MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO)

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231

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

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) will advise the Borders Committee of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) concerning both short and long-term binational related activities, issues, and actions; provide recommendations regarding binational border-related planning and development; and identify ways to assist and coordinate with existing efforts in the binational area. The COBRO will serve as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of the binational border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.
Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the COBRO on any item at the time that 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 COBRO may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at www.sandag.org under meetings on SANDAG’s Web site. Public comments regarding the agenda can be forwarded to SANDAG via the e-mail comment form also available on the Web site. Email comments should be received no later than noon, two days prior to the COBRO meeting.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit. Phone 1-800-COMMUTE or see www.sdcommute.com for route information.
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Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. This is also an opportunity for COBRO members to make comments or announcements.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

+4. Staff Report (pp. 10 – 12) INFORMATION

A. New COBRO Membership list (BTTAC new appointee)
B. Upcoming Events
C. Legislation: HR 2525 (Filner)

**REPORTS**

+5. UPDATED COBRO CRITERIA FOR MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP (Hector Vanegas) (pp. 13 – 15) INFORMATION / POSSIBLE ACTION

This report summarizes the criteria used by the COBRO to renew its leadership and membership for the 2004-2006 term.

+6. COBRO WORK PLAN FOR FY 2005 (Hector Vanegas) (pp. 16 – 19) INFORMATION / APPROVE

Staff will present a draft work plan, which includes systematic activities to address planning issues described in Borders Chapter of the RCP. The COBRO should review and integrate outcomes from the 2004 SANDAG Binational Summer Conference.

7. 2004 BINATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP REPORT (Paul Ganster) INFORMATION / POSSIBLE ACTION

Chair Paul Ganster will give the Committee an update on the status of the 2004 SANDAG Binational Summer Conference.

8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION INFORMATION

The next meeting of the COBRO will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2004 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Tecate, Baja California City Hall.

An (+) next to an item indicates attached report/material.
Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) Summary of May 4, 2004

The May 4, 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. Chair Saxod welcomed General Counsel from SANDAG, Julie Wiley.

1. MEETING SUMMARY OF APRIL 6, 2004

The meeting summary for April 6, 2004, was accepted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

Oscar Romo of the Coastal Training Program for the Tijuana River, based at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve announced that there are monthly tours of the Tijuana Watershed for those who are interested and to please contact either himself or the Tijuana River Estuarine Research Reserve for more details.

David Shirk, Director of the Transborder Institute (TBI) at the University of San Diego announced a presentation, “Murders in Ciudad Juarez,” on May 5, as part of a lecture series sponsored by the TBI.

Konane Martinez of the National Latino Research Center at the California State University at San Marcos. They were commissioned by the California Endowment to conduct a Border Health Organizational Needs Assessment. She asked that any organization at COBRO that would like to participate or be interviewed she would like to hear from them. She also mentioned that May 4 is World Asthma Day and the NLRC is the regional center for an asthma project. They are launching a new toolkit on asthma and its environmental triggers and she would be happy to hand them out to those who are interested.

3. CHAIR AND COBRO MEMBERS REPORT

Consul General of Mexico, Luis Cabrera, reported on the visit of Luis Ernesto Derbez, Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs to San Diego and Tijuana on April 22. He presented a public conference at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Hon. Cabrera stated that one of the purposes of this visit was to show how important the bilateral relationship is with the United States, and in particular how important this region is for Mexico. During his stay he announced publicly that he was appointing a new Commissioner of Northern Border Affairs whose
The post would be located within the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Fox Administration had appointed Ernesto Ruffo was appointed Commissioner of Northern Border Affairs within the Office of the President. The position will now reside within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The person named to this position is Arturo Gonzalez Cruz. His office will be in Tijuana, but he will be responsible for the entire region. Mr. Cruz was formerly the President of the Mexican National Chamber of Commerce. Hon. Cabrera suggested that we invite Mr. Gonzalez Cruz to meet with COBRO regarding Mexico’s border-related priorities.

Viviana Ibañez, Mexico Business Center of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, announced the first Tijuana Mayoral Forum to be held in San Diego on Thursday, May 27 at the U.S. Grant Hotel at noon. She encouraged members to sign up or contact her for more information.

Yolanda Walther Meade announced that Adriana Mendiolea has left the Funcación Internacional de la Comunidad to take a position as Director of CETYS University in Tijuana. The Board of Directors is now recruiting for a new Executive Director. Mrs. Walther Meade also mentioned the Youth Leadership Initiative of the Californias will be holding a conference at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego June 10.

