade, arrived in San Juan on her maiden voyage on July 30, 2018. A sister ship, Taino is in its final phases of construction and testing at VT halter Marine’s Pascagoula, MS, yard, and will be delivered in late 2018.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 12

• Back in 2012 TOTE Inc. ordered the world’s 1st-2-container ships built with engine’s able to operate exclusively on LNG—the Isla Bella and Perla del Caribe have been operating flawlessly almost 3-years on LNG in the Jacksonville, FL, to San Juan, PR, trade thanks to Man Energy Solutions MAN ME-GI 2-stroke engines. The 2-ships use MAN B&W 8L70ME-GI engines. Pasha Hawaii is building 2-2,525-TEU container ships at Keppel AMFELS in Brownsville, TX and will each have a 7S80ME-GI Mk 9.5 main engine, 3-MAN 6L35/44DF gensets, and a MAN Alpha FPP propeller system. The MAN Energy Solutions company has over 200-ME-GI units on order or in operation.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp.39

2.1.1.2 CNG, LNG, LPG, and articulated tug and barge—ATBs—vessels

Sovcomflot placed an order with Russia’s Zvezda shipbuilding complex covering the construction of 3-51E3-dwt LNG fueled product tankers, designed to transport oil products and gas condensate. The ships will be chartered by PJSC Novatek on long-term-charter contracts and be built to Ice class 1B, allowing operating safely in areas of difficult ice conditions—the Baltic Sea with delivery for 2022-23. In September 2018 Sovcomflot ordered 2-114E3-dwt LNG fueled Aframax vessels at the Zvezda complex that followed an order for 6-dual-fueled Aframax tankers from Korea’s Hyundai Samho Shipyard—3-of which entered service in 2018.

Ref: Marine Daily 1-2-18
• The world’s largest LNG bunkering vessel, the 7,500-m³ capacity Kairos began its journey from Hyundai Mipo Dockyard in Ulsan, South Korea to Northwest Europe, where it will operate in the Baltic Sea by the end of 2018. Kairos includes a ballast-free design installation of a CNG tank to store vapor return-gas from customer vessels. Nauticor has a 90% stake in the vessel. Klaipėdos Nafta that holds a 10% stake, says the ship will ensure an efficient LNG loading station service in the Port of Klaipėda in Lithuania and offer a full LNG logistics chain in the Baltic Sea region to ensure more competitive pricing for LNG reloading station users.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 10

2.1.4 Reefers

A commercial cabbing boat—the Mary B II overturned on 1-8-19 as it crossed the Yaquina Bay bar in Newport, OR, the most notorious area in the region off the OR coast with 12 to 14-ft waves. Some 100-local fisherman have been lost in the last 100-years in the area.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-10-19 pp. A13

2.1.2 Cruise Ships

VARD is building French operator Ponant’s new polar ice-class expedition, cruise ship—a clean, green expedition machine. The 150-m ship will operate in the environmental sensitive waters off the Arctic and Antarctic, and be powered by 4-14-cylinder, and 2-10-cylinder Wärtsilä 31DF dual fuel engines. Wärtsilä will supply the ship’s fuel gas supply system and Nacos Platinum advanced navigation equipment—to be integrated with Eniram—a Wärtsilä companies, predictive energy management system delivering predictive insights, and mobile alerts. The ship will be fueled with LNG and be delivered in 2021.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 46

2.1.3 LNG and CNG Terminals

Sempra Energy will move to finalize a 20-year agreement with Poland’s oil and natural gas company for an LNG facility. Sempra is constructing the terminals on the TX Gulf Coast. The Polish oil and gas company signed a sale-and purchase agreement with Sempra to take 2.0E6-tons of LNG/yr, that will meet 15% of Poland’s daily natural gas needs, and 20% of the export capacity at the proposed facility near Port Arthur, TX. The deal was announced by Joseph Householder—Sempra’s President and Chief Operating Officer. Korea Gas Corp., South Korea’s state-owned natural gas supplier and World’s largest importer of CNG, agreed to establishing a frame work with Sempra in 2017 on the Port Arthur facility. A final decision to build the Port Arthur project has not been made but Sempra expects a permit from the FERC finalized by the end of the 1st-Q-2019. The deal with Poland could start in 2023. Along with partners in France and Japan, Sempra is constructing the Cameron LNG facility in Hackberry, LA. The $10.0E9 project’s 1st-shipment of LNG to international customers is expected by the middle of 2019. Sempra also wants to expand their facility in Ensenada, Mexico’s subsidiary to build an export component to ship natural gas to Japan, China, and other Asian countries. Sempra wants to export 45E6-tons of LNG/yr globally, says CEO Jeff Martin. Poland will be less dependent on Russia with the LNG imports. Poland also signed deals with Venture Global in October 2018 and Cheniere Energy in November 2018. Poland will also expand its LNG imports terminal in the port city of Swinoujście, Poland. The Trump Admin. is also promoting LNG exports to Europe to boost U.S. industry, reduce the trade deficit, and export leverage on Russia. John Sullivan and Mark Menezes of DOE took part in the deals. The LNG market is growing from
fracking operations at the Marcellus shale play in the East, the Permian Basin in West TX, and Southeastern NM.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-20-18 pp. C1

2.1.4 U.S.

Volvo Penta supplied power to a new Chesapeake Class MK II ocean-going pilot launch named Hampton Roads that is the 8th-pilot vessel for the Virginia Pilots, from builder Gladding Shipbuilding, Somerset, MA, which has delivered 20-of the C. Raymond Hunt & Associates designed Chesapeake Class boats to pilot associations in the U.S. says the shipyard President Peter Duclos. It is the 1st-vessel powered by twin 13-liter, U.S. EPA Tier 3, 700-hp Volvo Penta D13 diesels, turning IPS3 pod drives, and stabilized by heavy duty Humphree Interceptor automatic active stabilization trim system components on the transom. IPS technology includes the company’s EVC electronic steering control system actuated by a 3-axis joystick for precision maneuvering forward-facing dual counter rotating propellers for added torque and efficiency, and integrated underwater exhaust for reduced engine noise underway on each pod.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 40-41

