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

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

- **100-acre POE**
  - Safe, secure and efficient
  - Latest technology
  - Dynamically Priced Tolls
  - Prototype for Future POEs

- **State Route 11 (SR-11)**
  - 2-mile-long toll highway
  - 2 local interchanges
  - Connectors to SR-905/SR-125

State Route 11
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)

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**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

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

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**Cross Border Xpress (CBX) Project**

[Map of Cross Border Xpress (CBX) 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

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