

Imperial-Mexicali Binational Alliance (IMBA)

MINUTES	SEPTEMBER 23, 2015	10AM-12PM	CARMEN DURAZO CULTURAL ARTS CENTER 421 Heffernan Ave CALEXICO, CA 92231
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MEETING CALLED BY	Mark Baza
MEETING NO	21 st
NO OF ATTENDEES	45
NOTE TAKER	Digna Herrera
ATTENDEES	<p>Alejandrina Barajas, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) Alex Steenstra Ph.D, Northern Arizona University (NAU) Anahí Castañeda, Consejo de Desarrollo Económico de Mexicali (CDEM) Araceli Saucedo, Calexico New River Committee Armando Villa, Imperial County CEO's Office Beatriz Scroggins, SCWD Board Member Belinda Alvarado, Calexico Economic Development Ben Horton, Calexico Chamber of Commerce Beth Landrum, Caltrans Carlos Cordova, Comisión de Desarrolló Industrial (CDI) Carlos Lopez, Secretaría de Infraestructura y Desarrollo Urbano del Estado (SIDUE) Carmen Posada, Mexicali Health Care Cynthia Mancha, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC) Daniel Romero, Calexico Chamber of Commerce Economical Committee Digna Herrera, Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) Elsa Beljean, IVEDC Juan Carlos Kwong, IVEDC Esperanza Colio, Imperial County Community and Economic Development Francisco Fuentes, CDEM Francisco Velez, Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior (CETYS) Gabriel Medrano, Calexico Smart Buy Gary Wyatt, Imperial County CEO's Office Giscard Guilloteau, US Consulate Hector Huerta, Consulado de Mexico Supervisor Jack Terrazas, County of Imperial Board of Supervisors Johanna Caballero, Office of Senator Ben Hueso Jorge Wise, CETYS Juan Mantija, Secretaria de Desarrollo Económico B.C. Juan Padilla, Imperial County Resident Julia Osuna, City of Calexico Luis Alberto Ocampo, Secretaria de Protección al Medio Ambiente Marc Baza, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Mark Baza, ICTC Miguel Carrasco, Mexicali EDC Mike Sabath, NAU Patricia Padilla, Imperial County Resident Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, Office of Congressman Juan Vargas Rene Acuna, Consejo de Desarrollo Economico de Mexicali (CDEM) Sergio Tagliapietra, CDEM Supervisor John Renison, Imperial County Board of Supervisors Timothy Kelley, IVEDC Tomas Oliva, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Victor Carrillo, Safer Communities Group Virginia Mendoza, ICTC</p>

BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

➤ **Calexico West/Mexicali I Port of Entry**

- Mark Baza announced that General Services Administration (GSA) will host a Ground Breaking event on November 12, 2015. The Ceremonial Ground Breaking for dignitaries will be held at the Port of Entry (POE) with reception to follow at the Carmen Durazo Cultural Arts Center.
- Mark Baza also mentioned that 98 million have been appropriated for Phase I of the Calexico West/Mexicali I Port of Entry Expansion Project.
- Carlos Lopez of SIDUE mentioned he attended a meeting in Mexico City with GSA, INDAABIN and SCT. The items discussed at the meeting included engineering logistics moving forward with Phase I and future planning for Phases II and III of the Calexico West/Mexicali I POE Expansion project.

