

**CORONADO TUNNEL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, August 11, 2005**

**Police Facility, 700 Orange Avenue  
Community Meeting Room**

**Minutes**

1. ROLL CALL:

Attendees: Sut Clark, Art Osborne, Margaret Pimpo, Al Ovrom, Bill Huck and Casey Tanaka (City Council representative)

Absent: Steve Clarey and Lou Smith

City Staff: Jim Benson, Gail Brydges and Ed Walton

Consultant: Brian Pearson, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

2. MINUTES: The July 14, 2005 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Pimpo said she finds that people's biggest concern is that they hope the tunnel does not lead to an international airport. Mr. Clark commented that the designation of an airport site should be decided before PB's contract is up. Mr. Ovrom said there is an August 22 meeting at North Island to discuss dual use. The Mayor will attend.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update

1. Project Report & Environmental Documents (PR/ED):

- Supplemental Geotechnical/Seismic Investigation: Mr. Pearson reported that earlier this year the geotechnical consultant had advised that an earthquake could potentially displace ground up to 13'. After extended discussions with Caltrans it was decided to construct a trench in Fifth Street of approximately 70' as opposed to the previously proposed 700' to better define the characteristics of the Coronado Fault. The trench is not sloughing, there's good formation and it's solid. The geologists are very happy with what they're seeing. The consultant has verbally advised us that we will be able to dramatically reduce the estimates of displacement. We'll want to discuss with the State whether this is even an active fault. The City will get the report in September and in October Caltrans will

establish a technical review panel to review Kleinfelder's recommendations.

- Caltrans Seismic Technical Review Panels – Geotechnical/Seismic/Structures: Caltrans will set up three separate panels of independent experts to review aspects of the project. The first, which will be in October, will be to review the geotechnical work. The second will be a seismic review and the third will be the actual structural design of the tunnel. This will give a level of confidence that the design, etc., represent the state of the art. The money for this will come out of the cooperative agreement with Caltrans.
- Status of Technical Reports – Engineering/Environmental: Approximately 10 different studies are in process under the Environmental Document and drafts are starting to be put together. On the Project Report (engineering document) side eight or nine reports are done.
- Agency Coordination:
  - Caltrans – The Summary of Non-Standard Features Technical Memo was prepared and both Caltrans District 11 and Sacramento are prepared to approve it.
  - Navy – A Third Street Gate coordination meeting was set by Caltrans for September 15 to discuss the project with the Navy and the City. The selected contractor has already done two large projects on NASNI. Mr. Pearson said the Navy has begun a legal review as to what the Navy's role should be for the tunnel project. Feedback should have been received last month, but they have not yet advised us as to what their role will be. Ms. Brydges has provided them with a package of older written commitments. She emphasized that the City wants to go into this project with the Navy as a partner.
  - Resource Agencies – A presentation will be made at the City's Utilities Coordination meeting on September 16.
  - Fire Life Safety and Security Committee (FLS&SC): The next meeting will be in September.
- Pubic Outreach – Newsletter – August: The newsletter has been postponed because the City wants to include the good news about the geotechnical and the funding. It will probably go out in September and will be a large foldout piece that will be an insert in the *Coronado Eagle & Journal*. This will be a tool for congressional staff and meetings with the community. It should be timely for six months to possibly a year. The next newsletter after that will be when the draft EIS comes out. Mr. Huck said he sees value in getting an article in the *Eagle & Journal* as well as the insert because some people throw inserts out. Mr. Tanaka agreed and suggested paying extra for good placement. Mr. Osborne said he sees the City concentrating on the local side, but what are we doing regionally? Mr. Benson explained that we are carrying on a level of regional contacts appropriate for this stage of the project.

2. Funding:

- Transportation Reauthorization Bill (SAFETEA-LU) – \$9 Million: Ms. Brydges said she had invited Sybil Stockdale to today's meeting because the Transportation Reauthorization is one of the biggest and most important funding milestones to date. This bill has taken two years with 20 extensions of the original bill. The City now has \$9,000,000 for the next big phase (design) of the project. The environmental is already paid for. The project funding was carried by Congresswoman Susan Davis and augmented by Senator Boxer. This represents a big dent in the next phase of the project. Mr. Ovrom said he'd been at a meeting with Todd Gloria and Caridad Sanchez and he thanked them for this. Mr. Osborne said he'd like to note that staff is doing a great job.
- Annual Appropriation – Request for \$2.7 Million: Ms. Brydges explained that every year we will be asking for something. Anything we get will augment the \$9,000,000.

C. Reports and Discussion from Commission Members or Staff on Current Issues:

1. Status of Third Street Gate Project: Discussed above.
2. Ad Hoc Committee for Stockdale Memorial: The Mayor has taken the bull by the horns to come up with an appropriate memorial to Admiral Stockdale and has appointed an ad hoc committee to look into it. Ms. Pimpo suggested that the tunnel be named for him. She said he was respected and revered not just by the Navy but by all the branches of the military; this would be profound. Mr. Huck and Mr. Osborne agreed that this should be considered. Mr. Ovrom said this idea needs to be conveyed to the committee, but listening to the committee it's clear that they want to do something that's in their control. Mr. Benson suggested that Chairman Clark talk to the chair of the committee, Admiral Martin. Mr. Clark will call Admiral Martin and tell him he understands that the committee wants to do something sooner, but the Tunnel Commission would like them to keep this in mind for the future. Mr. Osborne offered to come along to any meeting that is set up. There was discussion about putting this suggestion up to an advisory vote, but further discussion was tabled and it will be discussed again next month.
3. Congestion Relief Working Group (CRWG) Project: Mr. Benson said there is an agreement out of Caltrans to do a 25 mph speed limit on Third and Fourth Streets from Glorietta to Alameda. The public will have an opportunity to speak about this at the September 1 Traffic Operations Committee meeting. The concept of bulbouts can be done without a full environmental document and will go to Council on September 6. The meters and signals are a little more complicated and will require more extensive environmental documents. He thinks the negative impacts will be as divisive as the semi-diverters. Mr. Tanaka said he and Councilmember Frank Tierney are in favor of dropping the signals to save time and money on a project that would eventually be rejected after the environmental study has been done.
3. San Diego Regional Airport Authority Site Selection: Dual Use of NASNI: Mr. Ovrom said that he went to Miramar with Bruce Boland, the chair of the

Airport/Airspace Advisory Committee. They're talking about 300,000 events a year which would be an event every minute and a half. Miramar feels dual military and civilian use is incompatible. A similar meeting will take place for NASNI in the next few weeks.

4. General Information Update: None.

D. Future Meeting Schedule: Thursday, September 8, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the Police Facility Community Meeting Room, 700 Orange Avenue. Due to a conflict with another commission meeting, the Tunnel Commission meetings will not be relocating to the Council Chambers in the new City Hall.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 5:28 p.m.

Approved:

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Jackson S. Clark, Chairman