

Blurred Borders: Transboundary Issues and Solutions in the San Diego-Tijuana Region

Richard Kiy
President & CEO
International Community Foundation

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Remarks

On behalf of the International Community Foundation (ICF), I want to thank you all for coming to this morning's presentation and the release of our report, *Blurred Borders*. I am pleased by the diverse cross section of civic leaders from the private, public and non-profit sectors of both San Diego and Tijuana. This is an indication of the common interests that we share in this binational region.

Before I begin, I would like to thank the co-sponsors of today's event, the **University of San Diego** and its **Trans Border Institute**; **LEAD San Diego**; and **San Diego Grantmakers**. I want to thank the **Joan Kroc Center for Peace & Justice** for making this wonderful venue available. I would also like to thank **UCSD's Regional Workbench Consortium** for lending their 3D model of the San Diego-Tijuana region that you were able to see as you were coming in here today.

I would also like to thank the **Rockefeller Foundation** and **California Endowment** for their financial support of this report and the cross-border dialogues planned for this spring.

My thanks also go out to Naoko Kada, ICF Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor at SDSU, who co-edited and co-authored this report. I also want to thank the contributing

authors: Amy Carstensen, Anne McEnany, Walt Sanford and my wife Monica Kiy. I'd also like to thank Kenn Morris, Director of Cross Border Business Associates for his market research; and Chris Woodruff, Paul Ganster, Norma Ojeda, and David Shirk for peer reviewing our final report. To all thank you.

This morning I want to speak to you about our Blurred Borders in the San Diego-Tijuana region.

In the time we have together, I will highlight issues and cross-border impacts that we collectively face in our shared border region. I also will speak to you about practical solutions to cross-border challenges being undertaken by some of the region's non-profit organizations and charities. I will share a few stories with you of San Diego and Tijuana residents that are blurring the physical lines of the border each and every day.

As you know, San Diego and Tijuana have many common challenges, yet they are also collectively blessed with a number of unique comparative advantages and community based assets and we'll highlight some of these today. Finally, we'll take some time to reflect on our common future as a binational region.

But first, I would like to provide you with an overview of the **International Community Foundation (ICF)**. ICF is now close to 14 years old, established by the San Diego Foundation to assist one of their donors wanted to make charitable gifts across the border in Tijuana. While we maintain close ties with the San Diego Foundation, we are today an independent public charity.

ICF represents a wide range of donors. While most of our donors reside in San Diego County we have a growing number of donors from throughout Southern California, the

Bay Area, and other parts of the country that share a common interest in making a difference in the regions that we serve. Last year, our grant funding totaled \$2.6 million.

As an internationally oriented community foundation based in San Diego we are naturally very focused on grantmaking in Baja California. Last year over 70% of our total grants benefited non- profits and charities along the peninsula. We were also instrumental in starting the **Fundación Internacional de La Comunidad** or FIC, ICF's sister foundation in Tijuana and a close ally on a number of initiatives we are currently undertaking throughout Baja California.

ICF's grantmaking would not be possible without our diverse community of donors, which includes family foundations, community foundations, corporations and individuals. Our donors give for a variety of different reasons and charitable objectives, but they all have one thing in common--a desire to make a difference beyond our borders. To those ICF donors that are here today--I say many thanks for all that you do.

To help facilitate cross-border charitable giving, ICF provides some key value added services to our donors. We undertake the necessary due diligence to make a donor's grant tax deductible, we provide research support for our donors, we help facilitate site visits and we also undertake specialized research to identify emerging grantmaking opportunities and trends as we have done with Blurred Borders.

With the release of Blurred Borders, ICF has four key objectives. First and foremost, we are seeking to educate and inform our donors and regional civic leaders about the growing inter-dependencies that we share in our fast growing binational region;

We hope that through this report, we'll be able to help change some current perceptions that are keeping us from working together as a united binational region;

As you know, there are elections coming up in both San Diego and Tijuana so we hope the report will stimulate greater public dialogue and advocacy on both sides of the border about shared trans-boundary challenges and issues. If we're lucky, the report might just spur the current Mayoral candidates on both sides of the border into the first-ever binational mayoral debate or discourse about our common future.

Finally, ICF hopes to increase the level of cross-border philanthropy for the benefit of non profits in both Greater San Diego and Tijuana, many of which are already working to address the growing number of trans-boundary issues impacting communities on both sides of the line.

