

## Members

Crystal Crawford, Chair  
(Representing **North County Coastal**)  
Councilmember, Del Mar

Patricia McCoy, Vice Chair  
(Representing **South County**)  
Councilmember, Imperial Beach

Ed Gallo  
(Representing **North County Inland**)  
Councilmember, Escondido

David Allan  
(Representing **East County**)  
Councilmember, La Mesa

Ralph Inzunza  
Councilmember, City of San Diego

Greg Cox  
Supervisor, County of San Diego

Victor Carrillo  
(Representing **Imperial County**)  
Supervisor, Imperial County

## Alternates

David Powell  
(Representing **North County Coastal**)  
Councilmember, Solana Beach

Phil Monroe  
(Representing **South County**)  
Councilmember, Coronado

Judy Ritter  
(Representing **North County Inland**)  
Councilmember, Vista

Hal Ryan  
(Representing **East County**)  
Councilmember, Santee

Brian Maienschein  
City of San Diego

Pam Slater-Price  
Supervisor, County of San Diego

David Ouzan  
(Representing **Imperial County**)  
Mayor, City of Calexico

## Ex-Officio Members

Thomas Buckley  
Councilmember, County of Riverside

Vacant, County of Orange

Luis Cabrera  
Consul General, Consulate General of  
Mexico in San Diego

James Bond  
San Diego County Water Authority

Pedro Orso-Delgado  
District Director, Caltrans

Gary L. Gallegos  
Executive Director, SANDAG



# BORDERS COMMITTEE AGENDA

May 21, 2004  
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
SANDAG, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **BORDERS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN FOR FY 05**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP AND ISSUES RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**
- **REPORT ON U.S. BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (CIS) AS PART OF CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### 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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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 AGENDA

Friday, May 21, 2004

Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972; hva@sandag.org

<b>ITEM #</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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1.	APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2004, MEETING MINUTES (pp. 5-10)	APPROVE
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2.	PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS	
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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 ITEM

+ 3.	COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) SUMMARY AND ACTIONS (pp. 11-16)	INFORMATION
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Summary of the April 6, 2004, meeting.

### REPORTS

4.	LAUNCHING OF THE BORDERS SECTION OF THE SANDAG WEB SITE (Tim Sutherland, Jane Clough-Riquelme)	INFORMATION
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To reflect the new structure of the Borders Committee and its planning activities, the section previously designated as "Binational" has been revamped; go to [www.sandag.org](http://www.sandag.org) (look under "Borders" in Programs on the right bar on the main Web site).

+ 5.	BORDERS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN FOR FY 2005 (Hector Vanegas) (pp. 17-21)	DISCUSSION/ APPROVE
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The FY 2005 work plan is based on the priorities discussed by the Committee within the framework of the Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

+ 6.	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP AND ISSUES RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) (COBRO Chair Elsa Saxod, City of San Diego) (pp. 22-23)	COMMENT/ APPROVE
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COBRO will present its recommendations regarding new Chair and Vice Chair for the term May 2004-May 2006, as well as recommendations for issues related to its membership.

7. REPORT ON U.S. BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (CIS) AS PART OF CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Ms. Debra Rogers, San Diego District Director of CIS)

INFORMATION/  
POSSIBLE ACTION

The new San Diego District Director of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) office, Ms. Debra Rogers, will discuss the reorganization of the Department of Homeland Security and her office's role in naturalization and residency adjudications.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

INFORMATION/  
APPROVE

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held on Friday, June 18, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. at the Escondido City Hall.

SANDAG's Borders Committee will meet with representatives from southwestern Riverside County to discuss the Final Draft Report of the I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP) 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**

May 21, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

**BORDERS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

Meeting of April 16, 2004

The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order at 12:36 p.m. by Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal). Other members in attendance were Patricia McCoy (South County), Ed Gallo (North County Inland), David Allan (East County), Ralph Inzunza (City of San Diego), Victor Carrillo (Imperial County), and alternates David Powell (North County Coastal), Phil Monroe (South County), and Pam Slater (County of San Diego). Ex-officio members in attendance were Thomas Buckley (Riverside County), Javier Diaz (Republic of Mexico), James Bond (San Diego County Water Authority), Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans), and Elsa Saxod representing the COBRO.