Eduardo Gonzalez, Director of Urban Planning of Tecate, announced a series of workshops in July related to the City of Tecate adopting the Earth Charter on Sustainable Development as one of its guiding frameworks for planning.

4. **STAFF REPORT**

Hector Vanegas reported on the issue of using e-mail for voting. Staff referred this, as well as other COBRO organizational policy issues to the Deputy Counsel of SANDAG, Julie Wiley, to verify. Ms. Wiley came to the COBRO meeting to clarify any questions the members might have.

Chair Saxod asked how COBRO can deal with the problem of quorums. As a large group, it is sometimes difficult to reach a quorum to be able to vote on items such as the agenda.

Ms. Wiley concurred that COBRO has a very large membership, making reaching a quorum difficult. However, the COBRO is a SANDAG committee and therefore subject to the stipulations of the Brown Act. As any decisions must be made in a public setting, using e-mail is not allowed. The only possibility would be to do a teleconference in order to have members available from Mexico who might not be able to get to the meetings. She also mentioned that once actions are taken to remove member organizations that no longer exist, this should help resolve the quorum issue.

Chair Saxod mentioned that there have been several occasions in which members were searched for after a meeting in which a quorum was not reached, to “vote” on the minutes. July Wiley stated that those actions would be nullified and you would have to vote on them again with a proper quorum.

Paul Ganster of the Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias asked whether a vote done publicly on a website. Julie Wiley said that this has not been tested yet by any legal case that she’s aware of, but there is talk of this option. However, Ms. Wiley advised not going in that direction.
Angelika Villagrana asked that we consider reducing some members who have had trouble attending, but whose organizational presence is important for the group, to be reduced to ex-officio members so that voting would not be an issue.

Chair Saxod mentioned that there is a vacant seat on the COBRO membership, does that count towards the quorum? Julie Wiley confirmed that it does count toward the quorum.

Chair Saxod explained the brief history of COBRO and its structure and how it changed from an ad hoc committee before the restructuring of SANDAG to a formal committee. It is the understanding of the Chair that the COBRO members themselves decided their own criteria. According to Julie Wiley, the Board of Directors of SANDAG has the authority to give final approval of the membership.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP AND ISSUES RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM

Hector Vanegas reported on the nomination subcommittee as outlined in the written report. There are two nominations who accepted to be considered for the new chair of COBRO: Dr. Paul Ganster of the Institute of Regional Studies of the Californias and Cindy Gompper-Graves, Executive Director of the South County Economic Development Corporation. As the subcommittee did not want to take a public vote, staff recommended that Dr. Ganster be nominated as Chair and Cindy Gompper-Graves as the Vice-Chair for the 2004-2006 Term. The subcommittee also recommended to remove those organizations that are defunct as members of the COBRO. The subcommittee also suggests that those organizations that have three or more absences to be removed from membership. Staff also recommends that the COBRO membership be addressed as needed, rather than every two years.

Discussion

Julie Wiley clarified in the case of Imperial County, in order to not have them not count toward a quorum COBRO would need to make them an ex-officio member. Chair Saxod asked whether COBRO has made an effort to have an Imperial County representative. Thus far, Imperial County has not responded by naming a representative.

Alejandra Villagrana added the issue of whether or not CALTRANS could become a member of COBRO.

Chair Saxod raised the issue that in the previous criteria the appointment of a Vice-Chair was the prerogative of the Chair, rather than a formal separate vote. Julie Wiley confirmed that each of these items should be voted on separately.

Marta Lima of San Diego Dialogue asked whether there are any criteria for membership of COBRO. Staff responded that since 1992 there were criteria established at the meeting in May of 2002. Martha Lima suggested that defining clearly the criteria for membership would help to refresh membership, as well as strengthening existing membership.

ACTION: Paul Ganster should be the new Chair of COBRO for the Term May 2004-May 2006.
ACTION: There should be a standing Vice-Chair of COBRO.

Discussion

Clarification was made that COBRO has two honorary Co-Chairs who are the two Consulates. The Chair is the Executive position of the COBRO. The Vice-Chair would be a member who stands in for the Chair when s/he cannot chair the meeting or represent COBRO in other instances such as the Borders Committee. The issue was whether the Chair should have the prerogative to appoint any Vice-Chair as needed, rather than having a permanent Vice-Chair voted on by the Committee.

