

Ray Martinez
03/02/2000 04:21:21 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mark D. Magana/WHO/EOP@EOP, Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Briefing on SW Border initiative

We will have a briefing on the SW Border initiative for Maria Echaveste, Charles Burson and Mickey Ibarra on Tuesday, March 7th at 1:00pm in the Roosevelt Room. The purpose of the briefing is to quickly outline the progress of this Executive Order, and to discuss "next steps" of the initiative, now that we have nearly completed the various community forums that have been held throughout the border region.

Could you please RSVP to me via e-mail as to whether you can attend this briefing?

THANKS!

Next Steps - Report Released

- Trade Bar mty - create the box. - Operating initiative
- Criteria Approved for PILOT Program - Agency review, mty forum, - Create OMB
- Agency policy recommendations for report to V.P.
- Pilot selected

3/13- designate mty - E. Martinez
5/25/00 - turn around on the chair
100 km - GE reviewing
- El Paso
- Phoenix
- San Diego
- Laredo may be eliminated
EC/EZ - met 100 km + after other criteria
- me Allen for EC/EZ

Shifting of resources no new \$.

Report/mtys
EC/EZ/Engagement
- Break mty mty in DC in May,
- 7-11-00

Border threat - sim spent soon
VP mty of trade Panel
- R2002

 Ray Martinez
03/07/2000 08:53:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Mark D. Magana/WHO/EOP@EOP, Irma L. Martinez/WHO/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: Paper for today's briefing



Southwest.doc

Here's a background memo I put together for today's 1pm briefing in the Roosevelt Room. See you then.

March 7, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR MARIA ECHAVESTE

FROM: Ray Martinez

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border

You will be meeting today with several members of the Interagency Task Force ("Task Force") on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border. The purpose of this briefing is to apprise you on the latest developments regarding implementation of Executive Order 13122, signed by President Clinton in May of 1999.

The Task Force is Co-Chaired by the Secretaries of the Treasury, Agriculture and Labor (each rotating for a period of three years), with Treasury Secretary Larry Summers taking the lead in this first year of the Executive Order (with administrative support also coming from Treasury).

Lynda de la Vina, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Department of Treasury, will lead today's briefing. Rick Samans, Special Assistant to the President for International Economic Policy with the National Economic Council (NEC) and Ray Martinez (IGA), will assist with the briefing.

BACKGROUND OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER

The origins of the Task Force date back to April 1997, at the White House Empowerment Zone conference in Detroit, Michigan. There, Vice President Gore challenged Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Communities (EC) to combine their efforts and adopt a regional approach to revitalize their communities. As a result, in the summer of 1997, the Southwest Border Partnership – a partnership of several southwest EZ and EC initiatives from Texas to California – was created.

In October 1998, the U.S. Department of Treasury released a study titled, *The Southwest Border Region: A Profile of the Regional Economy*. This study complemented efforts undertaken by other groups and agencies and served as a catalyst for the creation of the National Economic Council (NEC) Working Group on the Southwest Border. Members of this Working Group met several times in the spring of 1999 to discuss ways in which the federal government can partner with community leaders to foster economic development. Based on these discussions, the NEC Working Group (which included Treasury, USDA and the Department of Labor) developed options for a more comprehensive and coordinated federal response to Border communities.

The above efforts culminated in May 1999, when President Clinton signed Executive Order 13122 creating the Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest

Border, which reports to the Vice President. Vice President Gore announced the signing of the Executive Order and the creation of the Task Force while attending the White House Empowerment Zone conference in Edinburg, Texas last May.

STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 13122

The purpose of Executive Order 13122 is "...to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts for the Southwest Border, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and overall economic profile of the Southwest Border...".

The Executive Order directs the Task Force to analyze existing programs, consider relevant statistical data and develop long and short-term goals for the region. In addition, the Task Force is required to "...focus initial efforts on *pilot communities* for implementing a coordinated and expedited Federal response to local economic development and other needs." (Emphasis added.) It should be noted that this specific purpose of the Task Force has received a disproportionate amount of attention from local officials along the border, and particularly from congressional members of the Border Caucus – all vying to have a pilot project started in their districts.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN TODAY'S BRIEFING

- (1) Community Forums. The Executive Order instructs the Task Force to "...consult and coordinate activities with State, tribal and local governments, community leaders, Members of Congress, the private sector, and other interested parties...". In keeping with this mandate, five community forums have been held throughout the Southwest border region – Tucson, Arizona; McAllen, Texas; Eagle Pass, Texas; Calixico, California; and Las Cruces, New Mexico. A reception was also held in El Paso, Texas with local officials, community leaders and representatives of the federal government to publicize the implementation of this Executive Order. In addition, the sixth and final community forum, sponsored by the Department of Labor, is scheduled for San Diego, California on March 14, 2000.
- (2) Pilot Communities. The biggest obstacle to implementing this portion of the Executive Order is the need for the Interagency Task Force to adopt criteria to be used in selecting communities to qualify for a pilot program. The Department of Treasury has developed draft criteria for consideration by the Task Force (see attached). However, most agencies have been slow to respond to requests for comments on the draft criteria, or to vet the criteria with their agency attorneys. We need to discuss with you ways in which we can get better responsiveness from the Task Force members – such as having OMB serve as a more formal method of communicating such requests in the future (and thus setting firm deadlines that agencies are more apt to comply with).
- (3) Recommendations. Another significant component of the Executive Order is the need for the various agencies to identify key policy or programmatic recommendations that can be made to the President and Vice President for consideration as either long-term Administration initiatives, or short-term ways to stimulate economic growth along the Southwest border. All agencies have been asked to identify such recommendations for inclusion in the annual report to be submitted by the Task Force to the Vice President in mid-April. We will discuss with you a few examples of what to expect from these recommendations.

- (4) Timing of the Annual Report. The language of the Executive Order states that the Task Force shall submit an annual report to the Vice President on April 15th. However, for various reasons, this deadline may need to be reconsidered, with the more likely scenario being that the annual report won't be submitted until sometime in mid to late May. We will discuss with you the "pros" and "cons" of such a strategy, and the reasons for the need to extend the deadline.
- (5) Formal Meeting of the Interagency Task Force. Finally, one issue that remains unresolved is a formal meeting of the Task Force. Currently, the Task Force has operated by means of a smaller "working group," which consists of agency designees assigned to work on the Executive Order. A formal meeting of the Task Force members, which consists of all of the cabinet secretaries, in addition to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), has never been held. We will need guidance from you on the timing, content and cabinet participation of such a meeting.

cc: Mickey Ibarra
Charles Burson
Alvin Brown
Richard Samans
Irene Bueno
Mark Magana
Lynda de la Vina



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE VICE PRESIDENT

CC: Julian Potter
Kay Casstevens
Moc Vela
Paul Thornell

FROM: Alvin Brown, Executive Director, CEB

SUBJECT: Southwest Border Regional Initiative

I. BACKGROUND

At the WH Community Empowerment Conference in the Rio Grande Valley on May 25, you announced the signing of an Executive Order to promote regional economic development along the Southwest Border. The order is designed to provide an integrated Federal response to the overall economic challenges of the SW Border region.

The Executive Order charges the Taskforce to report to you, as Chair of the CEB, and to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, as Vice-Chair of the CEB. The Taskforce will provide its first report to you in November and will also begin to establish demonstration projects in several pilot communities in the SW Border region.

The Community Empowerment Board will coordinate the efforts of the Taskforce and be responsible for ensuring that your directives are implemented.

II. ACTION ITEMS

There are a few concrete steps that can be taken between now and November to ensure timely movement on this Initiative:

1. Appointment of Task Force Co-chair: The Secretaries of the Treasury, Agriculture and Labor shall Co-chair the Task Force, rotating annually. You should make the official announcement of the first chair, Treasury Secretary Summers and direct him to convene the first meeting of the Taskforce and to coordinate a series of policy forums in communities along the Southwest Border.

Date: Sept 15-30th During the first half of Hispanic Heritage Month
Venue: A Congressional Hispanic Caucus Event

2. Preparation of the Report and Recommendations: You should direct the Taskforce to accomplish the following goals:

- Analyze the existing programs and policies and statistical data of the SW Border region to develop options for the promotion of sustainable community and economic development;
- Conduct a series of policy outreach forums throughout the four state region in Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico. Taskforce members Alvarez and Richardson should have prominent roles;
- Develop a pilot protocol for small underserved communities to access resources of the Federal Government; many communities need the protocol of an EZ/EC community but lack funding and coordination.

3. Report to the Vice President: The Taskforce shall issue an interim report to you by November 15, 1999. You should host a meeting of the taskforce to receive the report and to announce the pilot program initiative.

Date: November 15, 1999

Venue: SW Border Community or White House

III DECISION ON APPROACH

Moving forward on this general proposal will establish your leadership on the SW Border Initiative and provide the CEB the authority to execute the goals set forth in the Executive Order.



Agree. Proceed as proposed.

Proceed with modifications as noted

Let's Discuss.

Formal-Interagency mtg

President's Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border

White House Briefing

March 7, 2000

TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

- Consultative Agenda
- Pilot Program
- Literature and Policy Reviews
- Policy Recommendations
- Annual Report

Consultative Agenda

- **Interim Report: A Compendium of Federal Programs on the Border** (November 15, 1999)
- **Task Force Web Site: www.treas.gov/sw_border** *- WH link*
- **Production of Briefing Folders**
- **Briefing to Hispanic and Border Caucuses**
- **Five Public Forums** *- MS Allen, Las Cruces, San Diego, etc. DOL typed message. Culiacan, TUSCON*
- **Overview and update forwarded to Hispanic and Border Caucuses** *- this afternoon*
- **Briefing materials prepared for Hispanic Organizations (example: U.S.-Mexico Chamber)** *- Brian Smith*

Pilot Program

- Subcommittee formed (USDA, DOL, HUD, DOT, Treasury)
- Reached Consensus on selection criteria
- Criteria distributed for comment to Task Force/NEC Working Group
- OMB Process to commence - DICA
- Timeline for final announcement of pilot communities at May annual meeting 5/25/00

5 ← 100 km w/in Borden
Rural - USDA & B.
Economic
match
Eco selection w/ Assoc-
Borden
Sheleg's Plan

Policy Options

- **Current federal programs to become “border sensitive” (CDFI, CAIP)** *+ outreach (eg. Education, USDA, HUD)*
- **Coordination of programs (New Market Initiatives; agency programs)**
- **Restructuring of current programs (NADBank, HUD Border Affairs Office)**
- **Review of recommendations collected at public forums**
- **Development of action plan and strategic plan for next Task Force year**

Current Issues

- **First formal meeting of Task Force (March 13, 2000)**
- **Pilot Program and OMB process**
- **Timing and vetting of recommendations**
- **Timing of annual report**
 - April 5+6 Conference - need to consider their rec:
 - Rep. Rogers - request delay report. 5/15/00

Southwest Border Task Force - 1/19 - Main Matthews, USDA

- I. Web Site - Dreading. w/lt
- II. SOTA - tied w/ New markets Initiative.
- III. Interim Report also on Dreading website
- IV. Pilot Programs
 - Pilot communities
 - Normally 150 miles ~~border~~ ^{immediate} border ended 62 miles - most imported the water. Don't communicate w/ existing plans.
 - Selection process - need agreement of the county. Short application process
 - No funding tied to the E.O. only assistance
 - Agency try to find \$ for disinfecting purposes, CC, & 62 program.
 - Large pool of candidates
 - 4-5 will be selected
- V. Other Activities along the ~~border~~ border
- VI. Disaster communities
- VII. Task Force mty - meet weekly - annual report in 2 months
- VIII. Annual Report
 - List reviews of agcy programs, recommendations
- IX. Public Forums - w/mt Cal sec. ~~public~~ ^{Thurs}
 - McAllen TX 1/31
 - El Paso TX 2/1
 - California - Sec. Blaker
 - Fort Worth - Lake

NM > Date: TBA
San Diego

XII Policy Options

next week or 2 we will have options to ~~can~~ consider

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

(If Received INCOMPLETE call 202 622-2222)

UNCLASSIFIED FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

007275

FROM: Lynda de la Vina TO: Irene Bueno
DATE: 1/13/00 COMPANY/AGENCY: DP
NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2 FAX NUMBER: 202-456-5581
SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER: 202-622-0090 PHONE NUMBER:
SENDER'S OFFICE SYMBOL: E SUBJECT: Southwest Border Mtg.

☐ URGENT ☒ PRIORITY ☐ ROUTINE ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

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ROOM 1121
1500 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE N.W.



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

January 13, 2000

To: Members of the Southwest Border
Task Force Working Group

From: Lynda de la Viña *LYV*
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Economic Policy

Subject: Weekly Working Group Meetings

Next Wednesday, January 19 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 180 of the Old Executive Office Building, we will hold the first of what will be weekly meetings of the Southwest Border Task Force Working Group. Please note that these meetings will occur every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. hopefully in Room 180 (subject to change) at the OEOP until further notice.

Some of the topics to be covered include:

1. public forums
2. web site
3. pilot program
4. task force meetings
5. annual report
6. policy options

For clearance into the building please contact Todd Bledsoe at 202-456-5088 or by e-mail: Todd_A_Bledsoe@who.eop.gov. Please include your date of birth and social security number.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

JAN 14 2000

Dear Friend,

As the Under Secretary for Rural Development, I am keenly aware of the great potential of our border communities. Therefore, on behalf of President Clinton's *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*, I invite you to participate in one of two "Bordering the 21st Century" community forums in Texas. The first forum, on January 31, 2000, will be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in McAllen, Texas. The second forum, at Eagle Pass Junior High School in Eagle Pass, Texas, will take place on February 2, 2000. Both forums will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border was created in May of 1999 when President Clinton signed Executive Order 13122. The President directed all Federal agencies to adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to promoting sustainable development in border communities. The findings of the task force will be reported directly to Vice President Gore.

