The regularly scheduled meeting of the San Diego Association of Governments Borders Committee was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Chair Crystal Crawford (North County Coastal). The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

Chair Crawford welcomed all visitors and thanked all for attending. Self introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Action: Ed Gallo (North County Inland) made the motion and David Allan (East County) seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the following meetings:
   a. November 19, 2004
   b. December 2, 2004

The motion passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Crawford noted that Hon. Edgar Fernandez, a Councilmember from the City of Tijuana, along with his staff, have joined the group for today's meeting. She extended an invitation to the Councilmember to feel free to join the group whenever convenient and noted that hopefully one day soon the Borders Committee will be able to attend a Council meeting in Tijuana.

Chair Crawford announced that the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has asked that there be a joint meeting the SANDAG Borders Committee and their Southwest Compact Task Force. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., which will include travel time. She indicated that she is looking for a good turn out and asked all members to add this item to their calendars.

Councilmember McCoy noted that Supervisor Carrillo (Imperial County) appeared recently on the KPBS television show, “Full Focus,” providing an overview on the activities taking place in Imperial County.

Dr. Paul Ganster, Chair of the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO), shared a new English-Spanish publication from San Diego State University (SDSU), published
by its Geography Department. The publication, The Tijuana River Watershed Atlas, represents a ten-year collaborative effort to collect and share data on the binational watershed.

Consul General Luis Cabrera mentioned on January 20th, a plenary meeting of the Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM) was held at the SANDAG offices. The BLM is a binational forum to discuss regional issues of mutual interest between the United States and Mexico that was created in the mid 1990s. The purpose of the plenary session was to re-launch this mechanism of binational cooperation. The BLM formed four subgroups: public safety; migration and Consular affairs, infrastructure, and environment and natural resources, (specifically water). Priorities, calendars and reorganization of the subgroups took place. SANDAG will play a key role in the BLM.

Chair Crawford stated that even though she was unable to attend, she heard that the meeting was well attended.

Chair Crawford announced that the California Energy Commission (CEC) held a workshop at the SANDAG offices in December. The Border Energy Issues Group (BEIG) and the CEC collaborated on the workshop for update of the California Energy Plan, which focused on binational energy issues. The CEC plans to hold another hearing in the Southern California area in the near future.

David Shirk, representing the USD Transborder Institute (TBI), indicated that the TBI is developing a resource guide for elected officials and would like to make that resource available to those throughout the region. Hopefully, the Resource Guide will be completed by April 2005. He encouraged all interested parties to assist in reviewing this document.

Self introductions were made.

CONSENT (ITEM 3)

3. ESTIMATING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BORDER WAIT TIMES AT THE SAN DIEGO-BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER REGION: PROJECT STATUS (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Action: The Borders Committee accepted Consent Item 3.

REPORTS


SANDAG Chairman, Poway Mayor Mickey Cafagna, provided the Committee with an overview of the inauguration of the City of Tijuana’s new administration and the installation of the Tijuana City Council’s Border Affairs Commission. On January 5, 2005, the
City of Tijuana installed Mayor Jorge Hank-Rhon as its Mayor. As part of Mayor Hank’s cabinet, the Tijuana City Council created a Commission for Border Affairs. Chairman Cafagna noted that he was invited to Tijuana, along with the SANDAG Vice Chair, Lemon Grove Mayor Mary Teresa Sessom and the SANDAG Executive Director to the event, which was well received. They met many Tijuana Councilmembers and discussed cooperation between the two regions. The Commission adopted at its meeting a list of items to work on which establishes the framework for the Commission for the next three years. Most of those items are similar to issues the Borders Committee has been addressing. The intent is to begin a series of meetings that can be held between the two groups to discuss border issues. If these issues can be dealt with on a local level, then the federal governments can be looked to mainly for funding of issues that affect both sides of the border. As a representative of the SANDAG Board, Chairman Cafagna asked that the Borders Committee discuss the possibility of working with the City of Tijuana to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Supervisor Slater-Price thanked the SANDAG Chairman and Councilmember Fernandez for their participation. She commented that this seems like this is a natural thing to move forward on and made the motion to approve the Chairman’s recommendation.