ACTION: Cindy Gompper-Graves should be the new Vice-Chair of COBRO

ACTION: The following organizations should be removed from the membership of COBRO: Comisión para Asuntos de la Frontera Norte de México and the Governor’s Office for California-Mexico Affairs, Imperial County.

Discussion

There was a discussion among the membership as to whether it was appropriate for Imperial County to be included in the motion for being removed along the same criteria as the two organizations that no longer exist. Martha Lima of San Diego Dialogue was concerned that the case of Imperial County was not the same as the two defunct organizations. She asked what had been done to secure a representative from Imperial County. Chair Saxod responded that many attempts had been made to identify a representative, but that none had materialized. Imperial County is represented on the Border Committee, however. Paul Ganster stated that the motion should go ahead as stated and that efforts would be made to identify organizations from Imperial County to join COBRO later on.

ACTION: The following organizations should be removed from the membership of COBRO because they have been absent for more than three consecutive meetings: Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) and the Consejo Coordinador de Baja California

Discussion

Hon. Luis Cabrera stated that the issue at hand is membership. The criteria are flexible enough to invite new members at a later time, but the important issue here is to show commitment to the organization.

ACTION: Caltrans should become a voting member of COBRO.

Discussion

The issue was raised by Angelika Villagrana of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce of whether Caltrans should become a member of COBRO. Originally, it was decided that BTTAC would represent the transportation oriented organizations on COBRO. Elsa Saxod mentioned that originally the idea was to let Caltrans be an ex-officio to avoid conflict of interest.

ACTION: The following organizations should have an opportunity to reconfirm their commitment to COBRO by attending the next three consecutive meetings, including the Summer Conference:
City of Imperial Beach (suggested that a staff member attend)
City of Mexicali
City of Tijuana
Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad

Discussion

Staff was asked to send a letter and communicate with each of these organizations to offer them the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the group. Yolanda Walther Meade mentioned that she was the alternate and was not sure whether Andriana Mendiolea was receiving COBRO materials, but that she would inform the organization and get a staff person to attend. Staff responded that Ms. Mendiolea had responded to confirmations of her attendance several times, saying that she could not attend.

ACTION: COBRO will send recommendations regarding membership to the Board, as needed.

Discussion

The question was raised as to how long the term of the membership is. The Chair suggested that this issue be revisited when the new Chair is in place. It seems that the membership criteria is still no clear.

Julie Wiley stated that based on the leadership and membership report presented in the COBRO agenda today, that the COBRO committee would have to wait to implement the actions taken until those decisions were approved by the Borders Committee and the Board of Directors. Given the calendar, this process would culminate at the May 28 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Chair Saxod stated her concern that she could not wait for a long process and would have to finish her term at the May 21st meeting of the Borders Committee. Julie Wiley clarified that, if necessary, the Chair has the prerogative to appoint a Vice-Chair to represent her in any meeting she cannot attend until the new Chair has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Hon. Cabrera, General Consul of Mexico, reiterated that the leadership and membership decisions made were important and that the approval process should be a formality. Julie Wiley concurred that it was her experience she had never seen the Board overturn recommendations from committees such as COBRO.

The Chair also raised the point that BTTAC will need to appoint a new representative. Hector Vanegas clarified that BTTAC has this issue on their agenda for a May 18th meeting and will notify him as soon as they know who the representative is.

Hon. Luis Cabrera, Consul General of Mexico, took the opportunity to present Chair Elsa Saxod with a certificate of recognition for her service as Chair of COBRO from May 2002-May 2004.

6. SUMMER CONFERENCE UPDATE

Paul Ganster reports on advances in the planning of the Summer Conference. The save the date postcards have been sent out and copies are available for members to take back to their
The keynote speaker has been confirmed: Robert L. Bach. The Consul General of Mexico in San Diego and the U.S. Consulate will participate in the first panel moderated by Dr. Bach on institutional mechanisms of cooperation: what has worked, what hasn’t, and recommendations for the future.

The second panel we are proposing to look at comparative policy models for crossborder cooperation. The idea is to bring specific case studies to inspire the participants to think in concrete terms about where we go in the future in terms of crossborder collaboration, especially from a SANDAG perspective. Potential speakers are someone from the Arizona-Sonora Commission which has been the most successful of the state-to-state collaboration. The second case would be from the Detroit-Windsor city-region case. And finally, the San Diego-southwestern Riverside partnership will be presented as an example of an interregional partnership.