"Bordering the 21st Century" is a series of public forums that the Administration is hosting in each border state over the next several months. The primary purpose of these forums is to discuss innovative, grassroots solutions proposed by community leaders, academics and concerned residents, to develop a strategy to address the most pressing concerns to border communities in the 21st century. Your thoughts and suggestions are crucial to this process.

Your input and ideas can help identify the best approach to enhance the quality of life, and spur economic growth throughout the Southwest Border region. Please join us in this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,


Jill Long Thompson
Under Secretary
Rural Development

**The President's Interagency Task Force
On the Economic Development of the Southwest Border
Bordering the 21st Century**

Sheraton Four Points Hotel, McAllen, TX, January 31, 2000

7:30 - 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 - 8:40 am	Welcoming Remarks Bonnie Gonzalez, CEO, Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone
8:40 - 8:50 am	Clinton-Gore Administration Welcome/ Overview of Mission and Framework of the Task Force Mr. Ray Martinez, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Dr. Lynda de la Viña, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy, Department of Treasury
8:50 - 8:55 am	Introduction of Keynote Speaker Congressmen Ruben Hinojosa, D-15 th
8:55 - 9:35 am	Keynote Address Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, (Invited)
9:35 - 10:30 am	Goals of the Task Force & Structure of Breakout Sessions Maria Matthews, Bonnie Gonzalez, and Roland Arriola - V. P. for External Affairs, U.T. Pan Am
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 - 12:00 noon	Breakout Sessions: Solutions for the 21st Century - Round I Economic Development, Human Capital Development, Transportation & Infrastructure, International Cooperation & Law Enforcement
12:00 - 1:15 p.m	Lunch
1:25 - 2:45 p.m	Breakout sessions: Solutions for the 21st Century - Round II Economic Development, Human Capital Development, Transportation & Infrastructure, International Cooperation & Law Enforcement
2:45 - 3:00 p.m	Break
3:00 - 3:45 p.m	Summary of Breakout issues
3:45 - 4:00 p.m	Closing Remarks Maria Matthews, Deputy Administrator, Office of Community Development, Rural Development, USDA

**The President's Interagency Task Force
on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border
Community Forum - November 1999**

Breakout Sessions -- Summary of Topics for Discussion

Economic Development

Spurring Economic Development and Supporting Pilot Communities

- Objective 1: Attract new business and improve access to capital in distressed areas.
- Objective 2: Expand employment opportunities and narrow the skills gap.
- Objective 3: Spur economic development through tourism and cross-border investment.
- Objective 4: Empower community leaders and improve Federal coordination through the pilot program.

Helping Southwest Border Communities Attract Capital, Improve Access to Credit and Foster Small Business Development Issues

- Objective 1: Promote public-private partnerships.
- Objective 2: Extend capital and credit programs to underserved markets.
- Objective 3: Encourage entrepreneurial development.

Human Capital Development

Promoting Education

- Objective 1: Promote student excellence and improve achievement.
- Objective 2: Promote accountability and improve the quality of education.
- Objective 3: Support bilingual and migrant education programs.
- Objective 3: Reduce drop-out rates for Hispanic students and increase literacy.
- Objective 4: Improve access to higher education.
- Objective 5: Support the use of information technology in schools.

Investing in Job Training and Skills Development

- Objective 1: Improve and upgrade the skills of workers.
- Objective 2: Encourage job creation.
- Objective 3: Improve conditions in the workplace, especially for women.

Nurturing Children, Youth and Families

- Objective 1: Promote school-to-work and youth opportunity programs.
- Objective 2: Enhance childcare programs.
- Objective 3: Combat crime with community policing and juvenile anti-crime programs.

Improving Living Conditions and Providing Affordable Housing

- Objective 1: Improve housing and living conditions.
- Objective 2: Support programs for buying or improving homes.
- Objective 3: Enforce housing regulations.

Improving Access to Quality Healthcare

- Objective 1: Reduce barriers to healthcare.
- Objective 2: Improve the quality of healthcare in the region.
- Objective 3: Improve healthcare for children and the working poor.
- Objective 4: Eliminate health disparities.

Infrastructure and Environment

Focusing on Agriculture and Rural Assistance Programs

- Objective 1: Encourage development in rural communities.
- Objective 2: Provide assistance to small and minority farmers.

Reinforcing Infrastructure in Rural Communities

- Objective 1: Improve roads in rural border communities.
- Objective 2: Improve border crossings and cross-border transportation networks.
- Objective 3: Promote sustainable development of energy and mineral resources.

Protecting the Environment

- Objective 1: Address public health challenges.
- Objective 2: Improve environmental infrastructure, specifically waste water and drinking water treatment system and the management of municipal solid waste.
- Objective 3: Preserve border ecosystems.

International Cooperation and Law Enforcement
--

Protecting the Border, Shoring up law enforcement and Combating Crime

- Objective 1: Protect the border by combating narcotics and smuggling-related crimes.
- Objective 2: Support border community anti-crime programs.

Advancing our Partnership with Mexico: A New Border Vision

- Objective 1: Reinforce our strategic partnership with Mexico.
- Objective 2: Transform the border into a model of bilateral cooperation.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Edinburg, Texas)

For Immediate Release

May 25, 1999

EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF THE SOUTHWEST BORDER

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order provide a more rapid and integrated Federal response to the economic development challenges of the Southwest Border region, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of an Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border. (a) There is established the "Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border" (Task Force) that reports to the Vice President, as Chair of the President's Community Empowerment Board (PCEB), and to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, as Vice Chair of the PCEB.

(b) The Task Force shall comprise the Secretary of State, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of the Treasury, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Director of National Drug Control Policy, Administrator of General Services, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or their designees, and such other senior executive branch officials as may be determined by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force. The Secretaries of the Treasury, Agriculture, and Labor shall Co-Chair the Task Force, rotating annually. The agency chairing the Task Force will provide administrative support for the Task Force.

(c) The purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts for the Southwest Border, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic profile of the Southwest Border so that it may achieve the average of the Nation. Specifically, the Task Force shall:

(1) analyze the existing programs and policies of Task Force members that relate to the Southwest Border to determine what changes, modifications, and innovations should be considered;

(2) consider statistical and data analysis, research, and policy studies related to the Southwest Border;

(3) develop and recommend short-term and long-term options for promoting sustainable economic development;

(4) consult and coordinate activities with State, tribal, and local governments, community leaders, Members of Congress, the private sector, and other interested parties, paying particular attention to maintaining

existing authorities of the States, tribes, and local governments, and preserving their existing working relationships with other agencies, organizations, or individuals;

(5) coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration priorities of Task Force member agencies related to the Southwest Border;

(6) integrate Administration initiatives and programs into the design of sustainable economic development actions for the Southwest Border; and

(7) focus initial efforts on pilot communities for implementing a coordinated and expedited Federal response to local economic development and other needs.

(d) The Task Force shall issue an interim report to the Vice President by November 15, 1999. The Task Force shall issue its first annual report to the Vice President by April 15, 2000, with subsequent reports to follow yearly and a final report on April 15, 2002. The reports shall describe the actions taken by, and progress of, each member of the Task Force in carrying out this order. The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report unless a Task Force consensus recommends continuation of activities.

Sec. 2. Specific Activities by Task Force Members and Other Agencies. The agencies represented on the Task Force shall work together and report their actions and progress in carrying out this order to the Task Force Chair 1 month before the reports are due to the Vice President under section 1(d) of this order.

Sec. 3. Cooperation. All efforts taken by agencies under sections 1 and 2 of this order shall, as appropriate, further partnerships and cooperation with organizations that represent the Southwest Border and with State and local governments.

Sec. 4. (a) "Agency" means an executive agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105.

(b) The "Southwest Border" or "Southwest Border region" is defined as including the areas up to 150 miles north of the United States-Mexican border in the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and California.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 25, 1999.

#

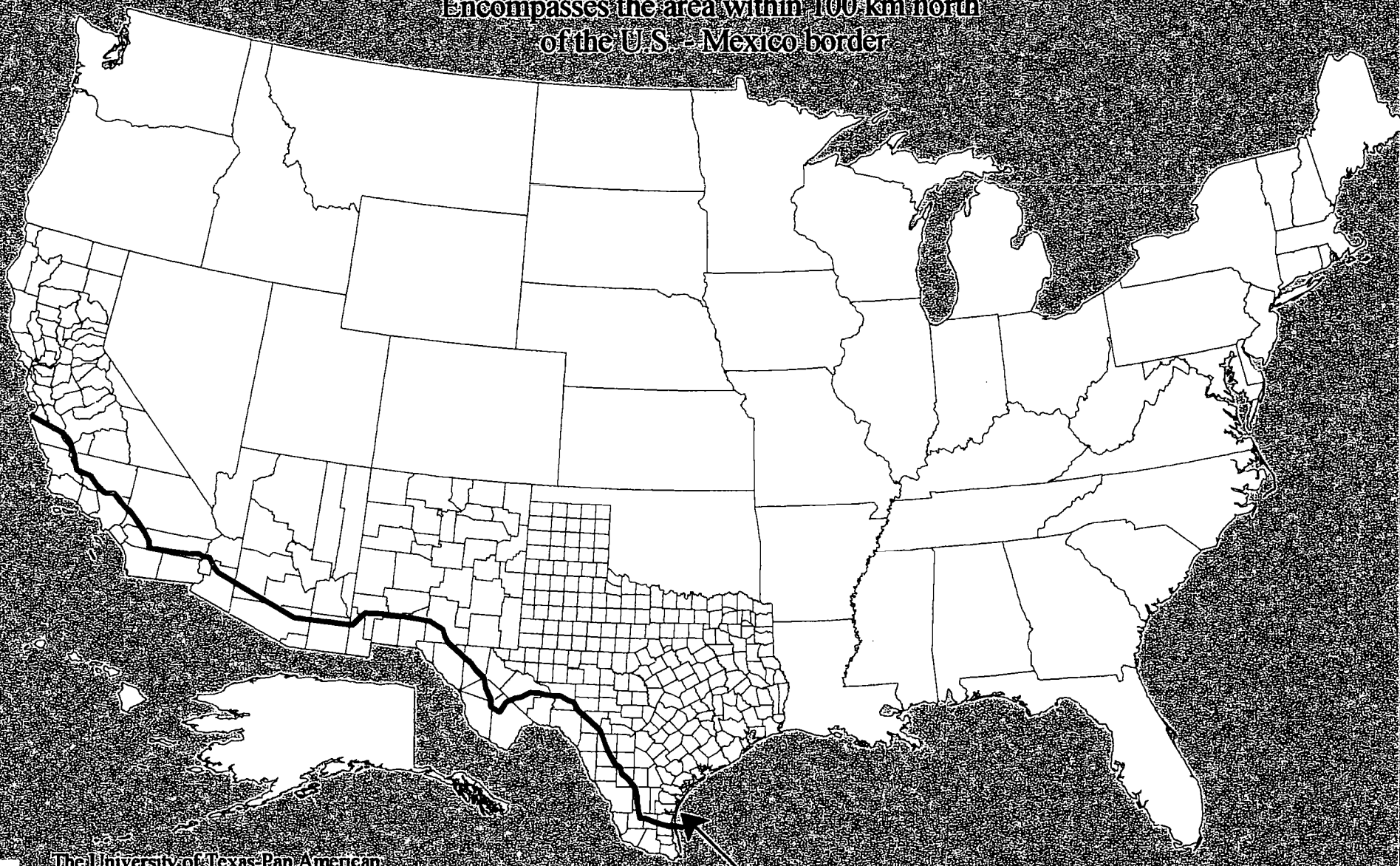
SOUTHWEST BORDER REGION

Encompasses the area within 150 miles north of the U.S. – Mexican Border
and includes the following counties.

Arizona	Texas	Texas
Cochise	Atascosa	Maverick
Graham	Bandera	Medina
Greenlee	Bee	Menard
La Paz	Bexar	Midland
Maricopa	Brewster	Nueces
Pima	Brooks	Pecos
Pinal	Cameron	Presidio
Santa Cruz	Coke	Reagan
Yuma	Concho	Real
	Crane	Reeves
	Crockett	San Patricio
California	Culberson	Schleicher
	Dimmit	Sutton
Imperial	Duval	Starr
Riverside	Ector	Sterling
San Bernardi	Edwards	Terrell
San Diego	El Paso	Tom Green
	Frio	Upton
	Gillespie	Uvlade
New Mexico	Glasscock	Val Verde
	Hidalgo	Ward
Dona Ana	Hudspeth	Webb
Eddy	Irion	Willacy
Grant	Jeff Davis	Wilson
Hidalgo	Jim Hogg	Winkler
Luna	Jim Wells	Zapata
Otero	Karnes	Zavala
Sierra	Kendall	
	Kenedy	
	Kerr	
	Kimble	
	Kinney	
	Kleberg	
	La Salle	
	Live Oak	
	Loving	
	McMullen	
	Mason	

Southwest Border Region

Encompasses the area within 100 km north
of the U.S. - Mexico border



The University of Texas Pan American
Data & Information Systems Center
1201 W. University Dr.
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Northern boundary of
Southwest Border Region

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EMPOWERMENT ZONE AND ENTERPRISE
COMMUNITY PROGRAM
REPORTERS BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR
100 7TH STREET S.W.
WASHINGTON D.C. 20024



DATE:

1/12/00

TO:

Irene Bueno

ORGANIZATION:

DPC

FAX NUMBER:

456-3581

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

FROM:

Mana Matthews

ORGANIZATION: EZ/EC

FAX NUMBER:

(202) 601 7420

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

619 7680

*** COMMENTS:

Pages: [2], including this cover sheet.