I'd like to start by presenting an image of the San Diego-Tijuana region at the turn of the century. Back in 1910, the combined binational region had less than 69,000 people, with the majority living in San Diego.

The image you see before you is a photo taken some 52 years after the international boundary was established through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. These were simpler times, pre-dating the days of prohibition, both world wars, the Bracero Program,

the initiation of Mexico's maquiladora program, events and initiatives that over time have served to shape this fast growing binational region.

Today the San Diego-Tijuana region has a combined population of 4.3 million people if you include the residents of Tecate and Rosarito. I include these three Mexican border cities together in this figure as urban growth and sprawl is creating a single binational Metroplex. Together, we are now North America's Largest Binational Metropolitan region. We have the busiest border crossing in the world with over 56 million crossings a year.

We have a growing number of bicultural, bilingual residents that live a binational existence, working, shopping, and going to school and seeing friends and family on both sides of the borders. Without a doubt, our borders have increasingly become blurred.

With the blurring of our borders, we are increasingly finding ourselves grappling with issues that cannot be solved by one side alone. We share common economic interests in tourism, trade and commerce. We share a common eco-system, as our water, air, flora and fauna know no political boundaries. We have growing inter-dependences on issues of education, health, human services, the environment and family/inter-personal ties. As this binational region was once part of one unified Kumanauy nation, we share a common history and culture.

Today we also share a common destiny and future. We are, after all, one binational region. And, yet cultural and ideological differences and perceptions remain that, far too, often divide us. In an effort to better gauge public perception in the San Diego-Tijuana region vis-à-vis the border, ICF commissioned the market research firm of

Cross Border Business Associates to undertake a binational and bilingual survey of area residents.

Random on site surveys were conducted during the months of November and December last year at locations throughout San Diego County and the Municipality of Tijuana. In all, over 1,000 residents were surveyed from both San Diego and Tijuana. We found the survey results quite interesting and I think you will too.

For starters, the survey reinforced the fact that San Diego's Spanish speaking population is growing. Of those surveyed 14.5% preferred to have the survey administered in Spanish. In the South Bay, that figure rose to over 30%. These figures can be contrasted with the 2000 U.S. Census findings indicating that 22% of San Diego County residents spoke Spanish at home.

Among those surveyed, we found there is much in common between San Diegans and Tijuanaese. Both San Diegans and Tijuanaese tend to be transitory, the majority are non- natives having moved to the region from somewhere else. Because of this fact, many of our residents are challenged in developing a sense of local or civic pride. This creates its own set of challenges and obstacles for civic leaders in both San Diego and Tijuana. It also causes us to ask, will we be creating a common future, or will we be all "bowling alone?"

As you can see, among San Diegans, less than 20% could be called native. In fact, among those surveyed, there were a higher percentage of San Diego residents originating from Mexico than San Diego. Among Tijuanaese, over 40% came from

Mexican states other than Baja California, hence the split allegiances and loyalties that I just mentioned.

When both San Diego and Tijuana residents were asked what issues mattered most to them, there were some interesting commonalities. Education, Health Care and Jobs and the Economy ranked as the most important issues of concern by residents on both sides.

Where San Diegans and Tijuana residents differed most were on issues of terrorism and homeland security. Among San Diegans, these are issues of high priority following the tragedy of September 11th.

Ironically, Tijuana residents ranked the issues of terrorism and homeland security as the lowest issues of concern. This is a wake up call for us here in San Diego because we need to do a better job of communicating to residents in Tijuana our inter-dependence on questions of terrorism and homeland security. What would happen, after all, if the border were closed down because of an attack at the port of entry? Clearly, the threat of terrorism does not stop at the border.

Having said this, it should be noted that public safety remains a key concern for Tijuana residents but here the threat is seen as more domestic in nature with growing levels of urban street crime instilling a sense of insecurity. This is one reason why a growing number of Tijuana's professional class now lives in San Diego. When asked who crosses the border, we found that over 90% of San Diegans have crossed the border

into Tijuana at least once in their lifetime. This contrasts with the finding that 66% of Tijuanees have been to San Diego.

Here what is interesting is that 1/3 of those surveyed in Tijuana had never been across the line to San Diego--many for obvious reasons--lack of a visa or papers.