The last part of the conference would be breakout sessions. We can have specific topics, as well as transversal issues such as mechanisms for elected officials to work together; datasharing; and other issues. There will be simultaneous translation offered. Jane Clough-Riquelme asked that the conference will need volunteers for the breakout sessions. Consul Cabrera asked that the morning session times be reduced to allow more time for the breakout session.

Mario Lopez asked whether there could be multiple times for breakout sessions. Paul Ganster felt that it was necessary to have them in one timeframe. There will be ten to twelve people in a breakout session. Staff will send out a set of guidelines for the breakout sessions.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE, AND LOCATION

The 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 offered to host that meeting.

THE ATTENDANCE LIST IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) advises the Borders Committee of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) concerning both short and long-term binational related activities, issues and actions; provides recommendations regarding binational border-related planning and development; and identifies ways to assist and coordinate with existing efforts in the binational area. The membership consists of elected officials and staff representatives of academia, business, community organizations, and the Mexican government.

The COBRO will serve as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of the binational border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities meets at 3 p.m., the first Tuesday of every month.

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

Chair Paul Ganster - Alex Hidalgo
Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias-SDSU

Vice Chair Cindy Gompper-Graves - Doug Perkins - Jim Neal
South San Diego County Economic Development Council

Co Chair Luis Cabrera - Javier Díaz, Lydia Antonio
Consul General of Mexico in San Diego

Martha Lima
San Diego Dialogue

David Stewart - Liza Davis - Héctor Vindiola
Consul General of the United States in Tijuana

Rodolfo Cruz - Silvia Flores
El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

David Fege
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Angelika Villagrana - Viviana Ibañez
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

Javier Barreto - Rafael Elorduy - Julieta Sánchez
State of Baja California

Alejandra Mier y Teran - Joaquín Luken
Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Elsa Saxod - Alejandra Gavaldón
City of San Diego

César López Ramos - Jaime González-Luna
Asociacion de la Industria Maquiladora y de Exportacion de Tijuana

Mayda Winter
Councilmember, City of Imperial Beach

Richard Kiy - Amy Carstensen
International Community Foundation

Gustavo Perez - Miguel Tapia
City of Chula Vista

Yolanda Walther-Meade
FINCOMUN A.C.

Eduardo Gonzalez
City of Tecate

Virgilio Muñoz-Hector Lutteroth-Enrique Mier y Terán
Tijuana Trabaja A.C.

Marisol Manzanos
City of Tijuana

Sergio Pallares
SANDAG

Jorge Gallegos
City of Mexicali

Mariano Martinez (Calexico) - Bernardo Salcedo (Mexicali)

Luis Alfonso Duarte Mora - Haydee Martínez
Instituto de Planeacion Municipal de Tijuana (IMPLAN)

Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC)
INFORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: Institute of the Americas Tequila Talks: Hon. Enrique Martínez y Martínez, Governor of Coahuila
WHEN: July 8, 2004, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Institute of the Americas, Weaver Center
MORE INFO: www.iamericas.org
SPONSOR: 

WHAT: Cooperation across the California – Baja California Border: Where do we go from here?
WHEN: July 16, 2004, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. (light lunch served)
WHERE: San Ysidro Middle School, 4345 Otay Mesa Rd.
MORE INFO: Jane Clough-Riquelme, tel. (619) 699-1909 or jcl@sandag.org
SPONSOR: Consul General of Mexico in San Diego/U.S. Consulate in Tijuana/SANDAG

WHAT: 15th Annual MEXPORT (promoting maquiladora sourcing opportunities)
WHEN: August 5, 2004 (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
WHERE: 1855 Dornoch Court, San Diego, CA
MORE INFO: Joaquin Luken at (619) 661-6111 or jluken@otaymesa.org
SPONSOR: Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce

WHAT: XI Border Energy Forum
WHEN: Save the Date! October 21-22, 2004
WHERE: To be determined
MORE INFO: Manuel García-Lepe at (52-664) 634-36-35 or mgarcia@baja.gob.mx
SPONSOR: State of Baja California, Department of Economic Development

WHAT: 14th Annual Economic Summit: “A Seamless Region Filled with Opportunities”
WHEN: SAVE THE DATE! October 22, 2004
WHERE: Holiday Inn at the Bay
MORE INFO: Cindy Gompper-Graves at 619-424-5143 or cindy@sandiegosouth.com
SPONSOR: South County Economic Development Council
108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2525

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit certain Mexican children, and accompanying adults, to obtain a waiver of the documentation requirements otherwise required to enter the United States as a temporary visitor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2003

Mr. Filner (for himself, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Honda, Ms. Lee, Ms. Lofgren, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Reyes, Ms. Lorette Sanchez of California, Ms. Watson, and Mr. Rodriguez) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit certain Mexican children, and accompanying adults, to obtain a waiver of the documentation requirements otherwise required to enter the United States as a temporary visitor.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represent-
2 atives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Visitors Interested in
5 Strengthening America (VISA) Act of 2003”.