**The President's Interagency Task Force
On the Economic Development of the Southwest Border
Bordering the 21st Century**

January 31, 2000

**Four Points Hotel by Sheraton
2721 South 10th Street
McAllen, TX**

February 2, 2000

**Eagle Pass Junior High School
1610 Del Rio Boulevard
Eagle Pass, TX**

February 9, 2000

**San Diego State Univ. - Imperial
Valley Campus,
Calxico, CA**

Hosted by: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Office of Community Development

Sponsors: Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone Corporation, Futuro Communities, Inc., The Border Trade Alliance,
City of Eagle Pass, County of Imperial Valley, San Diego State University

Dear Community Partner:

We cordially invite you to attend one of the upcoming Bordering the 21st Century forums to be held January 31st, February 2nd, and February 9, 2000. These fora will bring together government, community residents, civic and business leaders to offer input to the President's Task Force on how to establish a coordinated response and secure federal resources for the Southwest Border Region.

The theme of the forum, Bordering the 21st Century, reflects both the importance of the Southwest Border to our Nation's economy and the economic and social needs of the region that keep it "bordering" on opportunity but not attaining it. This partnership between the Border communities and the Federal Government is an effort to address this issue. The success of this partnership relies on the local community desire to both identify the priority issues and work in partnership with the federal government to address them.

REGISTRATION FORM

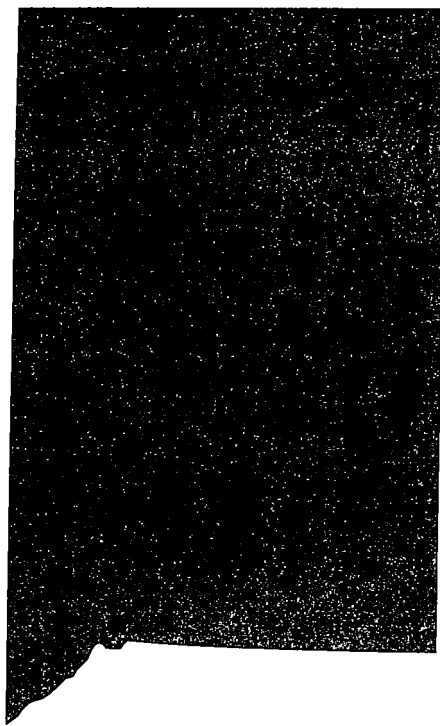
The President's Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border
Bordering the 21st Century

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

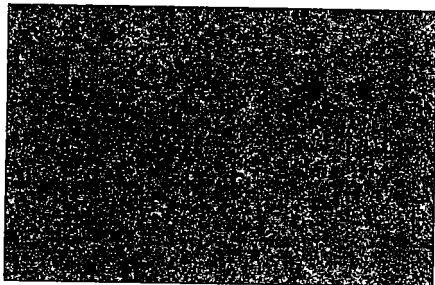
Name	Title	Organization
Street Address		City State Zip
Telephone	Fax	email

Select: ☐ Sheraton Four Points Hotel, McAllen, TX, January 31, 2000
☐ Eagle Pass, TX, February 2, 2000
☐ San Diego State University, Calxico, CA, February 9, 2000

To Register RSVP by January 28th: Please complete the form above & return to USDA fax to (202) 260-5762;
email -- sphipps@ocdx.usda.gov; or call Sam Phipps @ 202 619 7980 for additional information.



The President's Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border



Reporting to
Vice President Al Gore



A Message from the Vice President

Since 1993, President Clinton and I have been committed to assisting underserved urban and rural communities in meeting their plans and objectives for long overdue revitalization. Our commitment created the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Initiative in the 103rd Congress. This effort has resulted in the designation of 135 EZ/ECs across the nation. It has included the enactment of new federal tax incentives; the development of numerous agency-specific initiatives and programs; and the leveraging of the 'seed' federal investment to create more than \$14 billion additional public and private sector investments and commitments for the community revitalization efforts in the designated areas.

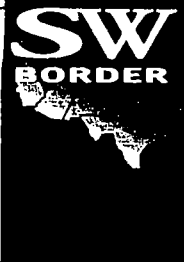
This program is only a 'first step' of our vision to revitalize communities throughout America by empowering them to help themselves. The economy has remained strong under our Administration and much of the country has benefited — but not everyone. Some regions, cities, and rural communities have lagged behind the rest of the nation, with their potential for growth and prosperity unrealized. They must still overcome years of neglected infrastructure, unplanned development, poor transportation systems, and the disparities associated with a changing global economy. The President and I have met with top CEOs and business leaders to solicit their leadership in lending a hand in moving all communities to prosperity by tapping their full potential. Recently, during his 'New Markets Tour,' the President emphasized the gravity of the problems faced and highlighted successful examples demonstrating such unlimited potential.

The Southwest Border region is clearly one of those areas that has remained severely distressed. A strategy for investing in and empowering this region to meet the challenges

of the 21st Century is vital, not only to the people and communities along the Southwest Border but to the entire country. This is a critical component in strengthening America's economic infrastructure and in creating jobs, hope, and opportunity. This is what the President had in mind with the signing of his Executive Order to create the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*. Its mission is to search for, analyze, coordinate, and present workable solutions and policy options for revitalizing the Border area.

In April of 1997 at the White House Community Empowerment Conference, I emphasized the importance of taking a regional approach to develop community-driven solutions which embody four key principles: economic opportunity, sustainable development, community-based partnerships, and a strategic vision for change. As the *Southwest Border Task Force* reports its deliberations and findings, I will be particularly interested in reviewing innovative solutions that support these key principles and clearly integrate local organizations, constituencies, and governments. As our nation heads into the 21st Century, it is crucial that our efforts are constructive and help lead the Southwest Border region down a new path towards community revitalization, regional security and economic prosperity.

- Vice President Al Gore



OR G NS OF ' HE TASK FORCE

Significant Milestones

The creation of the President's *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border* can not be traced to one single event or proclamation. Rather the *Task Force* represents the culmination of collective efforts aimed at raising awareness of the many serious issues faced by the people that live in this region of the country.

- In April 1997, at the White House Empowerment Conference in Detroit, Michigan, Vice President Gore as Chair of the Community Empowerment Board challenged Empowerment Zones (EZ), Enterprise Communities (EC) and Champion Communities to combine their efforts and adopt a regional approach to revitalize their communities.* The *Southwest Border Partnership* was created in response to the Vice President's challenge. This regional organization of EZ/EC and Champion Communities aims to build a sustainable economy in concert with a sustainable environment.
- Over the years, Congress and especially the Congressional Border and Hispanic Caucuses have been an integral part of the discussion surrounding the Federal government's role in addressing the numerous problems that plague the Southwest Border Region. In June 1998, the Congressional Border Caucus submitted a request to the General Accounting Office (GAO) to study the nature of those problems and provide information on efforts undertaken by the U.S. and Mexico to address them. A report outlining GAO's preliminary findings was released in July 1999. GAO continues to examine the many transportation and environmental infrastructure issues affecting the Border region.
- In October 1998, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released a study entitled *The Southwest Border Region: A Profile of the Regional Economy*. This study served as the catalyst for the creation of the National Economic Council Working Group on the Southwest Border. Members of the Working Group met several times in the spring of 1999 to discuss ways in which the Federal government can partner with community leaders to foster economic development. Based on these discussions, the Working

Group (which included Treasury, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Labor) developed options for a more comprehensive and coordinated federal response to Border communities.

- All of these efforts culminated in May 1999, when President Clinton signed Executive Order 13122 creating the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*. Through his Executive Order the President formally recognized the challenges confronted by many Border communities on a daily basis. The President announced the creation of the *Task Force* while attending the Vice President's Community Empowerment Conference in the Rio Grande Valley, calling on all Federal agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to evaluate the Border region's many problems and to coordinate a Federal response to help alleviate those problems and simultaneously encourage sustainable economic development.

* The EZ/EC program is a federal initiative designed to provide economically depressed urban and rural areas and communities with real opportunities for growth and revitalization. Its mission is to foster self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas suffering from pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress and to demonstrate how communities can achieve self-sufficiency by following innovative and comprehensive strategic plans formulated and implemented by alliances among public, private and nonprofit entities.



EXECUTIVE ORDER

Vision for Economic Development

The President and Vice President see the Federal government's role in community economic development as that of a catalyst, with the potential to forge short- and long-term change in the Southwest Border Region.

Task Force

- President Clinton, through Executive Order 13122, created the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*, which reports to the Vice President, Chair of the Community Empowerment Board.
- The *Task Force* is composed of a number of Federal agencies including the Departments of Treasury, Agriculture, Labor, State, Commerce, Education, Energy, Interior, Defense, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Transportation, the Small Business Administration, the Attorney General, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mission of the Task Force

The mission of the *Task Force* is to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts aimed at the Southwest Border, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to elevate the standard of living and overall economic profile of the region so that it is on a par with the rest of the nation as we move into the 21st Century.

Actions

- Analyze existing programs and policies of member agencies that relate to the Southwest Border to determine what changes and innovations should be considered;
- Consider data and studies related to the Southwest Border;
- Develop and recommend short- and long-term options for promoting sustainable development;

- Consult and coordinate activities with state and local authorities, community leaders, Members of Congress, and other stakeholders;
- Coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration priorities of *Task Force* members; and
- Establish a demonstration pilot to focus on enhanced coordinated Federal response with respect to several communities in the Southwest Border.



MISSION, FRAMEWORK AND GOALS

The Mission

The mission of the *Task Force* is to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts aimed at the Southwest Border, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to elevate the standard of living and overall economic profile of the Southwest Border Region so that it is on a par with the rest of the nation as we move into the 21st Century.

The Framework

In carrying out its mission, the *Task Force* will rely on the following framework and on a comprehensive consultative process to achieve each of its goals.

- Maximize the efficiency, responsiveness, coordination and impact of *current Federal government initiatives* related to the Southwest Border.
- Identify and develop *new options* that fill any current “gaps” in Federal government efforts.
- Advance *innovative alternatives* for sustainable development of the Southwest Border.

The Goals

Community Planning and Investment:

- Spurring economic development and supporting pilot communities.
- Helping Border communities attract capital, improve access to credit, and foster small business development.

Development of Human Capital:

- Promoting education.
- Investing in job training and skills development.
- Nurturing children, youth and families.
- Providing affordable housing.
- Improving access to quality healthcare.

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure:

- Focusing on Agricultural and Rural Assistance Programs.
- Improving infrastructure in rural communities.
- Cleaning up the environment.

International Cooperation and Coordination:

- Protecting the Border, shoring up law enforcement and preventing crime.
- Advancing our partnership with Mexico.



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Background

- The regional approach to community solutions was inspired and encouraged by Vice President Gore at the White House Empowerment conference in Detroit, Michigan in April 1997.

Community Response

- The *Southwest Border Partnership* was created in response to Vice President Gore's challenge to the Empowerment Zones to revitalize their communities through regional community development. The intent of this regional initiative is to build a sustainable economy in concert with a sustainable environment.

Federal Government Response

- President Clinton, through an Executive Order, created the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*, which reports to the Vice President, Chair of the Community Empowerment Board.
- As part of its mandate the *Task Force* will establish a demonstration project emphasizing enhanced coordinated Federal response with respect to several communities in the Southwest Border.

Pilot Program

- In close collaboration with state and local authorities, community leaders, and community-based organizations, the *Task Force* will pilot a project that will include communities from each of the four Border states. The common link between these communities is their involvement with the EZ/EC initiative; their natural geographic link through close proximity to Mexico; and their shared economic concerns.
- Two types of response teams will be formed: a Community Coordination and Response Team that will assess the community's local strategic plans and priorities, and a Federal Border Response Team, which will be created for each community based on the community's particular set of priorities. These virtual teams of agency and community representatives will jointly develop a community response plan consistent with the Executive Order.
- The *Task Force* will monitor the progress of each community's strategic plan and will present to the Vice President annual progress reports from the lead agencies and agency teams.
- The *Task Force* will also develop a website and other vehicles by which to disseminate information about the activities of the *Task Force* and to establish continuous communication with the communities and policy makers in the Southwest Border Region.



COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANS

Plan Elements

The Community Response Plans will be jointly developed by the Border Response Teams and Community Coordination and Response Teams under the guidance of the *Task Force* and in cooperation with state and local governments. The plans shall be consistent with the Executive Order and include:

- A detailed statement of the goals of the Response Plans for each pilot community;
- A streamlined process for the delivery of assistance and services;
- A detailed description of agency responsibilities for each community;
- Established benchmarks for measuring progress based on community priorities;
- A detailed plan for integrating and implementing the relevant programs and services of each of the Departments and of Administration initiatives, particularly the New Markets Initiative;
- A detailed plan establishing a clearinghouse of information on services and communications links via the internet;
- A plan for uniform reporting to the *Task Force*; and
- A detailed plan and timetable for the actual receipt of assistance by pilot communities.



