

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Ms. Mariza Marin  
San Ysidro Port Director  
Office of Field Operations  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
720 E. San Ysidro Blvd  
San Ysidro, CA, 92173

Dear Port Director Marin,

On behalf of the undersigned business organizations and regional stakeholders from both sides of the border, and speaking for a variety of industries and small, medium, and large employers in our region, we write to urge you to resume southbound operations at the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry's West Pedestrian Crossing Facility (PedWest).

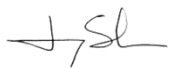
As leading advocates for the binational and business community, dedicated to growing cross-border relationships, commerce and trade in the San Diego and Baja California region, we were proud supporters of the more than \$740 million investment for the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry modernization and expansion project, which included the inauguration of PedWest. This pedestrian port plays a critical role in processing over 20,000 travelers crossing the border in San Ysidro every day.

Northbound border wait times have reached an all-time high of up to four hours for pedestrians and have resulted in lost economic opportunities and have had a negative impact on our environment and the people who call our binational community their home. An estimated \$3.4 billion in economic output and over 88,000 jobs were lost in the U.S. and Mexico in 2016 due to border delays. Nearly a \$2 billion loss for our region, where nearly 60,000 people cross the border for work each day. This situation is not sustainable, and we take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and work which resulted in resuming partial northbound operations at PedWest earlier this year after more than thirty months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following this successful effort allowing northbound travelers to cross from 6:00a.m. to 2:00p.m., we propose resuming southbound operations to accommodate our binational workforce returning home and travelers visiting Tijuana.

The businesses, supply chains, and the jobs we generate are inextricably linked to reliable border infrastructure that enables the smooth movement of goods, our workforce, students, and tourism across our border. Resuming southbound operations at PedWest will contribute to boosting our economy and increase the life quality of our binational community.

We share your commitment to ensuring that our borders remain safe and efficient for all users while enhancing our global competitiveness through the facilitation of legitimate travel and trade. Your office can count on each of the undersigned business organizations as a resource and close partner.

Respectfully,



Jerry Sanders  
President and CEO  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce



Jason Wells  
Executive Director  
San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce

Alejandra Mier y Teran  
Executive Director  
Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Joaquin Luken  
Executive Director  
Smart Border Coalition

Alfredo Angeles  
CEO  
Tijuana EDC

Jim O'Callaghan  
President & CEO  
South County Economic Development  
Council

Roberto Lyle Fritch  
President  
Tijuana Development Council  
Corporation (CDT)

Carlos Jaramillo  
President  
Tijuana Business Council (CCE)

Arturo Gutierrez  
President  
Tijuana Tourism and Conventions Bureau (COTUCO)

Francisco Bates  
President  
Border Transportation Council

Nikia Clarke  
SVP, San Diego Regional EDC &  
Executive Director WTCS

Kerri Kapich  
COO  
San Diego Tourism Authority

CC.

Roberto Velasco, Chief Officer for North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Esteban Moctezuma, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States

David Pérez Tejada, Head of the Baja California Office, National Migration Institute

Brigadier General Jorge Enrique Martínez Medina, Coordinator for Baja California, National Guard Tte. Coronel Fernando Martínez, Titular de la Aduana de Tijuana

Marina del Pilar Avila Olmeda, Governor, State of Baja California

Kurt Honold Morales, Secretary of Economy and Innovation, State of Baja California

Salvador Lamas, Director, INDAABIN

Montserrat Caballero, Mayor, City of Tijuana

Ernesto Chávez, Director for Binational Affairs, City of Tijuana

Fernando Sánchez, Secretary of Security, City of Tijuana