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UPATED COBRO CRITERIA FOR MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

Introduction
On April 4, 2002 the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) established the criteria for new membership and leadership. The criteria was reviewed and approved by the Borders Committee. A subcommittee of the COBRO reviewed again the criteria for the 2004-2006 reorganization of the COBRO and the process to select its new Chair and Vice Chair. On its May 4, 2004 meeting, the COBRO approved changes on its leadership and membership and forwarded those recommendations to the Borders Committee for its approval on its May 21st meeting.

Discussion
COBRO Criteria for leadership and membership

The COBRO will continue sending recommendations regarding its leadership to the Borders Committee every two years and, as it was agreed on the May 4, 2004 meeting, those recommendations regarding its membership will be presented to the Borders Committee every time they are needed. Appointments would be for a two-year term but would have no limit on consecutive terms. In this manner, every 2 years COBRO leadership and membership will be evaluated by the Borders Committee who will have the opportunity to approve the re-appointment of members and Chairs and the appointment of new Chair and Vice Chair to the COBRO.

COBRO Leadership

The criteria for the selection of Chair and Vice Chair of COBRO are the following:
- Experience with COBRO;
- Significant experience with and understanding of a broad range of border issues;
- Understanding of systems and “rules of the game” of both sides of the border; and,
- Bilingual preferred.

COBRO Membership

Criteria for membership and potential new members:
- Institutional or organizational legitimacy.
- Fulfill the requirement of geographic representation.
- Multiple issues area expertise, not single issue advocate.
- Significant experience with border issues.
Membership List:                      Status
1. Consul General of Mexico in San Diego  Current Member
2. Consul General of the United States in Tijuana  Current Member
3. State of Baja California  Current Member
4. USEPA Border Liaison Office  Current Member
5. City of Chula Vista  Current Member
6. City of Imperial Beach  Current Member
7. City of Mexicali  Current Member
8. City of San Diego  Current Member
9. City of Tecate  Current Member
10. City of Tijuana  Current Member
11. Instituto de Planeacion Municipal de Tijuana (Implan)  Current Member
12. South SD County Economic Development Council  Current Member
13. San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  Current Member
14. Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce  Current Member
15. Asociación de la Industria Maquiladora  Current Member
16. San Diego Dialogue  Current Member
17. Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias  Current Member
18. El Colegio de la Frontera Norte  Current Member
19. Internacional Community Foundation  Current Member
20. Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad  Current Member
21. Tijuana Trabaja  Current Member
22. Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee  Current Member
23. Caltrans  New Member

Regarding Imperial County, the COBRO reiterated its interest in pursuing, with the advice of the representative from Imperial County in the Borders Committee, to have a representative among its membership.

Regarding organizations that have been removed from the membership list, the COBRO would consider reinstating them immediately as they express interest.

SANDAG Policies affecting COBRO

On January 10, 2003, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved revisions to the policies and procedures for the policy advisory committees. These revisions clarified regulations on vacancies, attendance, quorum and voting, which the COBRO adopted for its own policies on its February 4, 2003 meeting.

Vacancies

Vacancies shall be filled as they occur.

Attendance

Regular and alternate members are encouraged to attend. Roll call shall be taken at the beginning of the meeting to determine the voting members present at that time. If a regular member misses three consecutive Committee meetings without justification, the position will be considered vacant.
Quorum:

A simple majority of members (either regular or alternates) constitutes a quorum.

Voting:

Regular members vote on all COBRO actions. Alternates vote only when their corresponding regular member is absent. A simple majority of the quorum of regular and eligible alternate members voting constitutes approval.
COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (COBRO) WORK PLAN FOR FY 2005.

Introduction

The function of COBRO is to provide advice and recommendations to SANDAG’s Borders Committee on its role in binational border-related planning activities. The framework for SANDAG’s involvement in border-related planning issues is the Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), which includes a vision statement, goal and guiding principles, specific goals for each of the planning areas described, as well as policy goals and actions.