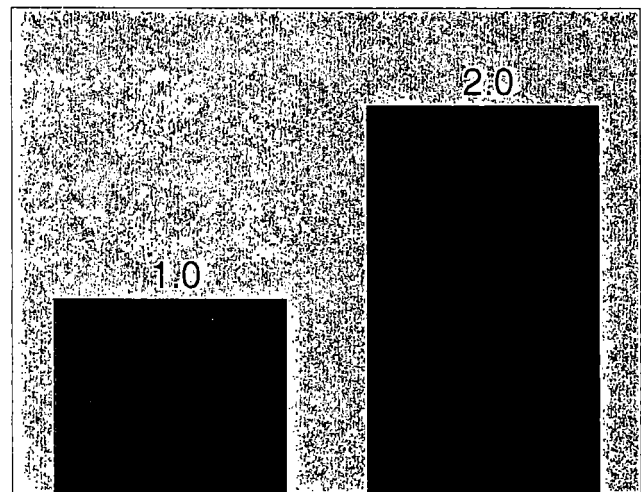
A PROFILE OF THE SOUTHWEST BORDER REGION:

The economy of the Southwest Border region varies considerably from county to county and state to state, with areas of prosperity intermingled amongst areas of great poverty. However, communities in this area also share a number of common features — many derived from the region's proximity to Mexico — that have affected standards of living and economic development throughout the area and substantially differentiate the Border region from the rest of the United States.

- The Southwest Border region covers an **area** six times the size of Israel, including four counties each in California and Arizona, five counties in New Mexico and forty-three counties in Texas.
- The **population**, numbering 12.3 million, is growing twice as fast and is generally much younger than is typical in the United States as a whole.

Population Growth

Percent Change at an Annual Rate

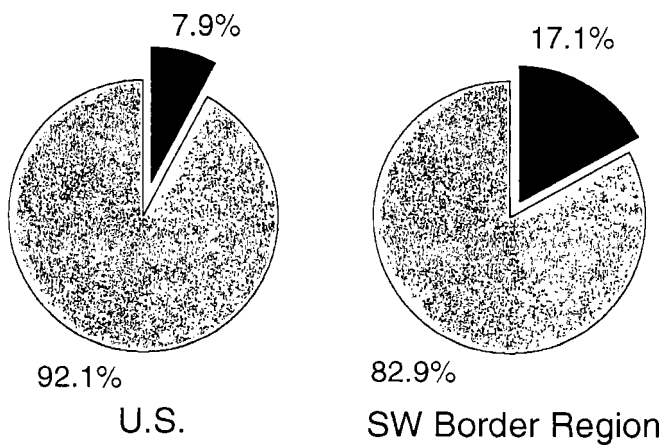


U.S.

SW Border Region

Note: Population growth measured from April 1990 to July 1996.

Foreign-Born Share of Population



U.S.

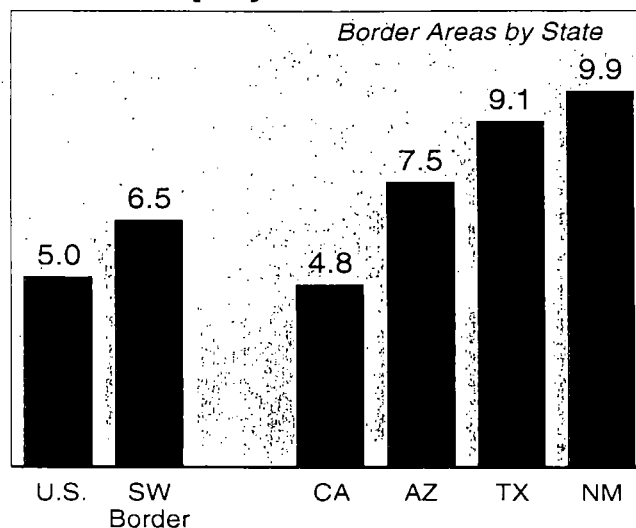
SW Border Region

Foreign-Born

- A higher concentration of this region's residents are **foreign-born** compared to the entire country and more of this region's residents **speak Spanish at home** than in the United States as a whole.

- **Unemployment** was higher in the Border region than in all but two states in 1997. Although one-third of the counties within this area recorded unemployment rates below the national average that same year, it is not unusual to find these communities enveloped by counties with double-digit rates of unemployment.

Unemployment Rate, 1997



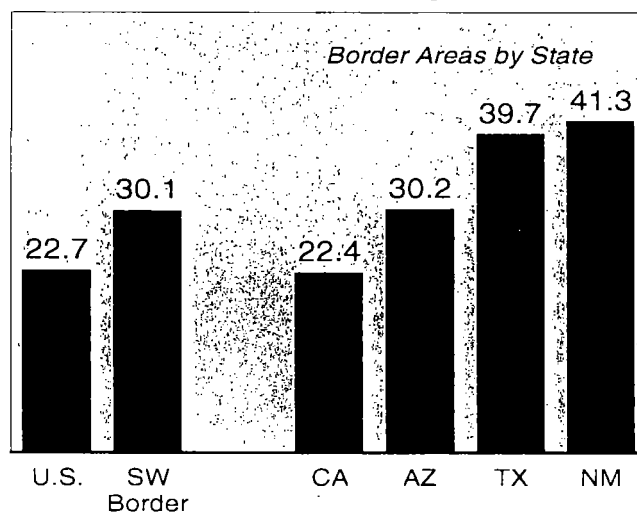
Share of All Residents Living in Poverty



- **Poverty** is a way of life for a disproportionately high number of this area's residents. Approximately 20 percent were living at or below the poverty level in 1993. This topped the national rate of 15.1 percent and exceeded poverty rates in 46 states.

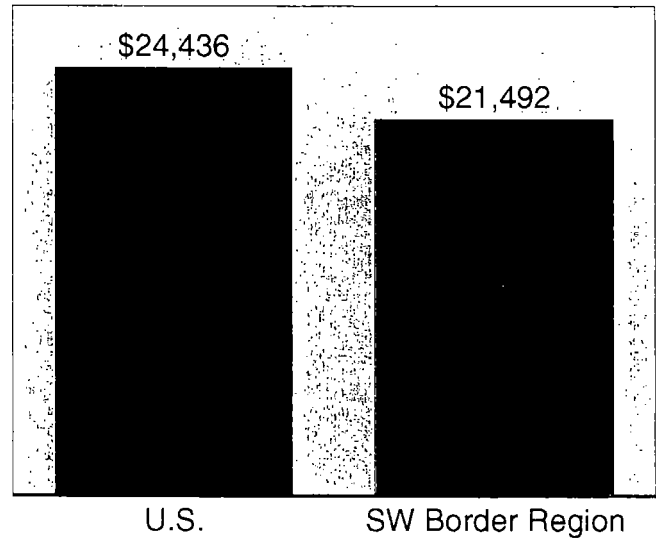
Children Under Age 18 Living in Poverty

Percent of Resident Population



- The situation for **children** living in Border communities is even bleaker. Almost one-third of the region's children under the age of 18 was living in poverty in 1993, compared to 23 percent at the national level.

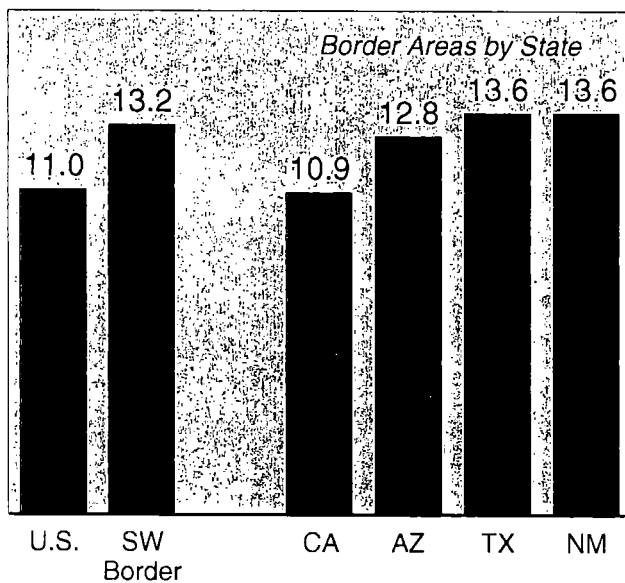
Personal Income Per Capita



- As recently as 1996, **per capita personal income** in the Border region was 12 percent below that of the entire country. For many Border residents a large part of personal income is derived from transfer payments, which include welfare, retirement and unemployment benefits.

High School Dropouts

as a Percent of 16- to 19-Year Olds



- Rates of **educational attainment** are alarmingly low in this area of the country. In 1990, close to one-quarter of the adult population had not graduated from high school and roughly 13 percent of 16- to 19-year olds had dropped out of school, giving the region one of the highest dropout rates in the nation.

Note: The Executive Order establishing the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border* defined the Border region as the area within 150 miles north of the United States – Mexican border in the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and California. Numerous definitions of this region exist, however, with each definition specific to its primary concern or focus. The Department of Treasury defined the Southwest Border region as the area within 100 miles of the U.S. border with Mexico in its 1998 study profiling the regional economy. The statistics cited above reflect Treasury's definition.

Members of the President's Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border

Secretary of the Treasury
Co-Chair

Secretary of Agriculture
Co-Chair

Secretary of Labor
Co-Chair

Secretary of State
Secretary of Commerce

Secretary of Defense
Attorney General

Secretary of Interior

Secretary of Education

Secretary of Health and Human Services

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary of Energy

Secretary of Transportation

Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Director of National Drug Control Policy

Administrator of the Small Business Administration

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 8, 1999

U.S. and Mexico Announce Measures Benefiting Arizona-Sonora Border Region

Pilot Program to Facilitate Legal Commerce and Travel

TUCSON, Ariz. – Top-level officials from the United States and Mexico today announced several important steps intended to build on the two countries' strong bilateral cooperation efforts. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner, Mexico's Undersecretary for Foreign Relations Juan Rebolledo Gout, and Mexico's Ambassador to the United States, Jesús Reyes-Heróles, outlined the measures to enhance commerce, tourism, safety and security in southeastern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico at a news conference here this afternoon.

Central to the bilateral effort is a year-long pilot program designed to reduce the additional documentation required of tourists, shoppers and certain businesspersons traveling beyond 25 miles from the border. The move will test the impact of allowing Mexican travelers legally entering the United States from Mexico using a Border Crossing Card or Laser Visa to visit the Tucson metropolitan area for less than 72 hours without obtaining an additional arrival and departure document (I-94).

In a parallel move, Mexican officials announced at a press conference this morning in Sonora their government's plans to extend similar consideration to U.S. visitors, eliminating the requirement for an additional tourist permit for those traveling beyond the border southward for up to approximately 100 kilometers.

Facilitating Commerce and Tourism through Bilateral Cooperation

The focus of the pilot program is Arizona and Sonora's busiest land border port at Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora. It will also include the nearby ports of entry at Douglas, Naco and Sasabe. Those ports are the primary routes for visitors entering the United States as they travel to Tucson for business or pleasure. Current INS regulations require persons traveling beyond 25 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border to obtain an additional permit, causing delays and additional expense for what have become routine trips.

By extending the regulatory radius to 65 miles from the border, INS will support Arizona's efforts to improve its economic vitality while maintaining appropriate controls on entry into the United States beyond the immediate border area. The effort should be an economic boon for Tucson, where city officials

(more)

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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estimate commerce and tourism from Mexico already generates more than \$200 million a year. The actions necessary to implement the pilot program are being developed and are expected to take effect December 1.

"The border needn't divide us," Meissner said. "Our two nations share a common goal, building a border that works. Business travel, trade and tourism are the lifeblood of a healthy border region and this pilot program should stimulate the benefits of legal exchange."

"The Mexican visitor has a profound economic impact on the state of Arizona and especially the city of Tucson," Luis Gutierrez, City Manager of Tucson, said. "As the largest border city in Arizona, we are very pleased to have worked with INS to develop the pilot program. This new border program will provide a great opportunity to bolster our efforts to expand tourism and international trade."

"Mexico has always believed that its government and the United States should work together to develop a border region that unites the two countries," Undersecretary Rebelledo stated. "Recognizing that the intense economic, social and cultural ties between our border communities deserve the full support and understanding of both federal governments, today we are taking a step further in that direction," he concluded.

Enhancing Public Safety and Improving Security

The pilot program is just one of several recent measures aimed at improving the quality of life for residents on both sides of the border. Both the U.S. and Mexican governments pledged today to continue their cooperative efforts in conjunction with the Border Safety Initiative, launched last year to reduce the risk of injury and death for migrants and residents along the southwestern border. Last month, the two countries worked together to produce a series of video public service announcements warning prospective migrants about the risks they face, ranging from unscrupulous smugglers to desert heat. The spots are being distributed throughout the border region by each government.

Mexican immigration authorities announced earlier today in Nogales, Sonora a further strengthening of their public campaign to protect migrants. The measures include the placement of large warning signs in remote areas to alert migrants to the dangers they may face ahead; public announcements for radio and press on those risks, especially in communities of migrants' origin; and the increase of personnel and equipment for the Migrant Protection Groups, known as Beta Groups, along the Agua Prieta-Nogales, Sonora region.

Across the U.S.-Mexico border, INS reported that the number of migration-related deaths in the United States declined by 14 percent between fiscal year 1998

(more)

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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and 1999. This reduction resulted in part from preventive action by authorities on both sides of the border to protect migrants from being led astray by smugglers. On a local level, in the last 12 months, Border Patrol agents here have rescued more than 500 migrants. The Tucson Sector's newly formed Border Patrol Search, Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR) unit carried out some of those rescues. During this same period, Beta Groups and other Mexican federal officials rescued more than 600 migrants in distress south of the border.

Both governments have also targeted combating migrant smuggling as a priority for cooperative action. Human smuggling is a crime that harms the most vulnerable people, causing them in many occasions irreparable injury and even death. Mexico is intensifying its actions against these criminal organizations through its new Federal Preventive Police, whose Commissioner Wilfrido Robledo is here today. He presented earlier this morning in Nogales, Sonora his agency's plan of action, which involves the formation of a new body of federal police, four centers for the coordination of crime prevention information, and an increase in anti-smuggling operations. In the United States, working closely with the U.S. Attorney's office on an anti-smuggling case called "Operation Figaro," INS recently infiltrated a sophisticated smuggling organization leading to charges against 17 suspects. INS also plans to place additional investigators in Phoenix to combat these smuggling organizations.