Councilmember Allan seconded the motion.

Chair Crawford stated that she is looking forward to working more with our neighbors across the Mexican border. This is a good task for the Borders committee.

Staff highlighted that in looking at the Borders work program, the current issues are those that are currently being working on. Staff will be working to focus on specific issues.

Chair Crawford commented that this issue can fall under the Strategic Initiative category.

Staff added that the Borders Committee and representatives from Tijuana share a common concern for the San Ysidro area. This might be a good focal point for collaborative action.

Councilmember Monroe mentioned that it is a good idea to have SANDAG staff attend the meetings in Tijuana and that some of Tijuana’s Councilmembers should attend SANDAG meetings on a regular basis.

Councilmember Fernandez extended greetings to the committee on behalf of Mayor Jorge Hank. There are important issues facing Tijuana that include the San Diego region, and it is important to deal with these issues on a local level. Mayor Hank is also interested in creating a close relationship with the San Diego region to address the problems and resolve them as fast as possible. He thanked Chairman Cafagna, Vice Chair Sessom, and SANDAG staff for participating in the program. If all of the Border Affairs Commissions issues are addressed, the problems that have been existing for years can be resolved together.

Chair Crawford again provided Councilmember Fernandez with an open invitation to attend the Committee meetings as much as possible.
**Action:** The Borders Committee voted unanimously to approve the SANDAG Chairman’s recommendation to work with the Tijuana City Council on issues of mutual concern.

5. UPDATE ON SAN YSIDRO PLANNING PROJECTS (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Staff provided an update on San Ysidro Planning Projects. The five projects are: The Shops at Las Americas; San Ysidro Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC); San Ysidro Port of Entry; San Ysidro Rail Improvement Project; and Mi Pueblo Pilot Village Project. Staff outlined each project and current issues regarding each project. Supervisor Slater-Price asked if there is a designated spot in the ITC for those that are coming across the border in private vehicles.

Staff indicated that there is a designated spot.

Supervisor Slater-Price added that there needs to be coordination among agencies to assist with the traffic flow.

Pedro Orso-Delgado commented that a lot of things are happening in the San Ysidro area; however, all of the things are not being looked at in a connected view. Caltrans currently has an application for a grant to conduct a transportation analysis for the entire area. The overall plan will take away from the piece meal approach and look at the big picture of the needs of the entire community.

Supervisor Slater-Price asked if the transportation analysis would include pedestrians. Bill Figge responded yes.

Staff added that the San Ysidro Border Crossing is the busiest border crossing in the world. There is a need to push for funding to complete the project. The border crossing should be the front door to the communities - not the back door. The border area will afford many opportunities for connectivity, and the Borders Committee needs to stay vigilant in its efforts.

Mario Lopez, a representative from Congressman Filner’s office, stated that the Congressman’s office is currently working on public pick up location and public restroom issues for the ITC.

Chair Crawford indicated that the Borders Committee took a tour of the area, and it was definitely an eye opener to view. It is a very congested area that needs a lot of attention.

Pedro Orso-Delgado mentioned that sometimes there are police operatives who back up the traffic across the border. This is a result of people trying to exit and enter the U.S.

Councilmember Monroe commented that the Intermodal Center is a tremendous improvement in that area. The design of the Center was exceptional. The rail yard improvements are being undertaken by folks that are trying to connect those areas. Any significant increase in cargo rail could be an issue for the cities of Chula Vista and National City.
Staff stated that the plan is not to extend a rail through National City or Chula Vista, but to build an Intermodal Center to provide alternatives for freight movement.