The underlying principle of the Borders Committee is to build relationships within which transboundary planning issues can be discussed at a policy level. Based on this, the Borders Committee approved as one of its priorities for FY05 the development of an interregional partnership with the appropriate counterparts from the Republic of Mexico. The planning issues identified by the Borders Committee as priorities with the Republic of Mexico for FY05 are Transportation, Energy and Water Supply and Homeland Security.

Chair recommends that COBRO review the outcomes from the 2004 SANDAG Binational Summer Conference and incorporates the results to the work plan for the next meeting.

Discussion

The work element within SANDAG’s FY05 Overall Work Program (OWP) which provides the basis for the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) work plan is the following:

30032 OWP: 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). Related
work elements include Interregional Partnerships (30033), Economy and Security at the International Border (30034) and Tribal Government Liaison (70006).

The priorities for the relation with Mexico set by the Borders Committee on its February 20, 2004 meeting is as follow:

**Republic of Mexico**: Set up an interregional partnership with the Republic of Mexico focused on energy and water, homeland security, and transportation issues. Continue engagement in binational environmental initiatives such as Border 2012 Program and the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative.

The Borders Chapter of the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan and the binational summer conferences provide the COBRO with tools to address the binational agenda.

**Background**

In May of 2002, the COBRO modified its mission, and reorganized its membership and leadership to adapt to the new SANDAG’s committee structure. Since then, the COBRO have identified two main topics for the regional binational agenda, the issue of Homeland Security and a reflection on the state of border cooperation, which have been the topics of the 2003 and 2004 binational summer conferences. As a result of the events of 9/11 and the federal government reorganization, a new Department of Homeland Security was created to protect the county. San Diego region plays a strategic role on this issue, due to its location along the border with the Republic of Mexico and the important presence of the defense sector. The new reality led the COBRO to discuss the state of border cooperation, evaluate where the region is and where do we go from here. This will be the topic for the 8th SANDAG Binational Summer Conference, to be held at the Multicultural Complex of the San Ysidro Middle School on Friday, July 16, 2004.

In order to advance the Borders Committee’ direction on priorities and strategies for FY05, this work plan suggest a calendar, 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 planning areas to be address by the COBRO and includes a proposed strategic action for each one.

**Calendar for FY2005**

**JULY 2004**
Focus: 8th 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: Review conclusions from the 8th Summer Conference.
     Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.
Goal: Initial discussion of the six border planning areas
Product: Initial draft of recommendations to be submitted to the Borders Committee.
SEPTEMBER 2004
Focus: Continue discussion of the Summer Conference’ conclusions.
Borders Chapter of the RCP: Homeland Security issues in a binational context (include participation of Imperial County).
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP
Product: Initial draft recommendations from the Summer Conference and guidance for actions on homeland security.

OCTOBER 2004
Focus: Conclude discussion of the Summer Conference’ recommendation.
Borders Chapter of the RCP: Access to Jobs and Housing in a binational context (include participation of Imperial County).
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP.
Product: Recommendation to the Borders Committee, and guidance for actions on Jobs and Housing issues.

NOVEMBER 2004
Focus: Borders Chapter of the RCP: Transportation projects (including Imperial County perspective)
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP.
Product: Recommendation from the Summer Conference to the Board, and guidance for actions on transportation issues.

DECEMBER 2004
Focus: Initial discussion on topic for the 9th Binational Summer Conference.
Borders Chapter of the RCP: Environmental issues in a binational context
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP.

JANUARY 2005
Focus: A. Initial discussion of priorities for FY 2006.
B. Guidance for the organization of the 9th. Binational Summer Conference: Title, date and location.
C. Borders Chapter of the RCP: Energy and Water Supply issues in a binational context.
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP.
Product: Draft work plan for the Summer Conference

FEBRUARY 2005
Focus: Guidance for the organization of the 9th Binational Summer Conference: Draft agenda.
Borders Chapter of the RCP: Economic Development issues in a binational context (include participation of Imperial County).
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP.
Product: Draft agenda for the Summer Conference.

MARCH 2005
Goal: Work guidelines included in the Borders Chapter of RCP.
APRIL 2005
Focus: Summer Conference organization and priorities for FY 2006
Goal: Discuss areas of interest for FY 2006
Product: Direction for FY 2006 Work Plan

MAY 2004
Focus: Review status of issues on the planning areas covered during FY 2005
Goal: Find conclusion
Product: Recommendations to the Borders Committee

JUNE 2005
Focus: (Optional meeting) Summer Conference organization and FY 2006 Work Plan
Goal: Discuss FY 2006 Work Plan
Product: FY 2006 Work Plan