2.1.4.1 Inland Waterways

Huntington Ingalls Industries closed sale on its Avondale facility to Avondale Marine—joint venture with VA-based T. Parker Host and IL-based Hilco redevelopment—a liquidation company for out dated industrial industries, and partners Hilco Global with offices in the U.K., Canada, Australia, Mexico, South America, and Asia. The facility ceased Navy shipbuilding operations in December 2014, but it’s UNO Maritime Center of Excellence remained open to provide engineering and design work to support Ingalls ship building programs. Avondale Marine will move forward on the 254-acre site with stakeholders to redevelop the sites crane, dock, and terminal assets along 8,000-ft of Mississippi River frontage, while connecting global waterborne commerce with manufacturing, fabrication, and connections to 6-Class-1 rail carriers, in the New Orleans area. The new owners envision creating a World-scale logistics hub for intermodal commerce in a new era, in Jefferson Parish and LA.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 13

• In October 2018 President Trump signed into law the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018—known as WRDA that authorizes work by the U.S. ACE on locks, dams, dredging, and other waterways projects. The bill is a win for the nation’s towboat operators, freight shippers, ports, and labor and conservation groups that rely on labor and conservation groups that rely on the inland waterways system. WRDA 2018 authorizes $9E9 for U. S. ACE civil works projects and EPA drinking water and sewer overflow contract programs. The authorizations still require annual appropriations before contracts can move forward. When non-federal funding is added, its total is some $5.6E9 and includes $2.2E9 to stop floods in the TX Gulf Coast. The WRDA includes enhanced funding for deepening of the Savanah Harbor in GA, and replacement of the Chickamauga lock in the Tennessee River that is in progress. There are no requirements for lockage fees and/or tolls on inland waterways that was opposed by the Waterways Council Inc.—WCI—.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 17

2.1.6 Maintenance Operations
Yanmar has developed and delivered 2-6EY26DF duel fuel commercial marine engines for a new tug under construction at Japan's Kanagawa Dockyard Co., Ltd. equipped with duel fuel engines. The tug will use both heavy fuel oil—HFO—and liquefied natural gas—LNG—as fuels. Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd.—MOL—will take delivery of the tug in February 2019 and start operations in April 2019. Yanmar also received orders for LNG tanks, buffer tanks, and gas combustion devices that make up the fuel feed systems for the engines. It will be operated by Nichon Tug-Boat Company, Ltd. with Osaka Gas Company Ltd. providing LNG fuel and the boat is based on the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or Other Low-flash-point Fuels—IGF Code.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 46 and YouTube.com: yanmar master, video 4.14-min

• Blount Boats, Inc., Warren, RI, won a contract to construct an ice-breaking, all-welded-steel, diesel powered, double-screw tugboat for the New York Power Authority—NYPA—that was designed by Bristol Harbor Group, Inc. The 56-ft x 18.5-ft shallow draft tug will replace existing vessels for maintenance of the Lake Erie Ice Boom and construction projects. It is powered by 2-Caterpillar series C-9 engines, will meet USCG subchapter M requirements, comply with regulations, and be delivered to NYPA in Fall 2019. It is the 4th-newbuild for operations in NY state. A new passenger only ferry, 132-ft vessel will shuttle passengers from lower Manhattan to Governors Island. Hull #370 is an 85-ft all aluminum-hulled ferry built for Fire Island Ferries, certified under USCG Subchapter K rules and regulations will be powered by a John Deere 6135SFM8S engine with ZF550 reduction gears. A 101-ft double-ended ferry for South Ferry Co.—Southern Cross, will be powered by a Caterpillar series C-18 Tier III & IMO II certified diesel engine.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 12

• Bayonne Dry Dock—BDD—& Repair Corp., Bayonne, NJ, will expand its operations with $18E6 in funding. They are working with the Port of NY & NJ and have a massive graving dock—1,092-ft x 148-ft wide with a floor load capacity of 99E3-tons. The concrete graving dock can accommodate the largest military sealift command, government, and commercial cargo ships, and has a 95% occupancy of hard bookings, over the next 8-10-months. They will service ferries, tugs, dinner boats, and service vessels. Key investments are a floating drydock from Union Drydock and a large hoist that were purchased with tax cuts by Congress in 2017, and there are opportunities for investment in new equipment. They were awarded a $1,081,950 small shipyard grant by the U.S. Maritime Adm. for a CNC plasma cutting-table, break press, plate roll, welding machines, iron worker dock upgrades, and hydro-blast equipment. The new mobile boat hoist—MBH—is currently under construction at Cimolai Technology SpA in Italy—a 1,280-ton will be the largest in the region and capable of lifting and hauling the largest boats operating in New York Harbor, including ATB tugs. BDD will use the MBH to service vessels in a repair staging area, increasing the shipyards capacity the support the commercial market.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 13

• Update on the Offshore Support Vessels—OSV—market. As of August 2018, there were more than 1,200-OSVs in lay-up status, many old ones, and 50% of the laid-up vessels have not worked in at least 2-years. Costs to re-activate the vessels gets higher the longer they sit idle. The number of active oil-rigs, is 33% below 2014 levels, declining from 706 to 474 that caused a 40% decrease of OSV day-rates and there is a large oversupply of OSV-vessels.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 23
Update on the U.S. commercial market for rescue boat, davit hoists suppliers, that have shifted to Europe. Allied Marine Crain, Sherwood, OR, launched a new series of compact rescue boat, davits to its lineup that are used by the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy. They are rated for up to 2,800-lb and suitable for launching rescue boats davits on ferries, tug boats, fishing vessels, research vessels, and workboats. 2-types are featured in the DX series: the DX2800S and DXM2300S. Both are SOLAS compliant with electric hoist, in-boat hoist controls, and utilize a maintenance friendly system with minimal use of hydraulic oil. The DX2800S features a hydraulic power slew with stored energy for power-loss situations whole the DXM2300S features a manual slew.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 46

2.1.9 Autonomous Navigation System

Update on Shiptracks, a professional AIS and proprietary vessel tacking system designed to monitor your vessels at every moment. Shiptracks offers global coverage for every size vessel across the globe.

