

# A NEW STUDY TAKES A FRESH LOOK AT IMPACTS OF BORDER DELAYS AT CALIFORNIA–BAJA CALIFORNIA LAND PORTS OF ENTRY

## FACT SHEET



Calexico West border crossing.



Northbound San Ysidro border crossing.

### High-Level Tasks

- » Conduct surveys/interviews at California-Baja California POEs
- » Collect border wait time data
- » Develop and implement economic and air quality/climate outreach plans
- » Estimate economic and air quality/climate impacts of border delays
- » Develop study recommendations

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### Overview

SANDAG, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) are spearheading “A Fresh Look at Impacts of Border Delays at California-Baja California Land Ports of Entry.” This study will assess the economic and air quality/climate impacts caused by border delays at California-Baja California ports of entry (POEs): San Ysidro-Puerta México, Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay, Tecate-Tecate, Calexico West-Mexicali I, Calexico East-Mexicali II, and Andrade-Los Algodones. This study is funded through federal and state grants.

### The Need

California and Baja California share a 150-mile long international border. The population of San Diego and Imperial Counties and the State of Baja California reached nearly 7 million in 2016. The close proximity between cities on both sides of the border has resulted in interdependent relationships including shared economic and environmental concerns, border infrastructure, and a linked transportation system, among many others.

However, long wait times to cross the border and inadequate infrastructure capacity continue to create congestion. Idling vehicles impact air quality and economic drivers such as trade, international commuting, goods movement, linked industries, and manufacturing, are hampered.

Findings from previous economic impacts of border wait times studies, measuring the economic impacts of border delays in the San Diego-Baja California region and the Imperial County-Baja California region, estimated

that border crossing delays cost billions in foregone gross output and thousands of jobs in both the U.S. and Mexican economies on an annual basis.

In the decade that has passed since previous studies estimated economic impacts of border delays along the California-Baja California border, there have been key developments that have changed the dynamics of border crossings. Among these developments were the Great Recession, which created significant impacts on the local and regional economies, the increase in trusted traveler program participation (e.g. SENTRI program), and the adoption of technologies (e.g. RFID enabled documents), which function to expedite crossings and reduce delays.

The current comprehensive study is analyzing both the economic and air quality/climate impacts of border wait times along the entire California-Baja California border region. This study will be the first of its kind.

### Public Outreach for the Study

For the economic outreach component of this study, an outreach plan was implemented to gather firsthand information to understand crossborder business processes and supply-chain logistics impacts for companies operating in the border region. At the personal level, understanding the decision to engage in border-crossing trips for work-related purposes is a key element for assessing both economic impacts and air quality/climate impacts of delays at the border. The outreach plan included reaching out to key air quality/climate agencies and experts at the local, state, and federal levels on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border to solicit their input.

(Continued on reverse)



Northbound Calexico East border crossing.



Northbound Otay Mesa border crossing.

### Project Status

The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. Data collection and surveying at the six POEs took place in summer and fall of 2016, and in early 2017. Pedestrians, drivers in personal vehicles, and commercial truck drivers were interviewed as they crossed into California, and measurements of border crossing times were collected.

