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James Bond
San Diego County Water Authority

Pedro Orso-Delgado/Bill Figge
Caltrans

Gary L. Gallegos
Executive Director, **SANDAG**

BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Friday, February 20, 2004
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101**

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **UPDATE ON IMPERIAL COUNTY ISSUES**
- **IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY 2004 AND PROPOSED FY 2005 WORKPLAN**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Borders Committee provides oversight for planning activities that impact the borders of the San Diego region (Orange, Riverside, and Imperial counties and the Republic of Mexico). The preparation and implementation of SANDAG's Binational Planning and Interregional Planning Programs are included under its purview. It advises the SANDAG Board of Directors on major interregional planning policy-level matters. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board of Directors for action.

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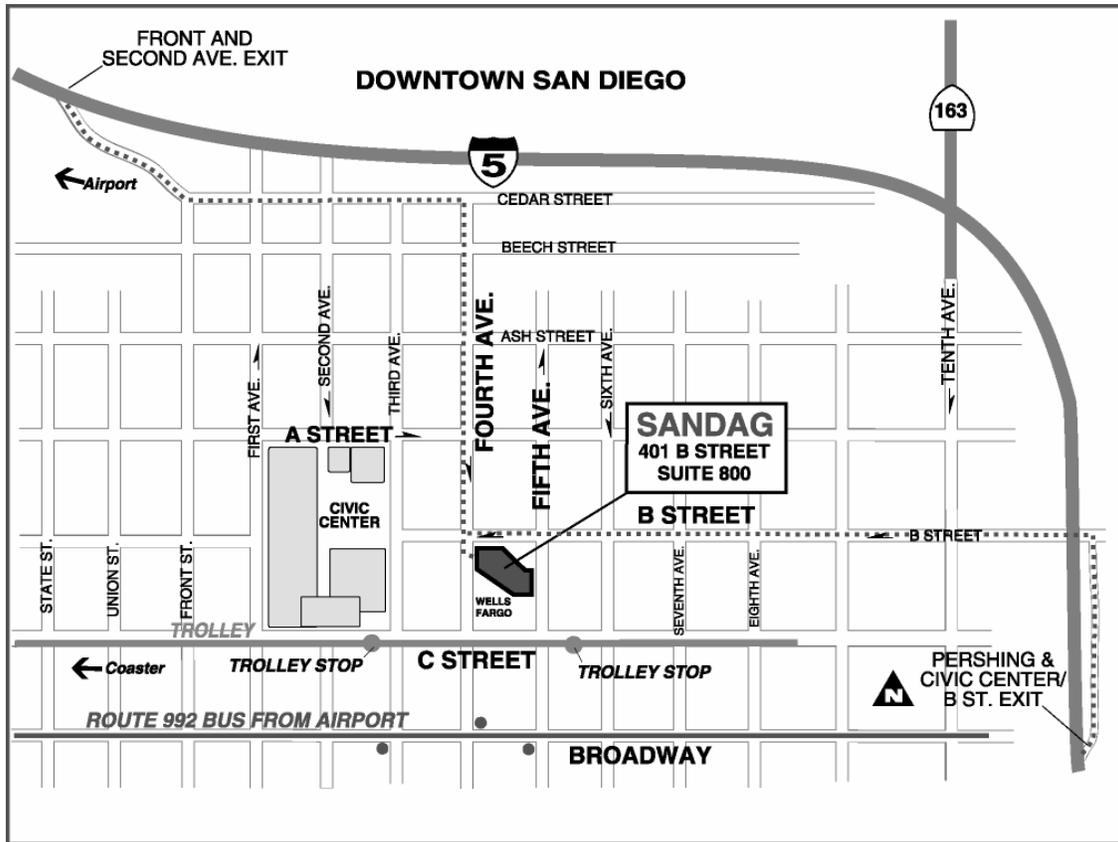
San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the Borders Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker's Slip which is located in the rear of the room and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The Borders Committee may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

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BORDERS COMMITTEE

Friday, February 20, 2004

Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas
(619) 595-5372; hva@sandag.org

ITEM #		ACTION
+1.	APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2003 MEETINGS MINUTES (PP. 5-8)	APPROVE
2.	PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS	
	Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Borders Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. This is also an opportunity for Borders Committee members to make comments or announcements	
	CONSENT ITEMS (3 TO 6)	
	<i>The Borders Committee will review the consent agenda without further discussion unless an item is pulled by a Committee member or a member of the public for comment.</i>	
+3.	COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTIONS (PP. 9-15)	INFORMATION
	3a. December 2, 2003 3b. January 6, 2004	
+4.	I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY AND ACTIONS OF JANUARY 16, 2004 (PP. 16-19)	INFORMATION
+5.	UPDATE ON THE I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (I-15 IRP) (Susan Baldwin, SANDAG) (PP. 20-22)	INFORMATION
	SANDAG staff will present an update report on the I-15 IRP strategies discussed in the January 16, 2004 meeting in Temecula.	

- +6 SANDAG'S 2004 ANNUAL BINATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE (PP. 23-24) APPROVE**

The Committee should review and approve the title, date and location of the 2004 Annual Binational Summer Conference: "Cooperation Across the California-Baja California Border: Where Do We Go from Here?" on July 16, 2004 at the Multicultural Complex of the San Ysidro Middle School.

- +7. DEVELOPMENTS OF U.S. EPA/SEMARNAT BORDER 2012 PROGRAM (PP. 25-29) INFORMATION**

The Border 2012 Program is the most recent phase in the efforts to coordinate a U.S./Mexico border environmental policy. The priorities identified for California-Baja California are: "Air quality, water supply and sanitation, hazardous waste management, and cross-border emergency response capability."

REPORTS

- 8. UPDATE ON IMPERIAL COUNTY ISSUES (Supervisor Victor Carrillo, Imperial County) INFORMATION**

Supervisor Carrillo will provide an update to the Committee on issues in Imperial County.

- +9. IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY 2004 AND THE PROPOSED FY 2005 WORK PLAN (PP.30-40) DISCUSSION**

The Committee will review current "Borders" activities and key areas described in the Borders Chapter of the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for Committee involvement and work program for FY 2005.

- 10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION INFORMATION/ APPROVE**

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held on Friday, March 19, 2004 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Escondido City Hall.

SANDAG's Borders Committee will meet with representatives from southwestern Riverside County to continue the I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) discussion on the strategies to address the issue of job/housing accessibility between the two regions.

+ Next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

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San Diego Association of Governments
BORDERS COMMITTEE

January 16, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting Summary
December 12, 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 Ed Gallo (North County Inland) and alternates Phil Monroe (South County), Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Pam Slater (County of San Diego). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Thomas Buckley (Riverside County), Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans), Lydia Antonio (Republic of Mexico), and Angelika Villagrana representing the COBRO.

Chair Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting and self-introductions were made.

- 1. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2003 MEETING MINUTES**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no comments at this time.

CONSENT ITEMS (3 and 4)

- 3. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY AND ACTIONS**
- 4. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY COMMITTEE (I-15 IRP) SUMMARY AND ACTIONS**

Action: The Borders Committee approved Item 1 with minor revisions and Consent Items 3, and 4.

REPORTS

- 5. LAS CALIFORNIAS BINATIONAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

Anne McEnany, International Community Foundation (ICF), provided a brief recap of the presentation she made to the Borders Committee on November 7, 2003 regarding the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative. The ICF is requesting that the U.S. Department of the Interior create a study area of the binational wildlife corridor which would extend the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area south into Mexico (east of Tecate). This area is considered a global conservation hotspot. Conservation of this binational wildlife corridor is an urgent priority because of the threat posed by rapid urbanization from eastern Tijuana. More data are needed in order to justify the need for designating this region as a conservation priority in Mexico. ICF has been

funding this effort for the last few years, but in order to become eligible for funds from Congress to conduct a more comprehensive study, the region must be designated by the U.S. Department of Interior as a conservation study area.

Chair Crawford asked if there was any support from local representatives to Congress. Ms McEnany replied that Rep. Bob Filner has endorsed the project and that he suggested that support from SANDAG would be critical.

There was concern from several committee members as to whether Mexican agencies would be contributing to this project financially. Ms. McEnany responded that, although the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SEMARNAT) is very supportive, the Mexican government needs to see more specific data before they can prioritize that area. The ICF has been providing financial support to non-governmental conservation organizations (NGOs) in Mexico and will be partnering with the San Diego Foundation's Environmental Program to support NGOs on the San Diego side.

Action: The Borders Committee recommends that the SANDAG Board of Directors promote congressional support for the U.S. Department of the Interior to designate a study area for the shared watersheds and binational wildlife corridors in the California-Baja California border region.

6. SURVEY AND ANALYSIS OF TRADE AND GOODS MOVEMENT BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO (*Maquiladora* Survey)

Héctor Vanegas, SANDAG, provided a brief background on the origins of the Maquiladora Survey. Geoffrey Bogart, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) presented a brief report on a survey they conducted on behalf of Caltrans, to look at border conditions from a commercial user perspective (principally *maquiladora* industry). Recommendations from users include: road infrastructure improvements; dedicated lanes for expedited processes; increased inspection agency staffing; longer and more flexible operating hours; more binational, interagency cooperation, and the need to document the cost of delays.

The Borders Committee discussed the findings of the study. Several members suggested the need for companies to look at the way they do business, given the restrictions of the border crossing. One of the major findings of the study was that over 50% of the products coming across had destinations in other parts of California and rest of the United States. Thus, this issue has implications far beyond the immediate region.

