

Meeting Date: January 28, 2026
Agenda Item No. 23
Batch No. 01

From: [Roxanne Ridge](#)
To: [RTFH PITC](#)
Cc: Assemblymember.Waldron@assembly.ca.gov; [Supervisor Joel Anderson District 2](#); MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov; JoeLaCava@sandiego.gov; JenniferCampbell@sandiego.gov; StephenWhitburn@sandiego.gov; HenryFoster@sandiego.gov; MarniVonWilpert@sandiego.gov; KentLee@sandiego.gov; RaulCampillo@sandiego.gov; VivianMoreno@sandiego.gov; SeanEloRivera@sandiego.gov; [BOS, District1Community](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#); [HHS, Office Of Homeless Solutions](#); sdhcinfo@sdhc.org
Subject: [External] Timing of Homeless Counts Fails to Capture the Truly Unsheltered
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026 10:42:12 AM

I am writing to raise serious concerns about the timing of the current homeless “count,” which is being conducted at the wrong point in the month and therefore fails to accurately identify the truly unsheltered population.

The count should be conducted during the third week of each month—specifically after the 21st and before the 26th. The 23rd or 24th is when the most chronically unsheltered individuals are consistently visible. Counts conducted at the beginning or very end of the month—such as the 29th—primarily capture individuals cycling through short-term instability, including those whose homelessness is driven by substance use and an inability or unwillingness to comply with basic shelter requirements.

The truly unsheltered homeless population largely consists of individuals living on SSI for long-term disabilities, receiving approximately \$1,200 per month. A significant majority of this group is high-functioning autistic. SSI benefits are officially issued on the first of the month but are often deposited on the last business day of the prior month, or earlier for those using financial institutions that offer early access. Some banks provide funds two days early, while others, such as NetSpend, allow access up to five days in advance.

As a result, nearly all SSI recipients temporarily secure motel rooms at the end of the month—often precisely during the time this count is conducted. The lowest-cost motel rooms average no less than \$2,000 per month, and most individuals also maintain storage units costing an additional \$150–\$250 per month. These expenses consume nearly all of their monthly benefits.

By long-standing necessity, the homeless community plans around benefits becoming accessible around the 28th of each month. Consequently, outreach efforts such as “We All Count,” when conducted on the 29th, take place immediately after the truly unsheltered population has been forced into short-term motel stays. This misalignment sends well-meaning outreach workers and volunteers on what amounts to a wild goose chase, while systematically undercounting the most vulnerable population.

If the goal is accuracy, accountability, and effective policy-making, the timing of this count must change. Conducting it around the 22nd of each month would provide a far more truthful representation of chronic homelessness and ensure that services and funding are directed where they are actually needed.

Sincerely,
Roxanne J Ridge

From: henkinp@earthlink.net
To: [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); damon.brown@sdcounty.ca.gov
Subject: [External] CALLING OUT STAFF BY NAME IS ALLOWED
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026 5:31:22 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Hi Supervisors,

I knew I had something about calling out Staff by name. It is specifically permitted now. Too often, this is used to protect staffers who do things that are totally wrong. From what I've heard, public speakers are not the only ones riling up staff - if you work at the County, you'd better get thick skin. There is no CYA club just because you're staffers.

Calling out Staff (or other public figures) by name must be something that “**actually** disrupts, disturbs, impedes” the meeting. Same for public speaking in general.

[Brown Act 54957.95, as I told the Deputies at the BoS. I'm sure I've told the full Board too.]

The image shows the word "TIMELC" in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are stylized with a slight shadow or gradient effect, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The 'T' is a simple vertical bar with a horizontal top bar. The 'I' is a vertical bar. The 'M' is composed of two vertical bars connected at the top. The 'L' is a vertical bar with a horizontal bottom bar. The 'C' is a curved shape that starts as a vertical bar and curves to the right.

THE

OF SAN DIEGO

1st Amendment Quandary: Can Citizens Direct Their Anger to Staff in Addition to Elected Officials?

by JW August, June 26, 2024, 11:55 p.m.

At a recent San Diego Association of Governments meeting last month, board Vice Chairman Sean Elo-Rivera became **angered over a number of public speakers questioning information** in a report exploring the

removal of tolls on State Route 125.