"Dealing with the border is one of the priorities in the U.S.-Mexico bilateral agenda," said Mexico's Ambassador to the United States, Jesus Reyes-Heroles. "For the Mexican representatives abroad, the protection of Mexican migrants is our main responsibility and concern. Earlier today, Mexican officials announced in Nogales, Sonora additional specific actions to be undertaken by Mexico. Here in Tucson, we also agreed with U.S. authorities on how to continue to work together to fight against a crime that worries and affects us both: unscrupulous migrant smugglers who recognize no borders."

Institutionalizing Cooperative Efforts

The announcements today are evidence of the continued, positive results achieved by the two governments working together over the last few years. These efforts include the work of the border consultation mechanisms, established in 1995, and the Interior Consultation Mechanisms, created in 1997. These institutionalized mechanisms for bilateral cooperation involve local and regional meetings of authorities from both governments, which are held periodically to discuss issues of mutual interest ranging from public safety to commerce.

Last February, under this consultative mechanism, INS officials and Mexican immigration authorities signed an agreement to guarantee the safety of Mexican nationals being repatriated by INS across the Arizona border. Mexican nationals are

(more)

JOINT NEWS RELEASE**Page 4**

now repatriated in the presence of Mexican immigration authorities at predetermined crossing points during specified hours. The signing of this agreement standardizes the repatriation of Mexican nationals across the entire Southwest border.

Mexican and U.S. officials today also stressed that these established, highly successful consultative mechanisms should provide authorities from both governments the opportunity to work together to reinforce the rule of law in the Sonora-Arizona border region. Acts of violence and intimidation against persons and destruction of property along the border are contrary to the shared goals of establishing security and stability, and promoting economic development in the crossborder region. Duly-appointed authorities of each government have the responsibility for fully investigating the perpetrators and assisting the victims of crimes against all persons who live, work, or transit through the Arizona-Sonora border region. By working through the established bilateral mechanisms, the appropriate legal authorities should be able to ensure that the rule of law includes and guarantees respect for the human and civil rights of all persons.

- INS -

U.S. Department of Justice
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

BACKGROUND

10/8/99

25-Mile Zone—Regulatory History

The current regulations governing the admission of Mexican Border Crossing Card (BCC) cardholders for visits within 25 miles and up to 72 hours are published under 8 CFR 235.1(f).

Regulation: 8 CFR 235.1 (f)(iii) states that "any Mexican national in possession of a valid nonresident alien Mexican border crossing card, or a valid Mexican passport and a multiple-entry nonimmigrant visa issued under section 10.1 (a)(15)(B) of the Act, who is admitted as a nonimmigrant visitor at a Mexican border port of entry for a period not to exceed 72 hours to visit within 25 miles of the border" is not required to obtain Form I-94, Arrival and Departure Record.

Proposed Pilot Change: In addition, a person admitted as a nonimmigrant visitor at either Nogales, Douglas, Naco and Sasabe ports of entry for a period not to exceed 72 hours to visit within 65 miles of the border is not required to obtain Form I-94, Arrival and Departure Record.

Operationally: 8 CFR 235.1 (f)(iii) allows the holders of Mexican BCCs to enter the United States without payment of a fee and without additional documentation required. This promotes the facilitation of entry across the Southwest border while promoting commercial activity. Those Mexican BCC holders wishing to travel further than 25 miles or wishing to remain for longer than 72 hours must obtain an approved Form I-94 and pay the required \$6.00 fee. When passing through the Border Patrol checkpoints typically located at least 25 miles from the border, those Mexican BCC holders not in possession of an approved Form I-94 will not be allowed to pass and may be processed for administrative action.

Change: In Arizona, when stopped by Immigration and Naturalization Service personnel at more than 65 miles from the border, those Mexican BCC holders not in possession of an approved Form I-94 may be processed for administrative action.

History: From 1983 until April 1, 1997, the Mexican Border Visitor's Permit, Form I-444, was a record of entry issued by the Service at land border ports of entry along the U. S./Mexico border to holders of Mexican Nonresident Alien Border Crossing Cards, either Form I-186 or Form I-586. Until April 1, 1998, the Nonresident Alien Border Crossing Card was issued in place of a nonimmigrant visa. Form I-444 was issued when the requested visit to the United States was for more than 72 hours but less than 30 days in duration or when requested travel was more than 25 miles from the United States-Mexico border but within the five states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico or Texas. INS also issued Form I-444 to Mexican nationals who were in possession of valid Mexican passports and multiple-entry nonimmigrant visas requesting admission to the United States under the limitations described above.

25-Mile Zone—Regulatory HistoryPage 2

Effective April 1, 1997, the regulation was amended to remove references to the issuance of the form and the section requiring a fee for issuance of Form I-444. A provision was added requiring the issuance of Form I-94, and collection of the fee, for Mexican nationals seeking to enter for more than 72 hours and/or to travel further than 25 miles from the United States-Mexico border. The Form I-94 issued to a B-2 visitor for pleasure is normally valid for 6 months. The rule provided in § 235.1(f) that a Form I-94 issued at a land border port of entry is valid for multiple entries unless otherwise indicated.

Mexican nationals must undergo the same interview process to obtain a new Border Crossing Card or nonimmigrant visa as any other applicant from any other country. The BCC currently has a 10-year validity period, and must be reviewed upon expiration. A Mexican national entering with a BCC undergoes the same inspection process as any other applicant for admission and must establish eligibility as a visitor for business or pleasure upon each entry to the United States. Presently, Mexican nationals who request entry at a Mexican land border port of entry to travel more than 72 hours or beyond the 25-mile border area, and who establish admissibility as a visitor, are issued Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, and allowed to proceed anywhere in the United States with no additional restrictions. Mexican BCC holders entering the United States by air or via the Canadian land border are also admitted with no restrictions. The elimination of the Form I-444 standardized the entry documentation issued.

– INS –

U.S. Department of Justice
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
 Washington, DC 20536



FACT SHEET

Contact: Media Services
 Office of Public Affairs

Internet: www.ins.usdoj.gov

Immigration Enforcement in Arizona — 1994-1999

The state of Arizona continues to play a prominent role in the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) multi-year border enforcement strategy. Five years ago, as part of that effort, INS inaugurated Operation Safeguard, an aggressive initiative incorporating new agents, equipment and technology. The goal of Operation Safeguard was to heighten deterrence and improve control along the nearly 300 miles of international border which make up the Tucson Border Patrol Sector.

As part of the ongoing expansion of Operation Safeguard, INS recently doubled the number of Border Patrol agents temporarily assigned to Douglas and Naco by shifting an additional 35 Border Patrol agents to the area this week. The redeployment brings the total of temporary and permanent agents on duty in the Douglas-Naco area to 443, a 23-percent increase compared to this time last year, and an increase of nearly 500 percent since 1994.

In addition to the new personnel, the Tucson Border Patrol Sector has received an array of new equipment, including three retractable, mobile observation towers. Equipped with infrared scopes, the so-called Skywatchers unfold to a height of 20 feet, affording agents an unobstructed view of the surrounding area.

The infusion of resources into the Douglas-Naco area represents the next logical step in Operation Safeguard, the multi-year enforcement strategy that has restored order and control to the border in and around Nogales. Formerly the busiest illegal immigration corridor in Arizona, Border Patrol apprehensions in the Nogales area are down by 70 percent, compared to last year. During that same period, the crime rate in Nogales declined by more than 40 percent.

	Before Safeguard Before 1994	During Safeguard 1994-1999	Results
Border Patrol Agents	287	1,285 permanent agents	137 temporary agents, deployed to Tucson
Land Border Inspectors	Fewer than 100 statewide	188	Reduced waits for legal crossers
Anti-smuggling	8 anti-smuggling unit agents	13 anti-smuggling unit agents	5 new ASU agents added in May to disrupt smuggling activities
Fencing	3/4 mile	9.1 miles of primary fencing	Reinforced fences deter illegal crossings
Lighting	none	2 miles of permanent high-intensity lighting and 3 miles of portable lighting	One mile each of permanent lighting in Douglas and Nogales Two miles of portable lighting in Nogales, one mile in Douglas

Operation Safeguard - Fact Sheet

Page 2

Infrared Scopes	3	14	Aids detection and deterrence of illegal crossers
Underground Sensors	448	967	High-tech detection of illegal immigrants
Skywatcher Mobile Towers	none	3	Provides expanded surveillance capabilities
Low-light television cameras	5 cameras in Nogales area	20 cameras in Nogales and 15 in Douglas	Increases efficiency by allowing one agent to monitor multiple locations simultaneously
Vehicles	367	1127	Fleet increased by more than 200 percent
Aircraft	2 helicopters, 3 fixed wing aircraft	6 helicopters, including 2 on loan from San Diego, and 1 fixed wing aircraft	Critical support for agents on the ground
Horse Patrol	2 horse units	4 horse units	Patrolling in rough terrain

The beginning of Operation Safeguard in Arizona coincided with the launch of major immigration enforcement initiatives in two other key border corridors, Operation Gatekeeper (San Diego), and Operation Hold the Line (El Paso). Over the last two years, INS has broadened its enforcement focus further to include southern Texas, with the launch of Operation Rio Grande, (McAllen, Texas) and eastern California, with the expansion of Operation Gatekeeper to El Centro.

The aim of INS' comprehensive border enforcement effort is to reduce the adverse effects of illegal immigration and improve the quality of life for residents along the immediate border and throughout the nation. In support of this effort, Congress has provided the agency with a substantial increase in resources. In the last five years, the number of Border Patrol agents INS has assigned to the Southwest border more than doubled, climbing from 3,389 in fiscal year 1993 to more than 8,200 today.

That enhanced enforcement presence, together with an infusion of sophisticated new equipment and technology, has transformed the landscape along crucial sections of the U.S.-Mexico border. Border Patrol apprehensions in the San Diego area, once the nation's busiest illegal border crossing corridor, are at a 25-year low. Crime rates in many border communities, including Nogales, have fallen. At the same time, the fees charged by alien smugglers along the Southwest border have risen to record levels, a sign that the border is increasingly difficult to breach.

As INS strategists predicted, the intensified enforcement pressure in California and Texas has prompted a growing number of undocumented migrants to attempt to enter this country illegally along the Arizona border. The new deployment strategy being implemented as part of Operation Safeguard is designed to address these shifts in border crossing patterns and build on the border enhancements that have already been put into place in Arizona. This is the next logical phase of the multi-year border management strategy inaugurated in 1994. This Administration has made a long-term commitment to building a border that works, and promotes commerce and tourism, while at the same time deterring those who attempt to come here illegally.

Southwest Border Interagency mtg - 9/30

I. Phoenix

- Good mtg
- Want another mtg

II. Interim Report

David Luna (State) - alarming.

3-4 agencies have submitted.

Health care problems are ~~the~~ but some related to environmental problems.

Dislocated workers.

Language

No educ. + training

- Need to do more than an inventory.
- \$ allocated to certain regions.
- OMB clearance needs to be preferred in

Adrienne K. Elrod

09/29/99 06:55:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

CC:

Subject: Southwest Border Mtg. 

Southwest Border Initiative Briefing
Thursday, September 30, 1999
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Vice President's Ceremonial Office

White House Attendees

Maria Echaveste

Mickey Ibarra

Ray Martinez

Irene Bueno

(T) Rep. from NEC

(T) Rep. from Vice President's Office

Raynell Zuni

Agency Attendees

Lynda de va Lenia, Deputy Secretary for Economic Development, Dept. of Treasury

Maria Matthews, Deputy Administrator, Office of Community Development, Dept. of Agriculture

Irasema Garza, Department of Labor

Message Sent To:

Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP
Raynell K. Zuni/WHO/EOP@EOP
Andrew F. Schneider/OVP@OVP

Southwest Border Mtg - 9/30

1

Trasema - DOL

Partnership w/ Fed Agencies

NEC process task

E.O. on ~~Task~~ Force on Eco Development - ~~chartered by~~ VP.

Fed Agencies were doing something - but not coordinated

3 Co-Chairs Labor, Treas, Ag. Rotate - report to VP,
Chair Community Empowerment Board.

9/8 - Phoenix. Region met to educate them about the ~~F~~ T.F.

Treasury Dept. Paragay - Lynda

State Dept. David Leno - report to by VP ~~on~~ in Nov. 15 interim
April - final ~~part~~

Follow up letters - feedback on public forum, ~~project~~

Next Steps - Public Forum - 1 ea. in the 4 states by end of Oct
announced in Edinburgh, Sc. Summers will chair
he will do the first meeting - in Oct. - NM, TX, Border - Laredo,
AZ, CA - University

Interim

Report Due in Nov

- Broad assessment on what agencies are doing
- Every issue that affects the border
- Education, etc.
- ~~estimate~~ - ~~it are going to be empty~~

- strategic plan
- inventory of all programs

- 10 \$ being spent

Criticisms

- Coordination

- ~~Program~~ Health - ~~not~~ impacted - Border Health Comm.

Elder Environ

Enlight/Chm

Eco. Develop

- No point person in Fed Agencies

Southwest
Border

Chell (ED)

11/15

next task

force

mtg

VP.