Angelika Villagrana, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), reiterated the COBRO's recommendations that: SR-905 remain as one of the regional priorities; the trial period for extending border crossing hours be extended; a working group such as Alliance for Border Efficiency (ABE) continue working on these issues; and competitive wait times of no longer than one hour should be the goal. Pedro Orso explained the funding situation for SR905 stating that the funding is set up in such a way that Caltrans will be ready for construction stages before funds are available.

A pilot program was tested during November and part of December to extend hours of operation at the commercial port of entry at Otay Mesa. Results from this program will be made available at a future date.

Action: The Borders Committee accepted the recommendation that additional comments regarding the June 2003 *Maquiladora* Survey be sent to Caltrans and added that Caltrans should be encouraged to pursue innovative funding mechanisms for border-related projects. In addition, the Borders Committee recommended that this report be presented to the Transportation Committee.

7. UPDATE ON THE IMPERIAL VALLEY ISSUES

The Representative from Imperial Valley, Victor Carrillo, was unable to attend today's meeting, so the Committee agreed to continue the item to the February 2004 meeting.

Action: The Borders Committee agreed to continue this item to the February meeting.

8. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (I-15 IRP)

Jeff Martin, SANDAG, provided a brief overview of the I-15 IRP study and highlighted some of the principal strategies being considered. He requested that Borders Committee members read the summary report and recommendations and attend the next meeting which will be held in Temecula with the Riverside partners on January 16, 2004. The main strategies contained in the study cover economic development, transportation, and housing as ways to mitigate the regional imbalances in jobs/housing which lead to long commutes and traffic congestion. The March meeting will focus on ways to implement those strategies. Staff requested feedback from Committee members by March for inclusion in the final report due to the Board of Directors by June 2004.

Phil Monroe requested the inclusion of private sector initiatives in the recommendations and strategies.

9. REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES VISITOR AND IMMIGRANT STATUS INDICATOR TECHNOLOGY (US VISIT) MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2003

Mr. John McNeece, Chair, International Committee, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, provided a brief report on the visit of Mr. Williams, Director for the US VISIT Program of the Department of Homeland Security regarding the US VISIT program. The purpose of the program is to document every foreign national who enters and exits the United States. Mr. McNeece thanked SANDAG for hosting the meetings arranged for elected officials and stakeholder groups on November 17, 2003 and providing staff support. Mr. McNeece felt that through these meetings a strong statement was made from local stakeholders and elected officials of how important an efficient and open border is for this region's commerce and regional integration. Mr. Williams, in general, was very receptive to local concerns, but was surprised at the degree of misinformation circulating in the region.

According to Mr. Williams, the US VISIT program: concerns only holders of visas who have to go to secondary inspection coming north anyway; will allow laser-visa holders to come and go as they do now; will have visa holders add a radio frequency chip to their document, enabling them to "check out" as they leave the country; and will not be implemented until the appropriate technology is available. Mr. Williams made it clear that his comments are only recommendations, not formal policy. Mr. Williams agreed to return to the region and visit Mexicali/Calexico to see the situation.

The need for a specific liaison for future communication regarding the development of the US VISIT program became apparent. It was suggested that Angelika Villagrana, Alliance for Border Efficiency (ABE) and member of COBRO, would be able to serve in that role. Rep. Susan Davis offered to be a conduit in Washington for local concerns. ABE has prepared a letter outlining what was discussed with Mr. Williams and is asking regional stakeholders be kept informed of developments and that their input be considered.

10. REPORT ON THE DISCUSSION OF THE CONCEPT OF EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Phil Monroe presented an update on the concept of Equitable Development. From a discussion held between the Committee members so designated (Crawford and Monroe) and SANDAG Executive Director Gary Gallegos, it was suggested that the one of the strategic tools already in the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) might be adapted to incorporate the notion of Equitable Development – Compacts. Those members suggested bringing the item back for discussion at the February 20, 2004 meeting. Staff has identified several current projects which could serve as test cases, such as the I-15 Interregional Partnership. Another suggestion was that the Borders Committee serve as a mechanism to help solve disputes between jurisdictions, consistent with SANDAG bylaws. Efforts will be made to make sure that the appropriate staff from Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) be present at the January I-15 Interregional Partnership meeting. A critical issue is establishing which stakeholders should be involved in the Compact. Staff suggests that the issues should be scoped out before the participants are determined.

Action: The Borders Committee agreed to continue discussion on the concept of Equitable Development.

11. BORDER ENERGY ISSUES GROUP

Chair Crystal Crawford reported on the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG). So far the group has had six meetings. Although the Secretary of Energy of Mexico has not been able to send a representative, they are interested in the group. Thus far, the group has developed a mission statement but has refrained from establishing specific goals until a decision on the Regional Energy Strategy has been formally taken by the Board of Directors. In general, it was suggested that it would be valuable to continue the meetings and seek funding to support this activity.

Chair Crawford introduced Alan Sweedler, Chair, San Diego Regional Energy Office, who has been participating in the BEIG. Prof. Sweedler reiterated the importance of border energy issues as a subset of any regional energy strategy as the border represents unique opportunities for the future of the region. The BEIG is the only public forum in which there is significant input from Mexican counterparts. He added that in his 20 years of involvement in regional energy issues this is the first time that various stakeholders are coming together to develop a coherent view on energy which will, in turn, provide more leverage for significant funding of that vision. Chair Crawford added that, at the latest meeting in Tijuana earlier in December, specific action items were presented to the group for consideration by Mexican agencies.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Next meeting, to be held on January 16, 2004 at Temecula City Hall in Temecula, California, will be an Interregional Partnership Policy Committee meeting.

BORDERS POLICY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

COBRO AGENDA ITEM NO.: **3a**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Meeting Summary
December 2, 2003

The December 2, 2003, COBRO meeting was called to order by Chair Elsa Saxod

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed Congresswoman Susan Davis to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Self-introductions were conducted.

2. MEETING SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 4, 2003

The meeting summary for November 4, 2003, was accepted with no changes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

There were no public comments at this time.

4. CHAIR AND COBRO MEMBERS REPORT

The Chair mentioned that Consul General of Mexico, Rodolfo Figueroa, would be leaving his post effective January 2004 and recognized his efforts during his tenure in San Diego to advance binational opportunities in the region. A certificate of recognition was accepted by Consul Lydia Antonio on his behalf.

The Chair announced that the COBRO Summer Conference Recommendations had been presented to the SANDAG Board of Directors during their November 28, 2003 meeting. The Recommendations were approved unanimously.

Alejandra Mier y Teran, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce, gave an update on the trial period for extended hours at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. Officials from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have extended the period for extended hours to December 12, 2003. Ms. Mier y Teran encouraged members to pass along this information to commercial users to take advantage and demonstrate that extended hours are helpful, particularly during peak seasons. Members were concerned about being able to measure the program's effectiveness in only six weeks.

Gustavo Perez, City of Chula Vista, commented that Governor Schwarzenegger's team is currently looking for funding opportunities to bring back the office of California-Mexico Affairs by 2005.

5. STAFF REPORT

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, discussed the guidelines for serving on a SANDAG working group (i.e. COBRO). He mentioned that those designated to become members of a working group are assumed to have the appropriate level of authority and understanding to serve in a representative capacity for their organization. He also mentioned that members are invited to share their organization's perspective with the COBRO and are supposed to report back to their organization on information obtained at the COBRO. Members should have also designated an alternate to represent their organizations in the event of their absence. Mr. Vanegas stated that SANDAG guidelines also state that with three unexcused absences, member(s) may be removed from the working group. Other areas mentioned were regarding conflict of interest and the fact that the COBRO has adopted certain guidelines that are unique to the COBRO, like renewing membership after the two year serving period.

Chair Saxod stated that during the last two meetings there had been a lack of quorum and that this was slowing down the efforts of the Group. She directed staff to draft letters to those members that have been periodically absent to determine whether they would be able to attend meetings or not. She suggested that the COBRO designate a sub-committee in the near future to look at current and possible members.

6. UNITED STATES VISITOR AND IMMIGRATION STATUS INDICATOR TECHNOLOGY (US VISIT)

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, briefed the COBRO on the recent visit of US VISIT director Jim Williams to San Diego. Mr. Williams and his staff held two meetings on Monday November 17, 2003 to address concerns associated with the implementation of an integrated entry and exit data system that would use available data to record alien arrivals and departures in an electronic format.

Some of the key comments made by Mr. Williams during these sessions were:

- That local laser-visa holders would not be inspected, only foreign nationals;
- That he recognized the concerns of border stakeholders;
- That he wanted to keep an open line of communication between his office and border stakeholders to prevent misinformation;
- That there would not be added delays at the ports of entry after the program was established;
- That the program was not intended to impact negatively on the region's economy; and
- That he wished to hold local stakeholder meetings for input on implementation.

Congresswoman Davis stated that, although this was an excellent initial meeting with the US VISIT office, there needed to be immediate follow up, such as establishing a direct line of communication with US VISIT staff and requesting periodic progress reports.

Members expressed concerns about exit capabilities and the fact that, although Mr. Williams was very positive in his outlook, he is in charge of implementation and not policy. Ms. Villagrana reminded the Group that that Mr. Williams emphasized that by the program's implementation deadline (December 2004), he would only seek to comply with the minimum mandated by Congress.

