

Connections

A Publication Serving the Tenants at the Ports of Entry

GSA

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SAN YSIDRO

Construction Project Update

Federal officials are planning a major expansion of the San Ysidro port of entry to accommodate the growing number of travelers – more than 50,000 vehicles and 25,000 pedestrians daily – heading into the United States.

Construction begins this summer on the \$577 million project that will increase the number of lanes in each direction and realign southbound lanes. The Northbound lanes are expected to expand from 24 to at least 31. The project will include larger, more sophisticated administration buildings, as well as primary and secondary inspection areas.

GSA is working on architectural and engineering designs, and on an environmental review. The expansion plan is the GSA's largest border-crossing project.

"It's going to be an incredible landmark," said GSA Administrator Lurita Doan. "Given how many people come through the port of entry, it will be a chance for us to show them something really amazing." The port will remain open during construction and is expected to be completed by 2014.

The Absconder Fence project was awarded to Abide International, Inc, GSA IDIQ contractor, in February, 2008. It is a design-build contract to construct a wrought iron tubular fence with turnstile and emergency gates at the entrance to the Pedestrian Processing Building, San Ysidro. Pre-liminary (50%) design drawings are under review. Construction is estimated to begin in April, 2008 and complete in mid-May, 2008. Marge Fabre' is the project manager for this effort.



CALEXICO WEST/EAST

Construction update-Connection projects taking shape

Peer Review has been completed and construction start date has been scheduled for the new \$290M Calexico West Land Port of Entry (LPOE). Construction is slated to start in FY 2010 with anticipated occupancy estimated for 3rd quarter Fy 2013.

Over at Calexico East, the Sewer Connection Project has taken off as an MOU was approved between GSA and Imperial County Board of Supervisors. GSA is in the process of preparing the Request for Proposal for construction of lift station, and associated main drain line piping. A ten-year servicing contract has also been signed with Imperial County Board of Supervisors. GSA is currently applying to Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for final approval and permit.

On the heels of the Sewer Connection project is the Domestic water connection project. The design phase is nearing completion and will be submitted to the Board once the Sewer project is awarded and construction starts.



OTAY MESA

Region 9's Dragon Power project nominated for Environmental Award-Port Director Coming Back

The GSA Environmental Executive administers the annual GSA Environmental Awards program in which the Administrator recognizes employees for their successful efforts in waste prevention, recycling, and affirmative procurement. Nominations are reviewed and include all state and local governments as well as private sector companies.

This year, Region 9's Dragon Power and Photovoltaic (Solar Power) Program project at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry has been nominated for this award. R9's Patrick Jones, Tim Cashman and Bob Martinez have worked tirelessly along with AEST Incorporated's CEO Terry Kenney to implement a plan to combine alternative energy resources to conserve and harness energy for future use. Dragon Power Station™ (DPS) works by utilizing "steps" embedded in a series of road plates to capture the energy output of vehicles as they drive over. Electricity is then captured and stored for use. DPS ideal locations include entrances and exits at port authorities, border crossings, truck/bus depots, weigh-stations, and toll-bridges, parking garages, military complexes and theme parks. The winners are expected to be announced early in the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2008.

Guess who's back? **Rosa Hernandez** has returned as the Port Director at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. After a successful stint in Tecate, Rosa returned to Otay Mesa this Spring. She will oversee under the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Enforcement operations, and all anti-terrorism programs. This past February she was honored by the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce with the Spirit of the Border award. Rosa brings experience and energy to the Port. Welcome back Rosa!

Otay Mesa
Building Manager
Brian Asp
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Brian Asp

New Building Management Specialist-Otay Mesa

GSA would like to introduce **Brian Asp** as the new Building Management Specialist at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. Brian started his Federal career with GSA's Assisted Acquisition business line, Federal Acquisition Service (FAS). He assisted the Department of Defense, specifically the Naval Special Warfare Command as well as SPAWAR, with their Information Technology (IT) needs.

Brian is a native of Massachusetts and is happy to be in San Diego away from the snow and cold, but is still an avid Red Sox fan. After three years with FAS, he came over to the Public Buildings Service in December 2007.

Employee Spotlight



Miguel Sanchez

Miguel Sanchez is the Chief Engineer for AMF Mechanical Corp, the GSA operations and maintenance contractor for the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. After learning the importance of hard work and responsibility at a young age, Miguel eventually attended and graduated from Southwestern College with a dual certification in Refrigeration Service and HVAC service. He then started his own HVAC and Refrigeration service which he ran for 10 years before being hired on part time with AMF. After one year he was hired on full time and promoted to Supervisor where he now oversees all building operations and maintenance. Miguel's service recently prompted a DHS Safety Inspector to note, "Mr. Sanchez's professionalism and attention to detail demonstrated the highest standard in customer service that I have ever seen." Miguel has been happily married to his wife Jazmin for 10 years and have three beautiful daughters: Izari who is ten, Yareli who is five, and Izeli who is one and a half. In his free time he likes to spend time with his family, ride ATVs and play paintball with his friends.