The report — “Process for removing toll roads on State Route 125” — was prompted, in part, by recent revelations that drivers were incorrectly charged for using the 10-mile long toll road. It was authored by four SANDAG staff members who had evaluated several options for the future of San Diego’s only toll road.

Elo-Rivera halted the May 24 board meeting following questions by several speakers. He had warned several of them, both in person and on the phone, **not to direct their questions to the staff members.**

A number of those addressing the board complained about not being able to understand the terminology used and questioned the process for developing the report. Some used unflattering terms to describe the report’s language.

Elo-Rivera, who is also president of the San Diego City Council, responded by saying, **“I’m done with folks talking to staff.”** He issued a challenge: “Test me on this, okay? So there’s elected board members here, we ran for office. We will deal with what you all have to say.”

He also warned them that “the next time somebody directs comments to staff they will be removed.”

Times of San Diego asked San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott about Elo-Rivera’s effort to curtail some of the public comments. She directed us to SANDAG’s general counsel, John Kirk, who advises the board members on legal issues.

Ironically, two days following the SANDAG meeting, her office released a for city officials titled “Threats to Elected Officials: What Can Be Done, First Amendment Overview.”

There have been a number of times when disruptive behavior or insulting, demeaning language has had a negative impact on meetings across the state, including in San Diego. Elliott's report detailed recent changes to the state's open meetings law, the Brown Act, that relate to disruptive behavior during public hearings.

The changes, the report said, give "legislative bodies authority to remove individuals who disrupt a meeting." However, the behavior must be something that "**actually** disrupts, disturbs, impedes" the meeting.

[Brown Act 54957.95, as I told the Deputies at the BoS. I'm sure I've told the full Board too.]

A review of the webcast of the SANDAG meeting seems to indicate no disruptions.

Kirk's office has yet to respond to questions about the public hearing, although his office previously said it was working on a statement.

David Loy of the First Amendment Coalition offered his take on the Elo-Rivera's actions at the SANDAG meeting:

"The First Amendment guarantees people the right to criticize their government, and, by extension, to criticize the people who work for the government," Loy said. "That criticism may or may not be justified."

As to the threat to remove the speaker, Loy said, "That's a significant First Amendment problem as long as people are within their time limit. **And they're addressing a specific agenda item or the general work of the agency.** They have the right to their point of view, whether one agrees or disagrees, whether one likes it or does not like it. People have the right to criticize the work of the agency and of the agency staff."

Elo-Rivera's office responded by saying staff members "were called out by name and seemed intimidated and threatened by an aggressive public commenter" who sat nearby. He also said he would "continue to be a champion of First Amendment free speech rights."

[Intimidated by someone sitting there?]

"I also wholeheartedly believe public servants deserve to feel safe," Elo-Rivera added.

Loy offered some perspective on Elo-Rivera's concerns about aggressive behavior.

"In this context, if aggressive means criticism, strong criticism of your conduct that is what the First Amendment is designed to protect," Loy said. "I understand the concerns. But the First Amendment does not have any exceptions for people not liking what is being said.

"And if someone giving public comment is genuinely making true threats, that causes someone to fear for their physical safety, that's unprotected speech, and they can be removed. But criticism is not a true threat. And it is not an excuse to violate the First Amendment to say your criticism doesn't make me feel safe. I'm sorry. That's just not the law."

A final note on the meeting, before the last two speakers were to be called at the May 24 hearing, Elo-Rivera again stopped the proceedings, asking, "Can we clear the room please?" because he wanted a five-minute recess. When the meeting reconvened, Elo-Rivera announced the staff members who wrote the toll road report were no longer present.

“They’re just not in the room,” he said. “They’re available remotely.”

Get the latest local and California news from Times of San Diego delivered to your inbox at 8 a.m. daily. Sign up for our free email newsletter and be fully informed of the most important developments.

Tagged: First Amendment, First Amendment Coalition, public criticism, SANDAG, Sean Elo-Rivera, State Route 125

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#); [BOS, District1Community](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Supervisor Joel Anderson District 2](#); [Desmond, Jim](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] BIG DATACENTERS - NOT SUITED TO OUR CLIMATE OR COUNTY
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 6:59:11 PM

Hi Supervisors,

Big datacenters (and apparently now who's behind them) need a lot more research before they are approved and take our electricity and water bigtime.