Please Report

web site

(2)

Disability

- AG decided to appeal + work on leg. to allow parent or guardian ~~to bring~~
- Rehab. ~~case~~ Act case.
- Oath cannot be ~~essential~~ b/c Congress did not want

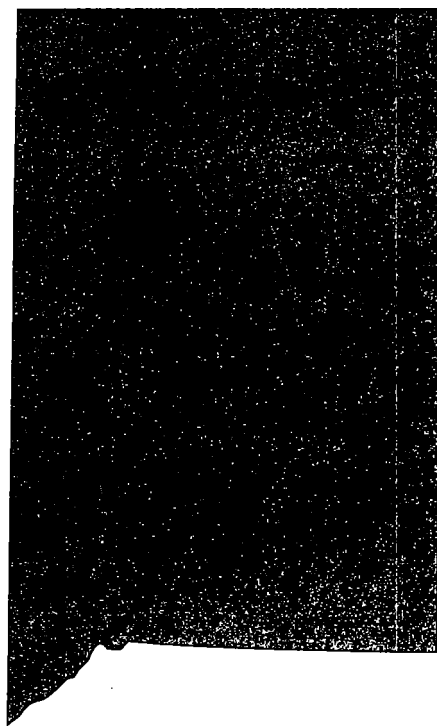
Best Practices, Models

- Target certain priorities + certain communities where we can make an impact.
- Local ~~people~~ people have already developed a strategic plan. The infrastructure is there - Border Partnerships - ID priorities.

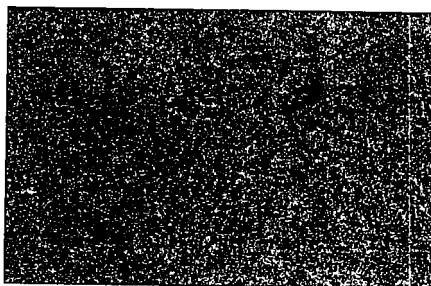
mtg this afternoon - Discuss schedule Oct - Nov.
Reports to VP.

How engage those in ~~past~~ LGAs - Ray Martinez will be point person.

Website - be ready by Nov. - WGA website.



The President's Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border



Reporting to
Vice President Al Gore

LEADING THE BORDER INTO THE 21ST CENTURY



A Message from the Vice President

Since 1993, President Clinton and I have been committed to assisting underserved urban and rural communities in meeting their plans and objectives for long overdue revitalization. Our commitment created the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Initiative in the 103rd Congress. This effort has resulted in the designation of 135 EZ/ECs across the nation. It has included the enactment of new federal tax incentives; the development of numerous agency-specific initiatives and programs; and the leveraging of the 'seed' federal investment to create more than \$14 billion additional public and private sector investments and commitments for the community revitalization efforts in the designated areas.

This program is only a 'first step' of our vision to revitalize communities throughout America by empowering them to help themselves. The economy has remained strong under our Administration and much of the country has benefited — but not everyone. Some regions, cities, and rural communities have lagged behind the rest of the nation, with their potential for growth and prosperity unrealized. They must still overcome years of neglected infrastructure, unplanned development, poor transportation systems, and the disparities associated with a changing global economy. The President and I have met with top CEOs and business leaders to solicit their leadership in lending a hand in moving all communities to prosperity by tapping their full potential. Recently, during his 'New Markets Tour,' the President emphasized the gravity of the problems faced and highlighted successful examples demonstrating such unlimited potential.

The Southwest Border region is clearly one of those areas that has remained severely distressed. A strategy for investing in and empowering this region to meet the challenges

of the 21st Century is vital, not only to the people and communities along the Southwest Border but to the entire country. This is a critical component in strengthening America's economic infrastructure and in creating jobs, hope, and opportunity. This is what the President had in mind with the signing of his Executive Order to create the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*. Its mission is to search for, analyze, coordinate, and present workable solutions and policy options for revitalizing the Border area.

In April of 1997 at the White House Community Empowerment Conference, I emphasized the importance of taking a regional approach to develop community-driven solutions which embody four key principles: economic opportunity, sustainable development, community-based partnerships, and a strategic vision for change. As the *Southwest Border Task Force* reports its deliberations and findings, I will be particularly interested in reviewing innovative solutions that support these key principles and clearly integrate local organizations, constituencies, and governments. As our nation heads into the 21st Century, it is crucial that our efforts are constructive and help lead the Southwest Border region down a new path towards community revitalization, regional security and economic prosperity.

- Vice President Al Gore

ORIGINS OF THE TASK FORCE



Significant Milestones

The creation of the President's *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border* can not be traced to one single event or proclamation. Rather the *Task Force* represents the culmination of collective efforts aimed at raising awareness of the many serious issues faced by the people that live in this region of the country.

- In April 1997, at the White House Empowerment Conference in Detroit, Michigan, Vice President Gore as Chair of the Community Empowerment Board challenged Empowerment Zones (EZ), Enterprise Communities (EC) and Champion Communities to combine their efforts and adopt a regional approach to revitalize their communities.* The *Southwest Border Partnership* was created in response to the Vice President's challenge. This regional organization of EZ/EC and Champion Communities aims to build a sustainable economy in concert with a sustainable environment.
- Over the years, Congress and especially the Congressional Border and Hispanic Caucuses have been an integral part of the discussion surrounding the Federal government's role in addressing the numerous problems that plague the Southwest Border Region. In June 1998, the Congressional Border Caucus submitted a request to the General Accounting Office (GAO) to study the nature of those problems and provide information on efforts undertaken by the U.S. and Mexico to address them. A report outlining GAO's preliminary findings was released in July 1999. GAO continues to examine the many transportation and environmental infrastructure issues affecting the Border region.
- In October 1998, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released a study entitled *The Southwest Border Region: A Profile of the Regional Economy*. This study served as the catalyst for the creation of the National Economic Council Working Group on the Southwest Border. Members of the Working Group met several times in the spring of 1999 to discuss ways in which the Federal government can partner with community leaders to foster economic development. Based on these discussions, the Working

Group (which included Treasury, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Labor) developed options for a more comprehensive and coordinated federal response to Border communities.

- All of these efforts culminated in May 1999, when President Clinton signed Executive Order 13122 creating the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*. Through his Executive Order the President formally recognized the challenges confronted by many Border communities on a daily basis. The President announced the creation of the *Task Force* while attending the Vice President's Community Empowerment Conference in the Rio Grande Valley, calling on all Federal agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to evaluate the Border region's many problems and to coordinate a Federal response to help alleviate those problems and simultaneously encourage sustainable economic development.

* The EZ/EC program is a federal initiative designed to provide economically depressed urban and rural areas and communities with real opportunities for growth and revitalization. Its mission is to foster self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas suffering from pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress and to demonstrate how communities can achieve self-sufficiency by following innovative and comprehensive strategic plans formulated and implemented by alliances among public, private and nonprofit entities.



EXECUTIVE ORDER

Vision for Economic Development

The President and Vice President see the Federal government's role in community economic development as that of a catalyst, with the potential to forge short- and long-term change in the Southwest Border Region.

Task Force

- President Clinton, through Executive Order 13122, created the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*, which reports to the Vice President, Chair of the Community Empowerment Board.
- The *Task Force* is composed of a number of Federal agencies including the Departments of Treasury, Agriculture, Labor, State, Commerce, Education, Energy, Interior, Defense, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Transportation, the Small Business Administration, the Attorney General, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mission of the Task Force

The mission of the *Task Force* is to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts aimed at the Southwest Border, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to elevate the standard of living and overall economic profile of the region so that it is on a par with the rest of the nation as we move into the 21st Century.

Actions

- Analyze existing programs and policies of member agencies that relate to the Southwest Border to determine what changes and innovations should be considered;
- Consider data and studies related to the Southwest Border;
- Develop and recommend short- and long-term options for promoting sustainable development;

- Consult and coordinate activities with state and local authorities, community leaders, Members of Congress, and other stakeholders;
- Coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration priorities of *Task Force* members; and
- Establish a demonstration pilot to focus on enhanced coordinated Federal response with respect to several communities in the Southwest Border.



MISSION, FRAMEWORK AND GOALS

The Mission

The mission of the *Task Force* is to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts aimed at the Southwest Border, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to elevate the standard of living and overall economic profile of the Southwest Border Region so that it is on a par with the rest of the nation as we move into the 21st Century.

The Framework

In carrying out its mission, the *Task Force* will rely on the following framework and on a comprehensive consultative process to achieve each of its goals.

- Maximize the efficiency, responsiveness, coordination and impact of *current Federal government initiatives* related to the Southwest Border.
- Identify and develop *new options* that fill any current “gaps” in Federal government efforts.
- Advance *innovative alternatives* for sustainable development of the Southwest Border.

The Goals

Community Planning and Investment:

- Spurring economic development and supporting pilot communities.
- Helping Border communities attract capital, improve access to credit, and foster small business development.

Development of Human Capital:

- Promoting education.
- Investing in job training and skills development.
- Nurturing children, youth and families.
- Providing affordable housing.
- Improving access to quality healthcare.

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure:

- Focusing on Agricultural and Rural Assistance Programs.
- Improving infrastructure in rural communities.
- Cleaning up the environment.

International Cooperation and Coordination:

- Protecting the Border, shoring up law enforcement and preventing crime.
- Advancing our partnership with Mexico.



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Background

- The regional approach to community solutions was inspired and encouraged by Vice President Gore at the White House Empowerment conference in Detroit, Michigan in April 1997.

Community Response

- The *Southwest Border Partnership* was created in response to Vice President Gore's challenge to the Empowerment Zones to revitalize their communities through regional community development. The intent of this regional initiative is to build a sustainable economy in concert with a sustainable environment.

Federal Government Response

- President Clinton, through an Executive Order, created the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border*, which reports to the Vice President, Chair of the Community Empowerment Board.
- As part of its mandate the *Task Force* will establish a demonstration project emphasizing enhanced coordinated Federal response with respect to several communities in the Southwest Border.

Pilot Program

- In close collaboration with state and local authorities, community leaders, and community-based organizations, the *Task Force* will pilot a project that will include communities from each of the four Border states. The common link between these communities is their involvement with the EZ/EC initiative; their natural geographic link through close proximity to Mexico; and their shared economic concerns.
- Two types of response teams will be formed: a Community Coordination and Response Team that will assess the community's local strategic plans and priorities, and a Federal Border Response Team, which will be created for each community based on the community's particular set of priorities. These virtual teams of agency and community representatives will jointly develop a community response plan consistent with the Executive Order.
- The *Task Force* will monitor the progress of each community's strategic plan and will present to the Vice President annual progress reports from the lead agencies and agency teams.
- The *Task Force* will also develop a website and other vehicles by which to disseminate information about the activities of the *Task Force* and to establish continuous communication with the communities and policy makers in the Southwest Border Region.



COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANS

Plan Elements

The Community Response Plans will be jointly developed by the Border Response Teams and Community Coordination and Response Teams under the guidance of the *Task Force* and in cooperation with state and local governments. The plans shall be consistent with the Executive Order and include:

- A detailed statement of the goals of the Response Plans for each pilot community;
- A streamlined process for the delivery of assistance and services;
- A detailed description of agency responsibilities for each community;
- Established benchmarks for measuring progress based on community priorities;
- A detailed plan for integrating and implementing the relevant programs and services of each of the Departments and of Administration initiatives, particularly the New Markets Initiative;
- A detailed plan establishing a clearinghouse of information on services and communications links via the internet;
- A plan for uniform reporting to the *Task Force*; and
- A detailed plan and timetable for the actual receipt of assistance by pilot communities.



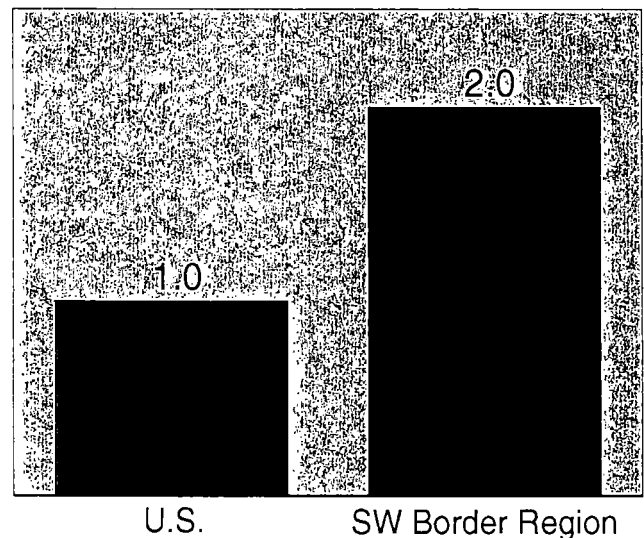
A PROFILE OF THE SOUTHWEST BORDER REGION:

The economy of the Southwest Border region varies considerably from county to county and state to state, with areas of prosperity intermingled amongst areas of great poverty. However, communities in this area also share a number of common features — many derived from the region's proximity to Mexico — that have affected standards of living and economic development throughout the area and substantially differentiate the Border region from the rest of the United States.

- The Southwest Border region covers an **area** six times the size of Israel, including four counties each in California and Arizona, five counties in New Mexico and forty-three counties in Texas.
- The **population**, numbering 12.3 million, is growing twice as fast and is generally much younger than is typical in the United States as a whole.

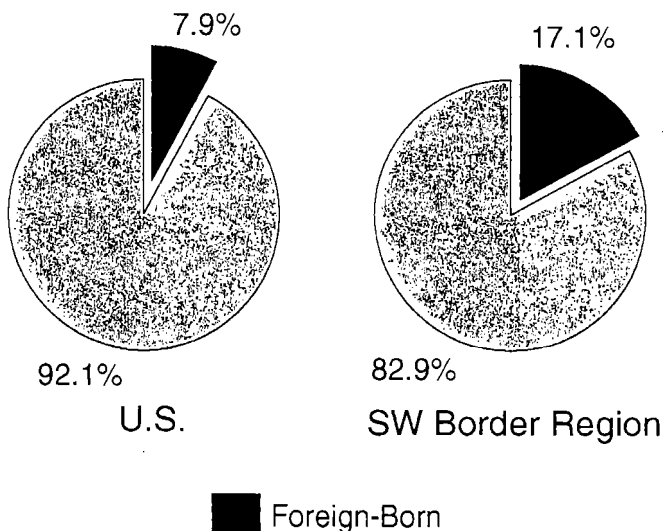
Population Growth

Percent Change at an Annual Rate



Note: Population growth measured from April 1990 to July 1996.

