Border Opportunities: A Mexico Perspective

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CONSUL GENERAL

1. Consular protection opportunities

- Consular notification- “Notification without delay” (VCCR).
- Detention centers- Consular assistance and due process observation.
- Belongings-Recovery in a short period of time.
- Deportations- Return home vs new crossing attempt.
- Legal assistance-New resources.
- Support for DACA recipients.
  ✓ DACA California: 188,420
  • DACA San Diego County: 10,730
2. Cooperation against arms trafficking

- Top priority for Mexico.
- Shared responsibility.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration on both sides of the border.
- 70% of confiscated weapons in Mexico come from the U.S.
  - Texas: 41.3%
  - California: 19%
  - Arizona: 15%

3. Two decades of border crossings

![Graph showing total northbound individual crossings by mode](source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics)
4. Border Infrastructure

**Projects**

**Short-term**
- Otay Mesa return cargo lane

**Medium-long term**
- Otay II

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5. Tijuana River Valley

- Millions of gallons of sewage cross from Tijuana to the beaches of California.
  - 1/3 of the year, the beaches of Imperial Beach are closed due to pollution.

Binational problems need binational solutions:
- Agreement between CILA and Baja California.
- A new Rapid Response Group has been created to better respond to future eventualities.
6. Energy

- Potential of natural gas trade. E.g. Costa Azul in Ensenada (Sempra-IEnova)

- Baja California is isolated from the national electrical system.
- Clean energy generation and trade with California.

2020 Collaboration Projects

1. Delegations to Baja California
2. Thematic and regional expos at the Consulate
3. Southbound behavior surveys
4. International Society for Mexico Energy (ISME): California-Baja California
5. Calibaja Dialogues
6. Comic Con
7. Colibrí MX Scholarship
Q & A

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Agenda

- 2019 Highlights
- 2020 Activities
- 2020 Opportunities
- Insights
- Initiative progress
Mission

Making travel and trade easier and more efficient through the ports of entry between San Diego County and the Tijuana Metropolitan Area.

Vision

A border managed to bring the people of San Diego County and the Tijuana Metropolitan Area closer together in shared success and prosperity, setting a world standard for border innovation.

Programs

- Stakeholders Working Committee Meetings
- Board Luncheons
- Website (www.smartbordercoalition.com)
- Executive Director’s operational and administrative activities
2019 Highlights

○ Key Activities
  ■ Networking, Community Building, and Information Forums
  ■ Media Relations
  ■ Public Service Communication
  ■ Advocacy and Lobbying
  ■ Partnering, Participating and Relationship Building
  ■ Proposing

○ Key Activities, Cont.
  ■ Research
  ■ Organizational and Internal
2020 Activities

- Convene 12 meetings with stakeholders and Board members.
- Partner with the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, Tijuana Innovadora and Union Tribune for the 2020 Border Summit.
- Work with Tijuana Local Development Council on overlapping border priorities.
- Advocacy for Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, Tijuana access points, signage, wait time measurement, rail crossing in Tecate, export corridor and emerging topics.
Advocacy, forums and partnerships are important, but what can we do to move the needle more?

- Projects with transformative results
  - Connect with key sectors
  - Leverage our board members’ capacities
  - Be intentional!
2020 Opportunities

- Facilitation of logistics and mobility options for border travel -- using valuable information to navigate the border

  - Data as an example:
    - Information about the border, the ports of entry, and surrounding areas is not developed, evaluated, and displayed in one place.
    - A dashboard is a type of graphical user interface which often provides at-a-glance views of key performance indicators (KPIs) relevant to a particular objective or process.

Border “Dashboard” Schematic Representation
Initiative List and Progress

○ Puerta de Mexico demolition
  ■ In December we got word from Carlos Rascón, Works Resident (*Residente de Obra*), Communications and Transportation Ministry (SCT), that project will conclude in June of this year.

○ Export Corridor at Otay Mesa POE
  ■ We are analyzing the possibility of working with the Tijuana Local Development Council to facilitate the project’s implementation starting this year. This is a federally driven decision that entails high level conversations with SAT (customs authority) and INDAABIN (customs buildings owner).

○ Tecate Railroad
  ■ We have seen an impasse over the last 4 months. We believe we will have news soon. In September, Baja Rail CEO Roberto Romandía stated that Baja Rail was working on an executive plan to present to SAT. Sites had been approved on both sides of the border. Baja Rail has an agreement with firm for funding rail rehabilitation on U.S. side. Equipment type used on both sides has also been approved.

○ Otay East Port of Entry (Otay II)
  ■ Executive study for the access road to the port in Tijuana has been completed. It will be 8 lanes on Avenida Las Torres and will follow power line route. Construction of access road to port could start in July.
  ■ There are $800 million pesos available to acquire land for the port itself. Right of Way could be in Government hands by August of 2020.
Initiative List and Progress

○ **Wait Times:** Funding is not yet guaranteed for WiFi readers. We are renewing this effort with the Tijuana Local Development Council. For its part, Caltrans has secured funds to install northbound wait time readers through the California Transportation Commission and other sources.

○ **Signage:** We will work through the Tijuana Local Development Council and the City of Tijuana to implement tourism signage for at least 1 district near San Ysidro POE.

■ Between 2018 and 2019, 20 of 45 originally planned nodes were concluded by the State Tourism Secretariat and the City of Tijuana.

○ **Access Roads:** CANACAR (Tijuana transportation association) led a group that proposed a new plan for trucks to access lanes near the Otay Mesa POE. The proposal was approved by the City of Tijuana in late November and has been implemented.