When residents were asked whether they thought that having the U.S.-Mexico border nearby had a positive, negative or no impact, over 2/3 of residents from both San Diego and Tijuana stated that the net impact was positive. Among those Spanish speaking San Diegans, the percentage was even higher—85%.

Still, as expected there are those San Diegans and Tijuanees that have a negative perception of the border. The CBA survey found that close to 15% of San Diegans were identified as viewing the border negatively. Another 11% of Tijuanees had a negative view of the border.

As one can well expect, the number of San Diegans with a negative perception of the border increases with distance from the border.

Of those surveyed, CBA found that San Diegans of Mexican origin were more apt to cross into Tijuana than other residents. In fact, among this sub set of the population, 87.7% had been to Tijuana at least once in the past year. Native San Diegans are also more apt to visit Tijuana than non-natives—55% versus 43%. Proximity also matters. South County residents cross more frequently than those residing elsewhere in the County.

Yet, irrespective of where one happens to live in San Diego County or Tijuana, the geo-political lines are blurring. This is causing us to re-think just what constitutes the border region.

We see this on a number of fronts. Take the region's cross-border commuters. We now have over 40,000 daily northbound commuters from Tijuana going to work, going shopping, or going to school in San Diego. On weekends, a sizable number of Tijuanesese travel up to San Diego for recreation and leisure activities. They attend our Padre games, they go to the Zoo and Sea World. They shop at Fashion Valley and UTC. Tijuana residents also make their way to Legoland and the Carlsbad Outlet Malls even though technically their "border crossing" cards are limited to 25 miles north of the line.

To respond to cross-border environmental issues, the U.S. and Mexico signed what is known as the La Paz Accord in 1982. It defines the border as 100 km or 60 miles on either side. Yet, air, water and hazardous waste know no political boundaries as we have seen with the challenges of transiting hazardous waste and the cross-border impacts of air pollution. In these instances, the 100km boundary has become just an arbitrary line.

Increasingly, San Diego's Latino population is also growing. 26.7% of San Diego's residents are Latino, with the majority being of Mexican descent. A growing number of these residents are what are known as trans-border and trans-national residents. Let's see what I mean by this.

So, what is a trans-border resident? These are U.S. and Mexican Citizens or Residents that either live in San Diego and Baja California and for one reason or the other live in

one place but spend significant amounts of time on the other side of the line, for work, school or play on a regular basis.

Currently there are an estimated 40,000 northbound cross-border commuters. The San Diego Dialogue put the figure at 50,000 ten years ago with its *“Who Crosses the Border?”* study.

It is worth noting that there are an estimated 50,000 U.S. citizens living in Northern Baja. Many of these Americans cross the border regularly to see family, friends and take care of errands in San Diego.

The trans-border residents that I describe are real people like you and me with unique needs.

What makes trans-border residents unique is that they get it. They see the strategic value of living on the border and they are making the most of the comparative advantages of being able to maximize the benefits of benefits and community based assets on both sides of the line.

Take the Bremer Family. They live in Chula Vista. Wife Claudia was born in the US but grew up in Mexicali. Her husband Alejandro was born in Guerrero Negro but is now a legal resident. He works for the US government.

The Bremers send their daughters to school in Tijuana to get a good bilingual education that permits them to also gain a better appreciation of their Mexican roots. Claudia crosses the border each day to take her kids to school. While this so, their 2nd grade son, however, goes to school in San Diego. Talk about juggling.

Then there is Jose (not his real name). Jose is 26 years old. He is a US permanent resident with aspirations of being a US citizen. He is a graduate of Morse High School. He works in the service sector here in San Diego. The problem is with what he earns in San Diego he can't afford to buy a home here. So he lives in Tijuana incognito so as not to lose his years of residency in applying for citizenship.

Jose is married to a Mexican national and one day hopes to live here....that is, of course, if home prices stabilize. Otherwise, he'll keep living this American dream in Tijuana.

I spoke about the region's trans-national residents. They differ with trans-border residents in that they maintain close ties with their Mexican communities of origin but their ability to cross the border is, in part, predicated on their visa or immigration status.

Irrespective of visa status, however, the majority of transnationals maintain strong ties with their family and friends back home. Growing number send money on a regular basis. Nationally, remittances from Mexico's transnational community totaled \$13.8 billion last year.

