



Borders 101

Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group | Item 6
Héctor Vanegas, Borders Program Manager
July 24, 2025

1

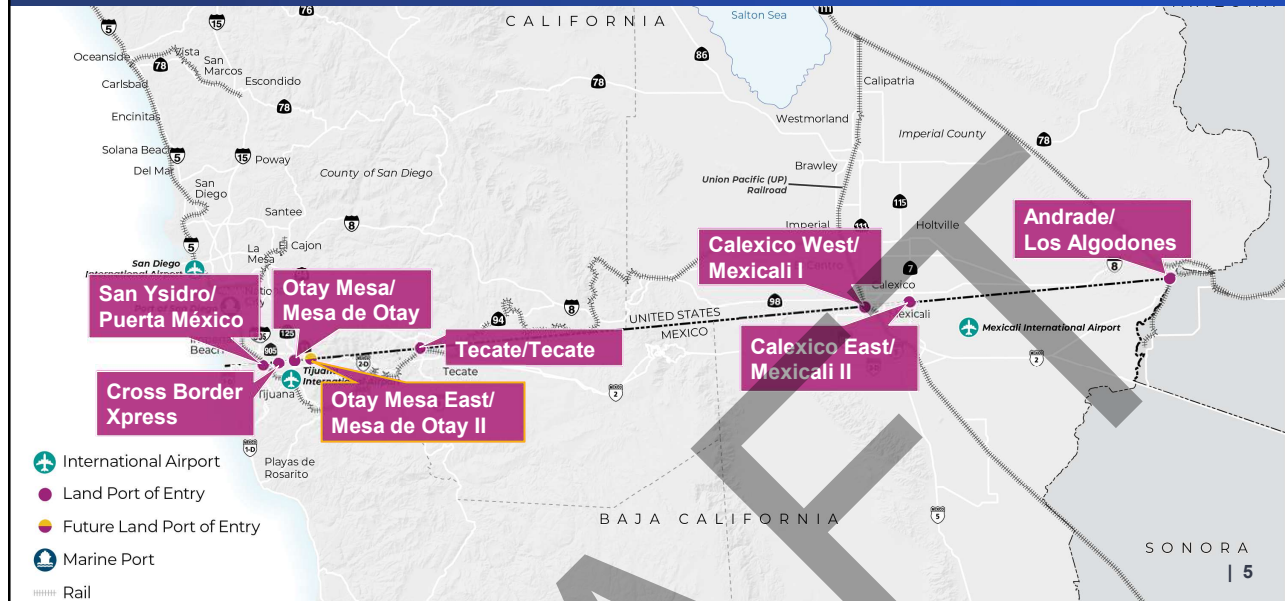
SANDAG History

- **1966** County Planning Organization
- **1970** MPO
- **1972** Joint Power Agency
- **(+)** **Mexico** joins our governing Board
- **1980** San Diego Association of Governments
- **1996** **COBRO**
- **2001** New PACs: **Borders Committee**
- **2003** SB 1703 – **Imperial County**
- **2006** **SCTCA** joins the governing Board



2

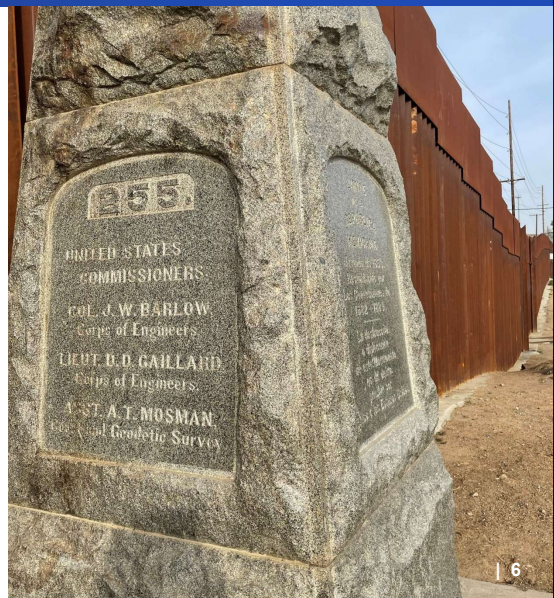
California–Baja California Land Ports of Entry



5

The International Border

The most accepted definition of our border region is the one from the **La Paz Agreements** of 1983 defined as “the area of land being 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) north and south of the international boundary.”



