

San Diego Association of Governments  
**BORDERS COMMITTEE**

July 26, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **3**

**Action Requested: INFORMATION**

RECENT SANDAG EFFORTS TO SUPPORT  
BORDER TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

File Number 3400200

**Introduction**

San Diego and the State of Baja California are connected through three ports of entry (POE), San Ysidro – Puerta México, Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay, and Tecate – Tecate, and all of them are working at or beyond their capacity and/or are under construction to improve operations. In particular, the San Ysidro POE, known for being the busiest international land border crossing in the world, started a reconfiguration and expansion project in 2009 that should be completed when full funding for all phases is allocated. Phase 1 of this project is anticipated to be finalized in September 2014. This report summarizes recent actions and efforts to address needs to improve the region's border-crossing capacity and projects to enhance crossborder mobility.

**Discussion**

**Policies and the SANDAG Legislative Program**

The SANDAG Legislative Program is approved by the Board of Directors on an annual basis. The program includes the agency's legislative policies and sets priorities for possible federal and state legislation and local activities for the calendar year.

Additionally, SANDAG staff worked with the Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein to include a section in the recently passed Senate Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that would create a grant program to improve the transportation infrastructure at existing and new international border crossings (Attachment 1). Staff also is working with the offices of the San Diego Congressional delegation to reflect and detail this section in the House Bill.

**Resolution 2013-12**

In May 2012, the Borders Committee received a report on a public-private partnership strategy being developed in Imperial County to pursue funding for the Calexico West POE expansion project. The Committee discussed this model and made a recommendation to the Board of Directors. On December 21, 2012, the Board approved Resolution No. 2013-12 (Attachment 2) requesting that various federal agencies, specifically, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. General Services Administration, consider joint efforts with local governments and private industry to finance and build new border crossing infrastructure.

Subsequent efforts included working with the office of Assemblymember Ben Hueso for the preparation of the Joint Resolution in the State Assembly (AJR 4) calling upon the federal government, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. General Services Administration, to provide the necessary funding for improvements at the San Ysidro and Calexico Land POEs. The AJR 4 was filed with the Secretary of State on May 1, 2013 (Attachment 3).

#### Future Otay Mesa East Port of Entry and State Route 11

SANDAG and Caltrans, along with a number of key local, state, and federal agencies in the United States and Mexico are executing an aggressive plan to self-finance a new border crossing in the San Diego-Baja California region. Annually, \$54 billion worth of goods move across the region's borders, and crossing delays regularly exceed two hours. To sustain vibrant and effective commercial cross border activities, this diverse group of partners is creating a new POE and connecting state highway.

The State Route 11 (SR 11)/Otay Mesa East POE project reached an important milestone in September 2012 when the Record of Decision (ROD) was issued by the Federal Highway Administration for the project's Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report clearing the way for the project to proceed to construction once other necessary studies are completed and project funding is secured.

Segment 1 design was recently completed in June 2013. Caltrans also is moving forward with the appraisals of right-of-way needed for the acquisition process for Segment 1 of the project. Right-of-way certification is ongoing and the award of a construction contract is anticipated in late fall 2013.

Additionally, a Traffic & Revenue Study for the toll facility must be developed as part of the project. This study, expected to be complete in late 2013, will provide an estimate of the revenue-generating capacity of the project, providing extensive data to the investment community detailing the financial feasibility of the project.

#### San Ysidro Port of Entry Reconfiguration and Expansion Project

The San Ysidro POE handles an average of 50,000 vehicles and 25,000 northbound pedestrians crossing each day. Currently the San Ysidro POE is undergoing a major expansion project, divided in three phases, to expand its capacity by increasing the number of northbound automobile and pedestrian inspection booths and operating bi-directional pedestrian facilities at both east and west ends of the POE. Most recently, on May 29, 2013, 17 cities and the County of the San Diego sent a letter to the San Diego Congressional and Senate delegation requesting funding to be included in the Administration's FY 2014 federal budget proposal for phase III construction and to complete the overall expansion and reconfiguration project (Attachment 4). President Barack Obama's proposed budget for FY 2014 included \$226 million for the San Ysidro POE reconfiguration and expansion project.

## San Ysidro Intermodal Transportation Center Study

The Borders Committee has received updates on the plans to redesign and expand the San Ysidro Intermodal Transportation Center (SYITC), which currently supports more than 22,000 daily transit arrivals and departures. The San Diego Trolley and local buses provide public transit access to and from the border station. The SYITC Planning Study is being developed by SANDAG and the City of San Diego—in partnership with Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), other agencies, and community members to make the SYITC a welcoming gateway to California that complements the border crossing improvements underway in the San Ysidro area.