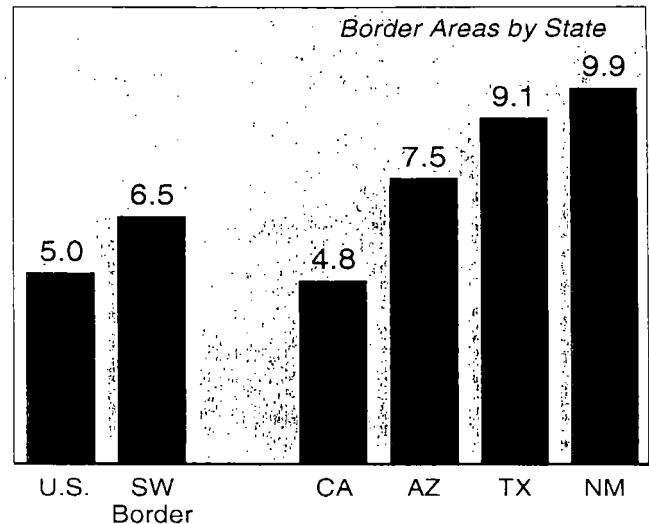
Foreign-Born Share of Population



- A higher concentration of this region's residents are **foreign-born** compared to the entire country and more of this region's residents **speak Spanish at home** than in the United States as a whole.

- **Unemployment** was higher in the Border region than in all but two states in 1997. Although one-third of the counties within this area recorded unemployment rates below the national average that same year, it is not unusual to find these communities enveloped by counties with double-digit rates of unemployment.

Unemployment Rate, 1997



Share of All Residents Living in Poverty

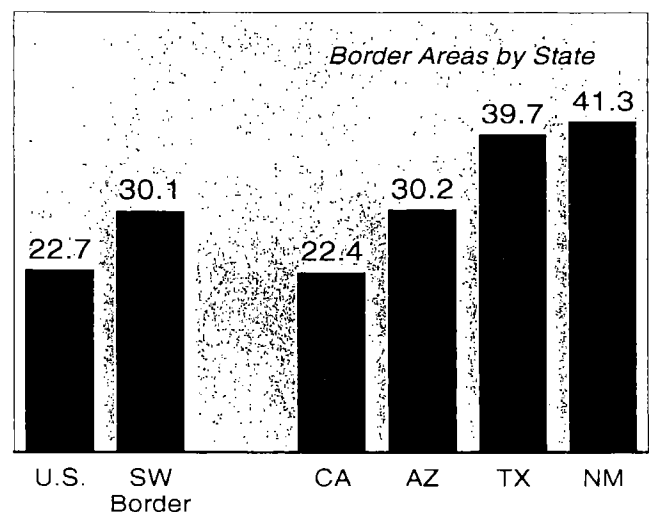


- **Poverty** is a way of life for a disproportionately high number of this area's residents. Approximately 20 percent were living at or below the poverty level in 1993. This topped the national rate of 15.1 percent and exceeded poverty rates in 46 states.

- The situation for **children** living in Border communities is even bleaker. Almost one-third of the region's children under the age of 18 was living in poverty in 1993, compared to 23 percent at the national level.

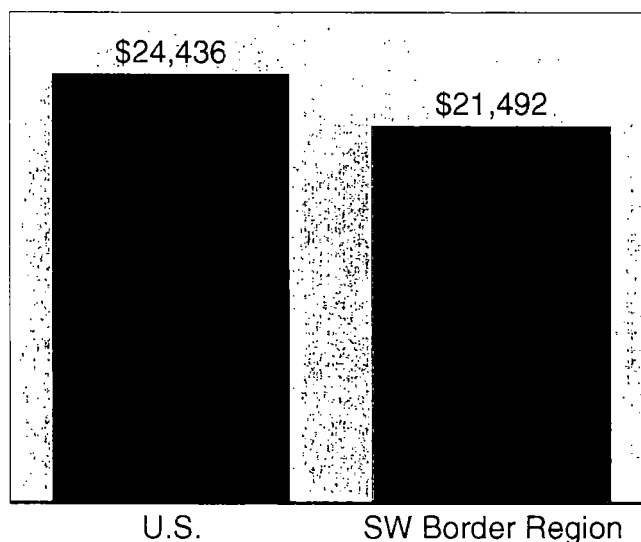
Children Under Age 18 Living in Poverty

Percent of Resident Population



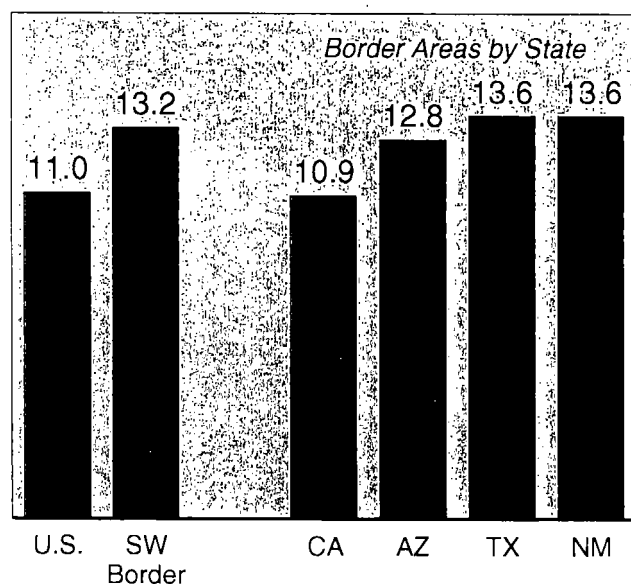
- As recently as 1996, **per capita personal income** in the Border region was 12 percent below that of the entire country. For many Border residents a large part of personal income is derived from transfer payments, which include welfare, retirement and unemployment benefits.

Personal Income Per Capita



High School Dropouts

as a Percent of 16- to 19-Year Olds



- Rates of **educational attainment** are alarmingly low in this area of the country. In 1990, close to one-quarter of the adult population had not graduated from high school and roughly 13 percent of 16- to 19-year olds had dropped out of school, giving the region one of the highest dropout rates in the nation.

Note: The Executive Order establishing the *Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border* defined the Border region as the area within 150 miles north of the United States – Mexican border in the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and California. Numerous definitions of this region exist, however, with each definition specific to its primary concern or focus. The Department of Treasury defined the Southwest Border region as the area within 100 miles of the U.S. border with Mexico in its 1998 study profiling the regional economy. The statistics cited above reflect Treasury's definition.

Members of the President's Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border

Secretary of the Treasury
Co-Chair

Secretary of Agriculture
Co-Chair

Secretary of Labor
Co-Chair

Secretary of State
Secretary of Commerce

Secretary of Defense
Attorney General

Secretary of Interior

Secretary of Education

Secretary of Health and Human Services

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary of Energy

Secretary of Transportation

Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Director of National Drug Control Policy

Administrator of the Small Business Administration

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Southwest Border Interagency Working Group

FROM: Rick Samans, NEC
Lynda de la Viña, Treasury *LDL*

SUBJECT: Agency Border Programs and Activities

A Southwest Border Interagency Working Group meeting is planned for next Wednesday, April 28 in Room 180 of the Old Executive Office Building. We will be discussing a draft proposal by the Short Term Initiatives Sub-Committee and the plans for the Vice President's visit to the Border in May.

In order to move this process forward, we are asking you to assemble a listing of your agency's programs and activities on the border including: title of program, sponsoring department or bureau within your agency, brief description of program/activity, funding to the border area in last fiscal year, and contact information. As you are assembling this information, please include expected new funding announcements, expected time and place of announcement and whether these events would be occasions for White House participation. Please bring this material with you to Wednesday's meeting.

For clearance to the meeting, call Gay Joshlyn on 456-2801. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

FAX

April 21, 1999

From: Lynda de la Viña
Office of Economic Policy
U.S. Treasury Department

To: Southwest Border Interagency Working Group

	Telephone	Fax
William Schuerch	622-0154	622-2536
Rick Samans ✓	456-2801	456-5334
Irasema Garza	501-6653	501-6615
Julie Fernandes	456-6558	456-5581
Carrie Hyun	366-1103	366-3956
Mercedes Marquez	708-2467	708-3389
Patrick Whelan	564-6428	565-2412
Victor Vasquez	619-7981	690-1395
Jorge Perez-Lopez	219-7597x145	219-5071
David Luna	647-7850	736-4291
Jonathan Weiss	456-9034	456-9054
Caroline Fredrickson	456-6493	456-6468
Kim Newman	395-4936	395-1150
Larry Matlack	395-3262	395-1596
Regina Vargo	482-5324	482-4736
Phil Singerman	482-4067	273-4781
Linda Eddleman	647-6754	647-0791
Lori Hendricks	456-9281	456-9280
Karen Kornbluh	622-6569	622-0073

Please see the attached memo.

Southwest Mtg. 4/28

Border Plex Coordination + Response Initiative see proposal.

MOU

ECO

Nahin Am

- Border Plex Coordination + Response Initiative Executive Order
(Regional Coordination / EO / Pilot - interagency memo)

- Need clear lines of accountability TX, NM, AZ, CA

- Context - OMB (Mac Reed) - next steps

- Response Team

- MOU

• DPC, ~~the~~ Treasury

- VP trip to TX 5/24, 5/26 - want to announce this there

Agency Resources to Border economy

• Labor

- W to W - 25% - E1/E2

- Youth \$ - 80 to DEC/E2

- Dislocated worker \$ - need a hook - past used \$ for El Paso

Southwest ~~Partnership~~ Partnership ^(correct) - looking for VP to provide ~~direction on \$~~ coordination of the \$ which task force will do that

Hill's interests - ~~the~~ CHC

Southwest Border Commission - ~~the~~ ^{provide} Partnership with legislatively established + want \$. Part - not good experience. We

Concern about up ^{NAFTA} admit have a position. Cap Skeen,
Similar goal to task force / coordination

(2)

Other agencies -

④ MOW/EO - work w/OMB - start to net
Write comment in 1 wk ~~to~~ for end of May.

Next mty - ~~also~~ 5/7

April 28, 1999

NOTE TO PAUL WEINSTEIN:

Attached is information from the Southwest Border Task Force meeting today that is chaired by Rick Samans, NEC and Lynda de la Vina of Treasury.

They are exploring the possibility of the VP announcing an MOU and Executive Order during his upcoming trip to TX.

They would like our comments on the EO and MOU by next Wednesday, 5/5 and another meeting is planned for Friday, 5/7 to discuss the comments and next steps.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Irene

DRAFT

BorderPlex Coordination and Response Initiative

Background

On October 19, 1998, Treasury authored a study of the Southwest Border's economic conditions. It depicted an unfavorable outlook: widespread poverty, low levels of education, and the rapid population growth of the youngest and oldest segments in the region. The study was transmitted to the National Economic Council and various government agencies. The Treasury analysis was the basis for the formation of the NEC Interagency Working Group on the Southwest Border. The challenge to the working group was to review current policies affecting the Southwest Border and formulate both short term and long term policy proposals for the Administration.

The Community Response

Simultaneously, border communities were developing a grass roots effort. The regional approach to community solutions was inspired and encouraged by Vice President Gore at the White House Empowerment Zone conference in Detroit, Michigan in April 1997. The Rio Grande Valley (Texas) Empowerment Zone heard the challenge and agreed to work with the Department of Agriculture by organizing a Border conference (June 1997).

Conference dialogue pointed to numerous studies that documented the experience of the Southwest Border region (Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas) with regard to long-term unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, high incidence of poverty and economic disparity.

In response to these and other problems facing the Border Region, and in response to Vice President Gore's challenge to the Empowerment Zones to revitalize their communities through regional community development, the Southwest Border Partnership was created. The intent of this regional initiative is to build a sustainable economy in concert with a sustainable environment.

The Federal Government's Response

As part of this effort, the Department of Agriculture has been working with the rural border communities to develop a regional strategic plan that will create economic opportunities for the communities. Contemporaneously, other federal government departments and agencies have been independently focusing on border issues. The Department of Labor's efforts in El Paso and the Department of the Treasury's efforts via the North American Development Bank and the Community Development Financial Institutions are but two examples.

While there is much current government activity along the border region, that effort is not fully effective for the following reasons:

*Efforts are sporadic and disconnected from each other, rather than holistic and coordinated;

*Programs are delivered “to” organizations from the government, rather than planned and implemented “with” the citizens and the communities involved;

*Usually there has been no performance basis to measure the progress of the actions in meeting established objectives.

Federal efforts, therefore, must be coordinated in order to meet the immense economic needs of the Southwest Border, decrease the fixed costs of program exposure, and to derive economies of scale through cooperative efforts.

Proposed Policy Model

Two proposals, suggested by the Departments of Treasury, Agriculture and Labor, are being presented to the NEC Working Group and to the Office of the Vice President:

- Borderplex Coordination and Response Initiative
- Borderplex Information Network

Borderplex Coordination and Response Initiative

The purpose of the BorderPlex Coordination and Response Initiative is to provide a structure for cooperative and expeditious response by the federal government on the common and critical issues facing the southwest states of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas by:

- redefining the federal role as a community partner;
- establishing a means by which the federal agencies can operate;
- demonstrating a long-term commitment to the issues;
- focusing on specific problems, producing tangible results;
- delegating to the level of effective implementation (The communities most directly affected are best suited for developing the local strategy.); and
- pooling financial resources and technical assistance to efficiently manage economic transition.