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

1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2004, MEETING MINUTES

Action: The Borders Committee voted to approve the February 20, 2004, meeting minutes. One Committee member abstained.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Pedro Orso-Delgado noted that he recently attended the U.S.-Mexico Binational Group on Bridges and Border Crossings conference. At that conference, the proposed Border Crossing program was discussed. It was noted that those who have border crossing cards (known as laser visas) will not be required to comply with the new requirements of inspection of the entrances and exits control in the border unless they are more than 25 miles from the border or stay more than 72 hours in the United States. The goal of the program is to detect those overstaying in the United States by registering entries and exits. In addition, Orso-Delgado mentioned that there will be numerous high-level meetings regarding SR 11, in order to keep the issue on the radar screen.

Chair Crawford mentioned that on March 3, 2004, she attended the California-Baja California Regional Workgroup of the U.S. EPA - SEMARNAT (Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment) Border 2012 Program meeting in Rosarito. She made a presentation on the work that the Borders Committee is doing, while the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego made a presentation on the work of the Borders Energy Issues Group (BEIG). She added that she also attended a meeting at the University of San Diego's Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice, where the International Community Foundation publicly released a report entitled *Blurred Borders: Transboundary Impacts and Solutions in the San Diego-*

*Tijuana Region. Blurred Borders* is a report highlighting the cross-border impacts and solutions in the San Diego-Tijuana region.

Javier Diaz commented that he also attended the Border 2012 Program meeting in Rosarito. It was agreed that there is a need for information on current energy projects taking place on both the U.S. and Mexican sides of the border.

### **CONSENT ITEMS (3 and 4)**

3. COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) SUMMARY AND ACTIONS
  - (a) February 3, 2004
  - (b) March 2, 2004
  - (c) 2004 Summer Conference Working Group Report
  
4. I-15 INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (I-15 IRP) MEETING SUMMARY OF MARCH 26, 2004

Action: The Borders Committee voted to approve Consent Items 3 and 4.

### **REPORTS**

5. EFFECTS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION ON SAN DIEGO REGION

Councilmember Jack Feller, City of Oceanside, noted that he requested that the Executive Committee make a statement that there is a serious effect regarding illegal immigration in the San Diego region. He presented the Committee with some facts regarding this issue. He noted that the impact of this issue has resulted in fewer resources for California taxpayers, specifically in the education, criminal justice, and medical care area. Also, it has caused unwanted growth, which has made a negative impact in the areas of water, traffic, pollution, open space, affordable housing, jobs, and fraud. He added that illegal immigration is not a racial problem, but a population problem, with too much at stake to be ignored. He concluded that this is an issue that needs to be addressed and felt that there are solutions to this problem.

Councilmember Inzunza noted that the facts presented by Councilmember Feller were incomplete and only presented one side of the issue. He disagreed with Councilmember Feller in that the growth in the region cannot be attributed to immigrants from Mexico crossing the border—the majority of the population growth in San Diego is derived from San Diegans. He questioned what the Committee could do regarding this issue. He added that this is a federal government issue and doesn't think the government will buckle down on its employees. A lot of companies are hiring workers that are undocumented.

Supervisor Slater-Price indicated that this issue is a result of sharing a border with a country that has a significantly lower cost of living. She added that it would not be a fruitful debate whether illegal immigration should or should not happen—it's just the way that it is. The undocumented workers are an identifiable workforce. Supervisor Slater-Price noted that this

is a long-standing issue, but the real problem is the impact and how the region can deal with those impacts. The federal government is the entity that needs to regulate this. She commented that if the Committee is serious about this, it should consider developing and implementing some sort of an impact fee.

Mayor Pro Tem McCoy pointed out that California has a population of 36 million, as opposed to the two million undocumented migrants. Lots of changes are being made in different countries and those countries should be encouraged to aspire to a higher quality of living. She stated that she would like to see more benefits for those people that cross the border for the contributions that they make to the San Diego region's economy. Farming and garment producing are not considered as prime jobs in this region. There needs to be change regarding social movement over the next 25 years.

Councilmember Inzunza stated that there are several sides to this issue. He suggested that the Borders Committee work with the professionals on this issue to discuss possible solutions. He added that during tough economic times, it appears that immigrants are blamed for these types of issues.

Supervisor Slater-Price agreed that if there is going to be additional discussion on this issue, it should be based on solutions; otherwise, there will be a waste of time. This is a subject that everyone will not agree on.

Chair Crawford commented that whatever action the Committee decides to take, it needs to fit into the purview within the boundaries of the Borders Committee.

Supervisor Carrillo commended Councilmember Feller for bringing up this issue and added that sometimes tough stands need to be taken. He questioned how local government issues can be mitigated and how the economic impact can be addressed. Maybe the Committee can look at how the federal government can assist with mitigation and assessment. This is an ongoing issue that cannot be resolved in a short period of time.

