The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Steve Padilla (South County) at 1:35 p.m. Other members and alternates in attendance were Christy Guerin (North County Coastal), Charles Lewis (City of San Diego), Mark Lewis (East County), Ron Newman (North County Inland), Pam Slater (County of San Diego), Frank Parra (South County), Skip Carter (State Public Safety), Jim Davis and William Lansdowne (County Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Association), David Ott (Homeland Security), and Barry Zuniga (County Sheriff). Advisory members in attendance were Diane Krzemien and David Bejarano (Federal Public Safety) and Vincent Iaria (County Probation). The SANDAG Chairman, Ron Morrison, was also in attendance.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS
   None.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (INFORMATION)

   Chair Padilla (South County) introduced himself and stated he was selected as the Public Safety Committee Chair by the Chair of the SANDAG Board. Chair Padilla noted it is a privilege to chair this Committee along with his distinguished colleagues from the SANDAG Board of Directors and other elected and law enforcement officials from around the region. He clarified not everyone on the Committee is a voting member; therefore, a roll call will begin at the next meeting in order to confirm attendance. The Committee members introduced themselves and the agency and department they represent. The clerk noted this will serve as roll call for this meeting.

CONSENT ITEM (#3)

3. STATUS ON JURISDICTION APPROVAL OF THE ARJIS JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA) (INFORMATION)

   Staff reported that presentations have been made to most city councils and the County Board of Supervisors. The revised Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) has been approved by 15 cities and the County Board of Supervisors, leaving only three cities to take action: Chula Vista, Poway, and the City of San Diego.
Chair Padilla stated that technically the Committee has the approval from enough jurisdictions to enact the revised ARJIS JPA. Staff confirmed that the Committee has the necessary two-thirds approval to move forward.

Chair Padilla noted that today’s agenda is information only and no voting is required.

REPORTS

4. CHAIR’S REPORT (INFORMATION)

A. Chair Padilla commented it was a great opportunity to attend the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., in February. The SANDAG Chairman, the Public Safety Vice Chair, and the SANDAG Executive Director also attended. They met with legislators and members of the administration to achieve two main objectives: (1) to bring them up-to-date on the consolidation and transformation of SANDAG with respect to regional transportation planning and other related issues resulting from legislative changes during the last couple of years; and (2) to brief them on the opportunities from the ARJIS consolidation into SANDAG, including an increased focus on homeland security issues.

Chair Padilla noted the opportunity to meet with Ruben Barrales, President Bush’s Director of Intergovernmental Relations. Mr. Barrales provided guidance on how to put ARJIS on the radar screen of legislators, federal officials, and other relevant points of contact. The San Diego delegation also met with staff from Senator Kyle’s office from Arizona. Senator Kyle is Chairman for the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security, which deals with intelligence and information sharing and technology. SANDAG Chair Ron Morrison demonstrated the handheld Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) being deployed by ARJIS and the ability for officers to access data in the field. Senator’s Kyle’s staff was impressed and very interested in our use and the benefits of this technology.

Chair Padilla stated that his objective for the Public Safety Committee is to help merge the systems, applications, and emerging technologies with the public safety decisions and policies facing the San Diego region. He added that the Committee should pursue federal funding and legislative support to expand, sustain, and improve ARJIS. He also emphasized the importance of focusing on Homeland Security planning issues, such as information sharing and intelligence gathering, and having collaborative information systems in place to position us to take advantage of funding opportunities.

B. Chief Davis (County Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Association) reported on the March 3rd Chiefs'/Sheriff’s Management Committee Meeting. That Committee discussed the 290 Regional Sex Offender Management System, which is a regional cooperative effort to track and manage sex offenders and improve our ability to provide mandated information to Sacramento. The ARJIS FY 2004 mid-year work plan was reviewed, and the FY 2005 proposed work programs for ARJIS and the Criminal Justice Research Division were presented. Chief Davis noted that ARJIS is a 25-year-old system, and there is a strong need to develop a “New ARJIS” and upgrade the legacy system to current technologies.
Chief Davis complimented staff on their efforts to inform and meet with the city councils and County Board of Supervisors regarding the ARJIS/SANDAG consolidation. He noted that the response to the consolidation has been overwhelmingly positive.

Chief Davis provided an update on The National Law Enforcement Correction and Technology Centers Conference. The Centers is a national program that gathers information on public safety technology programs around the U.S. The Centers’ regional advisory committees recently met in San Diego, where Chief Davis and Pam Scanlon had the opportunity to present ARJIS to the Assistant Director of the National Institute of Justice, who, with the notable exception of ARJIS, underscored the current lack of information sharing among public safety agencies throughout the U.S. Two key points came out of these discussions: (1) public safety agencies need to work more proactively with the vendors to get products that fit their particular needs and not settle for “off-the-shelf” solutions that may not be effective; and (2) successful deployment of effective technology requires working with the community and public so they understand its purpose and how it will make their communities safer.