- Formulate an **Executive Order** establishing the “BorderPlex Coordination and Response Initiative” and the BorderPlex C& R Task Force (“Task Force”) composed of relevant federal departments, agencies, and bureaus. The Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Agriculture would Co-Chair the Task Force. The Task Force would ensure the creation of a coordinated national policy on border economic development; an aggressive implementation of the response initiative; and develop long term recommendations to the President. (Details of EO will be drafted to include the issuance of periodic reporting during a four-year period.)
- Develop a **Memorandum of Understanding**, similar to that created by the Delta Initiative, delineating the participation of the various departments, agencies, and bureaus. *-see attached.*

Response Model (See Figure 1)

- The Task Force, in coordination with the Southwest Partnership, will select four pilot communities based on established criteria (one from each border state). The common link to all the communities is their involvement with the President’s EZ/EC initiative; their natural geographic link through proximity to an international boundary with Mexico; and their shared economic concerns. Moreover, these communities, via the EZ/EC framework, have:
 - gone through extensive strategic planning processes;
 - established long-term community visions;
 - established benchmarks for their strategic plans; and
 - are positioned to receive priority funding from the federal government allowing them to leverage local partnerships that are established.
- Each strategic plan will be assessed and plans of action will be coordinated with the local community. Each community would create a community coordination and response team (CCRT) that would assess the community’s local strategic plans and priorities. This team would be actively involved in interfacing with the local and state funding sources and the federal BorderPlex Task Force.
- The community response teams would establish priorities, with the review and cooperation of the Southwest Partnership. Individual communities are likely to have potentially different sets of priorities. A one-size-fits-all approach is, therefore, not acceptable; requiring the BorderPlex Task Force to form virtual teams depending on each of the communities’ priorities. In turn, the lead agency in the BorderPlex Task Force would differ for each community.
- The BorderPlex Task Force would monitor the progress of each of the community strategic plans with presentations and progress reports by lead agencies and agency

teams; thereby establishing an accountability mapping between communities, agency teams, and the Task Force.

Information Network

The BorderPlex Information Network, a website, would disseminate the activities of the BorderPlex Task Force and establish a continuous communication link with communities and individual policy makers on the border.

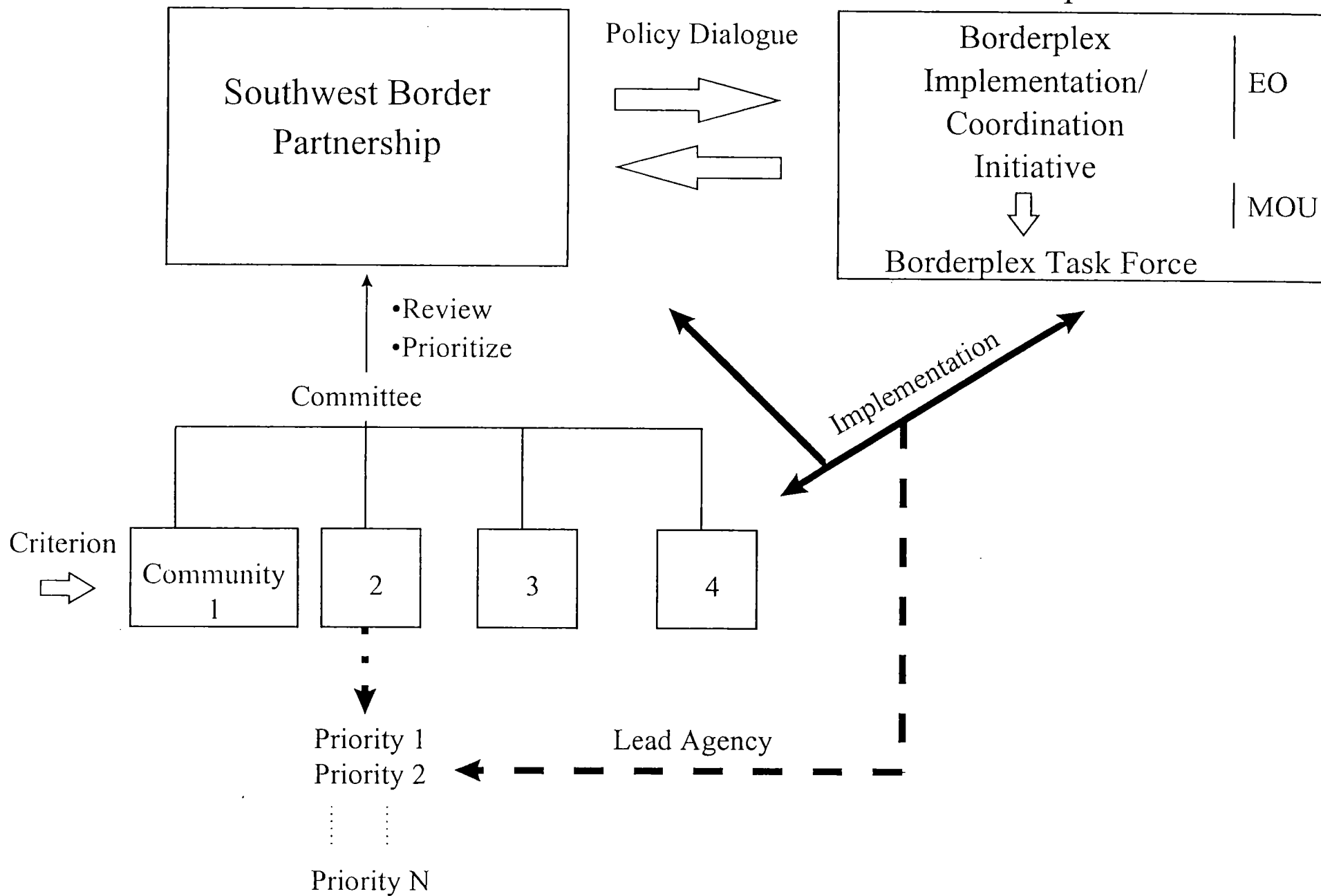
This innovative approach to community development is designed to obtain and reflect the needs of communities rather than government. And one that takes the time to include the community's vision of who they are, what they would like to be, and how they will get there. This model brings together government and community efforts to stimulate a coherent and comprehensive approach to border community development. Moreover, it sets a flexible team framework that demands results and establishes accountability based on established benchmarks.

Community economic development strategies can serve as catalysts, forging short and long-range change along the Southwest Border Region. This model is a precursor of a comprehensive plan for coordinated decision making, without a harmonized plan the Southwest Border Region will continue to suffer "swift growth without prosperity." Ultimately, the implementation of a comprehensive regional strategy is the key to unlocking the gateway to a regional border economy, thus leading the way to the 21st century.

Community Activities

Figure 1

Federal Government Response



**INTERAGENCY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR A BORDERPLEX COORDINATION AND RESPONSE INITIATIVE**

I. Parties

This is an agreement among _____ parties:

- The Secretary of the Treasury;
- The Secretary of Agriculture;
- The Secretary of Labor;
- The Secretary of Commerce;
- The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- The Secretary of Transportation;
- The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- The Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- The Assistant to the President for Economic Policy; and
- The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to improve interagency cooperation in order to enhance the delivery, tracking, and evaluation of economic assistance to communities on the Southwest Border affected by the President's BorderPlex Coordination and Response Initiative. This memorandum establishes the principles that will guide the parties' cooperation in this undertaking, sets forth the objectives of this collaborative effort, and outlines the responsibilities of the parties. It also defines the structure of federal coordination, which is designed to work closely with the Southwest Partnership and with state and local governments, Tribal nations, and others, in order to make the optimum use of federal resources.

III. Structure

A. Equal Status: The parties are equal partners of this cooperative relationship.

B. Multi-Agency Command: Each of the parties shall, within 7 days of the signing of this memorandum, designate one individual to serve as liaison and to report directly to the appropriate party. These individuals shall comprise the BorderPlex Initiative Task Force (BIT). The Secretaries of Treasury, Agriculture, and Labor shall designate a second representative to serve as co-Chairs of the BIT.

The BIT, under the guidance of the parties, shall have oversight and policymaking authority and responsibilities as consistent with the authority delegated each party.

C. Border Community Response Teams: Secretaries and the Administrators shall, within 14 days of signing this Memorandum, each designate one or more representatives to participate in Border Community Response Teams (CRTs). The actual configuration of the teams is dependent on the priorities identified by the pilot communities creating the potential for differing membership per team – a virtual team based on community need. The CRT under the guidance of the BIT and the parties, shall have decision authority as consistent with federal law to act as liaisons from the BIT to the pilot communities; implement programmatic solutions from each agency; and report to the BIT on project status. However, nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to expand or diminish the authority of federal, state, or local officials participating in the CRT.

IV. Responsibilities of the Parties

In the development and execution of economic adjustment activities, the Southwest Partnership, state and local governments, Tribal Nations, and others shall play a critical role in partnership with the BIT in determining how best to meet the priority needs of the pilot communities. Federal officials should resolve interagency differences, coordinate interagency activity, and remove any unnecessary regulatory impediments to economic adjustment and assistance.

A. Response Framework

The BIT will designate 4 pilot communities (one from each Border state). The designation will be based on economic/demographic profiles, community strategic plans, and community vision statements. Working with representatives of the pilot communities and the Southwest Partnership, as well as, other parties, the BIT will create customized virtual teams, known as CRTs, that will be tasked with liaison activities and implementation of strategic plans. Strategic needs will be prioritized by the communities and in coordination with the Southwest Partnership, the CRT will produce a response plan within 45 days.

B. Community Response Plans

The plan shall be consistent with the Executive Order and shall address a ____ year period and include:

- A detailed statement of the goals of the Response Plans for each pilot community;
- A streamlined process for the delivery of assistance and services;
- A detailed description of agency responsibilities for each community;
- Quantifiable benchmarks for progress based on community priorities;
- A detailed plan for integrating and implementing the relevant programs and services of the Departments of -----.
- A detailed plan for a clearinghouse of services and communications links via the internet;
- A plan for the uniform reporting to the BIT;
- A detailed plan and timetable for the actual receipt of assistance by pilot communities.

C. Execution

The parties shall make available the resources necessary to execute the response plan for each pilot community, including the financial resources and the personnel and support services. The parties agree to the following financial resources under the specified conditions:

Department of _____:

Department of _____:

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V. Reports

Every six months, the BIT shall promptly prepare and file with the parties an evaluation report which:

- Assesses the progress made in the preceding period toward the goals and objectives identified in individual pilot communities' strategic plans; and
- Suggests any adjustments or amendments in the cooperative relationship that the BIT considers desirable.

VI. Liability

This is not a legally binding or enforceable agreement. The matters covered in this memorandum are intended only to improve the internal management of the Executive Branch and are not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

VII. Terms

The term of this agreement is _____ months from the date of execution. At that time, the parties may, by unanimous action, extend this agreement for any additional period. This agreement may be amended by unanimous consent of the parties. Any party may terminate its participation in this agreement without cause.

AGREED

Secretary of the -----

Secretary of -----

CLOSE HOLD**EXECUTIVE ORDER****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST BORDER**

By the authority vested in me as President, by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to increase living standards and the economic profile of the Southwest Border so that it may approach the average in the nation, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1, Establishment of a BorderPlex Coordination and Response Task Force

- (a) There is established the "BorderPlex Coordination and Response Task Force," ("Task Force"). The Task Force shall comprise the Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Transportation, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and such other senior executive branch officials as may be determined by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force.**
- (b) The Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Agriculture shall Co-Chair the Task Force.**
- (c) The purpose of the Task Force is to create a coordinated and aggressive action plan for the Southwest Border in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic profile of the Southwest Border so that it may approach the average of the nation. Policy recommendations shall encompass short term and long term economic development objectives. Specifically, the Task Force shall:**
 - (1) analyze the existing programs and policies of Task Force members that relate to the Southwest Border to determine what changes, modifications, and innovations should be considered;**
 - (2) consider statistical and data analysis, research, and policy studies related to the Southwest Border**
 - (3) develop and recommend short term and long term options for economic development;**
 - (4) coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration priorities of Task Force member agencies related to the Southwest Border;**
 - (5) establish a pilot project as stated in attached description related to coordination, response, and communication networks;**

- (6) recommend to the President and additional steps that can be taken to advance the Southwest Border, including legislative proposals, regulatory changes, and program and budget initiatives.
- (d) (1) The members of the Task Force shall make the activities and initiatives set forth in this order a high priority within their respective agencies within the levels provided in the President's budget.
- (2) The Task Force shall issue its first report to the President by _____ 1999. The Task Force shall issue a report to the President on _____ 2000, _____ 2001, and a final report on _____ 2002. The reports shall describe the actions taken by, and progress of, each member of the Task Force in carrying out this order. The Task Force shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report.

Sec. 2 Specific Activities by Task Force members and other agencies

- (a) The Departments shall work together and report to the Task Force by November 15, 1999 on the examination of their programs to see if coordinated response frameworks can be constructed and utilized.
- (b) The Departments involved shall report by November 15, 1999 the progress on the designated community pilot projects and on the efficacy of the overall coordination framework.
- (c) The Lead Agencies shall report by report by November 15, 1999 on the initial progress on each of the individual community strategic plans.
- (d) Executive agencies that are not members of the Task Force shall:
 - (1) coordinate and cooperate with the Task Force; and
 - (2) review their programs and policies to ensure that they are coordinating delivery of services to the designated pilot projects.

Sec. 3. Cooperation

All efforts taken by the executive departments and agencies under sections 1 and 2 of this order shall, as appropriate, further partnerships and cooperation with organizations that represent Southwest Border and with state and local governments.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review

This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

CLOSE HOLD

DRAFT

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

(date)