

RECORD OF DECISION

SAN YSIDRO LAND PORT OF ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SAN YSIDRO, CALIFORNIA

The General Services Administration (GSA) has published a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry (LPOE) Improvements Project (Project) in San Diego, California. The San Ysidro LPOE is located along Interstate 5 at the U.S.-Mexico border in the San Ysidro community of San Diego, California. The Final EIS can be found at www.gsa.gov/nepa_library

As Acting Regional Administrator of GSA, Region 9, this Record of Decision (ROD) documents the specific components of my decision and the rationale for my decision. This decision is based on information and analyses contained in the Final EIS issued in August 2009; the Draft EIS issued in May 2009; the technical studies associated with both the Draft and Final EIS; the comments of Federal and state agencies, stakeholder organizations, members of the public, and elected officials; and other information in the administrative record.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of the Project is to improve operational efficiency, security, and safety for cross-border travelers and federal agencies at the San Ysidro LPOE.

Reconfiguration and expansion of the San Ysidro LPOE are needed because: (1) growth is outstripping capacity at the existing LPOE requiring improvements to expand capacity, improve processing efficiency, and reduce border wait times; (2) the existing facility is undersized and requires modernization due to mandated security programs; and (3) the current configuration is inefficient and increases the potential for safety hazards and security concerns. It has been demonstrated that the Project is needed regardless of, and in addition to, current plans in progress for improvements at the existing Otay Mesa LPOE and development of a new LPOE at Otay Mesa East.

Project Alternatives Evaluated in the Final EIS

Two Project build alternatives were considered by a multi-disciplinary team during the Project design process, following a scoping meeting and consultation with the community. Because the Project concerns improvements to a LPOE, alternative Project locations were not considered since the precise location of such a facility requires a formal agreement between the Governments of the U.S. and Mexico. Consequently, all the build alternatives considered represent design/operational variations at the existing LPOE location. The alternatives described and evaluated in the Project Final EIS include the Preferred Alternative, the Pedestrian Crossing Alternative, and the No Build Alternative.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would demolish most of the existing facilities and new facilities would be constructed, including new northbound primary and secondary inspection areas, an administration building, a pedestrian building, a central plant, one pedestrian bridge, a parking structure, and other support structures. The only building considered for retention and renovation is the Old Customs House, which is currently undergoing a Section 106 consultation