## Virginia Avenue Intermodal Transportation Center Concept

As part of the San Ysidro POE expansion project, in September 2012, the southbound pedestrian crossing was relocated to the eastern side of the POE, while an additional future new bi-directional pedestrian crossing facility is built at Virginia Avenue. SANDAG, Caltrans, the City of San Diego, and MTS developed alternatives and presented a concept to the U.S. General Services Administration for a new Intermodal Transportation Center that would be located at Virginia Avenue.

## San Ysidro Freight Rail Yard Improvement Project

This project will replace aging rail infrastructure, expand, and reconfigure the facility's existing footprint to increase freight capacity and efficiency. The improvements will provide more opportunities for cargo transfer and eliminate some truck trips on freeways in the region. This project will construct two new track extensions and reconfigure the tracks within the rail yard to provide additional storage capacity and the ability to switch rail cars outside of the constrained operating windows without interrupting the San Diego Trolley service operated by MTS. The project also will improve access and circulation by building a new truck access road; a new one-way, entrance-only driveway on East Beyer Boulevard; and more offloading areas within the rail yard. Additionally, the project will include drainage improvements to alleviate flooding and sediment build-up. Pre-construction work on the project site started in early 2013. Construction is expected to get underway in late-2013, with the project finishing by the end of 2014.

## South Bay Bus Rapid Transit

The South Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project will offer passengers high-quality transit that is fast, frequent, and comfortable. The South Bay BRT will serve the Otay Mesa POE, and major activity centers in downtown San Diego and the South Bay, including offices, shopping, recreational facilities, residential communities, and park-and-ride lots. The project will provide new upgraded vehicles and enhanced stations resulting in a premium transit service. The 12 stations' architectural design will reflect the surrounding community's character. The South Bay BRT is expected to begin service in mid-2015.

## SANDAG Annual Binational Event

As every year since 1997, SANDAG organized a binational event on June 4, 2013, to address competitiveness and sustainability on the border within the framework of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the La Paz Agreement. The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) is tasked to support the preparation and organization of this annual event. The purpose of the event was to bring stakeholders together from both sides of the border, to address these issues, seek out solutions, and identify opportunities. Outcomes from the annual event will be discussed by COBRO and presented to the Borders Committee and the SANDAG Board of Directors as possible recommendations for follow up actions.

CHARLES "MUGGS" STOLL

Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Attachments: 1. Senator Feinstein's Amendment to S.744 Establishing a Grant Program to Improve Transportation Infrastructure at Existing and New International Border Crossings  
2. SANDAG Resolution No. 2013-12  
3. AJR 4 Assembly Joint Resolution Relative to the United States – Mexico Border  
4. SANDAG Letter Dated May 29, 2013, Expressing Regional Support for Funding Included in the Administration's 2014 Federal Budget Proposal for the San Ysidro Port of Entry

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

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To establish a grant program to improve the transportation infrastructure at existing and new international border crossings.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**S. 744**

To provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mrs. FEINSTEIN

Viz:

- 1 On page 41, strike line 3 and insert the following:
- 2 (3) SAFE AND SECURE BORDER INFRASTRUC-
- 3 TURE.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Trans-
- 4 portation, in consultation with the governors of the
- 5 States in the Southwest border region and the
- 6 Northern border region, shall establish a grant pro-
- 7 gram, which shall be administered by the Secretary
- 8 of Transportation and the General Services Adminis-
- 9 tration , to construct transportation and supporting
- 10 infrastructure improvements at existing and new
- 11 international border crossings necessary to facilitate

2

1 safe, secure, and efficient cross border movement of  
2 people, motor vehicles, and cargo.

3 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—



401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone (619) 699-1900 • Fax (619) 699-1905  
[www.sandag.org](http://www.sandag.org)

# **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-12**

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES, SPECIFICALLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, TO CONSIDER JOINT EFFORTS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO FINANCE AND BUILD IMPROVEMENTS OR NEW LAND PORTS OF ENTRY

WHEREAS, the San Diego Association of Governments is a regional body whose Board of Directors represents the eighteen cities and the county in the San Diego region; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego region is located on the international border with the Republic of Mexico, sharing three land ports of entry with the Mexican State of Baja California (San Ysidro-Puerta México, Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay, and Tecate-Tecate); and