7. STATE ROUTE 905 UPDATE

Dean Hiatt, SANDAG, gave the Committee an update on the status of SR 905. Mr. Hiatt stated that SR 905 is currently a priority for the region and that funds had not been diverted away from the project. However, state funds that were coming into the region were less than anticipated and for this reason completion of the project would most likely have to be postponed until the next State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle. He also mentioned that Caltrans is currently looking for other opportunities to move the project forward quickly. Mr. Hiatt stated that the project had never been fully funded and was currently \$52 million short. The current TransNet reauthorization calls for the allocation of \$25 million for SR 905.

Mr. Hiatt stressed the need to keep our elected officials informed on the status and importance of the project and encouraged members of the COBRO to seek their support for additional state and Federal funds.

8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE, AND LOCATION

The COBRO's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 6, 2004 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in SANDAG's 7th floor conference room.

THE ATTENDANCE LIST IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

BORDERS POLICY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **3b**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)

Meeting Summary

January 6, 2004

The January 6, 2004, COBRO meeting was called to order by Chair Elsa Saxod.

Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Self-introductions were conducted. The Chair welcomed new COBRO member Cindy Gompper-Graves, Executive Director of South San Diego County Economic Development Council.

1. MEETING SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 2, 2003

The meeting summary for December 2, 2003, was accepted with no changes.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

No public comments were made.

3. CHAIR AND COBRO MEMBERS REPORT

Chair, Elsa Saxod, took the opportunity to thank SANDAG's Alex Hidalgo for his work for the Borders Program and to wish him success in his new position at SDSU's Office of International Programs. She encouraged him to continue to be involved in border issues through his new institutional affiliation.

Javier Diaz de Leon, Deputy Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, provided a background on the new Consul General of Mexico for San Diego, Luis Cabrera. Consul General Cabrera is a career diplomat with 35 years in the Mexican Foreign Service. Prior to his current appointment, the Consul General was posted in Washington, D.C. at the Mexican Embassy as Minister on Border Issues and liaison to the U.S. Congress. Among his areas of expertise in foreign policy is transboundary water issues. The Consul General's first official activity upon his arrival to San Diego was to participate in SANDAG's December 19th Board of Directors meeting. Consul General Cabrera is very interested in collaborating in SANDAG as an ex-officio member and in collaborating with COBRO. He will be moving to San Diego early January 2004 to take his position.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, reported on advances in the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US VISIT) program. A letter was sent to the Program Director, Jim Williams by the San Diego Alliance for Border Efficiency. Williams

verbally agreed to set up a communication mechanism to inform local stakeholders. Related to the US VISIT program, the Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC) will address this issue in its meeting on January 20, 2004. Angelika mentioned the town hall meeting on Homeland Security being organized by the Council for Excellence in Governance on January 15. She encouraged COBRO members and the public to go online and sign up to participate in the audience. Those who go should promote discussion of the USVISIT program. The committee will continue to monitor the development of this program.

Joaquín Lúken, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce, extended an invitation to members of the committee to attend their annual dinner to be held on January 30, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Embarcadero. Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, Special Assistant to Secretary Tom Ridge for the Private Sector, Department of Homeland Security, will be the keynote speaker. He also mentioned that he will keep COBRO updated on developments in the pilot project for commercial crossing/extended hours.

Cindy Gompper-Graves, South County Economic Development Council, expressed that SCEDC sees many opportunities for trade at the port, especially in relation to the opening of the railway. She looks forward to discussing trade corridor issues in Otay Mesa and exploring collaborative funding strategies.

Dave Fege, USEPA's San Diego office, provided an update on the developments of the Border 2012 program which was launched in April of 2003. Mr. Fege is the staff coordinator for California/Baja California Regional Working Group. He announced that the next meeting of the Border 2012 Regional Working Group will be held in Rosarito on March 3, 2004 (approx. 9am-2pm) and encouraged everyone to attend. The Regional Working Group is made up of state and federal environmental officials from the United States and Mexico. More details will be forthcoming. Copies of the Border 2012 program are available at the San Diego office of the USEPA.

4. STAFF REPORT

Hector Vanegas, SANDAG, introduced Jane Clough-Riquelme, who recently joined SANDAG's Borders Planning and Coordination Division. Prior to coming to SANDAG, Clough-Riquelme was the Director of Environment and Sustainable Development for the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, a research center at the University of California, San Diego.

He updated the committee on the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG). Thus far, the group has met six times. The last meeting was held in Tijuana in December, and the next will be held in February. Minutes and information regarding BEIG are available from staff. The BEIG was formed to facilitate a binational dialogue on energy issues as a result of the COBRO recommendation to the Borders Committee on 2002. The Board of Directors of SANDAG recently recommended that SANDAG assume leadership for implementation of its regional energy strategy and highlighted the relevance of BEIG's work as its binational component.

On December 19, 2004 the Board of Directors approved the recommendations from Borders regarding the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative. They also approved the recommendations from the "Maquila Survey" with the additional comments that the survey be sent to Caltrans and that Caltrans should be encouraged to pursue innovative funding mechanisms for

border-related projects. Recommendation that this report be presented to the Transportation Committee was also accepted.

The town hall meeting on *Homeland Security from the Citizens' Perspective* being held on January 15 (mentioned above) is one of the highlights of the calendar of events. Seating is limited so please sign up online. It will be televised live on Channel 10 at 8pm. The purpose of the town hall meeting is to examine San Diegans' attitudes about homeland security, identify critical areas of concern, and recommend practical steps for shaping effective policies and procedures in the future. The Institute of the Americas will be hosting its annual energy roundtable on January 28. Hector also mentioned that the meeting summary of the Good Neighbors Environmental Board was available from staff.

5. COBRO SUMMER CONFERENCE

Paul Ganster updated the committee on the work of the subcommittee for planning the summer conference. The subcommittee met and decided to recommend the topic of the 8th binational summer conference be **an overview of efforts in regional binational cooperation and an evaluation of how it is working in various sectors to date**. It seemed to subcommittee members that this year was an appropriate time to take a retrospective look at what has been accomplished thus far and where there are significant gaps in cooperation. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to look at what has been accomplished since the initiation of the Border Liasion Mechanism in 1993. He commented that it is important to fine tune the format so that the product of the conference would be specific policy recommendations. He presented a tentative agenda based on the discussions of the subcommittee. The agenda could be divide along the following lines: 1) provide a summary/overview of best practices in binational cooperation in various sectors; 2) identify areas where there are large gaps in collaboration; 3) have a keynote presentation which will provide an insight from a successful experience of another region of the world, or a local official who could raise issues and areas of concern; 4) breakout into working group sessions assigned with themes; and 5) have a plenary closing breakout groups present their specific presentation of recommendations arrived at by participants.

Discussion:

The committee discussed the suggestions of the subcommittee for the summer conference. It was agreed that the Multicultural Complex of the San Ysidro Middle School would be a suitable venue again this year and that efforts should be made to have as many SANDAG Board Members as possible attend. The two dates being considered at this point are July 9 and 16.

There was a discussion as to whether the focus should be cutting edge themes taken from the newspaper, or whether the conference is an opportunity to look ahead and point the region to the future. As the committee members discussed the possible themes within the idea of an overview and review of cooperation over the last decade, the following recommendations were made: 1) the themes discussed should be within the realm of influence of local/state agencies; 2) overviews should be presented from a few key sectors relevant to SANDAG's areas of influence; 3) the Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan provides a useful framework for identifying priority areas for discussion; 4) COBRO members should be encouraged to attend the breakout sessions to minimize lower attendance for the afternoon; 5) cutting edge themes should be considered to attract more interest; 6) recommendations for themes should be forwarded to staff; 7) significant Mexican input should be encouraged; 8) the conference should be start with an overview of past

COBRO conferences, recommendations made, actions taken, and results achieved; 9) the white paper prepared for the summer conference should include an overview of advances made by COBRO since its inception; 10) conference participants should have an opportunity to review the white paper prior to the conference so they can be prepared to contribute substantively and have clear guidelines as to what is expected of them; 11) the white paper should be in both languages; and 12) the conference will have interpreters.

It was recommended that everyone provide input to staff on what they would like to see on the agenda/components for conference before the next COBRO meeting in February.

6. SAN DIEGO TIJUANA CROSS-BORDER METROPOLITAN AREA

SANDAG consultant, Midi Cox, presented the results of a longitudinal study of Consolidated Metropolitan Border Areas (MBA), comparing Census data from the United States and Mexico from 1990 and 2000. She also included Canada's 2001 Census data. The data show that the relative size of MBAs has not changed. San Diego/Tijuana combined as a metropolitan region had a growth rate of 28% between 1990 and 2000. A summary of this report was included in the agenda package

Discussion

During discussion among the COBRO members and the public attending the meeting, the issue of the difficulty of collecting comparable data between Mexico and the United States was raised. Data on income distributions in San Diego and Tijuana were used as an example of how misleading the federal data can be. The Mexican Census, for example, creates a false sense of affluence in Tijuana because of the way they measure age ranges of the economically active population. Another example was home ownership; the Mexican Census does not distinguish between homes built within the city building codes and informal housing in squatter settlements. Ms. Cox stressed that her analysis is constrained by the way the data is made available. She analyzed data available from these federal sources and that unfortunately researchers do not have access to the raw data. They have to rely on predetermined tabulations provided by the respective Census bureaus in each country.

A similar study of San Diego Dialogue, "Who Crosses the Border," was brought up, and it was asked whether a follow up was being planned. Ms. Cox has several surveys between 1968-1998 which have information on crossborder spending habits. To her knowledge, they indicate no major changes. Martha Lima, San Diego Dialogue, mentioned that South County EDC is in the process of analyzing data collected from a crossborder survey but clarified that this is a new study and not an update of "Who Crosses the Border."

