



Our Mission is to Enrich, Lead and Foster the San Ysidro Business Community and our Bi-National Region.

2018-2020 Board of Directors

President

Jennifer Goudeau
Barob Group LTD

Vice President

Carlos Avalos
T-Mobile

Secretary

Filex Sanchez
Union Law Group

Treasurer

Rudy Lopez, Jr.
Hermanos Lopez

Edgar Zaul Alaniz

El Rincón Restaurante

Antonio Barbosa

Wells Fargo

Carlos Diaz

Tourismo Express/ El Tiketon

Louis Escareño, Esq.

UETA Duty Free

Sunil Gakhreja

Sunny's Perfumes

Ivan Magaña

San Ysidro Placas

Emilie Medellin

Emmy Artistic Makeup Academy

Douglas Qasawadish

Primera Market & Gas (Mobil)

Alfredo Ripa

Border Station Parking

Andres Ripa

Outlets at the Border

Omar Trujillo

My Mobile

Enrique Valle

Border Xchange

Cesar Velásquez

Border Village Shopping Center

Ex-Oficio Directors

Francisco Bates

Border Transportation Council

Victoria Barba

City of San Diego, Council District 8

Carlos Lacarra

San Diego Police Department

Ernesto Murguia

BBVA Compass Bank

Dinah Willier

SDG&E

Executive Director

Jason M-B Wells

President's Circle



December 4, 2018

Commission Kevin K. McAleenan
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20229

Re: BORDER CLOSURES AT SAN YSIDRO LAND PORT OF ENTRY

Commissioner McAleenan -

The San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce understands these are extraordinary times for all with regards to the Central American Migrant Caravan's ("caravan") arrival to Baja California. However, we still have lives to live, an economy to drive and livelihoods at stake. For these reasons, we must ask that closing our port of entry to subdue pedestrian chaos-seekers not be an option.

The Sunday, November 25, 2018, closure of the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry ("SYLPOE") cost our region \$5.3 million – this solely from sales lost at San Ysidro businesses alone. Chula Vista, National City and San Diego businesses were affected as well. The SYLPOE was closed as a group of 100 or so tried breaching the Tijuana River canal - hundreds of yards from the POE. A week prior, the SYLPOE was completely shut down due to a rumor that a pedestrian group might approach the border. We simply cannot live like this; and rhetoric from Washington, DC threatening spiteful and longer-term closures exacerbates the situation.

This past weekend, a "migrant march" to the border was planned and advertised. Thanks, in part, to the intervention of Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum, another tragic weekend was averted. The Tijuana mayor has made a commitment – with armed forces, police and proper information to the migrants as to the process of seeking asylum – to keep them away from the border, maintain order and is doing his part to keep our POE's open. We ask the same of you.

We must, to recuperate losses from the previous border closure, promote San Ysidro as "open for business." We must promote, during this high travel season, the binational tourism that keeps the San Diego region afloat. We must keep a way of life that employs thousands in the South Bay of San Diego. But we can do none of this without a commitment from you to keep our doors open. While securing the non-POE parts of our border, we ask you to secure the \$678 Million San Ysidro annually provides to our region, and our binational \$220 billion San Diego-Tijuana regional output, at our POE's.

On behalf of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Goudeau, and its Board of Directors,


Jason M-B Wells
Executive Director

CC: Pete Flores, US CBP
Senator Dianne Feinstein, US Senate
Senator Kamala Harris, US Senate
Representative Juan Vargas, US Congress
State Senator Ben Hueso, California
Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego
Councilmember David Alvarez, City of San Diego
San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition