HELIX
Environmental Planning

Presented by:
Stacy Gomez, Project Manager

The Environmental Planning Process
for Two Border Projects:
**SR-11/Otay Mesa East Port-of-Entry
and Cross Border Xpress**

www.helixepi.com

State Route 11 and the
Otay Mesa East
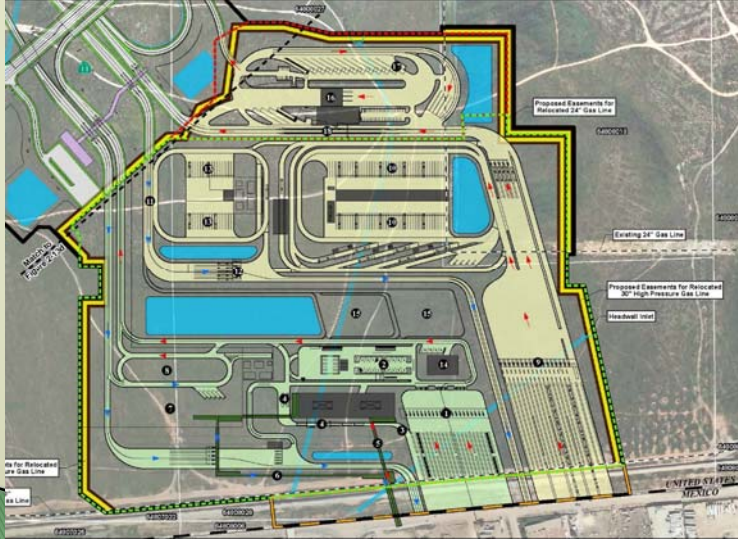# Port-of-Entry Project

Otay Mesa East Port-of-Entry Conceptual Design at Full Buildout

State Route 11 and the Otay Mesa East Port-of-Entry Project

Unique Features of the Project:

- Self-sustaining toll facility

- Combination of public and private financing

- LEED Gold certified POE

- Integrated border system approach

- Area-wide biological mitigation strategy

State Route 11 and the Otay Mesa East Port-of-Entry Project

Lead Agencies

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead:

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

State Route 11 and the Otay Mesa East Port-of-Entry Project

Other Responsible Agencies

U.S. Department of State

U.S. General Services Administration

Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Other Federal Agency Stakeholders

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Environmental Protection Agency
- International Boundary and Water Commission
- Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
- Food and Drug Administration

Additional Participants

State of California

- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Highway Patrol
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Governor's Office – Port Security Unit

Regional & Local Agencies

- San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
- San Diego Air Pollution Control District
- County of San Diego
- City of San Diego
- Otay Water District
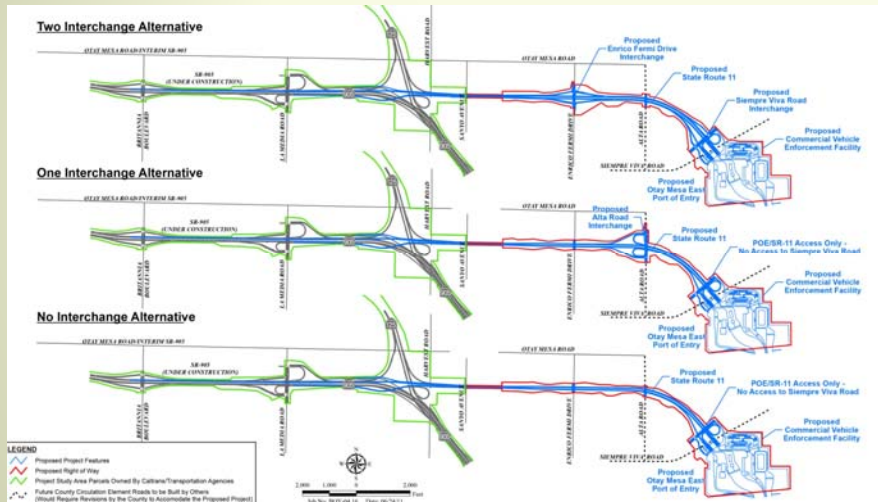
Major Mexican Agencies Involved