In San Diego, a sizable number of transnational migrants are from migrant sending states like Oaxaca, Guerrero and Chiapas. In fact, Oaxaca now accounts for 12% of all new migrants to San Diego County.

Most of the Oaxacaqueño community lives in the North County. In this sense, Oceanside, Carlsbad, Vista and San Marcos have more in common with Oaxaca than Tijuana.

I might add, that many of San Diego's transnational migrants are increasingly making up part of our region's working poor. After all, unlike trans-border residents like Jose, a transnational migrant more often than not can't cross. In the case of Jose, he is now a homeowner in Tijuana. His counterpart transnational, working at the same job is a renter living with 10 to 12 other people in the same household.

Now, I'd like to introduce you to Gregorio, born in Oaxaca. He's now a legal resident of the US. He hopes to one day be a U.S. Citizen. His wife, also from Oaxaca, is undocumented. They have a son who is an American citizen. Gregorio works in landscaping across the neighborhoods of Del Mar and Carmel Valley. He works hard and sends \$500 every 2 to 3 months back home to Oaxaca. He is currently renting but hopes that one day he, too, can own a part of his American dream.

Beyond our trans-border and trans-national residents, with the blurring of our borders, there are various emerging cross-border issues that have traditionally not been looked at as binational problems but must be dealt with together.

Lack of affordable housing is a case in point. Today, as I have just mentioned, a growing number of San Diego's residents (citizens and permanent residents alike) are opting to live in Tijuana due to the high cost of housing in San Diego. While this provides an improved quality of life for those opting to live in Tijuana, it inevitably leads

to a higher cost of housing in that city as well as increased border congestion and wait times at our ports of entry. So, housing has become a binational issue.

As with the issues of affordable housing and border delays, similar cross-border dialogues need to occur on issues related to security and public safety and the region's high cost of living, and natural resources. Urban poverty is also growing on both sides of the border, and this is partially attributable to the impact of human migration and globalization on our shared binational region. Again, we need to be working collaboratively to solve this issue together.

Specific to the issue of poverty, our region must contend with enormous challenges having to do with growing income disparities between the haves and the have nots.

Between San Diego and Tijuana, the income disparity is greater than among any other sister city pair along the border. In our region differential in per capita incomes is 4.3 to 1. In other border communities it is about 2.5 to 1.

Because of San Diego's high per capita income relative to other U.S. border cities, our region must also contend with a false illusion created among some funders that our border region is less needy than other places along the US Mexico border.

The reality, however, is that there are growing pockets of poverty in both San Diego and Tijuana and these are made worse by the region's high cost of living. In fact, San Diego ranks 6th in the country among metropolitan areas with the largest increase in census tracts falling below the poverty line. In many instances, these pockets of poverty are most pronounced in Mexican migrant communities of the County.

The irony here is that today San Diego has the most affluent zip code in the country within the County, namely 92091 or Rancho Santa Fe. Poverty is not limited to San Diego. In the case of Tijuana, 1/2 of all new housing is in unregulated squatter settlements and the majority of those living in these communities are poor. According to Tijuana's planning agency, **IMPLAN**, the city is growing at the rate of 2.5 hectares a day with 80,000 people added to the city a year. Again, over half of these people making up part of Tijuana's working poor.

At the same time, Tijuana has a growing middle and professional class. Yet, many of these residents go about their life without having to directly confront the city's growing underclass. In the case of these residents, they leave their homes in the gated communities of Playas de Tijuana or Hipodromo and drive to work in their SUVs. On the weekends, they'll spend time shopping or sightseeing in San Diego.

As I said before, a growing number of Tijuana's professional class and elite are already living in San Diego. So, the gap between the haves and the have nots continues to grow, with poverty in San Diego and Tijuana impacting (directly and indirectly) residents and communities on both sides of the line.

While there is clearly a case to be made for re-thinking the border, it must be acknowledged that a growing number of issues continue to divide and unite us. While this is so, as I hope to illustrate, some of the very issues that divide us, like the problems of drug trafficking and substance abuse, the environment, health and education are ironically also issues that are bringing San Diegans and Tijuane

together with a renewed sense of binational resolve and purpose to make our region a better place to live.

Let's look at a few examples of what I am talking about. In the case of education, we have many common interests and challenges. After all, we share the same children and they are our future. Those kids going to primary school in Tijuana may one day be going to middle school in San Diego. Yet, our schools on both sides of the border are experiencing declining resources and growing educational needs.

In both San Diego and Tijuana, the migrant student drop out rate is a serious problem as is the declining level of educational attainment among migrants. While this so, there are non profits on both sides of the border providing after school programs, educational enrichment, parental education and donors and volunteers providing increased financial and in-kind support to area public schools. Non profit initiatives worth noting include the work of the El Cajon based non profit EJE that is partnering with the Tijuana based group Escuela Para Familias to provide parental education to migrant families in San Diego's East County; Project California which is being spearheaded by the San Diego County's Office of Education in partnership with the Mexican Secretariat of Public Education to provide educational enrichment opportunities for migrant children/youth (K-12) as well as adults. There are also the efforts of ICF, which in partnership with **FIG**, **SDSU's ISTEP Program** and **LEAD San Diego**, have initiated the **Las Californias Youth Leadership Program** to provide cross-border educational enrichment opportunities for youth of Mexican origin from both San Diego and Tijuana. Still, more can be done.

In the area of health, we have a number of cross-border challenges, as diseases such as HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis know no political boundaries. Rising health care costs on both sides of the border is also leading to a growing number of uninsured residents that are not receiving care. The problem of under age drinking and substance abuse is also further blurring the border. And yet, in all these instances, we have non-profits collaborating on a cross-border base to pro-actively address these problems.

In the area of health care, we have several area groups working together on a binational collaborative basis such as the **Binational AIDS Advocacy Project, Project Concern International** that is collaborating with non profits in Tijuana on issues of TB, AIDS and Hepatitis and other preventable diseases; **Frontera Unidas Pro Salud** that has assisted **Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside** to distribute culturally competent health education materials related to family planning and sexually transmitted diseases. **Hospital Infantil de las Californias**, Tijuana's only pediatric hospital, is now assisting patients from San Diego County that are unable to pay the cost of healthcare in San Diego or are seeking more responsive culturally competent care. The work of both **Public Strategies** and the **Border Drug Free Coalition** is noteworthy as they are making major strides to promote drug prevention and substance abuse on both sides of the international line.

In the area of human services, yes, migration and the growing levels of poverty present challenges but we also have groups working pro-actively and across borders to address such issues.

Groups like **Casa YMCA de Menores Migrantes** that is assisting deported migrant youth.

And groups like **Los Niños**, **Esparanza** and **Project Mercy** that are empowering under-served communities in Tijuana to build homes, strengthen their families and improve the quality of life where they live.

In the area of the environment, we have a several cross-border challenges such as destruction of binational wildlife corridors, the trans-boundary water pollution and environmental health issues. At the same time, we have non-profits collaborating across borders to conserve open space, monitor water quality, promote environmental education and address environmental justice concerns.

In the environment and conservation area, binational collaboration has been alive and well with groups like **Conservation Biology Institute (CBI)** working closely with Ensenada based Pronatura to help establish a binational conservation corridor near the border of South County San Diego and Eastern Tijuana/Tecate. Then there is the work of the Tijuana based group Ja Jan that has partnered with **SWIA** and **San Diego Baykeeper** to undertake binational water pollution monitoring in the binational San Diego-Tijuana region. The **San Diego Natural History Museum** and Baja California based **PROBEA** have also made major strides to dramatically increase the number of cross-border environmental education programs in the San Diego-Tijuana border region. In the area of environmental justice, the **Environmental Health Coalition** has been addressing issues of occupational and environmental health in communities from Barrio Logan in San Diego to Eastern Tijuana.

The binational collaboration that I have described points to the fact that we have many community based assets that are shared by both San Diego and Tijuana. Yes, we have our challenges, but our collective binational assets are also very rich indeed.

I have tried to illustrate these assets in the community based asset map that you see here.

As you can see, collectively between our institutions, citizen associations, and individuals there is a lot of social capital across the San Diego-Tijuana region. The key, however, is how we bring it all together.

San Diego and Tijuana also have some unique comparative advantages that we need to more fully exploit. Such as our thriving business community that is increasingly expanding the level of cross-border commerce between San Diego and Tijuana. Our growing bilingual/bicultural workforce is a competitive strength as is our specialized services in trade and medicine.

Our region is blessed with a cross-border fiber optic network that offers unique opportunity for expanded cross-border tele-medicine and distance learning possibilities that don't just go North-South but also South-North.