The discussion raised the issue of the need for better crossborder regional data which allows us as a region to make real comparisons. The federally generated data is severely limiting.

7. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE, AND LOCATION

The COBRO's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 3, 2004 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in SANDAG's 7th floor conference room.

THE ATTENDANCE LIST IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

BORDERS POLICY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **4**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of Friday

January 16, 2004

The January 16, 2004 meeting of the I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) Policy Committee was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Temecula City Hall. Committee Members in attendance were Co-chair Hon. Jeff Comerchero (City of Temecula), Co-chair Hon. Crystal Crawford (City of Del Mar), Hon. Robert Schiffner (City of Lake Elsinore), Hon. Jack Van Haaster (City of Murrieta), Hon. Thomas Buckley (County of Riverside member of the SANDAG Borders Committee/City of Lake Elsinore), Hon. Ed Gallo (City of Escondido), Hon. Patricia McCoy (City of Imperial Beach), Hon. Phil Monroe (City of Coronado), Hon. David Powell (City of Solana Beach), and Hon. Judy Ritter (City of Vista).

The following guests and I-15 IRP Technical Working Group (TWG) members were in attendance: Michael Buchanan (The Californian), Edgar A. Perez (Parsons Engineering), Rody Solman (Press Enterprise). Maurice Eaton (Caltrans District 11), Stevie Field (Southwestern Riverside County Economic Alliance), Bill Figge (Caltrans District 11), Kim Knowles-Yanez (Cal State San Marcos), Jim O'Grady (City of Temecula), Tom Rogers (representing State senator Dennis Hollingsworth), and Diane Sessions (Economic Development Council of Southwestern Riverside County).

The following I-15 IRP staff members were also in attendance: Arnold San Miguel (SCAG), Elgeritte Adidjaja and Kevin Viera (WRCOG), and Susan Baldwin, Jane Clough-Riquelme, Marney Cox, George Franck, Jeff Martin, and Mike McLaughlin (SANDAG).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Jeff Comerchero welcomed Policy Committee members and guests. Policy Committee members and others attending the meeting introduced themselves.

2. I-15 IRP Policy Committee Discussion and Actions – September 19, 2003

The draft meeting summary for the June meeting was approved without change.

3. Public Comments and Communications

There were no public comments or communications.

4. SCAG Draft 2030 Regional Transportation Plan

Arnold San Miguel presented "Destination 2030," the long-range transportation plan (RTP) and "growth vision" for the six county SCAG region. This plan is designed to respect local general plans (that include land use assumptions to promote greater jobs/housing balance), reduce congestion, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and improve the quality of life in the SCAG region. The draft RTP includes MagLeg "extensions" into San Diego County on I-15 after the year 2030. The plan proposes widening I-15 & I-215 with both general purpose & High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. This item was an information item and the I-15 IRP Policy Committee took no action on the draft.

5. Proposed Interregional Partnership (IRP) Strategies

Staff presented the major changes in the proposed strategies since the Policy Committee last reviewed the strategy concepts over the course of several meetings in 2003. The Committee accepted the 21 strategies recommended by the Technical Working Group with the following comments:

Strategy T1 – High Speed Rail Service in the I-15 Corridor: The I-15 IRP should monitor and support the implementation and operation of high speed rail (HSR) service in the corridor, not actively pursue the construction of these facilities because the California HSR Authority has the primary responsibility for this project. SCAG has a similar proposal that would be privately funded. The primary responsibility of the IRP will be to actively pursue the implementation of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) facilities and transit shuttle services to employment sites in the corridor.

Co-chairperson Crawford said that that the IRP should monitor and support high speed rail (HSR) service in the corridor. HSR is clearly a state initiative; similarly, Mag-Lev service is a SCAG initiative.

Strategy H5 – Infill Development in Older Neighborhoods: The Policy Committee determined that infill residential development in existing neighborhoods would have a "moderate", as opposed to "low", effect on the current jobs-housing accessibility in San Diego and southwestern Riverside County. While this strategy would primarily be implemented by local cities, the IRP should monitor and support infill programs in the corridor. The I-15 IRP will actively pursue programs that would provide incentives for the construction of moderate-cost family housing near major employment centers, primarily in San Diego County.

Strategy H2 - State-Local Fiscal Reform: Following a presentation and discussion of SANDAG's proposal for Achieving State-Local Fiscal Reform in California (in the next agenda item), the Policy Committee reaffirmed Housing Strategy H2 that attempts to support fiscal changes that would encourage the construction of new housing in California. The Committee did not support any specific reform proposal.

Action: The I-15 IRP Policy Committee approved the 21 strategies recommended by the TWG for incorporation in the draft program, with the following changes:

- a. The infill housing strategy (H5) should be shown to have moderate positive effect on jobs-housing balance, and
- b. The IRP should be to monitor and support the implementation of HSR, insuring that the option of commuter service in the High Speed Rail right-of-way is preserved.

6. State-Local Fiscal Reform

Marney Cox presented SANDAG's proposed reform that would encourage local agencies to permit the construction of housing while protecting the stability of local revenues. Since the passage of Proposition 13, the legislature and governor have been using traditional local government revenues to balance the State budget, eroding local fiscal control. As a result, cities and counties have favored land development of retail sites that generate sales tax, while discouraging housing that tends to generate less tax revenue than the cost of services required by residents. This "fiscalization of land use" has destructive influences on local land use decisions – cities have no incentive to permit or encourage housing construction.

SANDAG recommendation: a) protects local resources; b) does not require new taxes to implement reform; c) holds jurisdictions harmless (that is, all jurisdictions receive about the same amount of tax revenue); and d) brings state fiscal policies into line with "smart growth." The proposal does not change the existing one cent sales tax provided to local government.

SANDAG's proposal is an even exchange of current revenues: Vehicle License Fee (VLF), gas tax, home owners exemption, property tax, sales tax, and ½ cent "subvention" funds. State and local revenue would be distributed on a per capita basis. Funding is distributed to jurisdictions where the population lives, not where they spend their money.

Under the current funding structure, commercial development can return 11 times more tax revenue to local jurisdictions than housing development. If SANDAG's proposal is implemented, commercial development would return only 2.5 times more tax revenue than housing development. The objective is to make it more profitable for a city to encourage housing, rather than retail by connecting land use decisions to supportive revenue. The current fiscal arrangement disconnects sustainable land use and revenue generation.

The Policy Committee member's main concerns include the potential reduction in the diversity of local agency revenue sources. The greatest advantage is that more revenue would be free of "tagging" – that is, required to be spent on specific items. More than half of SANDAG's jurisdictions support the proposal. Committee members noted that the State's motivation for embracing fiscal reform is the promotion of housing as part of its economic development efforts. It was noted that assembly member Ducheny is drawing up a similar proposal for the state legislature. Nevertheless, Committee members expressed concern that a major fiscal reform can open up opportunities for the state to divert additional local revenues.

Action: In item #5 (above), the I-15 IRP Policy Committee approved Fiscal Reform as a long-range housing strategy in the draft IRP program.

7. Progress Report on Short Range Transportation Strategies

Maurice Eaton said that the expansion of the I-15/Route 76 Park & Ride lot is under construction. This project was one of the short-term strategies supported by the IRP. Caltrans is considering a ribbon cutting ceremony and will notify I-15 IRP members if one is held.

Jeff Martin reported that about 400 passengers per month ride the interregional commuter service connecting southwestern Riverside County and the Oceanside Transit Center. The Riverside Transit Authority (RTA) is working with North County Transit District staff to refine service. Committee members suggested that service can be extended to Escondido.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission has prepared a new homeowner packet for distribution through development offices. SANDAG is designing a similar brochure for initial testing in Chula Vista. Southwestern Riverside County continues to be SANDAG's most productive car/vanpool program market. Committee members noted that rideshare programs are relatively slow to develop. SANDAG is developing a "telework" program with employers.

8. Progress Report/Next Steps

Kevin Viera stated that community outreach activities will increase over the next few months, with presentations made to local governments, community groups, and other organizations. Policy Committee members were asked to suggest groups which would be interested in IRP information.

SANDAG and WRCOG have applied for a CALTRANS grant for the next phase of the IRP. Co-chair Comerchero said that continuity of the IRP was needed. Mike McLaughlin said that SANDAG was committed to continuing the interregional activities, but the extent of the effort will depend whether Caltrans funds the new proposal.

9. Next Meeting Date and Location

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting of the I-15 IRP Policy Committee is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. at Escondido City Hall.

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BORDERS COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **5**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

UPDATE ON THE I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (I-15 IRP)

Introduction

On Friday, January 16, 2004, the I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP) Policy Committee, which is comprised of Borders Committee members and elected officials from southwestern Riverside County, met in Temecula and approved 21 strategies (see attached list) recommended by the I-15 IRP Technical Working Group for inclusion in the draft final report for the I-15 Interregional Partnership. The draft report is scheduled for release in March. (A summary of the January 16 I-15 IRP Policy Committee meeting is attached as Item #4 of this agenda packet)

The proposed strategies (Attachment 1) are intended to address the jobs/housing imbalance between the San Diego region and southwestern Riverside County, and are focused on improving economic development in southwestern Riverside in collaboration with the San Diego region, increasing the supply of moderate income housing in the San Diego region, and improving transportation between the two regions as described below.