Regards, Paul Henkin

ARTICLE:

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/environment/2026/01/22/4-takeaways-from-kpbs-investigation-into-a-massive-data-center-project-in-imperial-county>

KPBS

4 takeaways from KPBS' investigation into a massive data center project in Imperial County

By Kori Suzuki / South Bay and Imperial Valley Reporter, January 22, 2026

Across the United States, a debate is building over the rush to build massive data centers as major tech companies seek to dramatically expand their artificial intelligence capabilities — and more communities push back over the environmental cost.

Now, that debate has come to the Imperial Valley.

For close to two months, controversy has been building over a one-million-square-foot data center complex planned near residential neighborhoods that are in the small city of Imperial.

The facility could consume **almost double** the amount of electricity that all of Imperial **County** used in 2024, according to state data and estimates shared by the project's developer. It could also need about **750,000 gallons of water per day**.

The project's developers are pitching it as an economic boom for the county, a majority-Latino region where jobs are hard to come by. They also say they will take steps to reduce the project's environmental footprint, including by using recycled water.

But many Imperial County residents fear it will strain the rural valley's power grid and water supply with little benefit for the people who live here.

Here are four takeaways from a KPBS investigation into the project:

1. Intentionally avoiding environmental review

The project's developer, Huntington Beach-based entrepreneur and lawyer Sebastian Rucci, is openly seeking to avoid the environmental review process laid out in the California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA).

CEQA requires state and local governments to study the possible environmental effects of development projects and get public input.

To avoid those requirements, Rucci aimed to design a ministerial project — a planning term that essentially means local officials have no option to deny it as long as the technical requirements are met. Under state law, ministerial projects are typically exempt from environmental reviews.

“The demand has increased exponentially,” Rucci told KPBS last month, referring to the clamor for computing power. “Our whole goal is speed.”

Rucci maintains that his company will take significant steps to reduce the data center’s impact on Imperial County’s water, air and energy.

2. A businessman with a turbulent past

Across the country in Ohio, Rucci’s previous business ventures have left a trail of criminal investigations and legal complaints.

In 2010, local county prosecutors charged Rucci and several other people with money laundering, promoting prostitution and perjury related to a nightclub which he owned in the Ohio city of Youngstown, state court records show.

The charges were eventually thrown out, some because the case took

too long to go to trial.

Afterwards, Rucci started California Palms, a treatment center for drug addiction. Ohio health officials inspected the center, and a 2021 report found staff had broken various healthcare protocols. That same year, the treatment center was raided by the FBI. State health officials also revoked its certification.

Federal officials never charged Rucci or the treatment center with any crimes. Rucci sued the government for the confiscated funds, which they eventually returned with interest. He is currently seeking copies of the warrants in an ongoing legal case, and recently won in an appeal.

Between both businesses, Rucci was only ever convicted of one charge: selling beer at the club with an expired license in 2014. He served 30 days in jail.

In interviews, the entrepreneur called these investigations “politically-motivated” and said he was unfairly singled out by local officials in Ohio. Rucci also disputed the 2021 report on the treatment center, saying that it was one-sided.

He added that the treatment center provided a significant amount of free care to military veterans.

3. Costs for Imperial County residents unclear

Utility officials did not have many answers about how the planned data center might affect the price of energy for Imperial County residents.

[Electricity and water charges would increase, clearly.]

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the region's main energy provider, said they did not yet have a roadmap for charging such a large customer.

“At a minimum, IID is pursuing a framework that is ratepayer neutral, and where feasible, one that helps reduce the burden on existing ratepayers for needed system upgrades,” spokesperson Robert Schettler told KPBS late last month.

When data centers come to town, utilities often need to make expensive upgrades to handle the increased load, a cost that they can pass on to consumers. An analysis last year by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and North Carolina State University found that data centers could increase the average cost of producing electricity by 8% nationwide.

In Imperial County, it's also currently unclear where the data center will get its water.

Last month, Rucci told KPBS he had reached an agreement to buy a total of 6 million gallons of reclaimed water daily from the cities of El Centro and Imperial — and that his company would pay for the necessary infrastructure upgrades. The data center itself, Rucci said, would use an eighth of that amount. The remainder, he said, they would release into the drying Salton Sea.

El Centro and Imperial officials both said they had discussed the

possibility of providing reclaimed water but denied formally agreeing to it.

4. County officials powering ahead

Imperial County officials, however, seem to believe the project will survive the increasing scrutiny.

In their view, Imperial County Planning and Development Services Director Jim Minnick said, they had just one public approval remaining before the developers could effectively begin construction.

“From a land-use perspective, there is no other requirement,” Minnick told KPBS last month.

The approval Minnick was referring to was a vote by the Imperial County Planning Commission on a “lot merger,” a request by the company to join together five parcels into one 75-acre plot of land. The commission held a first vote on the lot merger on Dec. 18, but it failed to pass.

Rucci has appealed their decision, which means the vote is now set to come before the Imperial County Board of Supervisors in the coming weeks.

Kori Suzuki covers South San Diego County and the Imperial Valley for KPBS. He reports on the decisions of local government officials with a particular focus on environmental issues, housing affordability, and race and identity.

From: [William E. Simpson II](#)
To: [Bill Simpson](#)
Subject: [External] NEW Article: Gavin Newsom's "Zone 0" Disaster: The Governor's Latest Wildfire "Solution" Is a Deadly Farce
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026 12:51:22 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2023-12-01 at 6.53.23 PM.png](#)
[Screenshot 2026-01-24 at 2.36.16 PM.png](#)

Dear Publishers:

Here is my latest OP-ED on the recent Newsom EO. I am providing this pro-bono as a public service.

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Gavin Newsom's "Zone 0" Disaster: The Governor's Latest Wildfire "Solution" Is a Deadly Farce

By: William E. Simpson II
January 26, 2026

California Governor Gavin Newsom has just signed one of the most arrogant, ignorant, and outright dangerous executive orders in recent memory: the so-called "Zone 0" mandate.

Homeowners must now strip every last blade of grass, shrub, and low-hanging branch within five feet of their houses—turning backyards into barren dirt patches under threat of fines and forced compliance. Newsom sells it as wildfire protection. The reality? It's performative nonsense that will cost lives while doing almost nothing to stop real catastrophic fires.

Here's why this is lethal theater:

Wind-driven wildfires don't politely respect five-foot buffers. They hurl burning embers miles ahead of the flame front.

- The **Eagle Creek Fire** (Oregon, 2017) jumped the Columbia River—a mile-wide waterway—and kept burning.
- The **Klamathon Fire** (Northern California, 2018) crossed Interstate-5 *twice*—over 120 feet of bare concrete and asphalt shoulders—like it was nothing.
- In the **Almeda Fire** (Talent & Phoenix, Oregon, 2020), modern buildings (supermarkets, banks and homes) built to the latest fire codes, surrounded by 100–300 feet of parking lots and cleared space, were incinerated in minutes by ember storms.

“Defensible space” around individual homes is a cruel illusion in 70+ mph wind events. What actually works are **defensible landscapes**—vast areas of naturally reduced fuels that slow or stop fire spread before it reaches communities.



A family band of wild horses calmly graze wildfire fuels even as the deadly 2018 Klamathon Fire approached. Wild horses have evolved on the North American landscape over millions of years and over that period have been subjected to times of volcanic eruptions and thousands of wildfires. Unlike domestic horses, which usually panic in the face of wildfire, wild horses on the range will calmly graze, even as a wildfire is approaching, instinctively knowing what to do, and when to do it. Photo: William E. Simpson II – July 9, 2018.

In July 2018, during the same Klamathon Fire, our pilot herd of ~200 privately-owned cultural-heritage horses proved exactly that. Living free on adjacent wilderness land at Wild Horse Ranch, these horses had been grazing the landscape for years. Their selective foraging created thousands of acres of low-fuel zones and massive natural firebreaks—precisely the areas where CALFIRE crews were finally able to contain the 38,000-acre wind-driven blaze. This wasn’t theory. It was documented on the ground, in photos, field notes, and direct observation as I worked as the technical advisor to CALFIRE on the Camp Creek fire line.

Newsom’s order ignores science, wastes taxpayer money, and creates a deadly false sense of security. Homeowners will spend time and money

complying with “Zone 0” while the real threat—untreated wildlands loaded with brush and grass—continues to fuel monster fires. Meanwhile, a proven, cost-effective, humane alternative exists: strategically relocating and managing wild horse herds to maintain large-scale fuel reductions in remote, fire-prone areas, and, locating various other herbivores in appropriate areas.

The **Natural Wildfire Abatement and Forest Protection Plan** isn’t a concept—it’s an empirically tested reality that saves human lives, protects wild horses from roundups, preserves ecosystems, and slashes the billions spent on reactive suppression and endless holding corrals.

Gavin Newsom isn’t protecting Californians. He’s showboating. And Californians will pay the price—again—in lives, homes, forests, and tax dollars.

See the documented evidence for yourself:

<https://www.ambest.com/video/video.aspx?s=1&rc=wildhorses323>

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WILDFIRE

Eagle Creek Fire Jumps Columbia River Gorge Overnight

   

By **Bryan M. Vance** (OPB), **Amelia Templeton** (OPB) and **Conrad Wilson** (OPB)
Portland, Oregon Sept. 4, 2017 6:09 p.m.



UPDATED (10:55 a.m. PST): The Eagle Creek Fire jumped the Columbia River Gorge overnight, sparking a smaller fire on the Washington side of the river Tuesday morning according to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.

Officials said that a spot fire known as the Archer Mountain Fire is burning about 25 acres near Archer Mountain on the Washington side. Another spot fire of nearly 100 acres is burning on the Oregon side near Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. The fire prompted officials to declare a state of emergency in east Multnomah County Tuesday morning.

The Eagle Creek Fire swelled overnight Tuesday, burning more than 4,800 acres and threatening numerous structures along the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge.

It's time to stop the ego-driven mandates and start scaling solutions that actually work.

Tags:

#NewsomIsDangerous #ZoneZeroIsZeroHelp #WildHorseFireBrigade
#RealWildfirePrevention #Wildfires #WildfirePrevention

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Capt. William E. Simpson II - USMM Ret.

Founder - Exec. Director - Wild Horse Fire Brigade

Ethologist - Author - Conservationist

Wild Horse Ranch



Wild Horse Fire Brigade (<https://www.wildhorsefirebrigade.org/>)

William E. Simpson II is an ethologist living among and studying free-roaming native species American wild horses. William is the award-winning producer of the micro-documentary film 'Wild Horses'. He is the author of a new [Study](#) about the behavioral ecology of wild horses, two published books and more than 500 published articles on subjects related to wild horses, wildlife, wildfire, and public land (forest) management. He has appeared on [NBC NEWS](#), [ABC NEWS](#), [CBS NEWS](#), theDoveTV and has been a guest on numerous talk radio shows including the [Lars Larson Show](#), the Bill Meyer Show, [NPR Jefferson Public Radio](#) and [NPR National Radio](#), [Global News](#), [The Guardian](#), and [AM BEST TV](#).

Check out William's Film Freeway account for films, studies, TV & radio interviews, and more [HERE](#):
<https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII>

From: [C Cotton](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Cc: [CouncilMember Joe LaCava](#); [Congressman Scott Peters](#); [Government Affairs](#); [SeanEloRivera@sandiego.gov](#)
Subject: [External] Re: 01/27/2026 and 01/28/2026 County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Agendas
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 9:07:12 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
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Greetings:

Regarding the proposed **Empty Second Home and Vacation Rental Tax** will be heard by the City Council's Rules Committee on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 9:00.

San Diego's proposed tax on vacant second homes and short-term rentals (STRs) aims to address housing shortages by targeting underutilized properties, with a potential **\$5,000+ tax per bedroom**. The initiative aims to generate up to **\$135 million** annually for housing.

It is to my understanding that potentially **11,000** combined Homeowner's units in San Diego are deemed "empty" or underutilized. What analytical (federal data) are we relying on?

Does the statistical information include annexed guest house(s), which is generally referred to as an **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)** which can be assigned a separate address through legalized, permitting and zoning procedures.

More specifically, the submission of an application for a new address, providing documentation such as the building permit, a land deed, and a site plan. Upon approval, the local government agency will assign a unique address to the guest house.

In California, you can sell an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) separately from your main home under **Assembly Bill 1033 (effective Jan 1, 2024)**, provided your local municipality has opted into the ordinance, often requiring a homeowner association (HOA) to manage these common areas.