Ref: Marine Log November 2018 pp. 38

• Update on advancements in the field of data science to improve fleet utilization by combining advanced analytics with lessons learned from operations using advanced data analytics, that detect "anomalies" that lead to failures.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 42 & 44 and 47

2.2 Military

In October 2018 U.S. District for the Southern District of CA sentenced U.S. Navy Commander Troy Amundson for dealings with defense contractor Leonard Glenn Frances.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 10

2.2.1 Ships and Planes

The U.S. aircraft carrier John C. Stennis passed through the Strait of Hormuz where 33% of all oil traded by sea passes. The carrier was shadowed by Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels that launched rockets away from the carrier an flew a drome nearby.

• The Navy’s captains will no longer be able to issue bread and water punishment that dates back to wooden ships. The captain can also confine sailors to the brig for 3-days, for E-3 or below, and feed them bread and water.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-3-19 pp. B1 & B13

• China has beaten the U.S. and the rest of the world developing an electromagnetic railgun to fire at hypersonic speeds of Mach 5. U.S. intelligence says China’s weapon could strike up to 200-km away with a velocity of 2.5-km/s or 9,000-kmph [5593-mph]. The U.S. is behind and is having problems with the systems power generation, size, stability of the electronics, and resilience of its rails.

Ref: Asian Journal, January 4-10-2019 pp. 1 & 9

• The German submarine U-576 was found in 700-ft of water 35-mi off North Carolina that sunk in 1942 with a full crew. Investigations show there was no damage to the vessel.


2.2.2 International Issues

Indonesia opened a military base with more than 1,000-personnel on Natuna Besar Island located in the Middle of the Natuna Islands between Borneo and Malay Peninsula—a thousand kilometers from Jakarta. The outpost will work as a deterrent against any potential security threats, particularly at border areas say military spokesman Col. Sus Taibur Rahman.


• After month of delays the Air Force is about to launch the 1st-of a new generation of GPS satellites designed to be more accurate, secure, and versatile. They will not be fully available until 2022 because of problems in a companion program to develop a new ground control system for the satellites says government auditors.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-17-18 pp. A2

• North Korea says if the U.S. continues to escalate sanctions and human rights campaign against the North it could shatter any chance of denuclearizing the country. President Trump says all is well as a result of the meeting with Kim Jong Un last June, and they will meet again. North Korea says it will block the denuclearization forever if the U.S. dose not back-off, a result desired by no one.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-17-18 pp. A3

• North Korea says they will never give up its nuclear weapons unless the U.S. first removes what Pyongyang called a nuclear threat and the issue could rattle the fragile trilateral diplomacy to defuse a nuclear crisis that had many fearing War. South Korea and the U.S. are struggling over sequencing of the denuclearization timeline, that Washington wants, and removal of sanctions desired by Pyongyang and South Korea’s credibility problems for the liberal South Korean government as it tries to sustain a positive atmosphere. For decades North Korea has pushed a concept of denuclearization that bears no resemblance to the American definition—where Pyongyang vows to pursue nuclear development until the U.S. removes all its troops and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan, that the North will stick to.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-21-18 pp. A3
• Kim Jong Un said he’s willing to have a 2nd Summit with President Trump but paired the offer with a threat, that if international sanctions against the country were not lifted, the North would “have no choice” but to return to nuclear confrontation.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-2-19 pp. A4

• President Trump said he received a litter from North Korea’s leader Chairman Kim Jong Un and will be setting up a meeting with him “in the not-to-distant future”, to restart talks about the North’s nuclear programs. The letter says North Korea will not make or give nuclear weapons to others, and he is ready to meet Trump anytime. Kim has met the South Korean Leader several times. Kim sees nuclear weapons as a deterrent to U.S. military strikes. Kim said he could make a case with China, Russia, and South Korea if things get worst.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-3-19 pp. A6

• North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is in China for his 4th-Summit with Xi Jinping as Kim and President Trump are negotiating over the location for the 2nd Summit meeting. Trump received a “great letter” from Kim. South Korea’s newspaper Munhwa Ilbo reported on 1-7-19 that the State Department officially recently met multiple times with North Korean counterparts in Hanoi, Vietnam to plan for the summit.—North Korea’s Kim Jong Un told its only ally, China, he wants to “achieve results” on the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula in a 2nd-summit with President Trump. Kim is returning to North Korea on his special armored train headed for Pyongyang, after the 2-day visit-his 4th in 10-months. They also want the International Community to be welcomed and China supported the U.S.-North Korean summit.


• A federal judge ordered North Korea to pay more than $500E6 for a wrongful death suit by the parents of Otto Warmbier from mistreatment in custody in North Korea.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-25-18 pp. A2

• North Korean diplomat Jo Song Gil, in Italy has gone into hiding with his wife, says South Korean law maker Kim Min-ki, a possible defection of a senior North Korean official.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. A3

• U.S. Diplomats held talks with Taliban delegates on Monday in the United Arab Emirates to discuss ways to end the war in Afghanistan, says Taliban spokesman and Afghan government officials.—Militants stormed Afghan government offices in Kabul after setting off a car bomb killing 43-people over 5-hours.—Some 25-members of security forces were killed by Taliban fighters in coordinated attacks on 1-1-18. Most of the attacks were in the Sar-i-Pul Province.—The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 after it fell into a civil war and occupied it until 1989, propping up a friendly and Socialist government on its border. The U.S. and allies condemned the brutal, long running war and Presidents Carter and Reagan supplied aid to Afghan insurgents fighting the Soviet Army. The office of President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan said after the invasion by the Soviet Union all presidents of America denounced the invasion but remained supporters of this holy jihad of the Afghans, who started uprisings to earn liberation of their holy soil.—The U.S. military withdrew a few thousand of the 14E3-troops in Afghanistan, in America’s longest war.