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Initiative List and Progress

○ **Unified Cargo Processing:** increased communication between Mexican trade groups and CBP, new access road strategy in Tijuana as well as the opening of a 10th lane on the U.S. side of the border in October have decreased wait times to levels not seen in years.
Insights

○ **USMCA ratification in U.S.:** there will be $300 million for the Border Water Infrastructure Program to address pollution on the U.S.-Mexico border including the Tijuana River Valley region. Includes an additional $25 million of funding for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Border Wastewater Infrastructure Program.

○ Language from H.R. 132, the North American Development (NAD) Bank Improvement and Pollution Solution Act of 2019, was included in the USMCA. The bill will require NAD Bank to develop and implement efficiency improvements to streamline and accelerate project certification and financing processes along the border. **It will also provide authorization to double the bank’s capitalization,** allowing the NAD Bank to support more projects along the border. Total investment in capital will be $3 billion with equal commitments from the United States and Mexico.

○ **New Baja California Government took office on 11/1/19:** strategic projects include Otay Mesa East (Otay 2), Interurban Train in Tijuana, and residual water treatment system repair.

○ Congressman Luis Moreno Hernandez launched **Border and Immigration Affairs Commission** and Councilmember Claudia Casas officially launched **Commission on Economic Development, Tourism and Border Issues.**

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Insights

○ City of Tijuana convened over 30 stakeholders to discuss “**Border Crossing Challenges and Opportunities**”
Insights

- SANDAG convened “The Future of Cross Border Mobility” session at Tijuana City Hall. The coalition moderated a panel with Dr. Ruben Roa, Baja California’s Undersecretary of Economy, Dr. Paul Ganster. Chair of the Committee of Binational Regional Opportunities and Rosa Velia Lopez, Director of the Tijuana Municipal Planning Institute.

Insights

- Governors Newsom, Bonilla and Mendoza relaunched the Commission of the Californias in December.
Insights

- U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Christopher Landau, visited Tijuana for the first time and was a key participant in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that concluded the SY LPOE modernization effort.

Thank you!

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Who is 4 WALLS INTERNATIONAL?

WE ARE BUILDERS, INNOVATORS, AND CONNECTORS. AN NGO THAT SEES THE POTENTIAL IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLABORATION UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF IMPACTED COMMUNITIES TO CREATE REAL WORLD SOLUTIONS IN AND AROUND WATERSHEDS.
What We Do

WE FIND SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE HARMONY BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND HUMAN LIVELIHOODS.

WE DO IT BY LEVERAGING POTENTIAL WITHIN EXISTING STRUCTURES (SCIENCE, POLICY, FINANCE, AND COMMUNITY) TO MAKE HIGH IMPACT SOLUTIONS READILY AVAILABLE FOR MEASURABLE CHANGE.

The Problem

Single-use plastics, foam, tires and sediment flow across the US-México border and into the Pacific Ocean
California pays millions of dollars annually to clean it up
State institutions are prohibited from acting upstream
The Challenges

This problem is decades old
Everyone agrees – a sustainable finance mechanism is missing
It requires a special change agent to beat the border

The Solution

Innovate how California does business
Impact capital assumes all the risk
Environmental & Social Impact Bonds provide the framework for public-private partnership
State of California to pay for results, not well-intentioned activity
Lower future operations and maintenance costs for California investments
Missed Opportunities / Interventions

Hillslope and channel stabilization - control the flow
Community-centered waste management, innovative recycling incentives
Trash capture devices
Economic growth, jobs, and increased access to basic services and healthier communities

Why us?

Barrio to boardroom
Our relationships make us uniquely positioned to intervene.
“Do nothing about me, without me”
Community is imperative for long-term sustainability.

Strong record and strong partners
Serious brain-power, policy-experience, community knowledge and resources.
Social - Infrastructure

Ocean Conservancy
Marisla Foundation
Parker Foundation
Inter-American Development Bank
North American Development Bank
US Environmental Protection Agency
CA State Water Quality Control Board
SD Regional Water Quality Control Board
CA Natural Resource Agency
CA Environmental Protection Agency
CA Pollution Control Financing Authority
SD Regional Chamber of Commerce
Port of San Diego
Tijuana National Estuarine Research Reserve
Border Field State Park
City of Imperial Beach
City of Coronado
City of San Diego
City of San Ysidro
City of Chula Vista
County of San Diego
City of Tijuana
Municipal Planning Institute of Tijuana
Proteccion Civil de Tijuana
State of Baja California
Las Hormiguitas Native Plant Nursery
Tijuana Calidad de Vida
Proyecto Fronterizo y Educación Ambiental A.C.
WILDCOAST
Resident Leaders
US Consulate General Tijuana

This year:
Partnerships in 2019 - Ocean Conservancy and University of California Irvine, SedRISE program

1. Science
   - Data backed interest/risk rate
   - Identified 3 hotspots
   - Higher Investment + multiple Interventions

2. Policy
   - Legal structure identified
   - Vetted by CA Senate lawyers

3. Finance
   - Multiple local verbal offers
   - Set precedent, not pilot

4. Community
   - Deep relationships formed over 10 years
   - Seasoned community organizers
California Pollution Control Financing Authority

California Natural Resources Agency

InterAmerican Development Bank

North American Development Bank and USEPA

4Walls International

Private Impact Capital

2020 - Next Steps

Cross the line.

1. **Science**
   - Calculate principal, interest rate and risk of failure
   - Monitoring Plan Border 2020

2. **Policy**
   - Create bill language to incorporate structure
   - Budget appropriation for re-imbursements

3. **Finance**
   - Secure LOI for $3.6M
   - Draft Initial Pay-For-Performance Contract

4. **Community**
   - Community consultative implementation plan
   - Define true costs of interventions