

Executive Director's Column

*ON WATER, MEDIA
DO US A DISSERVICE*

Don Felsing, Sempra Energy's Group President, got it exactly right in his closing remarks at our September 17th Forum Fronterizo on water. "If you think the energy crisis was bad," Felsing said, "the looming water crisis with the growing population and shrinking water supplies ought to call us all to arms and make us think hard about solutions."



Exec. Dir. Chuck Nathanson

As anyone who attended that forum knows, the solutions pose a daunting political challenge, perhaps the greatest challenge this border region has ever faced.

In the very near future, we need to begin transferring large amounts of water from the farming areas in the Imperial and Mexicali valleys to the rapidly growing urban areas along the San Diego/Baja California coast. This will require big investments in water conservation, environmental mitigation and economic development in the farming areas, paid for in large part by the coastal areas. It will also require construction of a new, multibillion dollar aqueduct to carry the water.

Most important, the transfers are not likely to get the necessary political support unless there is constant dialogue and growing public understanding across the entire region. Inland and coastal areas and both sides of the border will need help in understanding each other's points of view. Since we're dealing with water, the opportunities for misunderstanding are legion.

"If you think the energy crisis was bad, the looming water crisis with the growing population and shrinking water supplies ought to call us all to arms and make us think hard about solutions."

— Don Felsing, Sempra Energy's Group President

Here's where media throughout the region are failing us. Every major newspaper and broadcast outlet on both sides of the border should have a regional water expert, and his or her first priority should be to get the facts straight on this very complicated story.

As it stands now, the public is very badly informed on every aspect of this issue. Even attentive San Diegans seem unaware of the importance of the water transfers and have little idea how weak the support for them is in the Imperial Valley. Likewise, San Diegans seem universally oblivious to the fact that Tijuana is already on the verge of a water emergency that could have devastating impacts on both sides of the border.

There is really no excuse for this media failure. The leadership of the San Diego County Water Authority has not only been talking about this problem, but also actively developing solutions to it, for at least the past three or four years. Tijuana's crisis was first projected more than six years ago.

**ALL ABOUT WATER
plus Civic Excellence**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- **The regional water challenge, solutions and hurdles**
- **The Cross-Border Economy after September 11**
- **A proposal to drain Lake Powell**
- **Special Section on Civic Excellence Awardees and Honorees**

The Water Challenge

SHRINKING SUPPLIES AND GROWING DEMAND

San Diego County and the coastal communities of Baja California (Tecate, Tijuana, Rosarito and Ensenada) are in serious danger of running short of water for their growing populations.

San Diego's demand for water is projected to outgrow its current sources of water supply within the next ten years. Baja coastal's demand for water is already outstripping its supply.

In other words, the coastal communities on both sides of the border need new sources of supply if they are to meet their growing populations' demand for water.

By 2020, San Diego and Baja Coastal together will require at least an additional 200,000 acre feet of water to serve a population that will have increased by 2.2 million. (See charts below.)

How did this situation arise?

For San Diego, the need for new sources of water arises because the traditional sources of imported water – the State Water Project and the Colorado River – can no longer accommodate increasing demand. On the contrary, supply from these sources is expected to decline.

The State Water Project (SWP), which is located in northern California, serves to capture water in the north and distribute it through massive conveyance facilities across California and ultimately to San Diego through the Metropolitan Water District. SWP is presently challenged in the north by environmental obligations, including endangered species issues, and there are those who say that it cannot reliably deliver on 50% of its water commitments.

For the past two decades, California has enjoyed the use of surpluses in excess of its legal entitlement to Colorado River water. But the Colorado is also subject to environmental challenges and the ever-increasing needs of the other basin states. The California Plan, a recent agreement among the basin states and the federal government, requires California over the next 15 years to reduce its intake from the Colorado River from 5.2 million acre feet to its entitlement of 4.4 million acre feet.

Baja Coastal's Water Emergency

The Baja Coastal region relies on three sources of water: Colorado River water, local surface water and groundwater. Colorado River water is delivered through the Rio Colorado-Tijuana Aqueduct and its storage facilities at Carrizo Reservoir near Tecate.