Councilmember Bond stated that this issue is bigger than the Borders Committee can address and suggested that the Committee focus on the demand and how the infrastructure demands are going to be satisfied, regardless of where it comes from.

Councilmember Buckley noted that this issue should be discussed at a separate meeting and the meeting should be set up where specific issues can be addressed. It is a sensitive and difficult issue.

Pedro Orso-Delgado added that the Committee should look at the cause and the numbers in order to deal with the issue, determine how to provide the appropriate services, and identify the funding that is needed and pursue it.

Chair Crawford suggested that staff look at the issue, frame it in the context of the borders chapter and how it relates to the Councilmember's concern, and place the issue on a future meeting agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe suggested that a Subcommittee be created to structure the day where there could be a workshop held on this issue.

Javier Diaz commented that the Mexican government agrees that the current situation cannot go on—*status quo* does not work. The need to enforce citizenship is hard to say and do. He added that the Consul General is more than willing to work with the proper authorities of the U.S. to find solutions that work for both countries. He pointed out that there are also positive effects to this issue because illegal immigrants pay federal, state, and sales tax, and are contributing to the economy. However, many taxpaying migrants do not know they are eligible for services that they have paid for through their tax contributions and are afraid of requesting them.

Councilmember Inzunza suggested that Elsa Saxod work on this issue. He also recommended that the workshop should address both the positive and negative effects of undocumented migrants living in the region.

Chair Crawford indicated that the Subcommittee will consist of Mayor Pro Tem Monroe, Mayor Pro Tem McCoy, Javier Diaz, and Elsa Saxod. She commented that Councilmember Feller will also work with this group and so will SANDAG staff.

Action: The Borders Committee agreed to create a Subcommittee to explore ways that specific issues can be addressed within the role of the Borders Committee.

## 6. UPDATE ON IMPERIAL COUNTY ISSUES

Supervisor Carrillo provided the Borders Committee with an update on Imperial County issues. He discussed the Gateway and the development that is currently underway at the Calexico-Mexicali port of entry; he talked about current and future transportation issues and Imperial County's relationship with Caltrans; he commented on the forthcoming Imperial Valley Mall; and he gave an overview of the housing projects and programs that Imperial County has been implementing. In addition, Supervisor Carrillo provided the Committee with the current status on the water transfer.

Pedro Orso-Delgado thanked the Supervisor for the overview. He noted that Caltrans is currently working with the Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG) regarding its long-range plan due to Imperial Valley's tremendous increase in housing. By working together, they can prevent a situation similar to what is currently happening on Interstate 15 in San Diego. He added that there are currently 1,300-1,600 trucks crossing through Calexico daily. It is incumbent upon the region to have those roads replaced and maintained.

Committee members commented that Imperial County is slowly becoming a bedroom community for people that are coming from San Diego. It was noted that San Diegans are living in Riverside County and Imperial Valley and commuting to San Diego. The region needs to be aware of Imperial Valley's issues and should be aware of its growth.

Chair Crawford suggested that the Borders Committee hold a future meeting in Imperial County.

7. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR FY 05 FOR THE BORDERS COMPONENT OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Chair Crawford mentioned that this item will not be discussed at today's meeting. She suggested that any comments or questions regarding this issue be conveyed to staff.

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

8. INTRODUCTION TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Councilmember Allan commented that one of the Borders Committee's goals for this year is to develop a relationship with the tribal governments. It's time to try to develop a good relationship and continue to strengthen it. He noted that last year, the SANDAG Board held a Summit with the Tribal Governments; however, the dialogue needs to continue. He added that he is disappointed that tribes are spoken about in a negative light because they are very involved and supportive in the San Diego community. He then introduced Mario Orso and Gary Rotto, both Caltrans staff, to bring forward additional issues.

Mario Orso, Native American Liaison for Caltrans, presented the Committee with a brief overview of tribal governments and Caltrans' activities with the tribal governments in the region. This included the way they function, the number of tribes in the U.S. vs. the number of tribes in California (California has the largest Native American population in the U.S.), and the tribal lands in San Diego and Imperial County. He also discussed some of the services that Caltrans' provides to the tribal governments including monitoring and reviewing documents proposing Native American development, developing resources, and assisting with inquiries.

Gary Rotto provided the Committee with definitions of key words and concepts relating to Native Americans. He added that Caltrans holds workshops on how to better understand the Native American culture and how to conduct business with Native Americans. The workshops have been well attended and received.

