

May 19, 2015

TO: MR. BRUCE BRACKER, CHAIRMAN, GNSCCPA
FROM: Luis E. Ramírez Thomas, President, RAI-N
SUBJECT: Activity Report

On behalf of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC (“RAI-N”) allow me to present our activity report to you and the Board of Directors of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority (“GNSCCPA”). Before outlining the issues and efforts we have addressed on your behalf to date, we request and welcome your continued comments and suggestions as to how we can improve on our services, our communications and on our activities on your behalf. With your feedback we will make every effort to improve our response to your needs and learn to better anticipate your directives.

Our activities on behalf of the GNSCCPA have focused on the following key areas:

1. **Binational Mariposa Conference Call;**
2. **Querobabi Update;**
3. **Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting;**
4. **Crossborder Transportation Initiatives;**
5. **Border Banking Update;**
6. **Cross-border Trucking Update;**
7. **Representation of GNSCCPA with Key Entities.**

This report is not intended to be a full description of all our activities but rather provides highlights and information on the direction of our activities to keep Board of Directors informed and to ensure that our activities adhere to the vision and guidance imparted to RAI-N by the GNSCCPA and its leadership. Throughout this period, RAI-N has maintained active and frequent communications with Ms. Allison Moore, Mr. Bruce Bracker and various other members of the Board of Directors in order to ensure that we have a fully coordinated approach to our efforts. RAI-N stands ready to address any issue, concern or suggestion that may arise from this report and from our on-going dialogue with the leadership and the Board of Directors.

1. *BINATIONAL MARIPOSA CONFERENCE CALL*

- ✦ On April 24, 2015, the US Department of State hosted a conference call focused on the situation on the Mexican side at the Mariposa port of entry.
 - This was a result of the ongoing issues with the corridor and the failure of the Concessionaire to meet the deadlines for completion of the improvements.
 - Participating on the conference call were:
 - US Department of State
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (“SRE”)
 - General Services Administration
 - Ministry of Communications and Transportation of Mexico (“SCT”)
 - US Customs and Border Protection
 - Arizona Department of Transportation (“ADOT”)
 - GNSCCPA
 - Agreed that this would be a topic for discussion during the Government Only meeting of the upcoming Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Meeting that will take place in Washington, D.C. May 20-21, 2015.

2. *QUEROBABI UPDATE*

- ✦ During the week of May 11-15, 2015, the ADOT, along with the University Of Arizona, conducted a series of meetings in Mexico relating to a number of Arizona-Mexico initiatives. Included among the week long series of meetings were meetings with the Embassy of the United States in Mexico, SRE and SCT.
 - The Mexican Military (SEDENA) has committed \$12 million for the physical improvements at Querobabi. We were informed that the construction phase has already started and that it should be included sometime in October/November time frame.
 - The US Embassy has spent approximately \$2 million of the \$6.7 million commitment from the Merida Initiative Funds for some of the equipment, including hand held x-ray machines. The funds will also be used to purchase additional equipment but also for dogs and the training of the dog-handlers, which will certainly make the inspection process more effective.
 - The balance of the Merida Initiative funds will be spent once the construction phase by SEDENA is completed but we are on track to have all the improvements before the start of the produce season.

- ✦ During the meetings we took the opportunity to raise the following:
 - Now that the laws have passed to allow US officials to carry their service weapons in Mexico, we should consider possible joint inspection processes that can help expedite legal traffic
 - Consider the design and implementation of trusted shipper programs to gain additional efficiencies both at Querobabi and at the Corridor in Nogales as part of one system. This will certainly take much longer to address but the issue is on the table.

3. US-MEXICO BINATIONAL BRIDGES AND BORDER CROSSINGS MEETING

- ✦ The US Department of State and its Mexican counterpart, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are hosting the next Binational Bridges and Border Crossings meeting in Washington, D.C. May 20-21.
 - As indicated earlier in this report, the issues impacting the Corridor on the Mexican side of Mariposa are to be discussed during the Government Only sessions.
 - We will be monitoring the outcomes of this meeting.

4. CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

- ✦ During the meeting SCT in Mexico City on May 13, 2015, a variety of topics were discussed including the ongoing efforts to offer a true multimodal alternative for shipments from Central Mexico to the West Coast of the United States through Arizona.
 - ADOT and SCT are considering signing a Memorandum of Understanding that defines the structure of a multiphase study that will analyze the Arizona-Mexico Corridor that runs from I-10/I-19 connecting to MX-15 all the way to central Mexico.
 - This would ensure that the study would be a priority for SCT once the budget situation is back on track (anticipating a future increase in the price of oil – although there is no timeline on this).
 - SCT was also very interested in the rail initiatives at Nogales, particularly the efforts to promote the construction of a multimodal facility at Nogales.

5. BORDER BANKING UPDATE

- ✦ As part of the ongoing efforts to address the banking challenges faced by border businesses, the Arizona Bankers Association (ABA) has sent out an invitation to participate in an upcoming workshop to be hosted by the Federal

Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) among Arizona bankers and businesses located near Nogales, Arizona.

- According to the information sent out by the ABA, “the workshop will cover banking relationships with cross border activities and the resulting regulatory expectations, including Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering (BSA/AML) customer due diligence and monitoring requirements. The workshop will also discuss variances between isolated BSA recommendations or violations, pillar violations, and systemic program weaknesses. The meeting will be held on Tuesday June 16, 2015 at the Quality Hotel Americana, 639 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales, Arizona. Registration will be held between 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and should conclude at 1:00 p.m. after a brief lunch.”

6. *CROSS-BORDER TRUCKING UPDATE*

- As reported in previous reports, the Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) John Halikowski, sent a letter to the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) requesting that ADOT personnel and not FMCSA personnel conduct all level 1 inspections.
- On April 16, 2015, with great support from the Office of Senator Flake, a letter signed by all members of the Arizona Congressional delegation was sent to the Administrator of the FMCSA in support of the request by Director Halikowski of ADOT.
- A copy of that letter is provided in Attachment #1.

7. *STAFFING AT PORTS OF ENTRY*

- As part of the ongoing efforts to ensure appropriate staffing at our ports of entry, we have been pursuing ways to augment recruiting strategies.
- On of CBP’s latest listings of employment opportunities actually lists Arizona’s principal ports of entry (Nogales, Douglas and San Luis) among the top five locations for recruitment.
- A copy of the CBP notice on USAJobs.gov is provided in Attachment #2.

8. *REPRESENTATION OF THE GNSCCPA WITH KEY ENTITIES*

- Continuing efforts to maintain an on-going dialogue with various agencies in order to ensure full coordination of efforts and maximizing the impact of our limited resources, including:

- ADOT;

- AMC;
 - DHS/CBP;
 - GSA;
 - SCT;
 - SRE;
 - Offices of Arizona Congressional Delegation;
 - Office of the Governor;
 - SCT;
 - State Department;
 - State of Sinaloa;
 - State of Sonora;
 - Transportation and Trade Corridor Alliance;
 - Union Pacific; and
 - Vias Concesionadas
- ✦ It is imperative to highlight the great success that has been achieved on these efforts by coordinating efforts with key stakeholders, including the FPAA, Santa Cruz County, the City of Nogales and others as each has well established relationships with most of these entities.

Attachment #1

Copy of letter from Congressional Delegation to FMCSA

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2015

T.F. Scott Darling, III
Acting Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier and Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Commissioner Darling,

We write regarding inspections at Arizona's ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border and the Federal Motor Carrier and Safety Administration's (FMCSA) delayed response to requests by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to implement changes to improve the conduct of these inspections.

As you are aware, cross-border trade is essential to Arizona's economy. In recent years, Mexico has been the third-largest trade partner of the United States and the second-largest export market. According to the Arizona-Mexico Commission, Arizona's ports of entry serve as gateways for \$41.6 billion in U.S.-Mexican trade annually, of which nearly \$16 billion is attributed to Arizona's bilateral trade with Mexico.

We certainly agree with the critical need to ensure that the safety of our roadways is maintained. However, it is our understanding that both Mexican and U.S. carriers have deemed Arizona ports of entry to be more difficult to cross than those of other border states because of the frequency of inspections and out-of-service orders issued by FMCSA. According to ADOT in a recent letter to you, "this issue is especially serious at the port of San Luis, located only 40 minutes away from the crossing of Calexico, California, where commercial traffic reportedly diverts based on shorter crossing time and the perception of fairer and less onerous inspections and penalties."