Allows owners to generate income and provides, on average, more affordable housing options (**40-60% of single-family home prices**).

While this specific proposal is local to San Diego, it reflects a broader trend of municipalities using tax penalties to manage housing, which can create complex tax implications for owners of multiple properties or it might just trigger sales rather than converting units into long-term, affordable housing.

Other tax implications to reconsider, **non-resident aliens (NRAs)** owning U.S. property already face a **30% tax on income** not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and this new municipal tax would add an additional layer of financial obligation.

Tracking and enforcing tax compliance on foreign owners holding property in entities or directly can be complex, potentially requiring enhanced reporting mechanisms.

Increased scrutiny of empty homes and vacation rentals may be used to identify foreign-owned or shell company-owned properties, addressing concerns related to money laundering or illicit financial flows in the real estate market, prompting local governments to monitor these, which can intersect with local safety and security oversight.

Hoping we can have a broader discussion around Green modular units with passive solar home design using sustainable materials.

Thank You,
Cassandra Cotton

On Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 6:40 PM C Cotton <92130connects@gmail.com> wrote:
Greetings San Diego County Staff and Distinguished Public Officials:

In 2024, San Diego, CA **imported \$7.93B**, making it the **66 largest importer** out of the 367 ports in the United States.

The top imports of San Diego, CA were **Cars (\$5.45B)**, **Electric Batteries (\$621M)**, **Delivery Trucks (\$526M)**, **Crustaceans (\$260M)**, and **Bananas (\$197M)**.

In 2024, San Diego, CA **exported \$908M**, making it the **115th largest exporter** out of the 387 ports in the United States.

The top exports of San Diego, CA were **Planes, Helicopters, and/or Spacecraft (\$206M)**, **Gas Turbines (\$93.2M)**, **Electric Generating Sets (\$51.3M)**, **Laboratory Reagents (\$48.3M)**, and **Semiconductor Devices (\$35M)**

In October 2025, San Diego, CA was the number **125th exporter** and the number **74th importer** in the United States, out of 340 ports.

In October 2025 San Diego, CA **exported \$52.1M and imported \$436M, resulting in a negative trade balance of \$34B.**

San Diego, CA exports mostly to Czechia (\$12.3M), Ecuador (\$9.87M), Netherlands (\$9.07M), Japan (\$3M), and Brazil (\$2.86M).

San Diego, CA imports mostly from South Korea (\$164M), Mexico (\$74.6M), Germany (\$46.5M), Ecuador (\$45.4M), and Guatemala (\$23.2M).

In 2024, we focused on the **Otay Mesa II Port of Entry** to reduce congestion. Domestic investments driven by imports focus on cross-border manufacturing (specifically with Mexico), logistics, and, for 73% of foreign direct investment, the **life sciences sector**.

These efforts are supported by over **\$1.5 billion in foreign direct investment** (as of 2022). Investments driven by foreign partnerships, such as those that supported **Samsung's expansion in the region**.

Concerns regarding Samsung's activities in the San Diego/Tijuana region involve shifting manufacturing strategies due to 2025 tariff uncertainties, intense energy/water demands and center on potential environmental impacts, high operational costs, and shifting trade policies.

Semiconductor manufacturing is highly water-intensive, consuming roughly 2,200 liters of ultra-pure water per day per fabrication plant, posing sustainability challenges in the region. Operations in Tijuana have necessitated specialized security measures due to regional criminal activity.

Are there construction progress updates on SANDAG in partnership with Caltrans, in the development of the **Otay Mesa East Port of Entry (OME POE)**, a \$1.3 billion, "**smart**" border crossing designed to boost trade, enhance regional mobility, reduce emissions, and potentially save jobs? My understanding is that this is a key project for our State.

Infrastructurally, this project includes the **new port of entry**, a **California Highway Patrol commercial vehicle enforcement facility**, and a 4-lane toll road. It is expected to generate **\$1.8 billion** in economic gains. The project has also secured the necessary Presidential Permit for the new border crossing. The project is estimated to decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 395,596 tons over its first 20 years, supporting California's climate goals.

We should be in FULL cooperation with federal partners, such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection, regarding the operation of the new facility.

Thank You,
Cassandra Cotton