The 1944 Water Treaty between the United States and Mexico guaranteed Mexico an annual supply of 1.5 million acre feet of water from the Colorado River. The aqueduct, which began operation in 1985, was built to carry a portion of this treaty water from Mexicali to Tijuana.

The aqueduct is energy inefficient and lacks sufficient capacity to meet the area's future water supply needs. Operating at full capacity in 2000, the aqueduct delivered approximately 83,000 acre feet of water, or 96% of the water consumed in the Tijuana-Rosarito area.

The second source is from local runoff stored at Abelardo L. Rodriguez Reservoir. It provided no yield in 2000 due to low rainfall. The reservoir is currently empty. In years of high rainfall, it has been able to provide close to 100% of demand.

The third source, groundwater wells in Tijuana and Rosarito, provided 4% of the area's supply in 2000.

To help meet short-term needs, Mexico has requested emergency delivery of their Colorado River treaty water to Tijuana through the United States. The supplies are delivered from the Colorado River, through water distribution systems in California to a connection on the Otay Mesa. U.S. agencies, including the San Diego County Water Authority, are working to satisfy Mexico's request. The emergency connection can deliver approximately 15,000 acre feet annually.

To meet the needs of the coastal region through 2010, Mexican water agencies are considering expansion of deliveries through the emergency connection and evaluating construction of a parallel pipeline to the existing Rio-Colorado-Tijuana Aqueduct. This project consists of rehabilitating canals and installing additional pumps and pipeline to the first tunnel section on the aqueduct. The yield from this project would be 34,100 acre feet annually.

San Diego/Baja Coastal* Combined 2020 Projected Population

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Projected (2020)</u>
San Diego	2.9 million	3.8 million
Baja Coastal	1.3 million	2.6 million
Total	4.2 million	6.4 million

San Diego/Baja Coastal* Combined 2020 Projected Water Demands

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Projected (2020)</u>
San Diego	695,000 AF	813,000 AF
Baja Coastal	86,000 AF	169,000 AF
Total	781,000 AF	982,000 AF

* The figures for Baja Coastal in these charts include only Tijuana and Rosarito.

Solutions & Hurdles

CRUCIAL WATER TRANSFER FACES DEEP SKEPTICISM IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

At the water forum, Maureen Stapleton and Andy Horne, two supposed partners, spoke with noticeably different enthusiasm about the 75-year deal their respective water agencies signed in 1998 to transfer up to 200,000 acre feet annually from Imperial Valley to San Diego.

Stapleton, general manager of the San Diego County Water Authority, said her agency's top priority was to get the water transfer and conservation program implemented.

By contrast, Horne, who is president of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) board of directors, sounded as if he were still negotiating the deal. "To many people in the Valley," he said, "this commitment really flies in the face of a great deal of public concern and skepticism about the wisdom of transferring such a valuable resource."

The largest irrigation district in the nation, IID has the right to 3.8 million acre feet annually from the Colorado River. Recently, it has come under pressure from other districts to use its water more efficiently or lose some.

"We believe we do use that water very efficiently," Horne said, pointing out that under current conservation agreements, when fully implemented, IID will conserve annually a total of 500,000



Andy Horne, IID Pres.

acre feet for transfer to California urban water users. "We feel that is a major contribution," he said.

The San Diego deal has raised a variety of concerns in Imperial Valley (see box below), but behind them all lies the worry that they will continue to be pressed to transfer more and more water out of farming to urban areas, leaving them without enough water of their own to diversify and develop their economy.

"We'd like to be able to attract new growth and development as we attempt to diversify our economy outside of the box, if you will, of what has traditionally been an agricultural area," Horne said. "So it needs to be a two-way street. We need to see some benefit coming to the Imperial Valley as we look forward to our future."

As a way to solidify the water deal, a genuine partnership in economic development between San Diego and Imperial also seemed to be on Maureen Stapleton's mind. "The transfer will potentially pump up to \$50 million a year into the Imperial economy," she said, "and we want to work together with IID and their community to make sure that it happens in a way that benefits the community. There's a variety of economic development opportunities that we want to make sure we don't miss."



