

The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/25/76 - Remarks Upon Announcing the Establishment of the Southwest Border Economic Region” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

STATEMENT AT SAN DIEGO AIRPORT

OCTOBER 25, 1976

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT THE SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE WILL DESIGNATE 36 COUNTIES ALONG OUR BORDER WITH
MEXICO IN CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, AND TEXAS AS THE
SOUTHWEST BORDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION●

THIS REGION IS BEING ESTABLISHED IN RESPONSE TO A
REQUEST BY GOVERNOR BROWN, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNORS OF
NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA AND TEXAS.

THE REQUEST HAS BEEN ANALYZED BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE, WHICH HAS RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS
DEVELOPMENT REGION TO ME.

I AM CONVINCED THAT ORGANIZATION OF A REGIONAL COMMISSION,
AS AUTHORIZED BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT PASSED IN 1975, WILL MAKE A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE BORDER
COUNTIES.

CALIFORNIA COUNTIES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE

DEVELOPMENT REGION ARE SAN DIEGO, RIVERSIDE, AND IMPERIAL●

AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION, THE SOUTHWEST
BORDER AREA WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
IN ORGANIZING PROJECTS TO DEVELOP LOCAL ECONOMIC RESOURCES●

THIS TIES IN WITH MY PHILOSOPHY THAT THE PROPER ROLE OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TO HELP REGIONS AND COMMUNITIES WORK
OUT SOLUTIONS TO THEIR OWN PROBLEMS●

END OF TEXT