WHEREAS, the San Diego region is taking the lead in planning and financing a new port of entry at Otay Mesa East, forging an innovative financial strategy that includes issuing bonds as part of a financial strategy to build a toll access road; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego region and the Tijuana, Tecate and Playas de Rosarito Metropolitan Zone form the largest crossborder metropolis along the United States – Mexico border; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego region and the Tijuana, Tecate, and Playas de Rosarito Metropolitan Zone have developed not only strong economic, cultural, and social and familiar ties, but one of the most intense crossborder multi-modal confluences in the world; and

WHEREAS, the countries of the United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993 to foster trade between the three countries, and improve global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.- Mexico trade has more than quintupled since the implementation of NAFTA, totaling \$500 billion in bilateral trade in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is second only to Canada as a source of tourism in the United States, representing nearly 14 million annual Mexican visitors to the U.S. and spend millions of dollars on U.S. goods and services every single day; and

WHEREAS, the San Ysidro – Puerta Mexico Land Port of Entry is the busiest port of entry between the United States and Mexico, and is undergoing a major reconfiguration and expansion project; and

WHEREAS, the Otay Mesa – Mesa de Otay Land Port of Entry has plans for the expansion and modernization of the passenger and commercial inspection facilities; and

WHEREAS, the need for improved border capacity and efficiency comes at a time when traditional federal funds are increasingly scarce; and

WHEREAS, that due to insufficient funds public-private partnerships are increasingly becoming a model for constructing new and improving existing border infrastructure; and

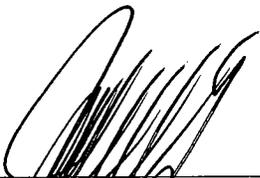
WHEREAS, new land port of entry or improvement projects are of federal jurisdiction, with significant influence over local communities; and

WHEREAS, the relationship and collaboration between federal and local agencies is important and essential for the development of border infrastructure projects and security; and

WHEREAS, SANDAG adopted Resolution 2002-15 urging the federal and state governments to help mitigate the economic impacts on the border region resulting from increased border wait times; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego Association of Governments hereby requests the various agencies of the United States, specifically, the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration consider joining efforts of local governments and private industry to finance and build improvements or new land ports of entry, supporting public-private partnerships, as proposed for the Imperial County border region.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of December 2012.



CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:   
SECRETARY

MEMBER AGENCIES: Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and County of San Diego.

ADVISORY MEMBERS: California Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transit System, North County Transit District, Imperial County, U.S. Department of Defense, San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego County Water Authority, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association, and Mexico.



## AJR-4 The United States-Mexico border.(2013-2014)

### Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4

#### CHAPTER 24

#### Relative to the United States-Mexico border.

[ Filed Secretary of State May 01, 2013. ]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 4, Hueso. The United States-Mexico border.

This measure would urge the federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, to fund necessary improvements at the San Ysidro, Calexico, and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry.

Fiscal Committee: NO

---

WHEREAS, The United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993 to foster trade among the countries, and improve global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Trade between the United States and Mexico has more than quintupled since the implementation of NAFTA, totaling \$500 billion in bilateral trade in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mexico continues to be California's number one export market with \$25.8 billion in goods exported to Mexico in 2011, accounting for 16 percent of all California exports; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-nine percent of trade between California and Mexico is carried by trucks; and

WHEREAS, The SANDAG 2050 Comprehensive Freight Gateway Study projects that the nearly two million trucks that crossed the California-Mexico border in 2007 will increase to nearly five million trucks in 2050. In 2011, over \$33.5 billion in goods moved between Mexico and the United States at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry and at the Tecate Port of Entry; and

WHEREAS, The San Diego and Imperial Counties' border traffic congestion and delays cost the U.S. and Mexican economies an estimated \$8.63 billion in gross output and more than 73,900 jobs in 2007; and

WHEREAS, New land port of entry and improvement projects are under federal jurisdiction with significant influence over local communities; and

WHEREAS, The San Ysidro-Puerta Mexico Land Port of Entry is the busiest port of entry between the United States and Mexico and is undergoing a major reconfiguration and expansion project; and

WHEREAS, The Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Land Port of Entry has plans for the expansion and modernization of passenger and commercial inspection facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Calexico West Port of Entry also has plans to renovate and

expand the facility to process and expand its operation for pedestrians and automobiles; and

WHEREAS, The collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies is essential for the development of border infrastructure projects and security; and

WHEREAS, The General Accountability Office and the Department of Homeland Security estimate that \$6 billion in border infrastructure is needed to fulfill their mission of preventing unlawful entry and smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade and tourism; and

WHEREAS, The need for improved border capacity and efficiency comes at a time when traditional federal funding is scarce and increasingly difficult to obtain; and

WHEREAS, Since February 2009, Congress and the Obama administration have not funded border infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, The San Ysidro project has a stated funding gap of \$285 million, the Calexico project needs \$318 million to complete construction, and the Otay Mesa project requires \$161 million for completion; and

WHEREAS, Various agencies of the United States, including the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, should work with Congress to provide funding to support these border infrastructure investments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, to fund necessary improvements at the San Ysidro, Calexico, and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.