Maureen Stapleton, CWA General Manager

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Imperial Valley's Questions; San Diego's Answers

SDDR asked Rudy Yniguez, a reporter with the Imperial Valley Press, to identify the water transfer issues most troubling to Imperial Valley. We also asked San Diego County Water Authority to respond.

Will the deal lead to the fallowing of farmland? Some argue that it will. If farmers can make more money selling water rights than raising crops, then they could be motivated to conserve water by idling their land. This would have significant economic impacts in reducing sales of farm equipment, seed, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides and insecticides, as well as reducing demand for farm laborers. In the California county with the highest unemployment rate, the lowest median income and the lowest per-capita income, the ripple effects could be particularly devastating if fallowing was widespread.

County Water Authority: The deal will only lead to a fallowing program if IID and the Imperial community decide that is in their best interests. During negotiations of the San Diego/IID water transfer, IID asked that the water transfer be a "no fallowing" agreement, and that is what the current deal is.

Some Valley residents – including at least one former IID board member who was opposed to water conservation through

any fallowing – have recently stated that they now believe that fallowing may be the best way to resolve environmental issues and implement a beneficial water transfer. By definition and agreement, any such arrangement would also fully mitigate any adverse impacts to the Imperial economy (see below).

Will the price of water drop so low as to make the deal a net loser for the IID? Under the agreement, the price is linked to the Metropolitan Water District's water rates. However, there is no floor to the price under the agreement. While it seems unlikely that water prices would go down, there is no protection for the IID. An independent study suggested that the price per acre-foot could either increase or decrease by \$50. The latter would make the deal untenable.

CWA: It is correct that, under the existing contract as negotiated by IID, there is neither a floor nor a cap on the price; however, potential changes in conservation methods could lead to consideration of modifications in the pricing structure as well. From an economic point of view, the terms of the San Diego deal provide the farmers with financial protection similar to that of the recent Palo Verde Irrigation District/Metropolitan Water

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Solutions & Hurdles

TRANSFER WOULD CREATE GREATER SECURITY

The reason the water transfer is CWA's highest priority can be seen at a glance from the charts below. Even with substantial additional conservation and development of new local sources, including desalinization and recycling, the vast majority of San Diego's water in 2020 would still need to be imported.

The CWA's goal is to make the supply of that imported water as secure as possible by reducing reliance upon the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) from 84 percent to 36 percent, thus using only MWD water to which San Diego has preferential rights.

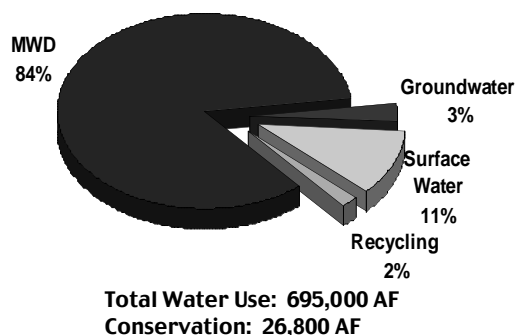
In 2020, after purchasing 25 percent of its water from IID, San Diego would still need to import an additional 11 percent, or

89,000 acre feet, from another water agency.

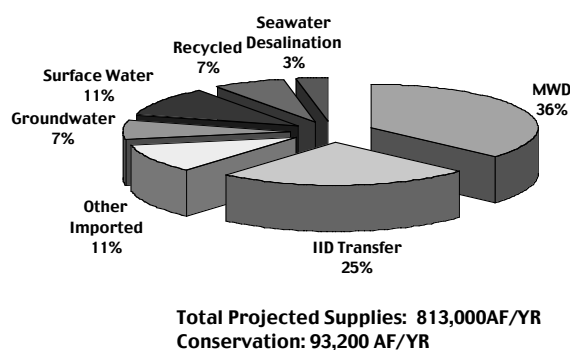
For this greater supply and security, CWA is prepared to pay somewhere around \$3 billion over 75 years, while asking \$235 million from the state of California to help with canal linings and conjunctive use programs, and another possible \$113 million from the federal government for water management and environmental enhancement projects around the Salton Sea, in Imperial Valley and on the Colorado.