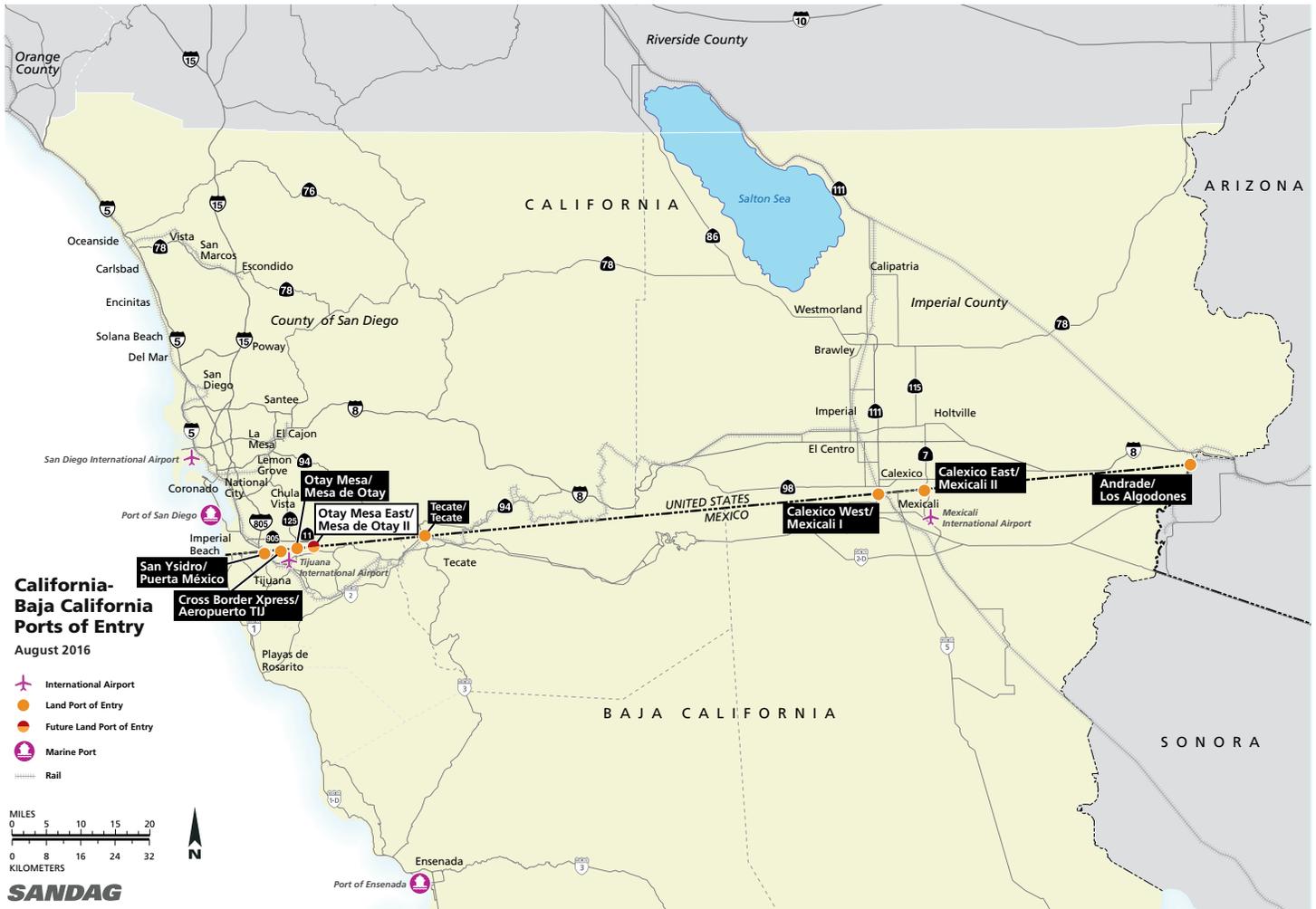
Implementation of the economic outreach plan is complete, including peer review sessions with technical experts and stakeholders, as well as individual interviews with businesses involved in crossborder industries. A peer review round table of air quality/climate experts was convened as part of the emissions outreach plan.

Conceptual scenarios for each POE have been developed to guide the economic and air quality analysis effort.

The Final Report will be comprised of three Volumes. Volume 1 will provide a study overview and summary of both the Economic Impact and Air Quality Emissions/Climate Impact Analyses. Volume 2 will describe the methodology, key inputs, assumptions, and results inherent to the economic impact analysis. Volume 3 will describe the methodology, key inputs, assumptions, and results inherent to the air quality emissions/climate impact analysis.

### For More Information

Visit [sandag.org/borderdelays](http://sandag.org/borderdelays) or contact the Project Manager Rachel Kennedy at (619) 699-1929 or [rachel.kennedy@sandag.org](mailto:rachel.kennedy@sandag.org).



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