Committee discussion concluded that building a relationship with the tribal governments is important and needs to happen. However, building that relationship will take time. The attitude towards the tribes needs to change. It was suggested that the County of San Diego's Tribal Government Liaison come to a future Borders Committee meeting to brief the Committee. The County has developed a comprehensive report, which is a good resource for this subject. The Committee needs to learn the culture in order to develop a relationship. A lot of history needs to be overcome.

Staff noted that SANDAG has received funding to develop a needs assessment regarding tribal governments. It needs to be determined what services SANDAG has to offer the tribes. This is a goal that the Borders Committee could consider.

Chair Crawford commented that the Borders Committee has listed strategic initiatives relating to the tribal governments in the Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive

Plan. She requested that the Borders map be updated to include the tribal governments in Imperial County and noted that this issue will be added to a future agenda.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held on Friday, May 21, 2004, at 12:30 p.m. in SANDAG's Conference Room A on the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

BOB LEITER

Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972; [hva@sandag.org](mailto:hva@sandag.org)

San Diego Association of Governments  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE**

May 21, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **3**

**Action Requested: INFORMATION**

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) SUMMARY OF APRIL 6, 2004.

The April 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.

1. MEETING SUMMARY OF MARCH 3, 2004

The meeting summary for March 3, 2004, was accepted with minor changes.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

No public comments were made.

3. CHAIR AND COBRO MEMBERS REPORT

Elsa Saxod welcomed Hon. Luis Cabrera, the new Co-Chair of COBRO. Hon. Cabrera stated how he was pleased to be here for the first time and looked forward to working with the group and SANDAG.

Amy Carstensen, International Community Foundation (ICF), reported on the “Blurred Borders” presentation at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The ICF will be hosting a series of crossborder dialogues through the summer, focusing on various aspects of the report. On April 29, a dialogue on education will be held at the County Department of Education. Copies of the report are available on request or through the Web site.

Alejandra Mier y Teran, Otay Chamber of Commerce, reported on the recent “Transportation Crisis Forum” organized by the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce and South County Economic Development Corporation, and discussed the major threats in federal and state funding that are affecting the border infrastructure projects such as the SR 905 and SR 11. For example, she stated that more than \$101 million was pulled from the budget for SR 905. These funds had already been allocated. SR 11 has been completely halted. Caltrans and SANDAG are working together so that there would be only a one-year delay for SR 905. SANDAG is considering a GARVEE Bond initiative to cover the region’s contribution. Members of COBRO may need to do some advocacy as organizations that are directly affected, to support SANDAG in that process—perhaps writing support letters to the Governor. Caltrans is working on its \$80 million component for the SR 905. A transportation bill also is being

presented to Congress and the allocation for border-related projects seems reasonable: \$15 million for 905; \$4 million for southbound truck route; \$1 million for SR 11; and \$500,000 for Lonestar Road. Still in process.

Elsa Saxod reiterated the importance of supporting SANDAG's efforts in developing the extension of the *Transnet* ordinance. In 1987, San Diego region voters approved the *TransNet* program—a half-cent sales tax to fund a variety of important transportation projects throughout the region. *TransNet* funding is combined with state and federal dollars to improve the region's transportation network. The *TransNet* program expires in 2008. Residents, community and business leaders, transit advocates, environmentalists, builders, elected officials, and others are collaborating to determine the best options for extending this program. Chair Saxod asked that Alejandra Mier y Teran look into what the member organizations can do to support this in terms of a letter-writing campaign.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, reported on the participation of the San Diego Alliance for Border Efficiency (SDABE) at the recent Border Trade Alliance conference in Washington, DC, the theme of which was Homeland Security. Jim Neal, South County Economic Development Corporation, was on a panel for borders issues. Ms. Villagrana handed out the first U.S. VISIT newsletter, which was provided by Lisa Dye, Federal Highway Administration (FHA). There is continued concern that the U.S. VISIT program is going to happen no matter what, but that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is not clear about how it intends to address the impact on the crossing process and wait times. She announced that DHS staff will be coming out in a couple of weeks and the SDABE will be organizing some meetings. There has been a lot of talk that laser visa holders will be exempt, but nothing definite. She suggested that several COBRO members should meet with these folks when they come out. Lisa Dye informed the Committee that the trip is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May. This is the Outreach Team for DHS. Their purpose is to roll out the program and get community feedback.

Sergio Pallares, Caltrans, reported that the Border Governors Conference Transportation Working Group met and is going to write a letter to DHS. The recommendation is to ask DHS to fund a binational outreach campaign. At the moment, the outreach campaign is only intended for the U.S. side, and the Border Governors would like to see it done on both sides of the border.