• President Trump visited Iraq at an Iraqi airbase and defended his decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria. The local officials don't think the job against the Islamic state militants is over yet.—2-days of fighting killed dozens of people as al-Qaeda-linked militants pressed against Turkey-backed rebels after the U.S. announced the U.S. will withdraw 2,000-U.S. troops.—National security advisor John Bolton rolled back Trump’s decision to rapidly withdraw from Syria—laying out conditions for a pullout that could leave the U.S. forces there for months or even years. Bolton in Israel told reporters on 1-6-19 that U.S. forces would remain in Syria until the last remnants of the Islamic State Group were defeated, and Turkey provided guarantees it would not strike Kurdish forces allied with the U.S. We don’t think the Turks ought to undertake military action that’s not coordinated with and agreed by the U.S.—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would not meet with John Bolton and scolded him on national TV—saying it’s a severe mistake to leave Syria’s U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters alone. Turkey says they are terrorists and he would attack them.—The military has begun removing some equipment from Syria but not troops.


• Saudi Arabia issued a rebuke of the U.S. Senate on 12-17-18 rejecting a bipartisan resolution putting the blame for the killing of Saudi journalist Jamul Khashoggi on the Saudi Crown Prince, saying it’s an interference in the kingdom’s affairs.


• President Trump ordered the withdrawal of 2,000-U.S. troops from Syria—the end of a military campaign that vanquished the Islamic State but is ceding a strategically vital country, to Russia and Iran.—The U.S. proposed to sell an advanced air defense system to Turkey may not persuade Ankara to abandon an arms deal with Russia that’s strained relations between the NATO allies. Turkey will buy both Russian and U.S.-made missile-defense systems even if Washington agrees to sell Patriot batteries to Ankara, says Turkey’s government. The U.S. may try to persuade turkey to give up Russian missiles. The S-400 deal could compromise NATO technology.—As U.S. troops leave Syria, Turkish troops prepare for an offensive in Eastern Syria, as President Trump talked with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Kurdish-led Manbij Military Council Sharfan Darwish said Turkish troops are in the Syrian Kurdish Militia to drive out the Islamic State.


• President Trump announced he was removing James Mattis 2-months before his planned departure and installing Patrick Shanahan as U.S. troops are removed from Syria and Afghanistan.


• Russian President Vladimir Putin says—of a rising threat of a nuclear war, putting the blame on the U.S., he accused of irresponsibility pulling out of arms control treaties. President Putin warned it could lead to destruction of civilization and maybe the Earth—over the U.S. leaving the 1987 INF and reluctance to negotiate the extension of the 2010 New START agreements that expires in 2021 unless the U.S. and
Russia agree to extend it. The INF bans all nuclear and convenual ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles of intermediate range. Washington says Russia violated the treaty which Moscow denies. In December 2018 NATO, on the U.S.’s request declared Russia to be in violation of the INF and demanded it halt all activities that breaches it—putting the alliance behind the U.S. which gave Russia until February to come into compliance or trigger Washington’s withdrawal from the treaty. The New START treaty was signed by Former President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in a thaw in Russian and U.S. ties over missiles that can strike each other’s territories. The ties are the lowest over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria, and meddling by Russia in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-21-18 pp. A3

- Russia on 12-26-18 conducted a final test of a nuclear-capable glider that flies 20-times the speed of sound (in dry air at 20°C [68°F] is 343.2-m/s [767.8-mph] or 1-km in 2.914-sec) and could be added to its arsenal in 2019. In the test flight the glider named Avangard flew 3,500-mi coming to earth at hypersonic speeds (greater than Mach-5 [aprox.3,000-mph]), that present missile defense systems can not hit. The U.S. has worked on a hypersonic missile but are far behind Russia.


- The Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle flies Mack-27-times faster than the speed of sound making it impossible to intercept says Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov. The 12-26-18 test launched from the Dombarovskly missile base in the southern Ural went to a target on the Kura shooting range 3,700-mi away.


- Ukraine plans to again send its warships into the Sea of Azov, says a top Ukrainian official Oleksandr Turchynov, the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-20-18 pp. A3

- Japan adopted new defense guidelines on 12-18-18, that plans for its first aircraft carrier, increases in spending, and weapons capability in coming years, over threats from North Korea and China. Other guidelines approved at a Cabinet meeting call for refitting an existing helicopter carrier into a ship that can deploy 42-expansive F-35B stealth fighters capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings—part of Japan’s purchase of 147-F35s over the next decade, and replace Japan’s current defense plan halfway through to underscore Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push to expand Japan’s military role to make Japan “a normal country”. It will amend the Japanese-U.S. drafted constitution that renounces war and broadens the concept of self-defense, while the U.S. fulfilled Japan’s security needs since WW II. Defense officials
say Japan needs higher deterrence, increased missile-defense, and fighter capacity to cope with North Korea and China and with other changes in the region.


- Mexico’s president agreed to temporally take in asylum seekers from around the world, who ask the U.S. for help at the countries shared border. Mexico does not appear to have a plan in place on the ground to implement the new policy. The city has been hosting several thousand migrants for months because of a backlog in processing at the San Ysidro POE.


- Taiwan is resisting unification with China, after following the loss of freedoms in Hong Kong’s transition to China’s rule. President Xi Jinping want’s Taiwan in his National Rejuvenation Vision for China. China’s Communist Party regards democracy as a historical mistake.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-3-19 pp. A3

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Iran on 1-3-19 not to launch satellites into space that the U.S. said could be used to carry intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland as Iran announced a launch of 3-space launch vehicles.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. A3

- A bomb-laden drone launched by Yemen’s Shite rebels exploded on 1-10-19 over a military parade for the Saudi-led coalition, killing some 6-people at the al-Anad Air Base.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-11-19 pp. A3

3.0 Water Issues

3.1 Regulation

3.1.3 Funding

State utility regulators say the CPUC has failed the public by not providing information about water-rate increases or on hearings related to those rate hikes.


- Poway may raise water and sewer rates in March 2019. The water commodity [use] rate would move up 4.5% and the fixed water meter up 7.5%, sewer commodity rate up 3.35% and sewer service charge up 2.25%.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. B2

3.4 Ground Water

A research team in NJ found a bacterium that can biodegrade ground water contaminants: 1,4-dioxane C₄H₈O₂ and 1,1-dichloroethylene C₂H₂Cl₂, commonly used in industrial solvents.