401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101-4231  
(619) 699-1900  
Fax (619) 699-1905  
www.sandag.org

May 29, 2013

File Number 7300400

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

SUBJECT: Regional Support for Funding Included in the Administration's FY 2014 Federal Budget Proposal for the San Ysidro Port of Entry

We are writing in support of the Administration's FY 2014 Federal Budget Proposal which includes funding for the San Ysidro Port of Entry (POE). Specifically, the Administration has proposed to provide \$226 million for the San Ysidro Reconfiguration Project from the General Services Administration Federal Buildings Account. The proposed funding would construct Phase 3 of the project and provide funds for additional site acquisition necessary to complete the overall expansion and reconfiguration project.

The current San Ysidro Land Port of Entry facility was constructed in the 1970s to meet the needs and projected growth of the time. Nearly forty-five years later, this port of entry has reached its adequate operational capacity. The Government Accountability Office and the Department of Homeland Security estimate that \$6 billion in border infrastructure and technology funds are needed to maintain the nation's POEs.

SANDAG studies have shown that the impact of border wait times on the regional and national economies is substantial. The proposed FY 2014 appropriation is critical to the completion of the overall San Ysidro Expansion and Reconfiguration Project. To date the project has received \$298 million, fully funding Phase 1 of the project, which is expected to be completed by September 2014. If no other funds are allocated in FY 2014 for the San Ysidro POE, the project could incur significant delays and cost increases associated with an incomplete project.

We thank you for your leadership and urge you to support the President's FY 2014 Budget request to provide \$226 million for the San Ysidro POE.

Sincerely,

HON. BOB FILNER  
Mayor, City of San Diego

HON. JACK DALE  
Chairman, SANDAG Board of Directors

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Cities of
- Carlsbad
- Chula Vista
- Coronado
- Del Mar
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Imperial Beach
- La Mesa
- Lemon Grove
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Solana Beach
- Vista
- and
- County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

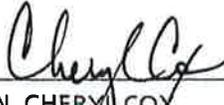
- Imperial County
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico



HON. GREG COX  
Chairman, County of San Diego



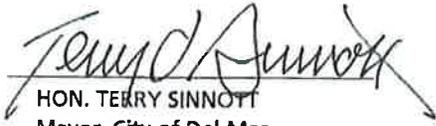
HON. JUDY RITTER  
Mayor, City of Vista



HON. CHERYL COX  
Mayor, City of Chula Vista



HON. CASEY TANAKA  
Mayor, City of Coronado



HON. TERRY SINNOTT  
Mayor, City of Del Mar



HON. MARK LEWIS  
Mayor, City of El Cajon



HON. TERESA BARTH  
Mayor, City of Encinitas



HON. SAM ABED  
Mayor, City of Escondido



HON. JIM JANNEY  
Mayor, City of Imperial Beach



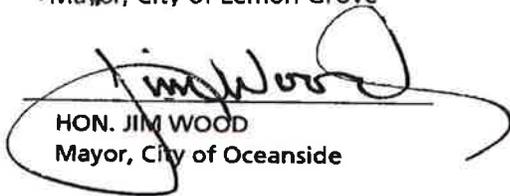
HON. ART MADRID  
Mayor, City of La Mesa



HON. MARY TERESA SESSOM  
Mayor, City of Lemon Grove



HON. RON MORRISON  
Mayor, City of National City



HON. JIM WOOD  
Mayor, City of Oceanside



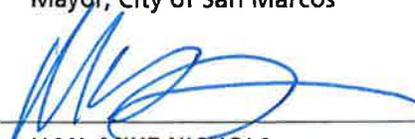
HON. DON HIGGINSON  
Mayor, City of Poway



HON. JIM DESMOND  
Mayor, City of San Marcos



HON. RANDY VOEPEL  
Mayor, City of Santee



HON. MIKE NICHOLS  
Mayor, City of Solana Beach