



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

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RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE SECTION 559 DONATION ACCEPTANCE PROPOSAL FROM THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, ARIZONA TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the size, historic significance, and location of the existing Douglas Land Port of Entry (LPOE) render it unsuitable for significant expansion, cause frequent delays in cross border commerce, and hinder the ability of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to safely and effectively fulfill their operational mandate; and

WHEREAS, inbound commercial traffic at the Douglas LPOE has increased over 25 percent over the past five years, exports, including oversized/overweight mining equipment, have increased 26 percent over the same period, and a recent ADOT analysis suggests truck volumes could continue to increase by more than 6% per year over the next 10 years which will further exacerbate the operational constraints at the existing site; and

WHEREAS, facilitating oversized cargo crossings at the Douglas LPOE requires a complete port shut down of several hours and the current LPOE configuration requires such shipments queue and travel through heavily urbanized areas on both sides of the border, thereby suppressing legitimate trade and travel; and

WHEREAS, the current Douglas LPOE location requires the frequent flow of hazardous chemicals through the urbanized areas of Douglas and Agua Prieta, and the current facility does not have the necessary facilities for spill containment or mitigation; and

WHEREAS, based upon General Services Administration studies, traffic growth is anticipated to continue to grow especially as relates to solar, thermoelectric power, and mining expansions in northeastern Sonora, Mexico, and the existing Douglas LPOE will not allow CBP to adequately meet its mission within the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Douglas is desirous of a solution that will promote and enhance legitimate trade and travel between southeastern Arizona and northeastern Sonora, and stimulate the economies on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, and has therefore submitted a Section 559 Donation Acceptance Proposal to CBP that will provide for construction of a new commercial LPOE outside the urbanized area and repurposing of the existing LPOE to enhance security and allow CBP officers to safely and effectively fulfill their operational mandate.

SEAGO Member Entities

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Douglas

Huachuca City

Sierra Vista

Tombstone

Willcox

Graham County

Pima

Safford

San Carlos

Apache Tribe

Thatcher

Greenlee County

Clifton

Duncan

Santa Cruz County

Nogales

Patagonia

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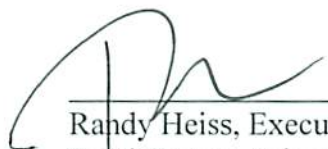
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the Executive Board of the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization recognizes the value legitimate cross-border travel and trade brings to the SEAGO region, and supports the bi-national collaboration and efforts of the City of Douglas, the City of Agua Prieta, the State of Arizona, and the State of Sonora to reduce traffic congestion in the urbanized international corridor connecting Douglas and Agua Prieta, provide state-of-the-art port of entry infrastructure to foster more efficient cross-border flows, promote the development of retail and tourism opportunities, and create an environment for sustained job creation and an increased tax-base through the City of Douglas' Section 559 Donation Acceptance Proposal to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 27th day of February 2015.



David Gomez, Chair
Executive Board



Randy Heiss, Executive Director
SouthEastern Arizona
Governments Organization