

ACUERDO
DE LOS ESTADOS



“Integrating The Gulf of Mexico Border”

EPA Regional Planning Meeting

New Orleans, Louisiana -

March 18, 2004

Gary L. Springer

North American Framework

- **Context for dealing with the US has changed**
 - Post 9/11 US focus, inability to multitask
 - Foreign policy: “Long on attitude, short on strategy, failed diplomacy”
 - “Homeland Security” is the new framework in the US: \$\$\$\$\$
 - US economic problems deeply affecting its trading partners
 - One more major terrorist attack in the US will close the border – Food, people, traded goods

Situation Analysis

- US-Mexico relationship has softened
 - Transportation/Trucking
 - Border matters
 - NAFTA at 10
 - Agricultural issues
 - Immigration

Situation Analysis

- Only Canada and Mexico are positioned to be “inside the tent”
 - Geography
 - NAFTA
 - Economic integration
 - Workforce integration
 - Infrastructure connectivity
 - Homeland security

The GOMSA Solution

- GOMSA is a solution to the new issues context
 - North American “homeland” security
 - Energy security
 - Economic security
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Workforce security
 - Food security

Why?

- Common sustainable resource is the Gulf of Mexico
- NAFTA Will Broaden & Deepen in Two Areas:
 - Land Border
 - Gulf of Mexico Border
- Transportation is the key link to future development
 - Alleviate pollution & congestion

The Gulf of Mexico States Accord

- ❑ 11 Member States
- ❑ 62 million citizens, 19th most populous "nation"
- ❑ Substantial US states trade growth under NAFTA (1993-03)
- ❑ A "border without bridges"
- ❑ Mexican state members are integral to the "Plan Puebla-Panama"
- ❑ US states hold significant US political power

Background

- Established in 1995 by 11 Governors
- Maximize NAFTA in Gulf States “new border neighborhood”
- Defining & pursuing mutual interests to increase trade, investment, tourism, education
- UNITED STATES:
 - Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas
- MEXICO:
 - Campeche, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Yucatan

Institutional Framework

- 11 State Governors
- Accord Executive Committee
- General Secretariat
- Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc.
- Six Working Groups
 - Health, Ecology & Environment
 - Transportation, Infrastructure & Communications
 - Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
 - Trade, Investment & Finance
 - Tourism
 - Education & Culture

Goal

- Maximize the Gulf of Mexico states' advantages and strengths as "border states" under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), unifying them as a productive, prosperous and growing "neighborhood".

Challenges & Opportunities

- Regional Connectivity - Building the Gulf of Mexico "on-ramp" under NAFTA
 - Fixed costs v. variable costs
 - 89% (\$174 billion) of total US-Mexico trade goes through the land border ports
 - GOMSA shipping would alleviate environmental problems, trade congestion, and disperse NAFTA trade -- while growing the trade "pie"!
- GOMSA Trade Corridor: Faster, better, cheaper
- Intermodal connectivity - NAFTA, EU, FTAA

GOMSA Initiatives

- Environmental Sustainability
 - “Red Tide” Research Initiative
 - Binational Collaboration Workshop (June 2003)
 - Nomination for P4P Award
 - Participation in WW2BW partnership
 - Coastal Environmental Initiative
 - EPA GOMPO leadership, “concertacion”
 - Mexican GOMPO?

GOMSA Initiatives

- Gulf of Mexico Tourism Corridor
 - “Scenic Highway”
 - Key West to Chetumal
 - Signage, Web-guide, formal designation
 - “Nautical Staircase”
 - Mexican Gulf Coastal development
 - Marinas, eco-tourism
 - Supported by Fonatur, Sectur
 - Need for EA first, not after the fact (Baja Calif.)

GOMSA Initiatives

- Trade & Tourism
 - Visa, immigration simplification
 - Allows US “residents” to travel on tourist visa
 - Substantial tourism economic impact
 - Administrative change accomplished
 - Pre-Clearance Initiative
 - Move the border
 - USDA, APHIS reciprocity under NAFTA
 - Customs, immigration reciprocity

GOMSA Initiatives

- Transportation
 - MOC on Short Sea Shipping
 - NAFTA Superhighway initiative
 - "Gulf of Mexico Border States"
 - More efficient movement of goods
 - MARAD, GOMSA and the Partnership
 - Endorsement of Partnership Gulf Transportation Study
 - Stakeholders meeting



The Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc.

- Business association counterpart
- Private initiative
- Advocacy tool – impetus & primary resource for development of Congressional Caucus
- Manages Secretariat contributions, Federal, state & private research grants

Partnership Initiatives

- Gulf of Mexico Congressional Caucus
 - Consensus building
 - Funding leverage
- MOC/SSS follow up
 - Memorandum of Cooperation on Short Sea Shipping
 - Gulf of Mexico Border States recognition
 - GAO Study
- MTSNAC Membership
- Trade Corridor Transportation Study

Congressional Caucus

- Who?

- 50 million people
- 75 Members of Congress
- 10 Senators
- 5 Governors
- Existing Gulf-wide institutions & initiatives
 - Public policy
 - Private initiative & advocacy
 - Knowledge foundations
- Coalition of interests

Leverage for:

- Environmental protection and sustainable development
- Multi-modal transportation solutions
- Critical infrastructure security
- Agriculture
- Gulf-wide research

Transportation Study: Objectives

- Gulf of Mexico as a NAFTA trade corridor
- Design a long-range inter-modal system master plan
- Input and output of trade flow
- Market to seaport to seaport to market
- Create a seamless transportation network
- Alleviate congestion & pollution

Study Elements

- Phase I:
 - Economic analysis
 - Inventory of assets
 - Gap analysis
 - Market analysis
 - Policy analysis & recommendations
 - Changes in the legal framework

Study Elements

- Phase II: Security Impact Assessment
- Phase III: Environmental Assessment
- Phase IV: Master Plan

Next steps...

- Build the Congressional Caucus
- Launch Transportation Study
 - EA Advisory Team for Transportation Study
- EA Framework for Nautical Staircase
- Parallel GMPO Office in Mexico
- Funding for Red Tide Initiative
- Map out Crosscurrents, Synergies
- Gulf of Mexico Institute for Security & Strategic Studies

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www.gomsa.org

ACCORD OF THE STATES



The Accord of the States of the Gulf of Mexico was signed in the city of Campeche, Mexico on May 13, 1995 by the representatives of the eleven states of the United States and Mexico that share the Gulf of Mexico region.

The objective of the Accord is to establish working partnerships among these states to promote economic and infrastructure development, as well as educational and cultural exchanges.

The Accord brings together public officials, entrepreneurs, investors, scientists and educators from the eleven states in a collaborative effort aimed at enhancing the welfare and the quality of life of the citizens of their respective communities, and, as a result, benefiting the Gulf of Mexico region as a whole.

March 10-12, 2004

Cancun Convention Center

Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Hosted by:

Lic. Joaquin Hendricks Diaz, Governor of the State of Quintana Roo and President of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord

WORKING AGENDA

(as of February 17, 2004; Subject to Change)

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[**Click Here for Conference Registration Form \(1 page - English & Spanish\)**](#)

 **Español**

 **What's New**

 **Current Issues**

 **Calendar of Events**

 **Executive Committee**

 **Working Groups**

 **Gulf States Partnership**

 **Communication**

 **Financial Partners**

 **Featured State**

 **Member States**

 **The Accord**

 **General Secretariat**

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