TECATE

Wildfire Update-Administrator Visit

This past October, wild fires ripped through Southern California. Fires were spotted from Malibu to Lake Arrowhead to San Diego. As more than 500,000 people evacuated their homes, local State and Federal Governments jumped to their aides. Emergency Management Coordinator Robert Brown was activated on October 23 by FEMA in response to the Southern California wildfires and reported to the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Pasadena, CA. Brown was joined by Richard Reed, Chief, Office of Emergency Response and Recovery (OERR) and other team members to coordinate GSA support. The GSA activities included: (1) the GSA Western Distribution Center at Sharpe Depot shipped an emergency order for 5,600 relief blankets to Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, (2) the Regional Emergency Information Line was updated for GSA employees and customers, (3) HR posted information for managers and supervisors for those affected by the wildfires, (4) GSA worked with FEMA to ensure that employees and federal property were protected, (5) Fleet provided emergency leasing and vehicles, and (6) Regional Administrator Peter Stamison visited JFO and toured the area to assess the status. He reported that no GSA federal space was affected by the wildfires and no GSA employees suffered personal damage due to the fires. However, the wildfires were adjacent to the Tecate Port of Entry and R9 staff Tim Cashman and José Charles made numerous site visits to the port. Once it was deemed safe, they brought the custodial and mechanical contractors on site to prepare the port to re-open. It was spotless when CBP Port Director Rosa Hernandez returned to business. She stated the facility showed absolutely no sign of the massive wildfires. She was very pleased and complimentary of GSA.



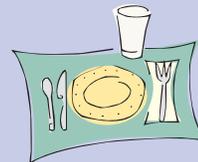
GSA Administrator **Lurita Doan** made a special trip to the Tecate Port of Entry to survey the impact of the wildfires. Administrator Doan was impressed with the response time and was glad to hear of everyone's safety. Lurita and her Senior Advisor Susan Pepler met with Port Director Rosa Hernandez, Assistant Port Director Nancy Parlato, Border Station Program manager Ramon Riesgo, Property Managers Tim Cashman and Pete Watson and Building Managers José Charles and Brian Asp.



Pictured from L to R are: Nancy Parlato, Tim Cashman, Administrator Doan, Pete Watson, Ramon Riesgo, Susan Pepler, Brian Asp, Rosa Hernandez.

San Ysidro & Tecate
Building Manager
Jose Charles
619.662.7340

1. A better attention span, focus and better productivity
2. Maintaining a healthy weight.
3. Setting an example for your children
4. Essential nutrients
5. Eating breakfast can reverse the effects of fasting: irritability and fatigue
6. Lower cholesterol, which reduces the risk of heart disease
7. Eating a healthy breakfast has been linked to better learning ability and memory functions
8. Increase your metabolic rate
9. It can have long term effects and prevent Obesity, High Blood Pressure and Diabetes.
10. Breakfast foods are delicious!



TOP TEN

Reasons to
Eat Breakfast



Building Manager
 Andrade
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George Flores
 760.357.4510

ANDRADE

Building Shell Expansion

Phase II of a three-phased project to renovate and expand CBP operations is currently under construction. The project is funded by a combination of GSA BA-54 and DHS CBP RWA funds. Tenant Improvements Project is at 65% Design review. It was awarded to Hugo Alonso, Inc (8A Contractor) in June, 2007 and estimated to complete in July, 2008. In this project, 1,320 sq ft of the Main Building was demolished, and a new 2,300 sq ft building and canopy is being constructed to expand pedestrian processing operations. A stand-alone public restroom will also be constructed. _____

GOING GREEN FOR SPRING

1. Tweak your settings before hitting print

Paper accounts for more than half of all trash. Do your part to reduce that by sending only exactly what you want to the printer. It only takes a second or two more, but will reduce the “d’ohs” at the printer tray and save a lot of waste.



2. Recycle your inkjet cartridges

Over 13 cartridges are discarded in the U.S. every second, according to CartridgeFundraising.com. Take your empties (think copiers and faxes, too) to the nearest drop off center to be reused or recycled by others. (Plug your zip code into Earth911.org for nearby collection places.)

GSA EXPO, ANAHEIM, CA

Grab a canopy and those business cards...the annual GSA Expo is upon us! This year the expo is being held on April 22-24 in Anaheim at the Convention center.

This free training conference and vendor exposition is specially designed to benefit federal, state and local government employees and military members who make or influence procurement decisions.

Expo is an invaluable experience for acquisition and program managers that provide opportunities to:

- * Network with hundreds of GSA and other agency experts.
- * Continue building your acquisition knowledge with our extensive list of over 250 CLP certified classes.
- * Meet with over 600 GSA vendors providing specific technical expertise.
- * Federal agencies can bring their regional or national staffs together and host a meeting (free of charge!) at the convention center.

FREE for all federal, state and local government employees to attend.



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 Send Comments to:
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