Economic Development:

- The focus is on expanding employment in the existing economic clusters in the two-county area and
- Increasing coordination and collaboration between regional economic development agencies.

Housing:

- Strategies focus on ways to increase the construction of moderate cost family housing and infill housing in the San Diego region.
- State-local fiscal reform was supported to promote the construction of housing.

Transportation:

- Long range actions focus on expanding the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and transit capacity between the two regions.
- Short range strategies are already being undertaken by SANDAG and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) staff to coordinate ridesharing; and
- North County transit staff is working with RCTC to make service improvements.

Following acceptance of the draft final report in March, staff from SANDAG and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) will implement an outreach program to obtain comments on the report from agencies and organizations in both regions. In accordance with the California Department of Housing and Community Development grant that funded this project, the final report is scheduled to be completed in June, 2004.

BOB LEITER

Director of Land Use and Transportation

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I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROPOSED STRATEGIES

January 16, 2004

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- Strategy ED1: Facilitate Greater Collaboration between Regional Economic Development Entities
- Strategy ED2: Improve Job Growth through the Promotion of New Employment Opportunities in the Cluster Industries that Drive the Bi-regional Economies

HOUSING STRATEGIES

- Strategy H1: Provide a Range of Housing Affordability and Housing Types in All Communities
- Strategy H2: Support Fiscal Reform to Encourage Housing Construction
- Strategy H3: Provide Incentives for the Construction of Moderate Cost Family Housing Near Employment Centers
- Strategy H4: Require the Construction of Moderate Cost Family Housing in New Development Near Employment Centers
- Strategy H5: Encourage Infill Development in Older Residential Neighborhoods

TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES

- Strategy T1: Support High Speed Rail Transit Service in the I-15 Corridor
- Strategy T2: Implement Transit Shuttle Services to Interregional Transit
- Strategy T3: Preserve Transportation Rights-of-Way and Implement Priority Measures through the Development Process
- Strategy T4: Implement the I-15 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) System
- Strategy T5: Interregional Coordination of Vanpool and Carpool Programs
- Strategy T6: Expand Park-and-Ride Lots and Improve Rideshare Information Signage
- Strategy T7: Joint Outreach and Marketing for Transit, Vanpool, and Ridesharing Programs
- Strategy T8: Implement Interregional Public Transit Commuter Services
- Strategy T9: Collaboration among Transit Providers
- Strategy T10: Advocate for Employer-Subsidized Transit Passes
- Strategy T11: Encourage the Adoption of Alternative Work Schedules
- Strategy T12: Encourage Tele-work

PROGRAM STRATEGIES

- Strategy P1: Support/Sponsor Legislation that Provides Incentives for Jobs/Housing Balance Programs
- Strategy P2: Actively Engage in Community Outreach

BORDERS COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **6**

Action Requested: APPROVE

SANDAG'S 2004 ANNUAL BINATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

Introduction

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) has been organizing SANDAG's Annual Binational Summer Conference since 1997. The event is organized with support from the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego and the Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana. Previous topics have dealt with regional water supply; education and the economy; energy, transportation, and trade infrastructure; communications; ports of entry infrastructure; border financing mechanisms; and homeland security.

Action

COBRO recommends that the Borders Committee approve the title, date and location for the 2004 Annual Binational Summer Conference as:

Title: "Cooperation Across the California-Baja California Border: Where Do We Go from Here?"
Date: July 16, 2004
Location: Multicultural Complex of the San Ysidro Middle School
4345 Otay Mesa Road
San Ysidro, CA 92173

Discussion

To start the organization of SANDAG's 2004 Annual Binational Summer Conference, the COBRO formed a taskforce which is presenting a recommendation for the title, date and location.

At its January 6, 2004 meeting, the COBRO discussed the recommendation of the subcommittee for the summer conference. It was agreed to recommend that:

- Last year's meeting site, the Multicultural Complex of the San Ysidro Middle School, would be a suitable venue again this year;
- Efforts should be made to have as many SANDAG Board Members as possible attend; and
- The meeting should be held on July 16 to avoid summer class conflicts.

COBRO also recommended that the topic for this year's event should be, "Cooperation Across the California-Baja California Border: Where Do We Go From Here?" This approach would provide an overview of efforts in regional binational cooperation and an evaluation of how it is working in

various sectors to date. It seemed to subcommittee members that this year was an appropriate time to take a retrospective look at what has been accomplished thus far and where there are significant gaps in cooperation. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to look at what has been accomplished since the initiation of the Border Liaison Mechanism in 1993. Possible categories would be: land use planning; higher education; trade; natural areas protection and conservation; watershed management; transportation; emergency response; water and energy; air sheds; border mechanisms (Border 2012, Border Liaison Mechanism, IBWC, etc); and non-governmental organizations. COBRO members emphasized the importance of fine tuning the format so that the product of the conference would be three or four specific policy recommendations. The committee will now work to narrow the themes and identify speakers.

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BORDERS COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **7**

Action Requested: INFORMATION

DEVELOPMENTS OF U.S.EPA/SEMARNAT¹ BORDER 2012

In April of 2003 the United States and Mexico officially launched the next phase of their efforts to coordinate border environmental policy, entitled *Border 2012*. According to the USEPA, this ten-year program “emphasizes a bottom-up, regional approach, anticipating that local decision-making, priority-setting, and project implementation will best address environmental issues in the border region. It brings together a wide variety of stakeholders to produce prioritized and sustained actions that consider the environmental needs of the different border communities.”² The organizational structure for Border 2012 has changed significantly from the previous border environmental program known as Border XXI with the focus now on a regional approach, rather than a borderwide approach (Attachment 1).

Border states were paired into Regional Workgroups. The California-Baja California Regional Workgroup is composed of high level, regional representatives from the four state and federal environmental agencies operating in the Baja-California border region. Specifically, the four co-chairs are Laura Yoshii, Deputy Regional Administrator of EPA's Region 9 Office; Terry Tamminen, Secretary of Cal-EPA; Carlos de la Parra, SEMARNAT Delegate for Baja; and Enrique Villegas, Director of Ecologia for the State of Baja California.

The first California-Baja California Workgroup met in Calexico on May 29, 2003 (minutes available on USEPA website: www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder). The purpose of the public meeting was to inform the regional stakeholders of the process for forming taskforces, based on the regional priorities established during the creation of the Border 2012 Framework, and applying for funding for projects related to Border 2012 objectives in the region. The Border 2012 Framework and regional priorities were established through a year long process of public comment and exchange between local, regional, and federal agencies and community stakeholders across the entire border.

For California-Baja California the priorities are: “Air quality, water supply and sanitation, hazardous waste management, and cross-border emergency response capability. Specifically, the public voiced air quality concerns regarding the proposed power plants in Mexicali, soil particles in the air from the Salton Sea vehicle emissions and brick-kiln burnings in Tecate, as well as trash burning in many cities. Water quality issues raised by the public included the Salton Sea, and the Colorado River Basin, and often were related to new power plants, untreated sewage, and the presence of oil in water and drains.”³

¹ SEMARNAT is Mexico's Environmental Secretariat “*Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales*”

² Downloaded on 1/23/04 from <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/index.htm#regional>

³ Downloaded from USEPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/index.htm#regional> on 1/23/04

Since the May meeting, various groups and coalitions working on different areas related to Border 2012 have been pursuing organizing into Border 2012 Taskforces. The next Regional Workgroup meeting will be held at the Rosarito Beach Hotel on March 3 from 9-2 p.m. The major purpose of the meeting is for the newly formed Task Forces established under Border 2012 by the Regional Workgroup to publicly update the Co-Chairs on the progress that they are making on implementing Border 2012. Currently, Task Forces that have been formed in the California-Baja California area include (see Attachment 2 for contact details):

- San Diego-Tijuana Chemical Emergency Preparedness Response Task Force
- Imperial County-Mexicali Chemical Emergency Preparedness Response Task Force
- California/Baja California Waste and Enforcement Task Force
- California/Baja California Environmental Education Task Force
- Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Task Force
- Tijuana River Watershed Task Force