**Action:** The Committee received this item for information.

6. **SAN YSIDRO PORT OF ENTRY RECONFIGURATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Ramon Riesgo, representing the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), provided the Committee with a description of the various project alternatives planned for the San Ysidro Port of Entry reconfiguration project. GSA has 11 regions, and San Diego is Region 9. GSA’s role is to provide housing and facilities around the border. GSA owns 13 border facilities in California, Mexico, and Arizona. GSA has developed a Design Excellence program, which includes redesigning facilities around the United States. Examples include the Calexico Port of Entry and the San Francisco Courthouse.

The purpose of the San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration project is to increase the capacity and efficiency of vehicular and pedestrian traffic flowing through the Port, while improving safety and security for the traveling public and federal inspection facility. Mr. Riesgo provided a program development study overview, which included construction and design studies. The different procedures and mechanisms of both countries present a significant challenge to handling the impact of traffic during construction. GSA is conducting a joint EIR/EIS with Caltrans, and the timeframe of completion is October 2006. The schedule shows construction beginning at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in April 2008 and the project to be completed in March 2012.

Councilmember Allan questioned the origin of workforce for the construction. Councilmember Allan commented that it would be nice if the workforce from San Diego could be included in those jobs. Mr. Riesgo responded that a contractor has not yet been selected, but the contractor would be responsible for selecting its employees.

Staff stated that it is not uncommon to award contracts to the lowest bidder, and most of those contractors will try to pull workers from the local workforce.

Pedro Orso-Delgado asked if the budget includes the freeway improvements. Mr. Riesgo replied that the $168 million is only for the federal facility. Congressman Filner has requested a list of additional funding needs, and the freeway improvements that would be necessary to complete the project will be included in that list.

Pedro Orso-Delgado asked about the status of El Chapparal. Mr. Riesgo indicated that the list of upgrades does not include El Chapparal, as it is in Mexico.

Pedro Orso-Delgado commented that the GSA needs to work on funding sources that use a different model. The facilities and the freeways need to be built and federally funded together.

Chair Crawford asked if the design includes the freeway realignment. Mr. Riesgo responded that it does.
Staff stated that even though the design includes the freeway alignment, it doesn’t include the funding for the realignment. There is a problem if the budget does not include the freeway funding. Mr. Riesgo responded that the GSA Region 9 recognizes that.

Mario Lopez requested an update on what is happening in the Imperial County area.

Mr. Riesgo commented that the GSA has completed the list for projects to be submitted for the Good Neighbor and Design Excellence Programs in 2003 for the 2004 budget cycle. There is currently a contract to begin environmental studies in Calexico, and environmental studies have already been started in other areas. A proposal has been submitted to receive federal funding.

Dr. Ganster asked if the GSA was confident that design and feasibility studies are addressing the impacts of proposed southbound border inspections. Mr. Riesgo replied that new technology will be used for southbound inspections; however, there will still be traffic impacts. Other issues will be addressed on an as-needed basis. The facility is being designed based on the needs of GSA and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

Consul General Cabrera commented that this project is an example of the need for coordination between agencies. It would be beneficial to both regions if we could cooperate on the development of facilities on both sides of the border. Tecate is a good example of lack of proper planning. Mr. Riesgo agreed that Tecate is a good example of lack of coordination. Unfortunately, the process on the U.S. side is slow, and the process on the Mexican side is changing.

Consul General Cabrera reiterated that the purpose of the BLM is to create an organization that can coordinate all efforts at the border.

Supervisor Carrillo stated that Calexico is faced with the same issues even though the Port of Entry lanes are only open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The agricultural community would like for them to be open 24 hours. Currently, cars are in line beginning at 1 and 2 a.m. in the morning to cross the border. In addition, the noise and open space impacts are greater. They need to expand the number of inspectors to handle the facility. However, the communication between the two countries is too slow.

Margo Tanguay, a taxi driver, mentioned that the 9/11 tragedy shut the border down. She asked if there are any types of programs that can prevent this problem in the future and whether any emergency measures have been implemented since that time. Mr. Riesgo responded that the GSA has been considering that and will be including the issue in its plan, along with traffic and peak hours.