5. OVERVIEW OF SANDAG AND THE COMMITTEE PROCESS (INFORMATION)

Staff provided an overview of SANDAG, the Board and committee structure, and public safety activities at SANDAG.

As a result of SB 1703, in January 2003 a new SANDAG was created that merged the responsibilities of SANDAG with the planning, programming, and construction activities of the region’s two transit agencies, the Metropolitan Transit System (formerly the Metropolitan Transit Development Board) and the North San Diego County Transit Development Board. SANDAG serves as a forum for regional decision-making that builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, designs, and builds public transit; and provides information and technical assistance on a broad range of topics including public safety, transportation, housing, habitat planning, energy, and binational planning.

SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors, who are served by five standing policy advisory committees: Executive Committee, Transportation Committee, Borders Committee, Regional Planning Committee, and Public Safety Committee. The Public Safety Committee is supported by the Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Management Committee and several key working groups.

There are two public safety divisions at SANDAG: the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) and the Criminal Justice Research Division. ARJIS has 50 federal, state, and local members and 11,000 users that access information daily through a secure network (ARJISNET) to solve crimes, identify suspects, and enhance public safety. A major initiative for ARJIS is a project funded by the National Institute of Justice, which uses Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to give officers in the field access to 12 databases containing public safety information.

The Criminal Justice Research Division analyzes and publishes information on crime and arrest trends and evaluates the effectiveness of programs dealing with juvenile crimes, domestic violence, and drug use and treatment. These program evaluations help prevent or
reduce crime by scientifically demonstrating what prevention strategies and programs work and their anticipated effectiveness.

Committee Member Comments:

Chief Probation Officer Iaria asked if the PowerPoint presentations could be posted on the Web site. Staff confirmed the presentations would be posted.

Councilmember Lewis (City of San Diego) inquired about the costs of the PDAs and the amount of grant funding available for their purchase. Staff reported the cost is $750 for each PDA and the service fee is approximately $47 a month. The grant money for this equipment was $100,000.

6. COMMITTEE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES (DISCUSSION)

Chair Padilla asked for ideas on the function and responsibilities of the Committee. There is an increasing focus on collaboration for the sharing of information, and ARJIS is a national model that should be marketed and expanded.

Jim Davis mentioned he is excited about the Public Safety Committee and the opportunity it provides to set priorities with the governing bodies in the region. He spoke of the value of having a representative from the fire services on the Committee because of the important role they play in homeland security. He commented that Public Safety is very descriptive of what we are trying to do and wants to get support for funds from state and federal agencies.

Vice Mayor Parra (South County) stated he looks forward to working with the Committee and helping to define its mission.

Marshal Bejarano (Federal Public Safety) stated there is broad representation around the table. The Committee members do a lot of work with Mexico and have a tremendous impact at the border. Marshal Bejarano noted that SANDAG has a member from Mexico on its Board and proposed that the Committee consider including a law enforcement representative from Mexico as an advisory member.

Councilmember Newman (North County Inland) noted that ARJIS has functioned well on its own. He views the role of the Public Safety Committee as support of what ARJIS needs.

Chair Padilla indicated that the fire service representative is good for the Committee and agreed with Marshal Bejarano regarding adding a representative from Mexico.

Vice Mayor Parra concurred. He commented that the Marshal made a good point regarding representation from Mexico and agreed with Chief Davis concerning the fire service representative.

Supervisor Slater noted that Miramar is a new member of ARJIS and asked if ARJIS is seeking to add Camp Pendleton. Staff reported that they met with and began discussions with staff from Camp Pendleton.
Chair Padilla announced that the schedule of meetings will be the second Friday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Slater mentioned that April 9th is Good Friday and that some people may take off early for religious services. She suggested that alternates attend that meeting, if necessary.

Vice Chair Guerin (North County Coastal) commented that the Public Safety Committee has the last Friday time slot, and was not sure the meeting time can be moved. She suggested that Committee members make sure the alternates know they are welcome, are kept up-to-date on what is happening, and that their participation is encouraged.

Chair Padilla indicated that staff would follow up with the respective public safety agencies to encourage designation of their alternates. Chair Padilla suggested that Chief Lansdowne work with his office to get the approval of the JPA on the City Council docket and requested that Chief Lansdowne assist in getting an alternate appointed for the City of San Diego.

Vice Chair Guerin appreciated the suggestion for the Mexican law enforcement advisory member and suggested it be a future agenda item. She also encouraged members to provide ideas for future agenda items to Mayor Padilla, herself, or SANDAG/ARJIS staff.

7. UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 9, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Padilla adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

JEFF TAYMAN
Director of Technical Services

Key Staff Contacts:  Pam Scanlon, (619) 699-6971; psc@sandag.org
Cindy Burke, (619) 699-1910; cbu@sandag.org