Environmental Process

Non-Traditional FHWA Two-Tier
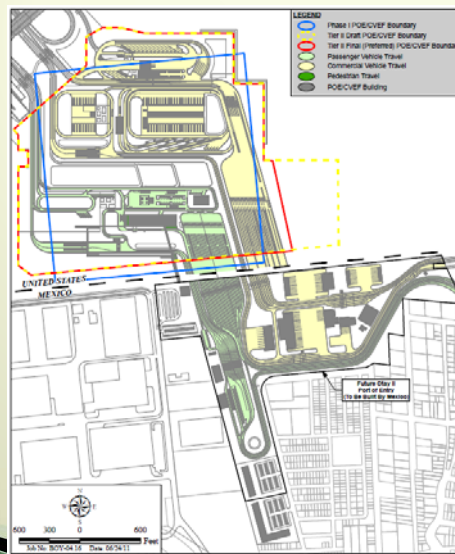Environmental Process

- **First Tier EIR/EIS:** Evaluated alternative corridor locations for SR-11 and the POE to obtain a Presidential Permit

- **Second Tier EIR/EIS:** Evaluated design alternatives within the selected corridor

- Interagency Coordination

- Public Outreach

Tier 1 Alternatives

Tier 1 Environmental Issues

Tier 2 Alternatives

Evolution of the POE Footprint

Tier 2 Environmental Issues

- Sensitive Species
- Waters of the U.S./State
- Visual Effects
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Hydrology/Drainage

- Existing Utilities
- Property Acquisition
- Traffic
- Noise
- Paleontology
- Growth
- Community Impacts

Preferred Alternative
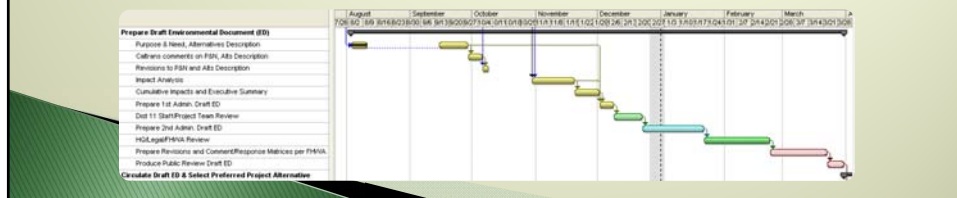
Fast Track Schedule

Could not have completed Tier 1 and Tier 2 so quickly without effective agency partnerships

- Agency and consultant staff worked as a team
- Lead and responsible agency cooperation/SAFETEA-LU
- Bi-weekly Environmental Workgroup meetings
- Monthly Project Development Team meetings
- Binational Interagency Workgroup meetings
- Extensive additional agency and public outreach

Cross Border Xpress (CBX) Project

Cross Border Xpress Project

- ▸ Pedestrian bridge across the border, connecting CBX and Tijuana airport terminal
- ▸ Hybrid POE/airport-type terminal
- ▸ 390-foot long bridge
- ▸ Built in 6 sections
- ▸ Privately funded
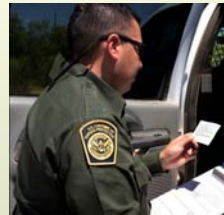- ▸ High tech tools
- ▸ CBP staffing

Cross Border Xpress Project

TIJ Airport was modified to accommodate the project

On the U.S. side, facilities include:
- ✓ Immigration and customs clearance
- ✓ Parking (eventually a structure)
- ✓ Rental cars
- ✓ Bus stop
- ✓ Uber, etc.

Cross Border Xpress Unique Challenges

Privately funded project

Required special coordination with Customs and
  Border Protection regarding security and staffing

Environmental clearance through separate NEPA and CEQA
documents

- • State Department as NEPA lead agency

- • City of San Diego a CEQA lead agency

Project Site Before Construction

Cross Border Xpress Environmental Issues

Unmitigable:

- Traffic
- Air Quality

Mitigable:

- Sensitive Species
- Sensitive Habitats
- Noise
- Paleontology

Less than Significant:

- Land Use
- Greenhouse Gases
- Public Utilities
- Energy
- Visual Quality/Community Character

Cross Border Xpress Project

This concludes the presentation of:
The Environmental Planning Process for
Two Border Projects:
Otay Mesa East Port-of-Entry and
Cross Border Xpress

Presented by:
Stacy Gomez, Project Manager
StacyG@helixepi.com

HELIX
Environmental Planning

www.**helixepi**.com