"This is highly unusual," said Stapleton. "Usually the Feds give you the most money, the State gives you the next most and the local agencies kick in 5% or 10%."

San Diego's 2000 Water Supply



San Diego's 2020 Water Supply



Imperial Valley's Questions; San Diego's Answers

District deal, while also providing funds to more fully protect community and environmental interests.

Will the environmental impact on the Salton Sea be mitigated, and who will pay for it? If the transfer occurs as planned, the Salton Sea is likely to lose 300,000 acre-feet of run-off water annually. The less water is imported into the Sea, the saltier and more ecologically unfriendly it becomes. The actual impacts and the cost of mitigating them are unknown. However, it is anticipated to cost more than the IID is required (and able) to pay. One saving grace is that the agreement allows third parties to pay, and Rep. Duncan Hunter has introduced legislation that includes up to \$60 million to pay for mitigation of these impacts.

CWA: The success of the transfer and even larger Colorado River agreements depends on mitigating all environmental impacts, including those at the Salton Sea. The exact nature of the mitigation is unknown, and studies and negotiations are continuing. Regardless, contractual provisions limiting liability for environmental costs protect the IID and participating farmers. Moreover, the community stands to benefit from the economic

stimulus of more than \$50 million annually being injected into the local economy.

Will Imperial County get enough revenues to diversify from an agricultural economy? Part of the intent of the agreement is to provide funds for diversifying Imperial's economy. However, it is uncertain as to how much would be provided, what plan exists or needs to be created for application of the funds and whether any funds would be allocated to help finance on-farm conservation measures if the price is too high for farmers. Another issue is whether some portion of the funds will be paid upfront.

CWA: The agreement provides for payments estimated at more than \$50 million annually once the transfer is in place. These funds can be used for job training and job creation programs, education, senior citizen and youth centers, parks and recreation, as well as other community and economic programs. The CWA expects to work with IID to develop methods for obtaining funding to implement the transfer and looks forward to working with the Imperial Valley community to help understand and coordinate the development of these programs.

Solutions & Hurdles

BIG QUESTION: HOW WILL WATER GET HERE?

A question that has no answer yet is how San Diego and the Baja coastal area will import the additional water they need.

The current aqueducts won't do. The Rio Colorado-Tijuana Aqueduct is at capacity, and the Metropolitan Water District has said San Diego can use the Colorado River Aqueduct for its water transfer for only 30 years, even though its transfer agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) extends for 75 years.

In 1999, the International Boundary and Water Commission provided federal authorization for a study to evaluate whether a joint regional aqueduct may be a practical, cost-effective option.

The state of California has agreed to provide \$2.5 million of the study's costs, and the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) has committed up to \$500,000. A key assumption of the study is that a joint facility will

only transport water to which the United States and Mexico are legally entitled.

The study, which is expected to be complete within the next two months, includes potential aqueduct routes, potential sites for related water storage and water treatment facilities, and a conceptual project-financing plan that includes an evaluation of potential private proposals for construction and operation of the aqueduct.

In addition to the governmental study, the CWA, the state of Baja California and a private group formed by Proxima Gas, S.A. de C.V., General Power, Inc., and Emotec, S.A. de C.V. have agreed to coordinate efforts related to a private sector proposal for a joint aqueduct.

Whatever the conclusion of the study, any effort to create a new aqueduct is sure to mobilize significant opposition. (See box below.)

New Aqueduct Would Not Be an Easy Sell

The following exchange at San Diego Dialogue's water forum reveals the political battle that a new San Diego/Baja Aqueduct would almost certainly encounter. Michael Cohen is senior research associate at the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, based in Oakland California. Maureen Stapleton is general manager of San Diego County Water Authority.

Michael Cohen: The idea of a binational canal, an additional straw in the [Colorado] River, is a very contentious issue.

