COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEN HUESO
DISTRICT EIGHT

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 9, 2010
To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
From: Council President Ben Hueso
Subject: San Diego – Tijuana Cross-Border Facility

The San Diego-Tijuana Cross Border Facility received a Presidential Permit issued by the United States Department of State in August 2010. This is a unique project that would facilitate airline travel for the region which includes two major international cities. This project will provide tremendous regional and local benefit:

- Increased border crossing capacity - The project will initially add capacity for 2 million crossings per year for ticketed airline passengers.
- Reduced congestion and economic losses from border crossing delays - Existing ports of entry are congested and northbound times can vary from 30 minutes to several hours, which discourages employment and trade. SANDAG estimates delays cost California more than $3 billion and 35,000 jobs a year.
- Increased air travel capacity for the region - 2 million people cross the border to fly in or out of Tijuana every year, and that traffic is expected to grow. Rodriguez International Airport has higher capacity for growth than Southern California airports, and can provide some measure of relief for San Diego International Airport.
- Economic engine for Otay Mesa - Jobs during construction of the multi-million dollar facility, long term opportunity direct, indirect and induced benefits from increased trade and travel.
- Low cost options for travel - Access to more frequent and non-stop flights and lower fares than Southern California airports, including direct flights to Asia serving key businesses in San Diego.

The project sponsorship behind the Cross Border Facility has been seeking various required City approvals as a part of the larger Otay Mesa Community Plan Update. Based on specific timing needs on both sides of the US / Mexico border, which require construction completion prior to year-end 2012, it has become apparent that the
Community Plan Update will not be completed in a timeframe that works for the Cross Border Facility. Based on the project’s timing constraints, it has been determined that the Cross Border Facility could best move forward with a Community Plan Amendment to meet the overall schedule requirements.

This project involves approvals not only in the City of San Diego, but also at the federal levels in the United States and Mexico. As such, it is subject to timing constraints that other, more typical development projects would not be subject to.

The Initiation simply allows the Applicant to begin the normal Community Plan Amendment review process, will which include public noticing, public hearings, consideration by the Otay Mesa Planning Group, Planning Commission, and ultimately, City Council. All of the standard public and government/agency project review steps are the same whether the Initiation is brought forward by the Applicant or by the City.

cc. Honorable Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney
Mary Jo Lanzafame, Assistant City Attorney
Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk