



The City of San Diego

Staff Report

DATE ISSUED:	7/25/2017	
TO:	City Council	
FROM:	Councilmember Georgette Gómez	
SUBJECT:	A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 13767, TO BUILD A WALL ALONG THE UNITED STATES BORDER WITH MEXICO AND HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D. ROGERS'S BILL H.R. 1813 TITLED BORDER WALL FUNDING ACT OF 2017	
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Council District(s): All

OVERVIEW:

On January 25, 2017 President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13767. Executive Order 13767 proposes to build a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border through a series of steps under the Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements Executive Order.

On March 30, 2017, House Representative Mike D. Roger introduced house bill H.R. 1813 titled "Border Wall Funding Act of 2017". H.R. 1813 amends the Electronic Fund Transfer Act by imposing a fee on remittance transactions sent from the United States to certain foreign countries to use funds for constructing the border wall.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve Requested Action

DISCUSSION OF ITEM: The City of San Diego finds both Executive Order 13767 and H.R. 1813 offensive and damaging symbols of fear and division that will increase tensions with Country of Mexico, one of the United States' largest trading partners and a neighbor with which communities such as San Diego in the border region are inextricably linked culturally, physically, and economically.

There is already a decrease in people coming across the border to shop and do commerce in our region due to the anti-immigrant narrative being driven at the federal level. The City's joint working group with San Diego Tourism Authority and Tijuana authorities, which is developing a joint tourism publicity and destination promotion for the San Diego-Tijuana region, will be jeopardized by construction of a border wall.

On June 22, 2017, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce voted to oppose H.R. 1813. Members of the Chamber stated that this legislation would: Double taxation of U.S. and non-U.S. citizens; result in a decrease in the amount of dollars individuals and countries invest into the U.S. economy, adversely impact U.S. relationships with affected countries; harm companies and organizations that partner with the Latin American region, potentially increasing the population living in poverty; and it will entice an increase in utilization of grey market channels or illegal methods of money transfers.

In 2006, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), in partnership with Caltrans, released the Economic Impacts of Border Wait Times Study, an extensive effort to estimate economic impacts of border delays on the binational economy at San Diego-Baja California land port of entries (POE). The study looked at productivity, industry competitiveness, and lost business income at the regional, state, and national levels for the United States and Mexico. Due to overburdened infrastructure capacity, cross-border congestion and delays reached up to two hours or longer for personal trips and goods movement. Study findings estimated that the effects of border crossing delay cost \$7.2 billion in foregone gross output and more than 62,000 jobs in both the U.S. and Mexico economies in 2007. As a city that is invested in the binational economic development of our region, it is important to oppose the building of a wall and focus our resources in enhancing our border infrastructure to ease access of goods and people.

As part of this, the City Council reiterates its federal legislative platform focus 1.3 section 2., which states that the City will "advocate for policies and resources that facilitate international trade opportunities benefiting San Diego companies, such as border infrastructure investment, regulatory and process reforms that reduce transaction cost to businesses, completion of free trade agreements that open foreign markets and better access to commercial service staff in high-priority countries."

With approval of this resolution, the City Council opposes Executive Order 13767, H.R. 1813 and all associated actions calling for the construction of a wall or continuous physical/economic barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.

District nine will work with staff and the City Attorney's Office to review opportunities and impacts, and further define language for Council consideration.

City Strategic Plan Goal(s)/Objective(s):

Goal 3: Create and sustain a resilient and economically prosperous City with opportunity in every community:

**Diversify and grow the local economy**

- Increase the number of businesses and associated jobs in the traded sectors
- Increase outreach efforts to diverse business sectors

**Enhance San Diego's global standing**

- Build and maintain national and international partnerships
  - Increase number of companies that are exporting

City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Goal(s)/Objective(s):

Strategy 3: Bicycling, Walking, Transit & Land Use

**Goal: Promote Effective land use to reduce vehicle miles traveled.**

- Identify and address gaps in the City's pedestrian network and opportunities for improved pedestrian crossings, using the City's Pedestrian Master Plan and the City's sidewalk assessment
- Achieve better walkability and transit-supportive densities by locating a majority of all new residential development within Transit Priority Areas
- In addition to commuting, implement infrastructure improvements including "complete streets" to facilitate alternative transportation modes for all travel trips.

Fiscal Considerations: Border crossing delay cost \$7.2 billion in foregone gross output and more than 62,000 jobs in both the U.S. and Mexico economies in 2007.

Environmental Impact:

Equal Opportunity Contracting Information (if applicable): N/A

Previous Council and/or Committee Actions:

*This item will be heard at Budget and Government Efficiency Committee prior to Council*

Key Stakeholders and Community Outreach Efforts: Cali-Baja citizens and businesses.

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Department Director

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Deputy Chief Operating Officer

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT TRUMP’S EXECUTIVE ORDER 13767, TO BUILD A WALL ALONG THE UNITED STATES BORDER WITH MEXICO AND HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D. ROGERS’S BILL H.R. 1813 TITLED BORDER WALL FUNDING ACT OF 2017.

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego (City) considers the dynamic border region of San Diego and Tijuana to be among the most unique, diverse, and beautiful regions in the world; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump’s Executive Order 13767 proposes to build a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1813 amends the Electronic Fund Transfer Act by imposing a fee on remittance transactions sent from the United States to certain foreign countries to use funds for constructing the border wall; and

WHEREAS, according to media reports, the consumer tax in H.R. 1813 would increase the cost of remittance transfers, possibly driving consumers out of regulated financial services and forcing these money transactions underground; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1813, if passed, would have an adverse economic impact in the regulated financial institutions for remittance transfers of the San Diego-Tijuana region, according to representatives of the American Bank Association; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent presentation by San Diego Border Patrol Chief Richard A. Barlow, apprehensions of unauthorized border crossers are at historic lows and border communities are among the safest in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump’s proposed Executive Order 13767 directs the Secretary to allocate all legally available resources to immediately enter into contracts to construct, operate, or control facilities to detain people at or near the land border with Mexico. The Executive Order will also support State monitoring and detention programs; and

WHEREAS, the City shares the concerns expressed on February 2017 by the Tohono O’odham Nation Legislative Council in Resolution 17-053, and the National Congress of American Indians in adoption of Resolution #ECWS-17-002 that construction of a border wall would have adverse impacts to environmental and archaeological resources; and

WHEREAS, according to “No Border, No Wall” advocates, more than three dozen U.S. laws were waived to facilitate construction of existing border structures, precluding review and analysis of their impacts to environmental and archaeological resources along the border, including the Otay mountain wilderness area; and

WHEREAS, the City's joint working group with San Diego Tourism Authority and Tijuana authorities, developing a joint tourism publicity and destination promotion for the San Diego-Tijuana region, will be jeopardized by construction of a border wall; and

WHEREAS, according to the news outlet The Hill, the estimated cost of the border wall by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is up to \$66.9 billion, with another \$150 million in annual maintenance and cost; and

WHEREAS, taxpayer funds of residents of San Diego should not be used to support costly construction as well as irreparable damage to the San Diego environment; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce voted to oppose H.R. 1813 on June 22, 2017 and stated that this legislation would: Double taxation of U.S. and non-U.S. citizens; result in a decrease in the amount of dollars individuals and countries invest into the U.S. economy, adversely impacting U.S. relationships with affected countries; harm companies and organizations that partner with the Latin American region, potentially increase the population living in poverty; and it will entice an increase in utilization of grey market channels or illegal methods of money transfers; and

WHEREAS, City residents deserve to know how the City's public funds are being spent, and whether they are supporting individuals or entities involved in the construction or operation of the border wall; and

WHEREAS, City Council does not support association with any company that participates in the design, construction, or financing of the border wall in any way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reiterates its federal legislative platform focus 1.3 section 2., which states that the City will "advocate for policies and resources that facilitate international trade opportunities benefiting San Diego companies, such as border infrastructure investment, regulatory and process reforms that reduce transaction cost to businesses, completion of free trade agreements that open foreign markets and better access to commercial service staff in high-priority countries"; and

WHEREAS, the City supports securing funding for the Otay Mesa Port of Entry Infrastructure Project in the Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill; and

WHEREAS, the City finds both Executive Order 13767 and H.R.1813 offensive and damaging symbols of fear and division that will increase tensions with Mexico, one of the United States' largest trading partners and a neighbor with which communities such as San Diego in the border region are inextricably linked culturally, physically, and economically.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego (City Council), that:

Section 1. The City Council opposes Executive Order 13767, H.R.1813 and all associated actions calling for the construction of a wall or continuous physical/economic barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Section 2. The City Council expresses its intent to identify all companies involved with designing, building, or financing the border Wall, and its intent to divest, as soon as practicable, from those companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City stands in opposition to building a wall because it will destroy the vitality of the San Diego-Tijuana border and act as a separation to the unique, diverse, and beautiful region.