6

Who is Using Our Border Crossings?

Travel

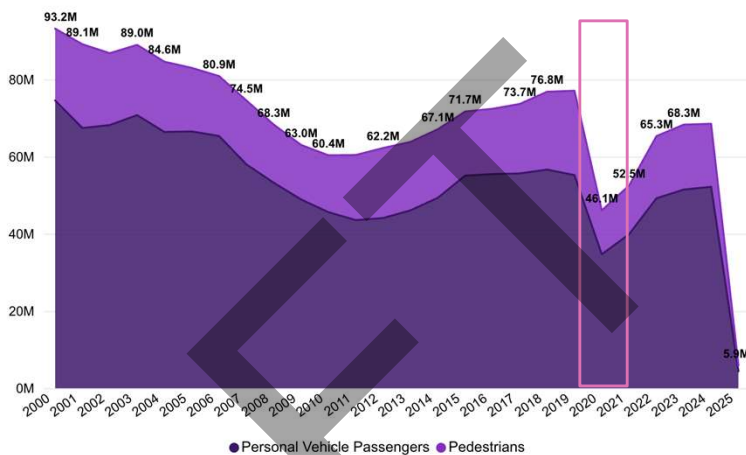
- Restrictions for “non-essential” crossborder trips went into effect March 21, 2020 and were extended until November 8, 2021.

Trade

- United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) entered into force on July 1, 2020.

Northbound Individual Crossings

Pedestrians and Vehicle Passengers through California-Baja California Land Ports of Entry



SANDAG | 7

7

Largest International HUBs in the United States

- **Airports:** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) is the largest international hub in the United States, serving 55.4 million passengers annually
- **Seaports:** The **Port of Los Angeles** is the largest international seaport in the United States, and the largest in North America, handling over \$291 billion in cargo, and 20% of all incoming cargo for the United States.
- **Land Ports:** The **San Ysidro/El Chaparral Land Port of Entry** is the world's busiest international land border crossing. Otay Mesa Land Port of Entry is the second busiest international and border crossing.

SANDAG

8

A Typical Day at the Border

“...that’s a huge statistics! If you were to take JFK, LAX, and Atlanta, some of the busiest airports in the US combined in one day, they **wouldn’t reach half** of San Ysidro.”

Mariza Marin,
SY Port Director

- **Over 75% of California exports** to Mexico cross at Otay Mesa
- **Over 20% of people** that enter the U.S., enters through San Ysidro Land Port of Entry (SY LPOE)
 - Just SY about 100,000 travelers a day! Northbound
- **33%, one third of all vehicles** come through San Diego
- **41% of pedestrians** walking to the U.S.

SANDAG | 9

9

Trade with Mexico: A Critical Economic Partnership

- **U.S. trade with Mexico is more than triple** that with Germany—our largest European trading partner.
- In fact, we trade more with **Mexico** than with **Germany**, the **U.K.**, the **Netherlands**, **France**, **Italy**, and **Ireland combined**.
- Total trade between the two countries in 2023 was of **\$798.8 billions**, representing almost **16 percent** of total U.S. international trade, followed by China and Canada.



SANDAG | 10

10

California's Economic Ties to Mexico

California's exports to Mexico are 70% greater than those to our second-largest export market, Canada.

- Every major company and organization in San Diego recognizes the importance of our relationship with Mexico.