I would submit that there would be a great deal of resistance on the basin states and particularly on the part of Arizona to see the development of an additional conveyance facility with additional capacity to bring water from the Colorado River to Southern California. As many of you know, MWD has a strong interest in maintaining the capacity of its aqueduct and keeping that aqueduct full. I think the other basin states would be very concerned that any new aqueduct would also face similar pressures to keep it full and where that water's going to come from is an open guess. I think Andy [Horne, the IID Chair] would be very concerned if there were more and more water being pulled out of Imperial Valley. In fact, Imperial Irrigation District in the past several months passed a resolution opposing the development of such an additional facility. Additionally, the senior official at the International Boundary and Water Commission has expressed skepticism that such a canal could go through. So not to put

a huge damper on the conversation but I think we need to be cautious and look for additional methods and perhaps reach out and work with MWD, which I realize is always a troublesome prospect, to dedicate capacity within the existing infrastructure to meet San Diego's needs.

Maureen Stapleton: Michael mentioned the other six basin states being tremendously concerned about a second straw in the Colorado River by the addition of an aqueduct. And it is also entertaining to hear that coming out of the other six basin states. Southern Nevada Water Authority just finished an extremely large intake on Lake Mead and that intake is far larger than their allocation of water on the Colorado River. The Arizona water project also is significantly larger than their allocation on the river as well. So are they concerned? Of course they are. But I think that we in California have to establish trust with the other states to ensure that we are doing what needs to be done so that we can live within our entitlement.

Obviously, the Water Authority has not decided whether a joint conveyance or any new conveyance should be constructed. But it does give us this window of opportunity to look at this option. Somebody said, you know, it's almost impossible what you're trying to accomplish and someone told me when issues are labeled impossible it just means we have to work harder. That's absolutely true.

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San Diego Dialogue's Cross-Border Economic Bulletin

THE CROSS-BORDER ECONOMY AFTER SEPTEMBER 11



Dr. Jim Gerber, professor of economics at San Diego State University and San Diego Dialogue's Economic Research Fellow, writes the Cross-Border Economic Bulletin

Official figures show that both the U.S. and Mexican economies slowed sharply during the second quarter (April-May-June) of 2001. Partial figures for July and August are consistent with the beginning of a recession, and analysts in both countries continue to revise downward their estimates of growth for the year. Against this backdrop, the events of September 11 caused an unimaginable amount of physical destruction and human suffering in the dead-center of U.S. financial markets.

Given the emotional pain inflicted by the terrorists, and the depth of the grief and sadness felt by people everywhere, it seems incongruous to note that the immediate economic impact on the U.S. economy will be relatively small.

Without doubt, a share of the wealth of the U.S. has been destroyed, but it is tiny in comparison to the overall wealth of the nation. The U.S.'s ability to generate income is even less affected, although some industries such as airlines, insurance, and tourism will take losses.

This issue of the Cross Border Economic Bulletin describes the recent slowdown in both the United States and Mexico. The cross border regional economy is examined for evidence of the slowdown, and the national and regional effects of September 11 are discussed. Its main points are:

- Neither the United States nor Mexico has experienced negative economic growth, but numerous indicators point towards recession;
- The recession appears to be worldwide, and investment led;
- San Diego and Tijuana appear to be less affected by the national trends;
- The impact of September 11 on the U.S. economy is likely to be relatively small;
- The impact on the cross border economy may be relatively greater, due in part to its effects on tourism, business travel, and cross border collaboration;
- It is possible that Tijuana will feel the biggest local impact if it significantly increases wait times to enter the United States.

A slowdown in the NAFTA region and beyond

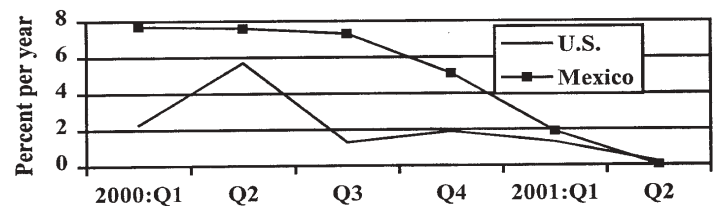
All three NAFTA economies are slowing down. During the second quarter of 2001, Mexico's real gross domestic product was completely flat at 0% growth, while the U.S. grew 0.2% on an annual basis, and Canada grew 0.4%, also annualized. Figure 1 illustrates the slowdown in the U.S. and Mexico.

The rule-of-thumb definition of a recession as two consecutive quarters of negative growth has not been met, but analysts such as

the director of the UCLA Anderson Forecast have pointed out that the trend is more important than the level. The U.S. has never experienced a similar decline in capacity utilization together with a similar increase in the unemployment rate without entering a recession.

Two characteristics of the current slowdown are unusual. First, the slowdown is worldwide. Economic activity in Japan and much of East Asia outside China has declined, along with Europe, and several countries in South America. This has affected exports in both the U.S. and Mexico, which are off sharply and have contributed to the slowdown in both countries.

Figure 1: Real GDP Growth, at Annual Rates



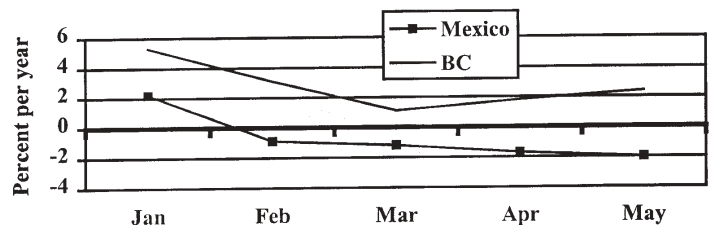
Source: INEGI and Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The second feature of the current slowdown is that it is investment led, rather than consumption led. Particularly important is the investment decline in information and technologies and software.

Local trends

Both San Diego and Tijuana have escaped the full impact of the current slowdown. In Baja California, for example, the growth of manufacturing output has remained positive through the first five months of 2001, while Mexico as a whole has experienced declining manufacturing output, since last February (Figure 2). According to the 1998 Economic Census, manufacturing employment makes up more than 50% of all employment in Baja California.

Figure 2: Growth of Manufacturing Output, Annual Rates



Source: INEGI.

Manufacturing is a relatively small share of the San Diego economy (just over 10% of employment), so the downturn in both U.S. and Mexican manufacturing has not had much of an impact on the San Diego economy. Overall, San Diego added 22,600 jobs in

the last twelve months, and the unemployment rate for August, 2001, remains at 3.3%, exactly where it was one year ago.

This is not to argue that San Diego and Tijuana will not be affected by recessions in Mexico and the United States. It does hold out the possibility, however, that if recessions develop, and if they are relatively mild, then the worst effects may not reach the San Diego-Tijuana region.

Impacts of the terrorist attack

The immediate destruction caused by the terrorist attack of September 11 is unlikely to affect the overall U.S. economy, except perhaps insofar as it affects spending priorities. Rebuilding of the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in New York City are likely to stimulate the economy in the short run, as will increased federal expenditures for military preparedness and military actions. These measures will partially counteract a developing recession.

This scenario is consistent with the pattern of recovery in countries, including the United States, that have experienced major natural disasters. For example, the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan, destroyed 100,000 buildings and killed 6,500 people, but manufacturing activity was 98% of normal within 15 months after the quake. Over time, the implications of the attack may have a more lasting effect on economic behavior and priorities. No one can doubt that there is a tremendous amount of uncertainty right now, and that markets, particularly financial markets, hate uncertainty. The uncertainty has driven down the stock market, made people afraid to travel, and created chaos on the border.

Locally, the most visible impacts are the heightened state of military preparedness, the waits at the border, and sudden decline in the visitor services industry, including both tourism and business travel. These impacts are clearly not symmetrical between San Diego and Tijuana. According to a recent study by the Workforce Partnership, visitor services (restaurants, hotels, amusement parks, etc.) is actually a smaller share of the San Diego economy (about 7% of local employment) than its share nationally. This is contrary to most people's assumption, and a reversal of the situation in the early 1990s, when visitor services employment was a larger percentage of total employment. Over the 1990s, however, the rest of the San Diego economy grew much faster than visitor services, so that by the decade's end, it accounted for a smaller share of the economy. In addition, the Workforce Partnership describes the industry's linkages to the rest of the local economy as "weak," implying that its decline may not spread as readily to the rest of the economy.