Consul General Cabrera stated that the implementation process of U.S. VISIT is a subject of concern for Mexico. We need to be vigilant of the way in which it is implemented. It was announced when President Fox met with President Bush that the U.S. VISIT would not apply to those with border crossing cards. How are they going to distinguish between those with border crossing visas and those who are going to stay longer or go farther? There are more questions than answers. It potentially will create a significant problem. In the last Binational Commission a bilateral group was created to look at these issues, and they are having regular meetings. It is important that groups like COBRO express their concerns to the federal officials. Local constituents are the ones that know how this program will affect the situation here.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Chamber of Commerce, said that the SDABE has met with Secretary Ridge. That group has been insistent in following this and trying to get accurate

information, as well as voicing local concerns. The Chamber went to Washington, DC, in February to discuss this. But so far, the response has been only DHS telling them what they want them to know, rather than a real dialogue. Perhaps, it is time to send out another round of letters.

Dave Fege, USEPA, reported on the recent meeting of the Border 2012 Working Group, which met in Playas de Rosarito, Baja California, on March 3. This was the Regional Workgroup for the Californias. The purpose was to hear reports from the various taskforces in the Californias. Dave Fege thanked Elsa Saxod for reporting on the Tijuana Watershed Taskforce. Crystal Crawford, Chair of the Borders Committee made a presentation on SANDAG and the work of the Borders Committee. Deputy Consul General of Mexico in Tijuana, Javier Diaz de Leon, presented on the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG). SANDAG staff, Jane Clough-Riquelme, served as the moderator for the event. Dave thanked COBRO and Borders Committee for being involved in that meeting. He listed the taskforces and how they are progressing. More information can be found on the USEPA Web site ([www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/index.htm)). He encouraged attendees at COBRO to come and participate in any of the taskforces that might be appropriate. Chair Elsa Saxod encouraged the private sector to get involved in Border 2012. It would be helpful to hear from the private sector.

Angelika Villagrana, San Diego Chamber of Commerce, mentioned that the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) is accepting submissions for its Citizen Advisory Committee for San Diego/Tijuana. The deadline is the end of April.

Stephen Elliott, TransBorder Institute at USD, announced the upcoming conference on NAFTA +10. This is a collaborative event co-organized by UCSD, USD, and SDSU. It will be held at USD in the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on April 16.

#### 4. STAFF REPORT

Hector Vanegas introduced Tim Sutherland who works in web development for SANDAG. Tim demonstrated to the Committee the online registration utility. The Summer Conference is being used as a pilot for expanding SANDAG's ability to have online registration for conferences. Hector added that the conference announcement is now available in English and Spanish. Registration is open. The conference is limited to the capacity of the room, which is 180 approximately.

#### 5. REPORT FROM NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE

Alejandra Mier y Teran, representing the Nominating Committee, requested more time for the subcommittee to complete its deliberations. For a variety of reasons, the subcommittee has not reached a decision regarding the chair and membership issues. There are two possibilities: (a) wait for the next meeting; or (b) if legislation allows, via e-mail, the subcommittee can pass out its recommendation and then vote, via e-mail, so that by the next meeting we have a new Chair and Vice Chair. These are the options suggested to the Committee for discussion.

## Discussion

The Committee discussed the possibilities for how to handle the voting process for the new Chair, as well as membership issues.

- Consideration was given to a vote by e-mail by the full committee in order to have the Chair selected before the next meeting. Staff will verify if that is allowed within the legal obligations of the Brown Act.
- It was established that the current Chair's term ends at the end of May.
- Various members reiterated that the issue of the new Chair and the membership of COBRO are important issues that deserve being discussed without time pressure.
- Several members urged that the subcommittee continue to deliberate, but that its recommendation be e-mailed to the full Committee before the next meeting.
- All members are encouraged to submit their nominations for Chair in writing. Staff will send out an e-mail to remind them.

Chair Saxod requested that the subcommittee continue to meet and come up with its recommendation. That recommendation should be sent out via e-mail prior to the next meeting.

Chair Saxod reiterated the issue of member organizations who have not been attending and the need to look at the roster for new membership. Several organizations have become defunct since their appointment as members of COBRO. There are also some that have never attended. The Chair recommended that we send these organizations letters thanking them for their participation, but informing them that they are no longer members. Chair Saxod is concerned about the quorum and the existence of organizations on the roster that make the quorum too high.

Javier Diaz raised the issue that the nominating subcommittee has been reduced to three members because two had to remove themselves. He requested new volunteers for the subcommittee. No one at the meeting volunteered.