Chair Crawford thanked Mr. Riesgo for the update and asked for another update when the draft EIR/EIS report is ready.

**Action:** The Committee received this item for information.
OVERVIEW OF PLANNING EFFORTS IN THE OTAY MESA – MESA DE OTAY CORRIDOR
(INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)

Dr. Paul Ganster, Chair of the Committee of Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO),
noted that the COBRO has been in existence since 1996. He noted that last year, the COBRO
promoted a dialogue to discuss the state of border cooperation in our region and shaped
the 2004 Summer Conference to address this issue. The COBRO also wanted to address an
area of opportunity for improved and more effective binational planning. The area of
opportunity that has been identified is Otay Mesa. Otay Mesa is a growing binational
region. The City of San Diego is updating its community plan, and the City of Tijuana is
developing its specific plan for the Mesa de Otay area. This is also a corridor that the City of
Chula Vista and the County of San Diego are both interested in. The COBRO considers that
by taking advantage of the opportunities in the Otay Mesa area, it can also help to improve
things at San Ysidro. Since last year, the COBRO has been studying these issues and has met
with officials from Baja California to learn about the new Inter-urban Commission for the
municipalities of Tijuana, Tecate, and Playas de Rosarito. Maxx Stalheim, from the City of
San Diego, provided the Committee with information on the latest developments regarding
the City of San Diego’s Community Plan update.

Councilmember McCoy requested that the Otay River Watershed Plan be considered as part
of this project. Mr. Stalheim indicated that the City will be looking at the project, but the
Otay River Watershed has not been included.

Councilmember McCoy stated that is exactly her point. All of the small pieces should be put
together.

Dr. Ganster pointed out that at the COBRO meeting, two issues were brought up. At the
alignment of Tijuana’s International Airport runway path, there are many housing units
being planned on the U.S. side. Second, there needs to be space reserved, if possible, for a
terminal on the U.S. side that can serve Tijuana’s airport. That option should be considered.

Howard Williams asked whether housing is being planned at the end of Brown Field. Mr. Stalheim responded that housing is included in the plans that the consultants are
proposing. Brown Field is not part of the community plan.

Pedro Orso-Delgado expressed concern with the SR-905 project because the purpose is to
connect the Port of Entry with the I-805. The current development is putting pressure on
Caltrans for arterials, which is escalating the right-of-way costs, and there is no funding to
build the project.

Mario Orso asked if this plan is in coordination with the City’s General Plan. Mr. Stalheim
responded yes.

Alejandra Mier y Teran, Executive Director for the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce,
commented that their organization has concerns that the proposed housing developments
in the eastern part of Otay Mesa are on a southbound truck route, and the number of trucks
is growing. There are potential hazards associated with that. She added that Brown Field
has not, to this point, been included in this update, and this is also a concern.
Councilmember Monroe stated that the South County Economic Development Corporation is still working hard with elected officials in Mexico on that issue.

Staff mentioned that existing and future land uses at Brown Field would have significant relationships with the proposed developments and traffic issues in Otay Mesa and should be considered as part of the Community Plan update. Mr. Stalheim replied that Brown Field is a general aviation airport and will remain as such. The property is not currently included, but they would like for it to be included.

Chair Crawford noted that the City will keep the Committee updated on this issue.

Councilmember Monroe commented that he would like to know Councilmember Inzunza’s position on this item, considering that this project is in his district.

