Economy of Yuma and San Luís Río Colorado

Economic Interaction between Yuma County and San Luís Río Colorado

Gerald L. Schmaedick
Northern Arizona University, Yuma

Venessa Owen
Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation

Background and Rationale

Three related research institutions under the auspices of San Diego State University are undertaking a collaborative project to analyze the regional economy of the Imperial Valley-Mexicali area. The institutes involved are the California Center for Border and Regional Economic Studies, the Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, and the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy. They have requested that we prepare a chapter on the Yuma County and San Luis Rio Colorado economies for this study.

The purpose of the Yuma-San Luis R.C. chapter of this document is to briefly describe the economies of Yuma County and the San Luis Rio Colorado Municipality (SLRC) and to identify in a preliminary way the interactions and connections between the two. A key ingredient in the work will be the presentation of key economic indicators. The document to be prepared for inclusion in the SDSU project report is limited to 20 pages, double-spaced. Therefore the coverage will necessarily be limited to the broad outlines of the two economies and their interaction. At a later stage this initial work could be expanded and a more in-depth analysis carried out.

Preliminary Outline

I. Introduction: Overview of the economy of the region, including Yuma and SLRC

II. Description and data on Yuma County economy
   A. Population & workforce
   B. Labor force by sector, ag, mfg, construction, trade, services, etc.
C. Revenues by sector
D. Agriculture
E. Tourism
F. Military & Government
G. Manufacturing
H. Transfer payments

III. Description and data on San Luís Río Colorado Municipality (SLRC) economy (coverage may be limited by availability of data)
A. Population and workforce
B. Labor force by sector, ag, mfg, construction, trade, services, etc.
   (maquila and non-maquila labor force)
C. Revenues by sector
D. Agriculture
E. Manufacturing, esp. maquiladora sector
F. Tourism
G. Government
H. Transfer payments

IV. Interaction and connections between Yuma and SLRC economies
A. Agricultural sector
B. Cross-border production and investment
C. Trade
D. Technology transfer
E. Labor supply/ sources of labor
F. Manufacturing sector
G. Maquila sector input supply
H. Traded services—warehousing, distribution, trucking, customs, etc.
I. Labor force impacts—managerial and production
J. Retail sector
K. Mexican purchases in Yuma
L. U.S. purchases in SLRC (tourism)
M. Government and infrastructure
N. Cross-border governmental cooperation
O. Mutual infrastructure needs

V. Summary and conclusions
A. Highlights and summary interaction
B. Suggestions for future analysis