

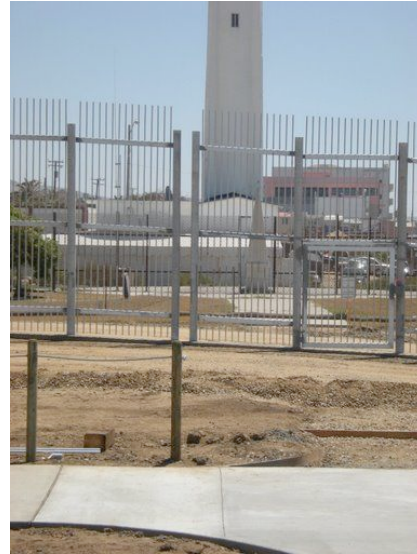
WASHINGTON DC CONTACTS

John Fanestil
Foundation for Change
619/823-6223 (mobile)

Jill Holstin
Foundation for Change
619/804-8030

SAN DIEGO CONTACT

Pedro Rios
American Friends Service Committee
619/370-5908 (mobile)
619/233-4114 (office)



San Diego Delegation to DC to Lobby for Friendship Park
Group will join with national leaders calling for review of effectiveness
of U.S. – Mexico border wall strategy

San Diego, California – From Sunday April 26 to Wednesday April 29, a delegation of local San Diego representatives of Friends of Friendship Park will travel to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress and the Senate, calling for an analysis of the cost and effectiveness of the U.S.-Mexico border wall and the establishment of formal processes of local public hearings and review before additional border wall infrastructure is constructed. The San Diego group joins a group of 40 national leaders from the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Wildlife Federation and numerous local groups from the border regions of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. The gathering and lobby effort coincides with a photo exhibit (<http://www.ilcp.com/borderlands>) by the International League of Conservation Photographers also targeting the Congress and Senate. The photo exhibit will provide an overview of the impacts of the border wall on the environment and people of the borderlands.

A briefing will be hosted by Arizona Representative Raul Grijalva to focus on his forthcoming border wall legislation. It will be held on Monday, April 27, from 11 AM to 12 PM at 340 Cannon House Office Building.

The delegates include the Rev. John Fanestil, Executive Director of the Foundation for Change, Jill Holstin, member of the Foundation for Change, and Marcy Krinsk, a resident of San Diego. In addition to meetings with Congressional and Senatorial leadership, the delegates will meet with DHS Legislative Affairs personnel in order to discuss public access issues at Friendship Park.

The lobby efforts coincide with the presentation by Arizona Representative Raul Grijalva of a

bill entitled the “Border Security and Responsibility Act of 2009” which will provide for the establishment of a border protection strategy for the international land borders of the United States, to address the ecological and environmental impacts of border security infrastructure. Friends of Friendship Park representatives will join other national leaders to support this bill.

Friends of Friendship Park includes the following organizations and individuals:

Friends of Friendship Park is a coalition of community organizations including (partial list): American Friends Service Committee - San Diego, Border Ambassadors (Del Rio, TX), Border Angels, Border Meetup Group, CASA (Coalition of Amigos in Solidarity and Action), Center for Justice and Reconciliation, PLNU, Center for Social Advocacy, Environmental Health Coalition, Foundation for Change, Los Caminos del Rio, MACC (Mexican American Catholic College), Mid-City Community Advocacy Network, Network of Spiritual Progressives, San Diego, Pax Christi Brownsville, Peace Resource Center of San Diego, Plan of Action in a Changing Era, Rio Grande International Study Center (Laredo, TX), San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice, San Diego Coastkeeper, Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO), Sí Se Puede Immigrants’ Rights Organization, Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Surfrider Foundation, San Diego chapter, The Employee Rights Center in San Diego, Wildcoast – Costasalvaje.