Ref: Chemical Engineering, November 2018 pp.11

3.5 Recycled Water

3.5.2 Desalination
A $3.0E9, Pure Water San Diego water project will develop a 3-phase project to recycle billions of gallons of waste water into potable water. The city will need to pay SDG&E some $100E6 to move its equipment to make way for the project. The 1st phase will cost $1.4E9. The city will issue bonds for the project and in November received a $614E6 loan from the U.S. EPA. Most of the design is completed and the contract is out for bid with construction to start in Spring 2019 with completion expected in 2023. It will be built across from the North City Reclamation Plant and East of I-805 will generate 30E6-gal/d of water. Phase 2 & 3 are scheduled to be completed by 2035, the facility will generate 80E6-gal-water/d—33% of San Diego's needs. The $98.8E6 SDG&E relocation does not include the 2nd & 3rd phases. Projects to recycle wastewater go back to the 1980s. The methodology is mandated by a 1908 ruling by the city. The relocation plan, called Reservation of Rights Agreement and $35E6, outline the payback from SDG&E.


- Escondido might opt out of a 2017 decision to locate a $44E6 recycled water plant. It uses membrane filtration- reverse osmosis and the facility has been studied since 2016. It desalinates recycled water and distributes it to outlying parts of the city.


3.6 Municipal Water System Contamination

A 9-month-long, beta trial for an adsorption-based technology to separate unreacted oxygen in ozone generating system, known as Ozora the process trial was done at a municipal water system in Haworth NJ, and achieved a 60% oxygen recovery rate in continuous operation for 1,500-hr. A full-scale Ozora system will be installed at the site. On sight O3 generation is used by many municipal water utilities to disinfect drinking water. The Ozora process captures unreacted O2 molecules and recycles them to the O3-generator.

Ref: Chemical Engineering, November 2018 pp. 7 and Chemical Engineering, December 2017 pp. 11

4.0 Pipeline and Tunnel Issues

4.1 Pipelines

4.1.2 Sewer Lines

China will use urban farms that use billions of cockroaches to clean up food waste from expanding cities and will be feed to livestock once they die or their bodies will be used to cure stomach ailments and create beauty products.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-24-18 pp. B2 and Google.com: how cockroaches are being used to process food waste in china.

4.1.5 Oil and Gas

4.1.5.3 Natural Gas Leaks

A gas leak caused an explosion of a bakery on the Corner of Streets Saint-Cecile and Rue de Trevise in Central Paris, resulting in 3-people killed and near-by apartments damaged.


5.0 Transportation Environmental Issues
5.1 Maritime Transportation Emissions

5.2 CO\textsubscript{2} Emissions

America CO\textsubscript{2} emissions rose by 3.4%—the largest in the last 8-years, even though a near record number of coal plants closed in 2018, says Rhodium Group. The U.S. economy grew in 2018 an emissions from factories was up 5.7% and emission from planes and trucks soared.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-9-19 pp. A2

5.4 SO\textsubscript{2} Emissions

With the compliance date for the IMO 2020 0.5% sulfur cap getting closer, the economics of exhaust gas cleaning systems appears to be, becoming more attractive with a surge in orders for exhaust gas cleaning systems or scrubbers. There was a total of 293-new-builds and 169-retrofits—for a total of 462-scrubbers in service or on order as of April 2018. It jumped to 693 for new builds and 663-for retrofits, for a total of 1,286 by September 2018. Further estimates put it at 1,700-scrubbers in operation or ordered in early October 2018. To meet the January 1, 2020 0.5%-sulfur cap, ship owners can also choose to burn compliant fuels or LNG, methanol, ethanal, ethane, or LPG. A session of IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee [MEPC 73] on October 26, 2018, added an amendment to support consistent implementation of the 0.5% limit on sulfur in ship’s fuel oil, and it prohibits carriage of non-compliant fuel oil for combustion for propulsion, or operation on board a ship, unless it has a scrubber accepted by flag-states to meet the sulfur requirement.

Ref: Marine Log, November 2018 pp. 30, and 32-33

5.8 Surface Transportation Emissions

5.8.2 Automobile

The San Diego Sierra Club wants to use in-county carbon offsets to address vehicle pollution from new suburban developments.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-9-19 pp. B1 & B4

6.0 Transportation Financial Issues

Amazon’s shares rose 3% to $1,629.51 and they have a market value of $797E9 now. Micro Soft shares rose less than 1% to finish at $102.06 and they have a market value of $784E9. Amazon is down 21% from its high in September of $1.0E12. Apple is down 37% and they lost $400E9 of its value.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-8-19 pp. C3

6.1 Ports

6.2 Container Ships

The LNG prices in 2012 were about $13/1.0E3-ft\textsuperscript{3} [Mcf or 10.0-therms] rose to $16.50 in mid-2014 and was at about $5/1.0E3-ft\textsuperscript{3} in the 3\textsuperscript{rd}.Q-2017. There were 18-offshore oil rigs operating in the GOM in 2018. Update on piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2015 was: 169-incidents. In 2018’s 1\textsuperscript{st}.9-month’s it was 64—77% were at anchor/berth with items robbed: 19% cash property, 62% stores, and 19% nothing.
6.4 State, County, and City

Carlsbad’s 2-newest Council Members asked the city to reconsider its investments in oil companies such as Exxon and Chevon as part of its environmental stewardship. Health care and educational institutions are diverting away from fossil fuel companies, and the council members want the city to do so too. Carlsbad had $14E6 or 1.9% of its investment portfolio in Chevon and $11.4E6 or 1.5% in Exxon’s of July 31, 2018, of the $750E6 pool, says City Treasure made up of cash, bonds, and certificates of deposit CDs, with yields of 1.98%. The funds come from the Water Districts, Housing Authority, and other sources. The portfolio started in 1985 and was last revised in 2017.


7.0 Airport and Global Space Issues

7.1 Airport

7.1.1 Planes

Lift Aircraft may enable commuters to order an air-taxi called Hexa to move them across town in minutes.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. C3

7.1.3 Infrastructure

To connect public surface transportation systems to the SDIA, San Diego’s Mayor Faulkonor and the County’s transit chief have landed on a 71-acre airport-and-freeway-adjacent site that could be a regions utopian transit hub of tomorrow. SANDAG’s new director will tell his board he wants to move swiftly to try and secure the Naval Base Point Loma, Old Town Complex—known as SPANAR property as a Grand Central Station that includes housing and commercial space. It would combine with the existing Old Town Transit Center to create a 120-acre, mixed-use development.