➤ **Calexico East/Mexicali II POE**

- Mark Baza talked about the Calexico East/ Mexicali II Expansion project/Proposal 559. The project proposal is led by Safer Communities and has an estimated cost of 70 million. Next steps for this project will involve an agreement with stakeholder agencies and a Feasibility study.
- The project proposal involves expansion of the bridge over the All American Canal, 5 additional vehicle lanes and 3 additional commercial lanes at the Calexico East/Mexicali II POE. The 559 proposal is anticipated to be submitted to CBP and GSA by October 2015.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- Carlos Cordova gave updates on the meetings he participated in Asia, Korea, and Taiwan. He also mentioned ULINE (a shipping supply distributor company) that opened a branch in Mexicali, B.C.
- Timothy Kelley invited meeting attendees to register for the IVEDC 11th Annual Dinner to be held on November 19, 2015 at the Casa Blanca in Holtville, CA. He mentioned that space is limited and will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Timothy Kelley went on to discuss IVEDC's participation in the planning of the Border Energy Forum to be held in San Diego, CA on October 14-16, 2015. The Border Energy Forum will include a tour of Imperial Valley renewable energy sites.
- Timothy Kelley mentioned that IVEDC was successful in receiving a grant from the US Department of Commerce to conduct an aerospace supply chain study. The study is geared to identify the potential for US companies to provide services and supplies to aerospace companies located in Baja California.
- Timothy Kelley concluded his remarks by discussing IVEDC's participation in the Southern California Advanced Manufacturing Partnership. He mentioned that IVEDC and the County of Imperial would be participating as exhibitors in the SelectUSA National Foreign Direct Investment Exposition to be held on October 26-28, 2015 in Los Angeles, CA.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL LINKAGES AMONG YUMA, IMPERIAL VALLEY, MEXICALI AND SAN LUIS RIO COLORADO: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

- Alex Steenstra gave a presentation about the economic challenges in Yuma, Arizona and some similarities it shared with the Imperial Valley. Mr. Steenstra, mentioned high unemployment rates in Arizona and compared them with the rest of the country. He also mentioned Arizona has the highest unemployment rates and highlighted this as an advantage and opportunity for growth.
- Alex Steenstra discussed water as a critical resource and provided some statistics about Arizona's and California's water consumption.
 - **1 trillion:** Predicted 2060 annual shortfall in gallons of water for the Colorado River
 - **326,000:** Gallons of water in an acre-foot
 - **\$5 million:** How much Arizona farmers will be paid to sacrifice water over the next three years
 - **33:** Percentage of Colorado River water that goes to crops that feed livestock every year

➤ **Estimated Total Water Consumption 2015:**

- Agriculture 2.20 Million Acre Feet (MAF) 49% from Colorado River
- Municipal & Industrial 1.98 MAF 41% from Colorado River California
- Agriculture 3.52 Million Acre Feet (MAF) 92% from Colorado River
- Municipal & Industrial 4.17 MAF 37% from Colorado River

➤ **Estimated Total Economic Impact of Colorado River Water Loss by Region:**

Arizona:

- \$185.01 billion (2014 \$) 2,147,770 Jobs
- \$107.80 billion (2014 \$) Labor Income

California:

- \$657.45 billion (2014 \$) 7,046,110 Jobs
- \$406.58 billion (2014 \$) Labor Income

- Alex Steenstra mentioned updates on the NAU Yuma Business Innovation Center. He discussed the organizations that work with NAU and the collaborative work with NAU Yuma-TIANFU Collaborative Exchange Program and the NAU *Yuma* CETYS MBA Program.
- Mr. Steenstra also mentioned the City of San Luis Business Incubator and made a brief summary of what the program offers and partners associated.
- Mr. Steenstra concluded his remarks by extending his excitement to collaborate in future projects in Imperial-Mexicali region and attending future IMBA meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PROJECT UPDATES

- Mark Baza made an update in regards to the Idling Vehicle Emission Study led by the Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The study is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The draft final report has been released for review. This study may be presented at the November IMBA meeting.
- Mark Baza also mentioned the upcoming study led by SANDAG that will update the Economic Impact of Border Wait Times and Green House Gas Emissions due to border delays.
- Daniel Romero brought up an information item regarding bank services in the City of Calexico and an upcoming meeting in Washington DC. The meeting is anticipated to be attended by Imperial County officials.
- Johanna Caballero provided an update on the Enhanced Driver's License bill introduced by Senator Ben Hueso. State-issued enhanced drivers licenses (EDLs) provide proof of identity and U.S. citizenship, are issued in a secure process and include technology that makes travel easier. Senator Bill (SB 249) for EDL is on the Governor's desk.
- John Renison provided updates on the desalinization project of Laguna Salada. The proposed project is a water transfer from Mexico to California.
- Guilloteau Giscard encouraged IMBA members to use the U.S Consulate as a resource.

NEXT MEETING

Proposed agenda items:

- Final Report on Idling Vehicle Emission Study

The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2015 at Cety's University.