To foster a solution to this issue, and as a result of federal and state personnel and infrastructure improvements, the State of Arizona has petitioned the FMCSA to be able to conduct all level 1 inspections at Arizona's ports of entry with Mexico and bring Arizona more in line with how they are currently conducted across the other U.S.-Mexico border states. We write to echo that request and to seek its prompt consideration, in accordance with existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. In addition, we would appreciate an update as to the status of the state's request, as well as an expected timeline for FMCSA's response to that request.

We appreciate the steps that the FMCSA has taken to date regarding this persistent issue and look forward to working with you toward an expedient solution that maintains Arizona's access

Commissioner Darling
April 16, 2015
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to vibrant cross-border trade while maintaining the safety of our roads. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE
U.S. Senator



JOHN MCCAIN
U.S. Senator



TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



MATT SALMON
Member of Congress



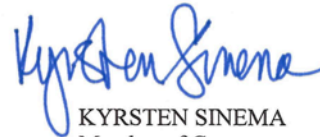
PAUL GOSAR
Member of Congress



DAVID SCHWEIKERT
Member of Congress



ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress



KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress




MARTHA MCSALLY
Member of Congress

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Overview

Duties

Qualifications & Evaluations

Benefits & Other Info

How to Apply



Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

CBP.gov

Job Title: CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER

Department: Department Of Homeland Security

Agency: Customs and Border Protection

Job Announcement Number: CBPO 15-2

SALARY RANGE: \$31,944.00 to \$39,570.00 / Per Year

OPEN PERIOD: Monday, April 27, 2015 to Monday, May 11, 2015

SERIES & GRADE: GS-1895-05/07

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12

DUTY LOCATIONS: Many vacancies in the following location(s):
 Douglas, AZ [View Map](#)
 Nogales, AZ [View Map](#)
 San Luis, AZ [View Map](#)
 Calexico, CA [View Map](#)
 San Ysidro, CA [View Map](#)
[More Locations](#) (8)

WHO MAY APPLY: United States Citizens

SECURITY CLEARANCE: Public Trust - Background Investigation

SUPERVISORY STATUS: No

JOB SUMMARY:
Locations expected to be filled within the following Ports: Queens, NY (JFK Airport); Newark, NJ; Detroit, MI; Eagle Pass, El Paso, Hidalgo, Laredo and Pharr, TX; Calexico and San Ysidro, CA; Douglas, Nogales and San Luis, AZ

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Agency Contact Info

Job Announcement Number: CBPO 15-2

Control Number: 400884700

Customs & Border Protection (CBP): Securing America's Borders

Do you desire to protect American interests and secure our Nation while building a meaningful and rewarding career? If so, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is calling. DHS components work collectively to prevent terrorism, secure borders, enforce and administer immigration laws, safeguard cyberspace and ensure resilience to disasters. The vitality and magnitude of this mission is achieved by a diverse workforce spanning hundreds of occupations. Make an impact; join DHS.

Discover a challenging and rewarding career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the sole organization responsible for securing the nation's borders. CBP employees protect our Nation's borders from terrorism, human and drug smuggling, illegal migration, and agricultural pests while simultaneously facilitating the flow of legitimate travel and trade. The CBP Officer position starts at a salary of \$31,944 (GS-5 grade level), with promotion potential to \$70,192 (GS-12 grade level). Apply to this exciting opportunity to strengthen the Department's and our partners' ability to perform their homeland security functions by doing the following:

- Detect and prevent terrorist and terrorist weapons from entering the United States
- Enforce customs, immigration and agricultural laws and regulations at U.S. ports of entry
- Prevent the illegal trafficking of people, narcotics and contraband into the United States

Follow U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Twitter [@CustomsBorder](#)

The video: [Securing America's Ports of Entry](#) emphasizes the importance of CBP Field Operations' frontline role in helping CBP accomplish its mission. For more information on CBP's mission, activities, and careers, please visit our website at www.cbp.gov.

Mr. Bruce Bracker
Chairman
May 19, 2015