

# Position Paper

## SAN YSIDRO SMART BORDER COALITION

A voluntary group of key leaders and stakeholders in the immediate region of the San Ysidro Port of Entry

The San Ysidro Port of Entry (SYPOE) is the busiest land border in the World – where 130,000 people cross *each day*, generating over \$3 billion to the San Diego regional economy. **In fact, one of every ten persons entering the US through any point comes through the SYPOE.** An estimated **US\$6 billion** in gross output were **lost** in 2005 between traffic congestion and border wait times at San Diego land port of entries, resulting in the sacrifice of **51,325 jobs**.<sup>1</sup> Crossings at the SYPOE are estimated to increase over 50% by 2020. Reconfiguration of the SYPOE is an immediate must.

The reconfiguration project of the SYPOE offers an unparalleled opportunity to create a showcase of the integration of security, commerce and community; and set precedence for the rehabilitation and construction of land ports of entry throughout our Nation. San Ysidro must have a “Port of the Future” – including and accommodating commerce and the community of San Ysidro, especially pre-existing and location dependent businesses. While efficiently maximizing our country’s security, a successful reconfiguration will bring ease of use, pride, and economic sustainability to the areas immediately adjacent to the border crossings, as well as improve the overall economic success of the region. Conversely, an ill-conceived border – a single-service security compound, will be extremely deleterious for the region. It would be an enormous obstacle for users, it will cripple local and regional commerce, it will make nearby communities unsustainable and force them into position of permanent and perpetual need. It is also in America’s best interest to ensure those borders so close and heavily used by our neighbors are efficient and user-friendly as to entice their best effort in developing or redeveloping their own border facilities and security.

### ***Inclusionary Concept***

Border reconfiguration, in addition to security needs, **must** include border users – pedestrian and vehicular, the commercial and/or business entities whose very lifeline *is* the border, and the community in which the POE is situated. The POE does not singularly affect its adjacent area, but is an economic engine driving the region of San Diego and the State of California. The end-result of the border reconfiguration will also have national and bi-national implications. It will have political, economic, and environmental impacts, as well as effects to human rights and respect. Therefore, the impacted entities must be consulted and included in the designing and vetting of any reconfiguration plans.

### ***Design***

The design of the SYPOE must fully embrace functional diversity. While the identification, inspection and crossing of people and goods is the primary function of the POE, the port can and must serve many functions. The POE should offer users a secure and friendly crossing amidst a pleasant, environmentally tranquil setting and a commercially vibrant and diverse locale. The aforementioned aspects must be a fundamental part of the reconfiguration design, and not left as collateral requirements forced on the community and/or local governments. This will be achieved by immediately integrating operational interests with opportunities for existing, and even new, commerce **within** the border crossing facilities.