The situation in Tijuana is less clear since tourism's share of the economy is unknown. In the immediate aftermath of the terrorist

attack, the U.S. declared a "Stage One Alert" on its borders and imposed much more stringent inspections of pedestrians and vehicles entering the U.S. The increase in wait times has caused a significant drop in tourist visits to Tijuana and is hurting merchants there. Perhaps in response, the state Secretary of Tourism announced a discount package at hotels and restaurants which is targeted at California, Arizona, and Nevada residents. The problem of long wait times at the border is compounded by the fact that an increase in average wait times is associated with an increase in the variation of wait times. This makes it much more difficult to anticipate how long the lines will be, and how much time needs to be planned for crossing the border.

A significant increase in border wait times creates additional problems for the cross border economy. INEGI estimates that for July, 2001, the percent of the labor force in Tijuana and Mexicali living in one of these two cities and working in the U.S. is 7.0%. This works out to approximately 35,000 workers in Tijuana and about 22,000 in Mexicali. The ability of these individuals to cross

on a daily basis is threatened by long waits at the border, and, in turn, threatens the incomes they earn. This could have a potentially serious impact on income and spending in those two cities. Nor will the impact be limited to the Mexican side of the border. Long border waits reduce

cross border shopping, and will harm Calexico and Imperial County. The impact on San Diego County is also important, but more muted, given the size of the county's economy.

Finally, if longer border waits are a permanent feature of the local economy, then one has to wonder what the impacts might be on cross border investment and collaboration. American firms have a particular advantage in doing business in the border region, since they avoid many of the costs of executive relocation abroad and longer turn-around between design and production, and, in addition, they are able to maintain greater inventory control. Similarly, many Japanese and Korean executives of maquilas enjoy the quality of life available in San Diego, with its abundant golf courses, tourist attractions, and public schools. If long waits at the border-or a wide variation in the wait at the border-become routine, then some of these advantages disappear. The ability of executives and managers to travel back and forth is already strained and additional waits and congestion may end that option altogether.

In effect, the terrorist attack underscores an obvious point. Like the airport problem in San Diego, the border's infrastructure-human, organizational, and physical-continues to plague the region and hamper its growth. Until the border wait problem is resolved, the possibilities for a binational regional economy are limited. Perhaps even worse, every achievement of closer collaboration and greater integration is under a constant threat of reversal due to some unforeseen shock.

Until the border wait problem is resolved, the possibilities for a binational regional economy are limited.

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Lea Rudee

“TO SAVE WATER, DRAIN LAKE POWELL”

Lea Rudee, former Dean Of Engineering at UCSD, charmed the audience at San Diego Dialogue’s Forum Fronterizo on September 17 with the following proposal.

I want to speak as a member of the Board of the Glen Canyon Institute. And I think that this is something that everybody in this room perhaps and certainly even in Northern California can agree on, I hope.

It turns out I got involved with the Glen Canyon Institute because I was outraged as an environmentalist that the second most beautiful canyon in the world was flooded behind Lake Powell, behind Glen Canyon dam forming Reservoir Powell. As I studied this problem a little bit more I learned that this lake through evaporation and seepage loses 0.86 million acre feet per year. This is more than California uses over its allotment.

No water comes out of that lake. It’s primarily used for recreation, for the motor boating and house boating from Paige, Arizona. And it turns out the amount of water it loses at the rates that San Diego’s willing to pay for IID water is worth more than the electricity it generates. So this thing is a gigantic loser.

Also closer to home if you look at the flows to the delta of the Colorado, it was 20 years between 1963 and 1982 that this reservoir was billing filled that killed the delta. I’ve talked to several

Senator Barry Goldwater late in life said voting for Lake Powell was the biggest mistake he’d ever made in his entire political career.

environmentalists or scientists from both sides of the border who agree on this.

Senator Goldwater, just to show this is not a left/right confrontation . . . Senator Barry Goldwater late in life said voting for Lake Powell was the biggest mistake he’d ever made in his entire political career. So I think it would be great if everybody in this room, particularly on the U.S. side, worked on their delegation and on the folks at the Department of the Interior to drain Lake Powell. It would take about 20 years but it would be an enormous benefit and you’ve have both the Sierra Club and a lot of people, other folks in the water industry on the same side of the table. Thank you.