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AVIATION

Federal officials in Mexico have expressed some interest in building a cross-border terminal to access Tijuana's airport directly from the United States. **Luis Cabrera**, counsel general for Mexico, says the idea warrants further consideration in a letter sent March 2 to **Alan Bersin**, chairman of the **San Diego County Regional Airport Authority**. The **South County Economic Development Council**, which has been evaluating the cross-border terminal idea for the last 10 years, disclosed Cabrera's remark in a press release. "We are extremely happy that Mexico and the United States are collaborating and setting a historical precedent regarding air transportation in a cross border environment," says **Jim Janney**, president of the development council board. "We are pleased have set this important effort in motion. The South County EDC can now take a step back and look forward to the results of the study."

In February, the Airport Authority agreed to spend a maximum \$385,000 on a market demand study for a terminal that would allow San Diego passengers to access flights out of **Tijuana Rodriguez International Airport** without having to drive across the border. Previous SCEDC studies have found that a cross-border terminal could reduce traffic congestion at both the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa border crossings. The market demand study will look at four different schematics for terminal operations. Among the options to be studied:

- A parking structure in California linked to the Tijuana airport terminal by a secure walkway.
- A full-service terminal in California, where travelers check in, linked to the Tijuana airport by a secure walkway.
- A full-service terminal in California, where travelers check-in, linked to a new U.S. concourse at the Tijuana airport by a walkway.
- A terminal, concourse and gates in California with a taxiway across the border to the Tijuana airport.