**Greater Yuma Port Authority**

Board Retreat Summary

March 7, 2024

Potential Next Steps for Board Action

The consensus document captures the drivers, motivations, and intersections with organizational members for Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA) to actively move forward in its mission. Recognizing that GYPA is in a new phase as an organization, Board members enthusiastically identified several near-term actions. They are highlighted here for further background work, consideration, and formal approval at upcoming Board meetings to provide the roadmap for Executive Director Buna George and the Board to pursue.

Immediate (12-18 months)

* Pursue 501.c.6 status to allow advocacy, increased promotional activities.
* Develop financially self-sustaining model for GYPA:
	+ Establish a trust, using property proceeds as corpus and interest for operations and other needs
	+ Continue to seek grants
	+ Develop new financial partnerships model to include contributors from public, private, and non-profit sectors as members, partners, other types of stakeholders. An initial action for Russ to pursue is to approach the Southwestern Port Users for a potential partnership or other arrangement.
* Review and actively revive engagement with current and potential ex-officio GYPA members including attendance at meetings.
* Begin process for feasibility study (or studies) for port of entry, including charging tolls, developing into a full-service port, and incorporating future opportunities and technological advancements.
* Engage with other economic development entities in the region towards increased collaboration and to better understand each organization’s role and leverage each other’s strengths and resources. The Board, as members of designated community stakeholders and other economic development organizations in the region, as well as the Executive Director have responsibility in this action.
* Elevate engagement with Yuma Municipal Planning Organization, State Transportation Board, and related entities. Transportation aspects of the ports and GYPA are crucial elements in the mission of the organization, as well as specifics such as rail, airports, County 25th, 95 industrial corridor, and I-11.
* Maintain and nurture relationships and communication with Mexican authorities with joint promotional efforts and collaborative activities.

Organizational considerations

* Open meeting law guidelines should continue to be followed.
* Chair (or his/her designee) and the Executive Director are the official spokespersons for GYPA.
* Once a month Board meeting is still needed with new initiatives identified.
* Board members are conduits to and from their respective organizations and GYPA to keep information flowing and engagement robust.
* Executive Director will provide bulleted highlights to Board, ex-officio members, and other interested stakeholders after each board meeting. (Official meeting minutes will still need approval at next Board meeting)
* Executive Director and/or other Board designee can provide quarterly updates to each of the four member entities at their Council/Board meetings which will need to be arranged.

3-5 years and beyond

* Revisit Mission Statement.
* Create processes and procedures to ensure that future Board members are aware of GYPA history and ongoing plans to keep momentum forward.
* Financial stability is achieved.
* (See Consensus Statement, page 5 – “What does success look like for GYPA in 2030”)