7.1.5 Safety

A Cessna Citation V jet heading to the Millington-Memphis airport went down killing 4-people aboard the plane, says the Federal Aviation Adm. The plane crashed into a football field attempting to land.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-21-18 pp. A2

7.1.6 U.S.

SDIA will permanently close its economy parking lot on December 26 to make way for employee parking. The lot on Pacific Highway is on Admiral Boland Way with rates of $13/d. The cheapest lot at the airport.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-18-18 pp. C1

- Frontier Airlines will begin low-fare service between Las Vegas McCarran International Airport and 5-new city’s starting April 30, 2019, from San Diego, Detroit, Dallas, Houston, and Philadelphia. 3-othe
carriers: Southwest, Delta, and Sprint Airlines currently fly non-stop to Las Vegas from San Diego. There will be 16-18-flightys/day to Las Vegas and rise to 19 with Frontier in the peak season.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-10-19 pp. C1

7.2 Global and Space

7.2.3 Moon

China’s Chang’e-4’s lunar lander became the 1st-space vehicle to touch down on the far side of the Moon and started exploring the surface. China’s ambitions are to send nuclear-powered rockets into space in future decades to colonize and exploit space. The landing was on 1-3-19. The 300-lb rover with probes and spectrometers, touched down in the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken basin, says China’s National Space Adm. The Chang’3 was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Station in Sichuan Province in South China on December 8. Chang’e landed on the Moon in 2013—the 3rd country to make a soft land on the Moon and not be destroyed. Another landing will bring samples back to the Earth in 2019.

Ref: 1-4-19 LATIMES.com and Google.com: a panoramic view of china’s xichang satellite launch center

7.2.6 Deep Space

On 1-1-19 Horizons that took pictures of Pluto in 2015 will speed past Ultima Thule—12 to 22-mi wide space object known as 2014 mu69 at 31,500-mph and pass within 2,200-mi of the surface that is 4.0E9-mi from the Sun. In June 1983 NASA’s Pioneer 10 crossed the orbit of Neptune and 35-years later the Kuiper Belt is the most fascinating part of space when the Earth and solar system formed 4.5E9-years ago. As of 2019 more than 2,000-world’s have been found and there are likely millions more.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-31-18 pp. A11

7.2.7 International

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani said they will soon send 2-new satellites into orbit using Iran-made rockets, despite U.S. concerns it could help further develop its ballistic missiles. The 1979 Islamic Revolution’s 40th-anniversary of the revolution, which saw the Persian Monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi replaced by the Islamic Republic, overseen by a Shiite cleric. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo
said Iran’s plans using satellites into orbit, defies a U.N. Security Council Resolution, calling for Iran to undertake no space orbiting vessels related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-11-19 pp. A3 & A4

8.0 Border and Cultural Issues

8.1 Border

8.1.1 Import-Export

The Brexit was passed by a 51.9% vote in 2016 with a voter turnout the highest since 1992, says Liam Fox—International Secretary of Britain.—PM Theresa May said the postponed vote in Parliament on Britain’s Brexit agreement with the European Union will be held the week of January 14, 2019. More than a month after it was originally scheduled and 10-weeks before Britain leaves the E.U.—With less than 3-months until Britain is to leave the E.U., most of the country’s Conservative Party prefer to leave with no deal by PM May. Warnings of a cliff-edge departure could lead to steep price hikes and shortages of food and medicine.


• The White House Said President Trump might be ready to drop his demand for the $5E9 border wall on the Southwest border, but the spending bill is undecided on the government shutdown.


• The Trump Adm. slapped new sanctions on 18-Russian intelligence agents on Wednesday for interfering in the U.S. presidential election, attempted assassination of a former spy in Britain, and hacking international agencies that combat chemical weapons and doping. There are 272-Russian individuals and entities being sanctioned.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-20-18 pp. A3

• A German Court found on 12-20-18 that iPhone 7 through iPhone X models infringe on Qualcomm hardware patents and ordered Apple to stop selling the phones in Germany. Apple pulled the smart phone models of 15-company-owned retail stores in the country. They remain for sale at wireless carriers and 4,300-3rd-party retail stores for now. The court order requires Apple to stop selling infringing iPhones at all outlets in Germany and get back unsold retail inventory says Quinn Emanuel Urguhart & Sullivan, who represents Qualcomm in the case. The order takes effect once Qualcomm posts 2-bonds covering potential damages to Apple if the patent infringement ruling is overturned on appeal.


• GM entered 2019 as the top carmaker in Mexico as they shuttered 4-U.S. manufacturing facilities in the U.S. in 2018 as GM builds the new Chevrolet Blazer SUV. GM is up to fill in for Nissan’s scaling back its sedan production in Mexico. GM has been retooling its San Luis Potosi Plant and Ramos Arizpe facility to shift SUV and pickup production in recent years to meet demand for SUV’s and pickups, as sedans fall-off. Growth in crossovers, pickups, and SUVs is driving increases in production at GM plants in Flint, MI; Arlington, TX; and Spring Hill, TN. In Mexico, GM and Nissan have been the top 2-automakers for decades.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. C1 & C4
• Canada made a formal demand that China release 2-Canadians who were detained by the Chinese government for activities that endangers the national security after the Canadian detention of a Chinese tech executive over businesses deals in Iran.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-22-18 pp. A3

• Chinese businesses are leaving China and setting up businesses in Tijuana’s commercial sector to avoid tariffs if they remain in China. Tijuana has an inexpensive and plentiful labor force, competitive real estate prices, and proximity to U.S. markets that make Baja California an appealing option for businesses that want out of China says Mexican and American businesses exporters. American businesses as well as Chinese businesses are relocating to Mexico and Tijuana’s real estate vacancy rate is down to 3%. They say CA is too expensive to do businesses in and AZ an NM are better than CA, starting 2-years ago when costs started going up in China. Teema West—a recruiting agency says the companies that helps them move, say they are suppliers to larger companies.