## 6. UPDATE ON 2004 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Paul Ganster reported on the Summer Conference planning. The logo was finalized and will be used on the Save-the-Date postcard, which should be going out shortly. The subcommittee is working on the structure of the conference agenda and the speakers. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Opening remarks will be provided by a SANDAG official. The first panel will have a keynote speaker to provide a framework. There are still discussions as to who that would be, but it will be someone familiar with border regions and issues. Then the two Consuls General, Luis Cabrera and David Stewart, will give short presentations regarding institutional arrangements for border collaboration. The second panel will focus on specific examples of crossborder collaboration, emphasizing areas of activity relevant to SANDAG's mission: transborder planning and coordination; data needs and data sharing; and conservation/habitat conservation. During the afternoon there would be breakout sessions with 10-15 people, with a facilitator, which would take the various issues and give them an hour to come up with specific recommendations. The subcommittee

is also considering a keynote speaker for the luncheon, which would be followed by brief reports from the breakout sessions.

## 7. REPORT ON THE BUREAU FOR CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Debra Rogers, District Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), presented an overview of the organization, its mission, and goals. As a result of the consolidation of various organizations into the Department of Homeland Security, what was formally the Immigration and Naturalization Service was separated into three sections. The USCIS administers the citizenship and immigration issues for San Diego County and Imperial. Its main office is in Chula Vista, and it also has an office in the federal building downtown. The USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security. Information officers are available for questions, and public information packets are available as well as on the Web site. The USCIS is currently working on reducing the processing time for adjustment of status applications. It is revising the questions on the naturalization test to reflect concern for understanding what it means to be a citizen, rather than asking specific factual questions. Ms. Rogers and her staff are currently doing outreach to communities to let them know about the organization and the services it provides.

John Ramirez, USCIS San Diego District Office, mentioned the work of the new Office of Citizenship in Washington, DC, whose mission is to develop and implement public outreach and education initiatives promoting U.S. citizenship. USCIS would like to work with local governments on reaching communities. Mr. Ramirez gave an example from San Diego County. Vista has a significant population of legal residents of Hispanic origin, yet this is not reflected in the number of registered voters. The City recently established a panel of distinguished Hispanic leaders from various sectors to encourage their political participation in Vista. The San Diego District office of USCIS is working with this panel to encourage legal permanent residents to apply for citizenship. Mr. Ramirez suggested it would be helpful to collaborate with SANDAG.

Members raised several questions, such as:

- Dual nationality
- Visa waivers for school fieldtrips
- Deportation

Sergio Pallares raised the issue of the visa waivers, which have been suspended. Mario Lopez, Office of Congressman Bob Filner, informed the group that Congressman Filner has a bill (HR2525) before Congress to try to recuperate this local prerogative for events like school trips for children to cross without visas.

On the issue of dual nationality, Consul General Cabrera informed the group that before 1998, Mexican nationality was lost if you accepted another nationality. After the Mexican Constitutional Amendment of 1998, a person who is recognized by another country no longer loses their Mexican nationality (which is not the same as citizenship).

On the issue of repatriation, Consul General Cabrera explained that, between 1996-2000, there was a bilateral program for repatriation to the interior of Mexico. The repatriations from Arizona were unilateral and lasted one month. On February 20, 2004, Secretaries Ridge and Creel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an orderly repatriation program. This is a complex issue in which Mexico hopes for a concerted effort and collaboration.

8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

COBRO's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 2004, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City of Tecate has offered to host the next meeting. Staff will send more information in May.

THE ATTENDANCE LIST IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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# BORDERS COMMITTEE

May 21, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **5**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

## BORDERS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN FOR FY 2005

### Introduction

At its February 20, 2004, meeting, the Borders Committee directed staff regarding its priorities for FY 2005. The Committee discussed its priorities within the geographic framework of the Borders Chapter of the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), addressing the six planning areas described in it. On April 16, 2004, the Committee accepted a set of strategic initiatives for its inclusion in the RCP as the Borders component of the Implementation Chapter. The strategic initiatives are based on the Committee's view for the need to focus on building relationships with our neighboring jurisdictions. The FY 2005 work plan reflects the priorities of the Borders Committee, balanced against the available funding and agency resources to fulfill them.

### Discussion

The underlying principle for the work of the Borders Committee is building relationships with the surrounding jurisdictions in order to have a foundation upon which to address planning issues affecting the greater region. The Borders Chapter of the RCP identified three types of relationships within the concept of borders: Interregional, when referring to the issues with the Counties of Imperial, Riverside and Orange; Binational, for those issues with the Republic of Mexico; and the Tribal Governments perspective to address issues with the sovereign tribal governments within the County of San Diego.