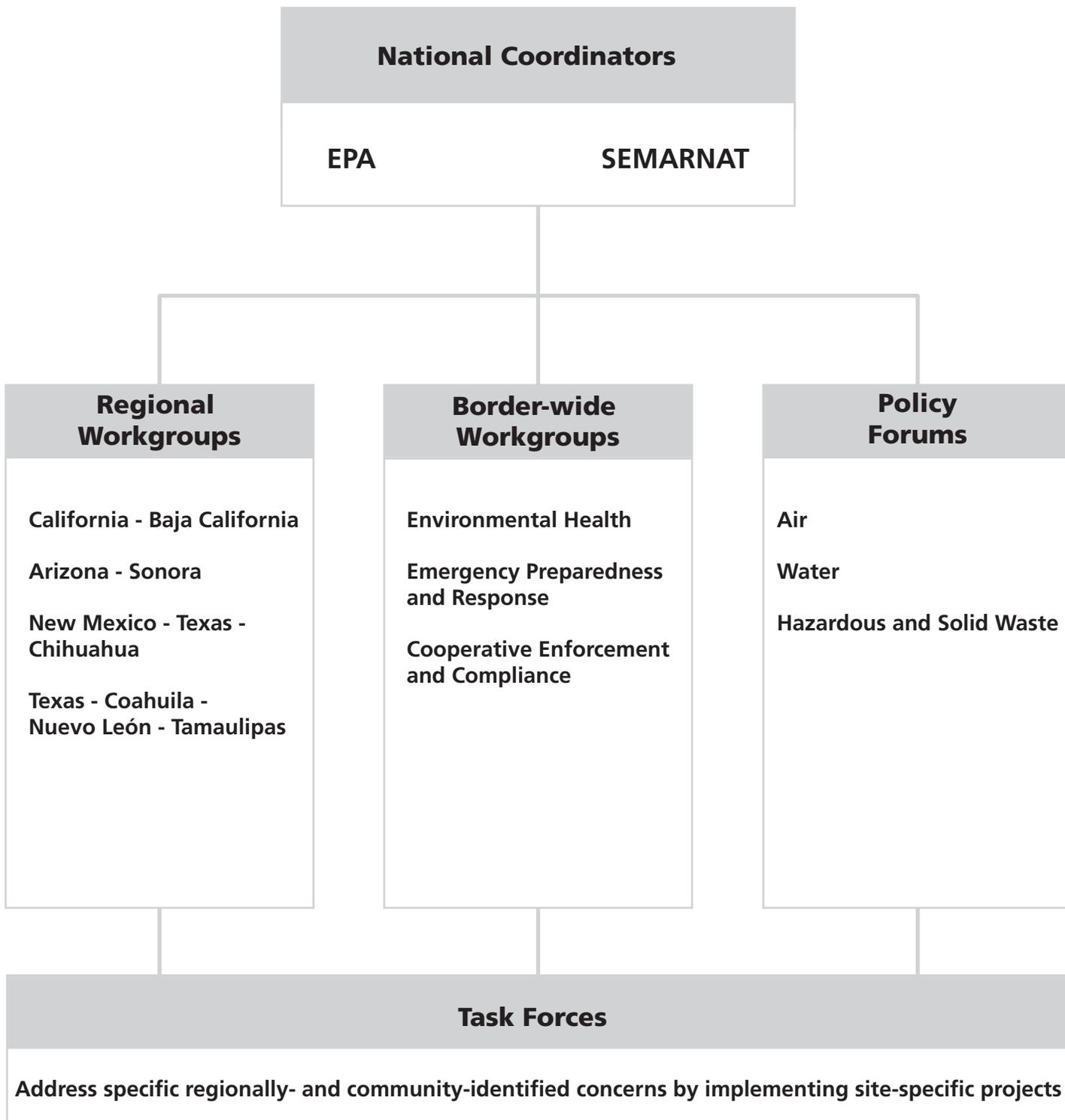
The Regional Workgroup is working on establishing a San Diego-Tijuana Air Quality Task Force. A meeting to discuss the creation of that Taskforce is set for February 26, 2004.

Staff has been pursuing ways in which SANDAG, through the Borders Committee, can become more involved in Border 2012 efforts.

1. We have requested a place on the Workgroup meeting agenda for March 3, 2004. The purpose would be to present information about SANDAG and the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG).
2. Energy, per se, was not identified as a priority issue under the Border 2012 program because it is not an area in which the environmental agencies have primary policy influence. However, regional stakeholders have been increasingly concerned that energy is not an issue being addressed by Border 2012. In December of 2003 stakeholders from various sectors including local government, universities, private sector, chambers of commerce, and environmentalists initiated a binational dialogue on energy and sustainable development in the Californias. SANDAG and the BEIG have been involved in this dialogue. There is an informal proposal for the creation of an Energy Taskforce for the Regional Workgroup. This issue will be raised at the March 3 meeting of the Workgroup.
3. Staff also recommends that SANDAG's Borders program participate in one of the established Taskforces that fits within the priorities of the Borders Chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The most appropriate would probably be the Tijuana River Watershed Water Taskforce, as one of the policy objectives in the Borders Chapter is to "Protect habitat corridors, watersheds, and air basins that cross our binational and interregional boundaries." The City's Office of Binational Affairs co-chairs this Task Force.

BOB LEITER
Director of Land Use and Transportation

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Source: <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/images/org1.jpg>

California-Baja California Task Force Co-Chairs

Task Force	U. S. Co-Chair and Address	Phone Numbers	E-Mail Address	Mexico Co-Chair and Address	Phone Numbers	E-mail Address
Chemical Emergency Preparedness Response Task Force—San Diego/Tijuana	Mike Dorsey Chief County of San Diego Dept of Env. Health Hazardous Materials Division P.O. Box 129261 San Diego, CA 92112-9261	(619) 338-2395 (619) 338-2139 (fax)	michael.dorsey@sdcounty.ca.gov	Lic. Ricardo Castellanos Delegado PROFEPA Estado de Baja California Ave. Lic. Alfonso Garcia Gonzalez No. 555 Colonia Prof. Federales Mexicali, BC MEXICO 21370	(52) 686-568-9266 (52) 686-568-9267 (52) 686-458-9252 (fax)	
Chemical Emergency Preparedness Response Task Force—Imperial Valley/Mexicali	Joe Buzo Chief Imperial County Fire Department 2514 La Brucherie Rd. Imperial, CA 92251	(760) 355-1191 (760) 355-1482	joebuzo@imperialcounty.net	Raymundo Noriega Sub-Director Protección Civil Estado de Baja California Lago Winepeg 441 Esquina Grandes Lagos Fraccionamiento Jardines del Lago Mexicali, B.C. MEXICO 21330	(52) 686-557-2850 (52) 686-557-4758 (fax)	raymundo_noriega@yahoo.com.mx
California/Baja California Waste and Enforcement Task Force	Emily Pimentel (Waste Co-Chair) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WST-2 75 Hawthorne St. San Francisco, CA 94105	415 972-3326 415-947-3530 fax	Pimentel.Emily@epa.gov	Lic. Ricardo Castellanos Delegado PROFEPA Estado de Baja California Ave. Lic. Alfonso Garcia Gonzalez No. 555 Colonia Prof. Federales Mexicali, BC MEXICO 21370	(52) 686-568-9266 (52) 686-568-9267 (52) 686-458-9252 (fax)	
	John Rothman Enforcement Co-Chair U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ORC-1 75 Hawthorne St. San Francisco, CA 94105	415 972-3923 415-947-3571 fax	Rothman.john@epa.gov			
	Lisa Brown State of California Co-Chair California Environmental Protection Agency 1001 I St. Sacramento, CA 95814	916 322-7310 916-324-0908 fax	Lbrown@calepa.ca.gov			

Task Force	U. S. Co-Chair and Address	Phone Numbers	E-Mail Address	Mexico Co-Chair and Address	Phone Numbers	E-mail Address
California/Baja California Environmental Education Task Force	Erik Lee Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies University of California, San Diego 9500 Gilman Drive, 0510 La Jolla, CA 92093-0510	858 822-0056 858-534-6447 fax	ewlee@ucsd.edu	Laura Silvan Proyecto Fronterizo de la Educacion Ambiental 710 E. San Ysidro Blvd. # 88 San Ysidro, CA 92173	011-52-664-630-05-90 011-52-664-630-05-90 fax (call for fax tone)	ambiente@proyectorfronterizo.org.mx
Air Quality Task Force-Imperial Valley/Mexicali	Kimberly Collins Director CCEBRES San Diego State University 720 Heber Ave. Calexico, CA 92231	760-768-5510 760-768-5583 (fax)	kcollins@mail.sdsu.edu	Dr. Margarito Qunitero Nunez Universidad Autonoma de Baja California 904 Lincoln Calexico, CA 92231 Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Av. De la Normal S/N cruce con Blvd. Benito Juarez, Col. Insurgentes este, Mexicali, B.C. 21280	011-52-686-566-41-50	maquinu@iing.mxl.uabc.mx
Tijuana River Watershed Task Force	Elsa Saxod City of San Diego Office of Binational Affairs 1010 Second St., Suite 520 San Diego, CA 92101	619-533-3466 619-533-3866	esaxod@sandiego.gov	Laura Silvan Proyecto Fronterizo de la Educacion Ambiental 710 E. San Ysidro Blvd. # 88 San Ysidro, CA 92173	011-52-664-630-05-90 011-52-664-630-05-90 fax (call for fax tone)	ambiente@proyectorfronterizo.org.mx

BORDERS COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **9**

Action Requested: DISCUSSION

IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FY 2004 AND THE PROPOSED FY2005 WORK PLAN

Introduction

The Borders Committee was formed on November of 2001 and its first meeting took place on February 15, 2002. During 2003 the Committee guided staff, among other actions, in preparing the Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) in which key issues, goals, policy objectives, and actions were identified. A discussion of the work program for this year will provide an opportunity to set priorities for the remainder of the current year and fiscal year 2005.

Recommendation

The Committee should review current "Borders" activities and key areas described in the Borders Chapter of the draft RCP to establish priorities for the Committee's work program for the remainder of FY 2004 and FY 2005.

Discussion

Vision

During last year, the Committee developed the guiding principles and vision statement to provide the framework for the preparation of the Borders Chapter of the RCP, and ultimately to guide SANDAG's working relations with its surrounding neighbors.

- Our region will pursue fair and equitable planning with consideration of interregional impacts and will maintain active and honest communication with our neighboring counties, tribal governments and the Republic of Mexico.
- Our region will promote shared infrastructure, efficient transportation systems, integrated environmental planning and economic development with our neighboring counties, tribal governments and the Republic of Mexico.
- Our region recognizes that it is a unique and dynamic place to live—one that embraces cultural diversity, promotes interregional understanding, and benefits from our varied history and experience.

Previous and Ongoing Binational and Interregional Activities

Binational activities first appeared in SANDAG's Overall Work Program as early as 1978. At that time, SANDAG recognized the need to coordinate long term planning and programming in the

border region. The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) was formally established in 1996 as a policy advisory committee to the SANDAG Board of Directors. In 2002 its mission was modified to serve as a working group to the new Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of the binational border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.

The Consul General of Mexico, an appointment made by the President of the Republic of Mexico, and ratified by their Congress as the representative of Mexico to the authorities of the jurisdiction of San Diego, is an Advisory Member of the SANDAG Board of Directors, and Ex-Officio member to the Borders Committee and Co-Chair of the COBRO and the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG).

Interregional planning has also been an important aspect of SANDAG's mission. The I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) was formed in 2001 to address a growing set of mutually relevant growth-related planning issues, including the mix of jobs and housing between San Diego and Western Riverside Counties. The Partnership initiated activities in FY 2002 with the assistance of a grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to focus on the jobs/housing issues. The Partnership has developed a set of short- and long-range strategies that it is now refining, based, in part, on the findings of a commuter survey conducted through the grant.

The Borders Committee is advised by representatives from the surrounding counties although Orange County has not appointed any member to serve as Ex-Officio member.

Borders Planning Areas

The key areas identified in the Borders Chapter of the RCP are:

- Access to Jobs and Housing,
- Transportation,
- Energy and Water Supply,
- Environment,
- Economic Development, and
- Homeland Security.

The Borders Chapter includes a brief description of the current state of these issues, from two basic perspectives: a) interregional, when referring to issues pertinent to the relation with the counties of Orange, Riverside and Imperial; and b) a binational perspective for those transboundary issues with the Republic of Mexico. Additionally, the Borders Committee, acknowledging the importance of Tribal Nations, incorporated a third perspective to address issues with the Tribal Governments within the County of San Diego. The Tribal Government perspective was described using existing information included in documents from the County of San Diego and Caltrans, as well as SANDAG's Tribal Government Summit of October 11, 2002.

Since its formation, the Borders Committee has overseen the work of the COBRO, including the preparation of two Binational Summer Conferences; and initiation of the I-15 Interregional Partnership, which is a voluntary partnership between elected officials representing SANDAG, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG). The I-15 IRP includes a policy committee and a technical working group.

Implementing the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP): Recommended Actions

The draft RCP is now in the final stage of public comment and will be brought back to SANDAG's Board of Directors in June of 2004 for final approval. In order to finalize the Implementation Chapter, staff has been working to identify actions. In the Attachment 1 you will find the recommended actions related to the Borders Chapter which were identified in the draft RCP.

The implementation strategy for the RCP rests on three fundamental building blocks:

1. Policy objectives that should be incorporated into local and regional plans;
2. Actions that should be taken within certain timeframes by the various agencies and stakeholders in order to implement the ideas contained in the RCP and secure necessary funding sources; and
3. Compacts, which are agreements among the various stakeholders to implement the key actions identified in the plan.

The Borders Committee is asked to review the list of actions included in the Borders chapter. Because of the wide range of actions identified in the RCP, the Implementation Framework chapter of the RCP recommends that a list of "Strategic Initiatives" (prioritized sets of related actions) be developed. Strategic Initiatives allow the actions to be organized within a regional framework and prioritized by timeframe.

Prioritizing Actions

Staff has developed a matrix (see Attachment 2) which outlines: a) current levels of engagement with our neighbors, b) the areas of mutual interest identified in the Borders Chapter of the RCP, and c) the progress made thus far in establishing relationships and/or addressing transboundary issues with neighboring counties, tribal governments, and the Republic of Mexico.

In addition to prioritizing actions for implementation of the RCP, the following are some areas of opportunities that staff identified for the purpose of initiating a discussion on priorities for the remainder of FY 2004 and FY 2005:

- 1) *Riverside County*: The current I-15 IRP project will come to an end in June of 2004, when the strategies to address the jobs/housing balance, transportation, and economic development between San Diego region and western Riverside County, will be presented to the Board of Directors. The focus of the enhanced work element would be to extend the interregional planning agenda into the area of economic development through the implementation of an interregional economic cluster analysis. The purpose of this study would be to: determine the relationships between businesses in both regions; identify gaps where new businesses could be developed or attracted to the region; and determine how western Riverside and San Diego can best develop a mutually beneficial interregional economic strategy drawing on their respective assets. This model can evolve into a broader interregional compact which would be based on the principle of equitable development.

- 2) *Republic of Mexico:* A strong planning and working relationship with the Republic of Mexico and the municipalities of Baja California could evolve into new mechanisms for creative dialogue. The Committee should seek the advice and guidance of the newly appointed Consul of Mexico on the best manner in which to explore possibilities for strengthening and improving ties with Mexico.
- 3) *Imperial County:* The Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG) has designated a representative to join SANDAG as advisory member to the Board and member of the Borders Committee in accordance with SB 1703. Jointly with the member from Imperial County, the Committee could discuss frameworks and a mechanism to further develop a stronger relationship between the two regions. Some opportunities identified in the Borders Chapter of the RCP relate to economic development, energy, and transportation infrastructure.
- 4) *Tribal Governments:* The Committee should work with Tribal Governments to jointly develop actions. It is critical for the development of a strong and trustworthy relationship with Tribal Governments in San Diego County that a framework for action, as well the identification of priorities be the result of a joint process.
- 5) *Orange County:* The Committee should evaluate the need for having a representative from Orange County and, based on that decision, identify ways to ensure policy engagement with this neighboring county.

BOB LEITER

Director of Land Use and Transportation

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**BORDER-RELATED ACTIONS
INCLUDED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK CHAPTER OF THE
DRAFT REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

ACTION	FEDERAL / STATE AGENCIES	REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES	CITIES/ COUNTY	SERVICE PROVIDERS	OTHERS
4) HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT – NATURAL HABITATS					
A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS					
1. Link habitat corridors within San Diego County and with surrounding counties and the <i>Republic of Mexico</i> to create interregional and international preserve systems.	✓	✓	✓		
9) PUBLIC FACILITIES – WATER SUPPLY					
A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS					
1. Create opportunities to coordinate water supply strategies with areas <i>beyond our jurisdictional boundaries</i> .	✓	✓		✓	
10) PUBLIC FACILITIES – ENERGY					
A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS					
1. Create opportunities to coordinate energy supply strategies between governments in our greater border region.		✓	✓	✓	
21) BORDERS – JOBS/ HOUSING					
A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS					
1. Develop additional interregional partnerships with neighboring counties, tribal governments, and Mexico to address land use and transportation needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with transportation and planning authorities from Orange and Imperial Counties, tribal governments, and the municipalities of Tijuana and Tecate to discuss potential partnerships in those areas. • Coordinate policies with the Republic of Mexico to address binational commuting patterns. 	✓	✓	✓		
2. Implement I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) long-range transportation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support high-speed rail service in the I-15 corridor. 		✓	✓		
3. Implement IRP economic development strategies to increase job creation in southwest Riverside County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate greater collaboration between regional economic development entities. 		✓	✓		✓
4. Implement IRP long-range housing strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a range of housing affordability and housing types in all communities. 			✓		

ACTION	FEDERAL / STATE AGENCIES	REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES	CITIES/ COUNTY	SERVICE PROVIDERS	OTHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalize older residential neighborhoods. 					
B. PROGRAMS & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS					
1. Implement IRP short-range transportation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate interregional vanpool and carpool programs. Expand park-and-ride lots and improve rideshare information signage. Conduct joint outreach and marketing for transit, vanpool, and ridesharing programs. Implement interregional public transit commuter services. Collaborate with transit providers. Advocate employer-based rideshare incentives. Encourage adoption of alternative work schedules. Encourage telecommuting. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Implement IRP long-range transportation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement transit shuttle services for interregional transit, Preserve transportation rights-of-way and implement priority measures through the development process, Complete the I-15 high-occupancy vehicle system. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Implement IRP economic development strategies to increase job creation in southwest Riverside County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Web site to link I-15 commuters with nearby jobs and promote business creation, and Map the broadband service coverage area in southwest Riverside County. Actively engage in community outreach about the interregional partnership and its strategies. 		✓	✓		✓
C. FUNDING ACTIONS					
1. Implement IRP jobs/housing accessibility strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support/sponsor legislation that provides incentives for jobs/housing accessibility and mix programs. Establish a “Coordinated Funding Group” to support the implementation efforts of the interregional partnership. 		✓	✓		
2. Develop additional interregional partnerships with neighboring counties, tribal governments, and Mexico to address land use and transportation needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and pursue funding to develop new partnerships. 	✓	✓	✓		
3. Implement IRP long-range housing strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide incentives for the construction of moderate cost family housing near employment centers. 	✓	✓	✓		

ACTION	FEDERAL / STATE AGENCIES	REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES	CITIES/ COUNTY	SERVICE PROVIDERS	OTHERS
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22) BORDERS – TRANSPORTATION

A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Support high-speed rail service in the I-15 corridor. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 2. Support the use of technology at the ports of entry and the expansion of SENTRI-like programs for passengers and cargo. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 3. Encourage off-peak use of rail capacity for rail freight movement, and evaluate using managed/HOV facilities for goods movement during off-peak periods. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 4. Ensure compatibility of transportation lanes at county lines. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 5. Review the potential for consolidating intermodal rail, truck, and air cargo freight terminals at specific staging areas. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6. Support the use of transit centers and transportation facilities by agencies from outside of the county. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 7. Form a working group between SANDAG, Caltrans, the County of San Diego and tribal governments to assess rural/reservation transit and transportation needs, and develop strategies to meet these needs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |

B. PROGRAMS & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Implement I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) short and long-range transportation strategies listed in the Access to Jobs and Housing section. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2. Support binational freight opportunities by reopening and upgrading the Desert Line of the SD&AE Railway (between Tecate and the Imperial Valley) and upgrading existing freight service between San Diego and Tecate. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

C. FUNDING ACTIONS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Provide transportation funding for key trade corridors in the border regions. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 2. Secure funding for needed transportation infrastructure in the region's border areas and coordinate the implementation of border-related capital and operating improvements with the federal General Services Administration (GSA). | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |

23) BORDERS – ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY

A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS

E) Energy Actions

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Increase the use of renewable energy resources throughout the binational and interregional region. | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|

ACTION	FEDERAL / STATE AGENCIES	REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES	CITIES/ COUNTY	SERVICE PROVIDERS	OTHERS
2. Develop a mechanism to reach consensus on energy issues at the interregional and international level.	✓	✓	✓		
3. Continue to support the Border Energy Issues Group as a forum for discussion and development of strategies regarding binational energy issues.		✓			
4. Site energy facilities in a manner that protects the health and safety of residents of all borders communities.			✓		✓
<i>W) Water Supply Actions</i>					
1. Maximize border region water resources through diversification strategies such as transfer agreements, water recycling and reclamation, seawater desalination, and sustainable groundwater development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2. Support the ability of the borders communities to transfer water supplies that mutually meet their needs.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3. Work with the borders communities to develop programs to promote the conservation and efficient use of water.		✓	✓	✓	
4. Support Mexican water agencies in their efforts to assure water reliability for the Northern Baja California region.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5. Coordinate long term water planning with surrounding counties and tribal governments.	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6. Analyze and address the potential impacts of water supply infrastructure investments on surrounding communities.	✓	✓			
7. Site water facilities in a manner that protects the health and safety of residents of all borders communities.		✓		✓	
B. PROGRAMS & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS					
<i>E) Energy Actions</i>					
1. Work with the borders communities to develop programs to promote the conservation and efficient use of energy.		✓	✓	✓	
<i>W) Water Supply Actions</i>					
1. Develop programs to increase reliability of the interregional and binational aqueduct systems, provide adequate emergency storage and carryover storage needs, add treatment capacity to satisfy treated water needs, and develop seawater desalination facilities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

ACTION	FEDERAL / STATE AGENCIES	REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES	CITIES/ COUNTY	SERVICE PROVIDERS	OTHERS
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C. FUNDING ACTIONS

W) Water Supply Actions

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Continue to pursue funding through existing and future federal, state, and regional programs for the development of binational and interregional water projects. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|

24) BORDERS – ENVIRONMENT

A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Coordinate habitat corridor planning with surrounding counties, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, and the Republic of Mexico. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 2. Provide a cooperative, coordinated, and long-range conservation and management program for the region's habitat preserve system that is tied to preserve systems in surrounding counties, tribal reservations, and Mexico. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 3. Assure coordination and cooperation of environmental agencies and agency staff across multiple regions, subregions, and subareas. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 4. Support actions to better understand the dynamics of local air basins and collaborate, where appropriate, along the U.S. Mexican border on initiatives related to binational air quality. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 5. Support collaborative watershed planning with Baja California to improve the health of the Tijuana Watershed. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 6. Establish a transborder environmental impact assessment process to protect border communities from potentially harmful transborder environmental impacts of projects on either side of the U.S.-Mexico border. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7. Support comprehensive solutions to U.S.-Mexico border sewage problems to protect human health and the overall health of our local ecosystems. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

C. FUNDING ACTIONS

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Identify and coordinate regional funding sources for watershed planning, habitat land acquisitions, and ongoing land management and biological monitoring functions with surrounding counties, tribal governments, and Mexico. | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|

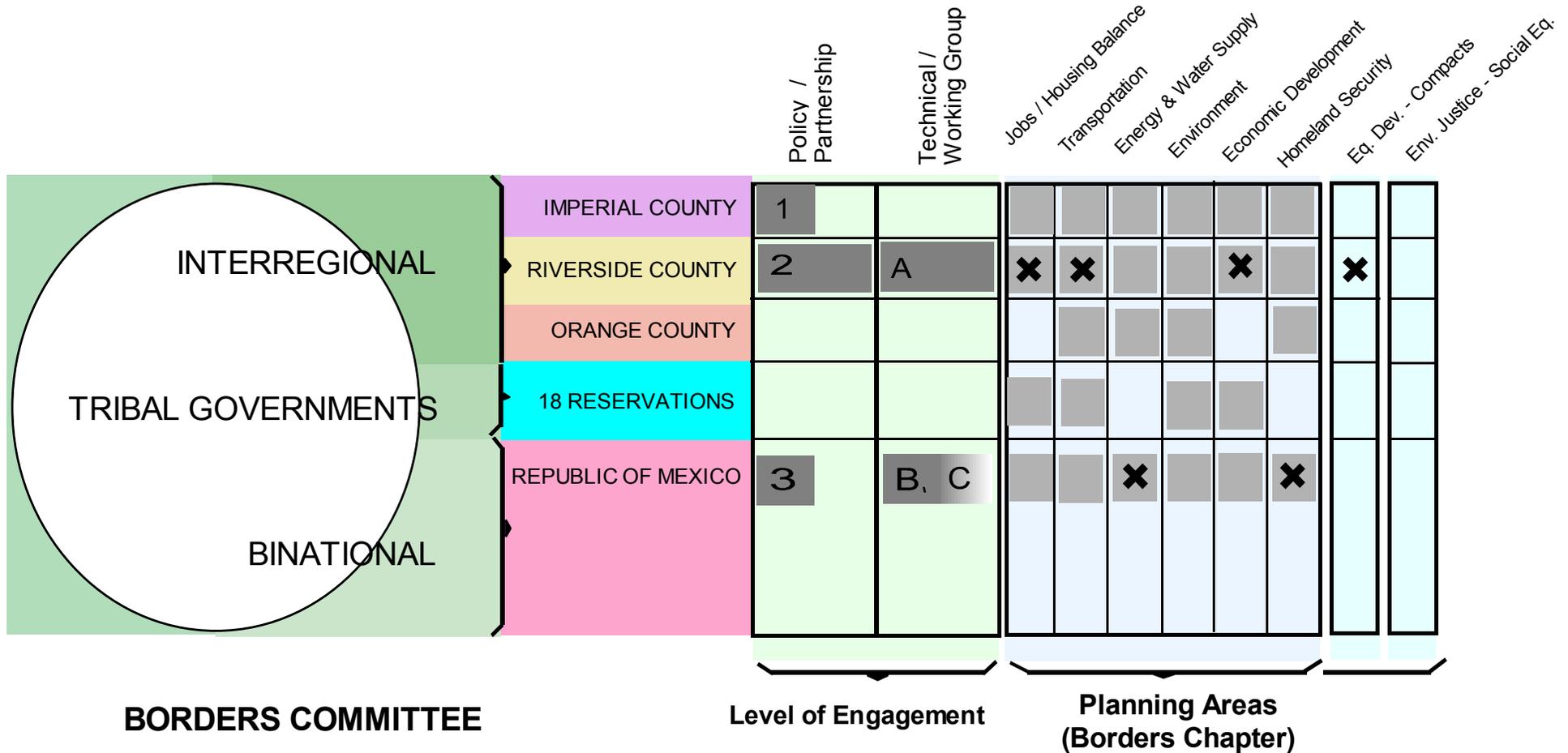
25) BORDERS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Support the I-15 Interregional Partnership economic development strategies, as listed in the Jobs/Housing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|

ACTION	FEDERAL / STATE AGENCIES	REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES	CITIES/ COUNTY	SERVICE PROVIDERS	OTHERS
section of this chapter.					
2. Support policies and measures that promote economic development along the border in Mexico, such as the Maquiladora Program.	✓	✓	✓		✓
3. Create a forum for increased communication with tribal governments regarding economic development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C. FUNDING ACTIONS					
1. Encourage continued U.S. federal and state government financial support of the North American Development Bank (NADBank) and the California Infrastructure and Development Bank (I-Bank).	✓	✓	✓		
26) BORDERS – HOMELAND SECURITY					
A. PLANNING & DESIGN ACTIONS					
1. Implement strategies to coordinate homeland security measures with all governments within the greater border region.	✓	✓	✓		
2. Encourage the implementation of security measures while enabling the growth of a prosperous economy within the greater border region.	✓	✓	✓		
3. Establish a meaningful mechanism for local input regarding homeland security measures affecting this region.	✓	✓	✓		
4. Support measures to encourage users of border crossings to register and participate in ports of entry programs that facilitate identification of people and efficient movement of goods to ensure national security at the borders and beyond.	✓	✓	✓		
B. PROGRAMS & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS					
1. Develop adaptive strategies to address potential impacts from security measures.	✓	✓	✓		✓
2. Increase the use of technology at the ports of entry.	✓	✓			

BORDERS PLANNING AND COORDINATION



- 1 BOD Advisor and Borders Committee Member
- 2 Borders Committee Ex-Officio Member and I-15 IRP Policy Committee
- 3 BOD Advisor, Borders Committee Ex-Officio, COBRO / BEIG Co-Chair
- A I-15 IRP Technical Working Group
- B COBRO
- C BEIG
- Identified in the Borders Chapter, draft RCP
- X Addressing