**Action:** The Committee received this item for information.

8. **UPDATE ON TRIBAL COORDINATION ACTIVITIES (INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Staff provided the Committee with an update on the Tribal Coordination activities and efforts. In April 2004, the Borders Committee identified as one of its strategic priorities for FY 2005, expanding communication with the Tribal Governments. It was suggested that the focus be on transportation issues. As SANDAG staff is beginning the process of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, the focus of the program will be on tribal involvement in the update of the RTP. The Committee’s goal is to establish a basis of communication in order to build the level of respect and mutual understanding necessary for advancing common planning issues. Staff would like to move forward the input from the Tribal Governments to include in the process. Currently, there are two active projects: (1) Rural/Reservation Transit Needs Assessment, which staff is working closely with Caltrans on; and (2) a Pass Through Grant with the Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA). The RTA is a tribal consortium founded in 1998 to address the transportation needs of 23 tribal governments in Southern California. The RTA recently received an environmental justice grant to promote coordination in transportation planning between Tribal Governments and the Council of Governments (COG) in their respective areas – including the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and SANDAG. The grant work will begin in February. The Executive Council of the RTA has assigned two people to work with both agencies to advance this project. Next steps will include: (1) working with tribal consortia, such as the RTA and the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA); (2) consultation and outreach to the 17 individual domestic sovereign tribal nations in the San Diego region. In December, SANDAG’s and Caltrans’ tribal liaisons attended the SCTCA council meeting in the La Posta reservation. At that time the SANDAG liaison encouraged members of the SCTCA to attend SANDAG committee meetings, especially the Borders Committee. At that meeting several tribal leaders raised the issue of representation and would like to explore mechanisms of representation for tribal governments in San Diego in the SANDAG structure. The February Borders Committee meeting will be dedicated solely to Tribal Government issues.
Councilmember Allan requested approval of the Committee to work with SANDAG staff to dialogue with the tribal governments and work on that issue.

Councilmember Crawford replied that the Committee would be delighted to have Councilmember Allan be the Borders Committee liaison with the tribal governments.

Supervisor Carrillo mentioned that the level of sophistication with the dialogue and communication with the tribal governments has increased tremendously. To have a spokesperson to convey the Committee’s concerns and to report their wishes would be good.

Staff noted that back in 2002, the SANDAG Board met with the tribal government chairs at one of its Policy Board meetings. However, since that meeting, both SANDAG and tribal governments have had their attention focused on other issues, so there has not been a lot done since that time. The RTA liaison grant provides an excellent opportunity for reengagement.

Councilmember Fernandez thanked the Borders Committee for inviting him to the meeting and indicated that he will return soon.

Councilmember Monroe reported that the Transportation Committee and Regional Planning Committee nominated 26 members to the Stakeholders Working Group. One of those members was a tribal government member.

Councilmember Monroe mentioned that the transit needs service with the tribal governments need to be included in the Metropolitan Transit System’s COA.

**Action:** The Committee received this item for information.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the Borders Committee will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2005, in SANDAG’s 7th Floor Board Room.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Attachment

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972; hva@sandag.org
CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE
BORDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
January 21, 2005
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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<th>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA/ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</th>
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<td>City of Del Mar</td>
<td>Crystal Crawford (Chair)</td>
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<td>City of Solana Beach</td>
<td>Lesa Heebner</td>
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<td>City of Escondido</td>
<td>Pia Harris-Ebert</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>City of Vista</td>
<td>Ed Gallo</td>
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<td>City of La Mesa</td>
<td>David Allan</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>City of Santee</td>
<td>Hal Ryan</td>
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<td>Patricia McCoy (Vice Chair)</td>
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<td>Ralph Inzunza</td>
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<td>David Ouzan</td>
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ADVISORY/LIAISON

|                       |                     |                                   |                 |           |
|                       | ---                 | Paul Ganster                      | Member          | Yes       |
|                       | ---                 | Cindy Gomppers-Graves             | Alternate       | No        |
| County of Riverside   | City of Lake Elsinore| Thomas Buckley                    | Member          | No        |
| Republic of Mexico     | Consul General of Mexico| Luis Cabrera Cuaron              | Member          | Yes       |
|                       | Deputy Consul       | Javier Diaz                       |                 | No        |
|                       | Deputy Consul       | Lydia Antonio                      |                 | Yes       |
| Caltrans              | ----                | Pedro Orso-Delgado/Bill Figge     | Member          | Yes       |
| San Diego County Water Authority | ---- | Howard Williams                  | Member          | Yes       |
| County of Orange      | ----                | Vacant                             | Member          | ---       |