The strategic initiatives used to prepare the work plan include:

- Continuing partnership with southwestern Riverside
- Creating a similar partnership with Mexico
- Strengthening collaboration with Imperial County
- Expanding communication w/Tribal Governments

The work elements within SANDAG's Overall Work Program (OWP), which provide the basis for the Borders Committee work plan, are the following:

OWP No. 30032: Borders Planning and Coordination

The objective of this work element is to coordinate border-related planning and implementation activities in the areas of transportation, land use, economic development, and the environment. Emphasis in FY 2005 will be on: (1) consolidating and expanding SANDAG's effectiveness in the interregional and binational arena; (2) strengthening cooperative relationships with governments in Imperial, Riverside, and Orange Counties, tribal governments, and the Republic of Mexico;

(3) identifying funding opportunities to support coordinated interregional and binational planning efforts; and (4) developing new partnerships and information sharing tools to support interregional and binational planning. This work element supports the Borders Committee, the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), and the Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG).

OWP No. 30033: Interregional Partnerships

The objective of this work element is to support the development and consolidation of interregional partnerships with neighboring areas whose regional planning activities have a direct impact on the San Diego region. Emphasis in FY 2005 will be: (1) to continue to work collaboratively with the southwestern Riverside region on the implementation and monitoring of the short- and long-range strategies contained in the I-15 Interregional Partnership (IRP) Strategy Implementation Plan; and (2) to pursue funding to establish another interregional partnership with neighboring regions based upon the model developed through the I-15 IRP.

OWP No. 30034: Economy and Security at the International Border

The objectives of this work element are to improve the collection and dissemination of border wait time information and to assess the impact of border delays on the binational economy. Extensive outreach also will be conducted to focus collaborative efforts among SANDAG, Caltrans, and federal inspection agencies on both sides of the border to help secure the border, manage wait times, and enhance the binational economy. Emphasis in FY 2005 is to develop an economic impact model for the San Diego-Northern Baja California border region.

OWP No. 7000600: Liaison with Tribal Governments

The San Diego region is home to 18 Native American reservations represented by 17 Native American tribal governments, the most in any county in the United States. The objective of this work element is to promote coordination and collaboration in regional and transportation planning between SANDAG and the region's tribal government. Through this program, SANDAG's tribal liaison will build and improve government relationships with the 17 tribal governments, while cooperatively developing procedures for consultation and coordination regarding transportation and other planning efforts and projects.

**Work Plan for FY 2005**

As it is structured, more than half of this proposed work plan focuses on agendas with the Republic of Mexico and Imperial County, as these regions share some key characteristics. This will allow the Committee to: (a) focus on the priorities of transportation and homeland security, common to both regions; (b) take a proactive role on the issue of access to jobs and housing with Imperial County; and (c) create a dialogue with Mexico regarding water and energy supply, as well as environmental issues.

The rest of the work plan is dedicated to continuing the work of the existing partnership with southwestern Riverside County, where the Committee decided to continue to work on the short-and-long-range strategies for jobs and housing accessibility, as well as improving coordination in transportation issues. A grant request was submitted to Caltrans for expanding the agenda to economic development issues with the core activity being the design and implementation of a

two-county economic cluster analysis. Another grant was submitted to Caltrans to support the development of a partnership with Mexico, focusing on exchange of information and a commuter study to create a baseline for improving the movement of people and goods while respecting public safety in the binational trade corridor. Also, this work plan includes efforts to expand communications with tribal governments within the San Diego region, partnering with Caltrans and the County of San Diego.

In order for the Committee to advance on priorities and strategies for FY 2005, this work plan is organized from two levels of attention (focus of the meeting and goals for the respective month) and also recommends a product for each month. This work plan divides the calendar of meetings among the regional geographic priorities and includes a proposed strategic action for each one.

#### Calendar for FY 2005

##### **JULY 2004**

Focus: Republic of Mexico. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Binational Summer Conference  
Goal: Cooperation Across the Border: Where do we go from here?  
Product: Discussions and preliminary recommendations from the conference.

##### **AUGUST 2004**

Focus: Tribal Governments  
Goal: Learn from the County of San Diego's experience with tribal governments through its liaison.  
Product: Review information, discuss, and provide direction to SANDAG's involvement in this area.

##### **SEPTEMBER 2004**

Focus: County of Riverside  
Goal: Continue Partnership  
Product: Meet and discuss with Riverside representatives the future of the Partnership and specific strategic actions based on available resources.