GENERAL DYNAMICS
NASSCO

DJO
GLOBAL

SDSU San Diego State University

Solar Turbines
A Caterpillar Company

Callaway

Taylor
QUALITY GUITARS

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

UC San Diego

FASHION VALLEY
A SIMON MALL

SEMPRA

SCANTIBODIES Laboratory, Inc.
Harnessing God's Elegant
Antibody Creation

PASHA

Westfield
UTC

Sd San Diego Regional
Chamber of Commerce

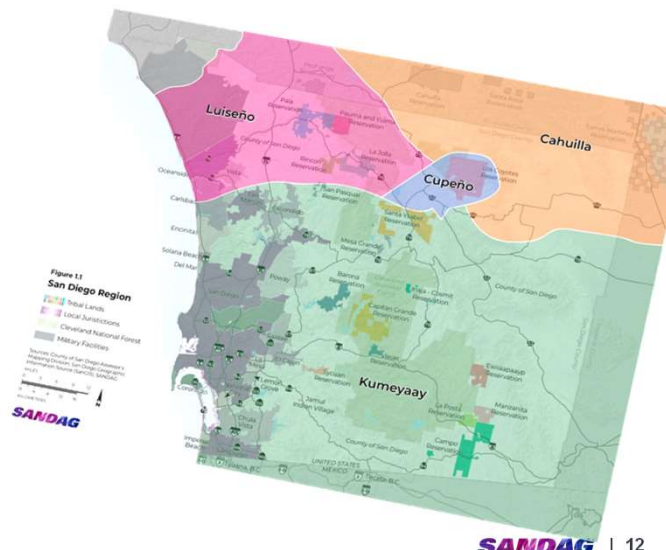
Etc...

SANDAG | 11

11

Government-to-Government with the Tribes

- 18 tribal nations, 17 sovereign governments in San Diego County
- SCTCA partnership
- Engagement platforms:
 - Borders Committee
 - Technical Working Group
 - Tribal Summits and Symposiums

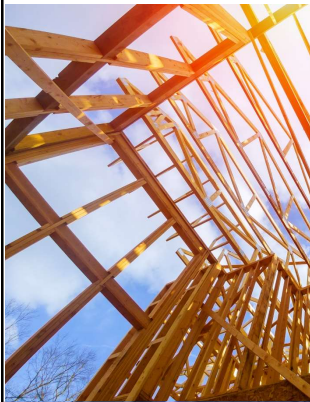


SANDAG | 12

12

Government-to-Government with the Tribes

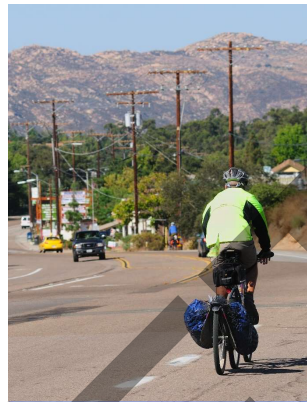
Current SANDAG Grant Efforts with Tribes



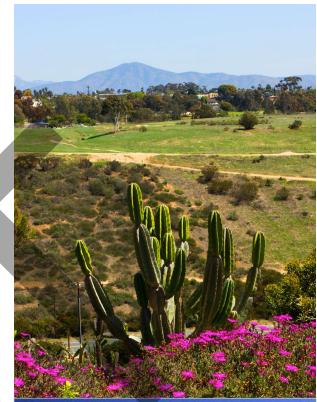
REAP 2.0



SCTCA LATA Grant



Vision Zero



EPA Climate Pollution
Reduction Grant
(CPRG)

SANDAG | 13

13

Interregional: Orange, Riverside and Imperial Counties

- **Riverside**
 - >29,000 commuters with Riverside
 - 60 minutes going south, and 71 minutes going north
- **Orange County**
 - I 5 and LOSSAN Corridors
- **Imperial County**
 - International Border, I 8 corridor, Water/Energy supply

SANDAG | 14

14

Stay connected with us

- Sign up for emails
[SANDAG.org](https://sandag.org)
- 🔍 Follow us on social media
[@SANDAGregion](https://twitter.com/SANDAGregion) [@SANDAG](https://twitter.com/SANDAG)
- ✉ Send us an email
pio@sandag.org

SANDAG

15