Our region also has expanded cross-border natural gas linkages, which will help promote greater energy security and lower cost and cleaner fuel sources. Our binational educational resources are noteworthy. We have a vibrant binational arts culture. We have an enormous untapped human potential with our elders and youth. We also have an emerging binational philanthropic culture that offers much potential to the region.

The cross-border philanthropic culture in the San Diego-Tijuana region is still in its infancy but already we have several organizations in the area working together. Among the region's community foundations, the **San Diego Foundation, ICF** and **FIC** are now members of the **U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership** and are collaborating on a number of new and exciting fronts.

In the case of the San Diego Foundation and ICF, we're collaborating in supporting binational conservation organizations from both San Diego and Baja California to look at protecting our binational wildlife corridors before their gone forever. ICF and FIC are collaborating on grantmaking, we're working together launch the first cross border Social Venture Partners Fund called **Baja SVP**. We're also working closely on the Las Californias Youth Leadership Program that I spoke to you about. ICF is also working closely with San Diego Grantmakers in donor education. Already we've jointly organized two donor tour of Tijuana together and we're co-hosting today's event with LEAD San Diego and USD. So some exciting developments are happening in the regional philanthropic front.

Given all our collective assets and comparative advantages, it is fair to say that our glass is really half full. Still, if we are to achieve our full potential as a binational region:

- Prejudices and perceptions need to be overcome;
- We need greater inter-jurisdictional cooperation across County, agency and organizational lines to address common issues and challenges;
- We need to invest more in migrant education and health care;

- We need to increase the level of cross-border philanthropy and volunteerism;
- We need to increase the level of attention that our elected officials have on border specific issues. Border issues due matter and they need to be on the radar screen and top 10 list of every elected official (Federal, State, Local) in both San Diego and Tijuana.
- We also need to continue our research of the border, as there is a lot still to learn. For example, the much-quoted figure of 40,000 to 50,000 cross border commuters has been used for the past 10 years. What is the figure today? We simply do not know. How many past San Diego residents now live in Tijuana. Again, we don't know. On so many border related issues; we don't know what we don't know.

The San Diego-Tijuana region has much potential but more needs to be done if we are to achieve our full potential. Accordingly, ICF is making a binational call for civic action. There is so much that we can all do.

We can invest in social change. We can become philanthropists. We can volunteer our time. If time and money permits, we can do both.

We can learn more about border and migrant issues. We can write to our elected officials and get them to care about border related matters. We can tap the unique knowledge of our elders. We can also invest in our children and youth, as they are our future. For its part, ICF plans to take several steps to strengthen our level of engagement on border related issues specific to the San Diego-Tijuana region.

Through our Give2Baja campaign, ICF we will be expanding our level of donor outreach and education in an effort to increase cross-border giving to our border region. This will include donor trips, such as the one we recently co-sponsored with San Diego Grantmakers to Tijuana, and the one we are planning for this summer to Oaxaca entitled *“Following San Diego’s Migrant Trail.”*

With the support of the **Rockefeller Foundation** and the **California Endowment**, ICF will be organizing a series of cross-border dialogues to stimulate increased binational collaboration among area non profits on issues such as education, health, human services as well as the environment and jobs and the economy.

Through our **Baja Social Venture Partner Fund**, that I just mentioned, we will be partnering with our sister foundation, FIC, to expand our focus on education and youth at risk in Tijuana. We are now also working to secure the necessary financial support to institutionalize the Las Californias Youth Leadership Program that we successfully launched in partnership with **FIC, San Diego State University’s ISTEP program** and **Lead San Diego**.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the border is already blurring. Irrespective of ones views or perceptions of the border, Tijuana or issues related immigration, we remain a binational region. San Diegans and Tijuanaeses are glued to the hip. We don’t have any choice in the matter. We’re neighbors and we are inextricably linked. Accordingly, today we have a choice. We can either grow together, working more collaboratively and building our collective social capital or we can allude ourselves into thinking that “good fences and triple fences will make good neighbors.”

Today the impacts of globalization and human migration have made the world a very small place indeed and nowhere is that more apparent than in the San Diego-Tijuana border region where we all live. Accordingly, if we are to have any hope of promoting our future regional economic prosperity, then the time has come to bring the border back into focus.

Thank you.