• Talks between China and the U.S. will begin this week in Beijing between President Trump and President Xi Jinping with a goal of a deal by March 2, 2019. Trump is being advised by his hawkish advisor Peter Navarro. Trump believes he can deal with Xi on the $250E9 of Chinese products and threats of another $267E9 of goods. China maintains a tit-for-tat tariff methodology. At the G-20 meeting Trump and Xi agreed to a 90-day truce.—China sounded a positive note ahead of trade talks this week with Washington’s Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jeffery Gerrish, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-2-19 pp A4, and 1-7-19 pp. A7

• Mexico’s President Obrador flew to Tijuana on 1-6-19 to champion his plan to grow the economy of the northern border region by lowering taxes, increasing the minimum wage, and pegging gasoline prices to those of neighboring U.S. communities. He was joined by Mexico’s Economy Secretary Graciela Márquez Colin and Baja California Gov. Francisco Vega de Lamadrid. Obrador also visited Reynosa and Ciudad Juárez. The plan cuts the value-added tax along the northern border by 50% from the national rate of 16 to 8%, reduces income tax from 30 to 20%—to draw both national and foreign investments to the region. It also doubles the minimum wage to 176-pesos/d, just over $9/d and brings gasoline to local prices.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-7-19 pp. A1 & A7

8.1.1 Import-Export

The Trump Adm. will lift sanctions on company’s linked to billionaire Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska, despite Democratic opinions it would help ally him with President Putin. The EN+, Rusal, and JSC EuroSibEnergo sanctions will be lifted.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-11-19 pp. A4

• British Prime Minister May warned lawmakers of risks undermining the publics faith in democracy, if they reject her divorce deal with the E.U. in a vote set for 1-15-19.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-14-19 pp. A3

8.1.2 Ports of Entry
Story of issues of a border wall along the Rio Grande River near Roma, TX in the area called Colonia De La Cruz, that dates back to times of Spanish rule. The U.S. government is requesting access to Maria Albera De La Cruz’s land along the river for a border wall.—Customs and Border Protection officers on 12-18-18 took the final members of a group of asylum seekers, who were accompanied by attorneys and 2-members of Congress sat on U.S. soil outside the Otay Mesa POE for hrs, and some overnight. Reps. Nanette Barragan and Jimmy Gomez both of Los Angeles walked with 15-asylum seekers.—The Supreme court refused on Friday to allow the Trump Adm. To immediately enforce the new policy of denying asylum to migrants who illegally cross the Mexican border.


- President Trump’s address failed to sway most Californians for a need of a border wall based on a survey of 614-registered voters across the state. 34% said they support the Plan. House speaker Nancy Pelosi said she would not fund a border wall even if he agreed to reopen the government shutdown now at 19-days.


- President Trump took his wall case to the Rio Grande Valley in TX—one of the busiest regions of the southern border and epicenter of his Adm.’s migrant family separations issues.


- A group of 150-migrants attempted to breach a San Diego Border Fence on New Year’s Day and some began throwing rocks at responding U.S. border agents who deployed pepper spray and tear gas on the crowd. Some migrants began throwing rocks over the fence at agents and officers said the U.S. C&BP. The C&BP used smoke, pepper-spray, and CS gas to counter the rock throwers.—In a televised, President Trump urged Congressional Democrats to fund his wall.


- Tens of thousands of U.S. immigration offices and agents are working to guard the Mexican border and Trump wants a wall.—Police in riot gear stood outside of a private warehouse near the U.S. border where they have camped out since mid-December. The group defied orders to vacate the premises they call contra Viento y Marea. Mexico’s health agency COFEPPIS posted the shelter was closed and with no conditions to guarantee health issues.—The city of San Diego has proposed using a former juvenile detention facility in alpine known as Camp Barrett as a migrant shelter. San Diego Response Network established a temporary shelter after federal officials implemented a policy change meaning migrant families receive little assistance navigating to there final destination once released from custody.—A standoff between Mexican police and Central American migrants at a private warehouse converted to a shelter near the border continued. They refuse to move to a shelter run by the government about 7-mi away when Benito Juarez initially opened when the caravan became flooded and over-crowded.


8.2 Culture

Update on migrants in Roma, TX.


- The White House and Democratic Congressional leaders are at an impasse over negotiations to avoid a partial government shutdown—Meals are being brought to migrants at the El Barretal from the World
Central Kitchen with salad, frittatas, enchiladas, ratatouille, hearty ham and cheese sandwiches on brown bread.


• With the government shutdown immigration courts were also down and immigrant hearings are postponed until further notice—called a "pull-factor", by the Trump Adm.—Update on President Trump’s push for $5.7E9 to extend the U.S.-Mexican border fencing by 215-mi.


• Muslim inmates from internment camps in the Far Western China hunched over sewing machines among 100s of thousands who were detained and spent months renouncing their religious conversions. TV shows them as models of repentance, earning good pay, and political salvation, as factory workers. China’s Communist Party says the propaganda of camps in the Xinjiang region is providing job training and putting detainees on production lines for their own good, offering them escape from poverty, backwardness, and radical Islam.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-17-18 pp. A8

• 2-migrant Honduran teenagers were killed, and their bodies dumped in a Tijuana alley over the weekend.—State police arrested 2-men and a woman on suspicion of killing 2-Honduran teenagers from the caravan, says Baja California’s Attorney General.


• The killing of 2-San Diego teens and their Tijuana in a Tijuana neighborhood ended with the arrest of 3-men, says Mexican authorities. The 3 were tortured for 2-hrs and each shot in the head.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. A1 & A6

• Homicides in Mexico reached more than 2,500-killings in 2018, with most in the lucrative neighborhood drug trade, as dealers fight over street corners, mostly in the city’s methamphetamine market and lesser in the heroin sales.


