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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHAMBER HOSTS BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE AND EFFICIENCIES FORUM

*The forum featured a conversation with CBP discussing challenges at regional Ports of Entry during the COVID-19 pandemic*

San Diego, CA (October 20, 2021) – Today, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce led a forum with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) following the announcement of plans to lift Land Port of Entry travel restrictions. Speakers included CBP Cargo and Conveyance Security Office of Field Operations Executive Director Thomas Overacker, and San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Nora Vargas.

"I am pleased that the Chamber hosted this forum today, given the urgency of addressing the upcoming changes in Land Port of Entry travel restrictions," said Jerry Sanders, SDRCC President and CEO. "We must continue working collaboratively with federal authorities and local stakeholders to help reduce impacts due to border delays— ensuring our region, economies, and communities on both sides of the border are thriving."

The Border Infrastructure and Efficiencies Forum allowed Chamber members and local stakeholders to learn about CBP efforts to increase efficiencies at cargo inspections, CBP plans to fill vacancies at regional ports of entry, challenges as a result of the pandemic which have increased border wait times, and the impacts of limited travel across our shared ports of entry with Mexico and Canada.

"Our businesses and binational community were severely impacted by border restrictions and can now move toward efficient and complete economic recovery," said Kenia Zamarripa, SDRCC Executive Director of International Business Affairs. "We are also grateful for Vice Chair Vargas' leadership and commitment to our region and appreciate her efforts to champion economic opportunities for our businesses, workforce, and families impacted by restrictions. "

In March of 2020, the U.S. implemented travel restrictions impacting land ports of entry at our northern and southern borders. The Chamber immediately joined business and community leaders across the U.S. in urging the federal government to lift restrictions, providing an overview of the economic implications these restrictions have on our business community.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce: The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit [SDChamber.org](http://SDChamber.org) or call 619-544-1300.

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