##### **OCTOBER 2004**

Focus: Republic of Mexico  
Goal: Discuss the Summer Conference recommendations from COBRO. Discussion regarding creation of a Partnership with Mexico to deal with transportation, homeland security, water and energy supply, and environmental issues.  
Product: Recommendations from the Summer Conference to SANDAG's Board and framework for a partnership (identification of players, areas of opportunities, responsibilities, and expectations)

##### **NOVEMBER 2004**

Focus: Imperial County  
Goal: Strengthen relationship with Imperial County  
Product: Tour/Visit to Imperial County; Meeting with Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG)

**DECEMBER 2004**

Focus: Borders Committee Mid-Year Assessment  
Goal: Mid FY 2005 assessments and time for special/additional issues  
Product: Initial assessments for priorities for FY 2006

**JANUARY 2005**

Focus: Imperial County  
Goal: Discussion regarding creation of a Partnership with Imperial County to deal with transportation, homeland security, access to jobs, and housing issues  
Product: Framework for the partnership (identification of players, areas of opportunities, responsibilities, and expectations)

**FEBRUARY 2005**

Focus: County of Riverside  
Goal: Identification of priorities and opportunities for FY 2006  
Product: Development of strategic initiatives for the partnership

**MARCH 2005**

Focus: Republic of Mexico  
Goal: Identification of priorities and opportunities for FY 2006  
Product: Partnership set-up and meeting in Baja California, Mexico

**APRIL 2005**

Focus: Imperial County  
Goal: Identification of priorities for FY 2006  
Product: Partnership set-up

**MAY 2004**

Focus: Republic of Mexico and Imperial County  
Goal: Final stages for partnerships with Mexico and Imperial County  
Product: Partnerships work plans

**JUNE 2005**

Focus: Assessments of Partnerships  
Goal: Prepare for next steps  
Product: Report of progress on planning activities that impact the borders of San Diego region

This report is presented for review and comment by the Committee before its approval. The calendar addresses the priorities and strategic actions approved by the Committee, but certainly there are other issues that can be discussed. The idea of creating subgroups has been raised in past discussions, but this effort could require additional meetings. The Committee would have to also be careful that such working groups did not constitute a quorum of the Committee. Moreover, as the role of this Committee is to address those issues that impact our borders, there may be additional issues brought forward that might require the Committee's attention.

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# BORDERS COMMITTEE

May 21, 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **6**

**Action Requested: COMMENT/  
APPROVE**

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP AND ISSUES RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)

### Introduction

COBRO was formed in 1996 to provide advice and recommendations to SANDAG's Board of Directors. As a result of the agency reorganization, the role of COBRO changed in 2002 to become the working group of the Borders Committee, addressing the issues of the binational component of the borders agenda. During that same year, COBRO presented to the Borders Committee its criteria and recommendations for renewing its leadership and membership. As a result of that, the Borders Committee authorized COBRO to renew its Chair every two years and to expand its membership to include representatives from south of the border.

This year, COBRO reviewed those criteria, established on April 4, 2002, and discussed issues related to its membership, attendance, and lack of quorum. A subcommittee was formed to discuss these issues. On May 4, 2004, COBRO voted to present the following recommendations for approval by the Borders Committee:

### Recommendations

1. New Chair and Vice Chair. COBRO unanimously approved Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, SDSU, as Chair of COBRO, and Cindy Gompper-Graves, South San Diego County Economic Development Council, as Vice Chair of COBRO, for the term May 2004-May 2006.
2. Other Issues. To address the issue of ensuring a quorum at the meetings, COBRO requests approval to delete from its membership the defunct organizations:
  - Comisión para Asuntos de la Frontera Norte de México
  - Governor's Office for California-Mexico Affairs

Additionally, COBRO requests approval to delete from its membership those who have had more than three absences during their term:

- Consejo Coordinador Empresarial de Tijuana
- Universidad Autónoma de Baja California

If these organizations are reactivated and/or they express interest, COBRO would consider reinstating them immediately.

3. In addition, regarding Imperial County, COBRO reiterated its interest in pursuing, with the advice of the representative from Imperial County on the Borders Committee, to have a representative among its membership.
4. COBRO approved adding Caltrans as a member of the Committee.
5. COBRO also requested those members who have had irregular attendance to reconfirm their commitment by attending the next three consecutive meetings, including the Summer Conference.
6. COBRO requested that the City of Imperial Beach appoint a staff representative to be the member and alternate.
7. COBRO requested authorization to bring forward issues related to its membership as they are needed, and not every two years, to avoid compromising the quorum in the meetings.

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