• Police in Chicago—the nation’s 3rd-largest city had 561-homicides in 2018, 660-in 2017, and 770-in 2016 where over 1,000-more police were added to the force. The goal of the police force is to get the killing down to less than 300/yr. Chicago’s South and West sides have the most killings. The other top city’s of: NYC had 278 and Los Angeles-243 as of mid-December 2018.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-2-19 pp. A2

• New York had 289-homicides in 2018, down from 292 in 2017 and were fewer than 800 for the 2nd-consecutive year. In 1990 there were 2,000-homicides.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-4-19 pp. A2

• The U.S. and Mexico on 12-19-18 announced a bilateral assistance program to curb migration from Central America, signaling an early note of confidence from the Trump Adm. in the foreign policy of the new Mexican President Obrador. The U.S. will contribute $10.6E9 for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation—OPIC—. The U.N. general Assembly endorsed a sweeping accord to ensure safe and orderly migration Wednesday over opposition from 5-countries, including the U.S. and Hungry. The Global
Compact for Migration—the 1st International document dealing with the issue is not legally binding.—Thousands of Central Americans who traveled north to the U.S. border are settling into an uneasy existence in Tijuana, acing resistance from both the U.S. and Mexico. Coordinators who directed the migrants through Mexico have vanished.—Migrants are now at 2-months from leaving home, many will work in Mexico while others wait for seeking asylum at the San Ysidro border to get into the U.S. and are feeling homesick.—It is clear the politics of migration in the U.S. have been and will likely continue to be weaponized and will likely continue to be weaponized. In Mexico they were welcomed but when they got to Tijuana anti-migrant sentiment appeared in protests and social media campaigns. President Obrador “AMLO” called for “Marshall Plan” for the region that would inject 10’s of billions of into infrastructure and economic growth. President Trump wants cooperation with AMLO. The recent $5.89 in funding for Central Americans refers to Congressional funding approved during the Obama Adm.'s Overseas Private Investment Corp., the U.S. governments development finance institution that supports the U.S., is willing to support and encourage private sector investment in the region. Mexico will issue new work visas for Central Americans. Opposition in AMLO’s party will resist Trump and show solidarity with Central Americas and its citizens and be less collaborative with the U.S. when the next caravan emerges AMLO will find himself between a rock and a hard place.


- Another migrant caravan is forming in Honduras that plans to set out next week to test immigration policies of Mexico and the U.S. The Mexican Government’s Olga Sánchez Cordero, says they are ready, they will place 370-guards at the 320-illegal crossing points, and the border but the caravan could be allowed in legally, if they apply for visas. The 2018 group was some 7,000-strong but was dwarfed by the 400E3 who were apprehended at the U.S. border, and the more than 100E3 who applied for asylum in 2018. President Trump says only a wall will stop the migrations. In Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala with extreme violence and economic opportunties limited, the perception is the earlier group succeeded so why not us! The tent city in Tornillo, TX is shutting down and all the equipment will be removed by the end of January, says Krista Piferrer of BCFS Health and Human Services.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-12-19 pp. A10

- Police in Tijuana forced migrants to vacate a tent city outside of a closed migrant shelter, just 400-ft from the U.S.-Mexican border, that affects some 200 people.—Mexican federal authorities shuttered a private warehouse converted into a shelter near the U.S.-Mexican border on 1-9-19 after a 5-day standoff at the facility. It was opened to hold members of the caravan who refused to leave Benito Juárez, a sports facility that housed 6,000-migrants in November, that were moved to a bigger facility in eastern Tijuana. After hundreds remained parked in the streets it prompted the opening of the private warehouse.—Mexican authorities are preparing to close the largest Central American migrant shelter known as El Barretal on the eastern outskirts of Tijuana—an end to the Caravana Migrantes 2018.—Migrants are now in a comfortable daily and working rhythms, kids go to school, men wake before dawn, and catch buses outside for work in construction or odd jobs in Tijuana. Women wash and hang laundry by hand in sinks to the right of the facility. On 1-10-19 the open-air courtyard opened where more than 3,000 Central Americans moved to after closing Tijuana’s Zona Norte near the border, and many found jobs and apartments in Tijuana.

• The new constituted San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved a series of measures intended to assist asylum-seeking families and they will seek county properties that could be used to provide temporary shelter. They will also have Helen Robbin’s-Meyer collaborate with the federal, state agencies, and with Gov. Newsom to find properties to use.


• RVs will be allowed to park free on an Encanto site being developed by Dreams for change. They may not be considered homeless, says the U.S. Department of Housing and urban Development.


• Americans will have to meet work requirements for food aid under a Trump Adm. plan unveiled on 12-20-18 as President Trump signed legislation to keep the current food aid eligibility system in place. In CA 55 of 58 counties qualified for federal exemptions from work rules—letting them receive food aid for more than 3-months in a 3-year period, if they did not meet the 20-hr work requirement. President Trump signed the farm bill on 12-20-18 that was passed by Congress last week after months of negotiations. The new rules would save the government $15E9 over 10-years. Able-bodied adults under 50 without young dependent children are required to work or go through work training for at least 20-hr/wk to receive help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—or Food Stamp Program for more than a 3-year period. Exceptions are a County with unemployment rate of 10% or more or 20% above the national average for a 2-year period.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 12-21-18 pp. 4

• A Columbian evangelical minister in CO supports President Trump’s views to support protecting religious groups.

Ref: The San Diego 12-28-18 pp. A4

• Gov. Gavin Newsom will propose spending $1.8E9 on early education and child care programs—“readiness gap” that exists based on income.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-3-19 pp. A1 & A11

• The K-Pop sensation Bangtan Sonyeondan or “Beyond the Scene”—BTS—is the latest contract with toy maker Mattel that secured rights to produce dolls of the boy band. Shares of Mattel Inc. spiked almost 9% on 1-7-19 for a licensing pact that includes collectible figures and games. The band is made up of RM, Jin, SUGA, j-hope, Jimin, V, and Jung Kook, that reached No.1 on the billboard top 200.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-8-19 pp. A2

• President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, said the government would no longer be a party to a U.N., migration accord signed in December 2018 that is not legally binding for the 160-nations. Balsonaro’s, far-Right Adm. is settling in, says they have a sovereign right to decide who enters their home.

Ref: The San Diego U-T 1-10-19 pp. A10