



The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

Annual Report 2011 - 2012



The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

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Summary of Council activities undertaken in fiscal year 2011-2012

January 2014

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Mission & Vision

The California-Mexico Border Relations Council (Council) is the central organizational body that coordinates interagency projects, program collaboration, initiatives, and partnerships along the California-Mexico border. It also serves as a representative body of the State of California whose goal is to continue to develop and enhance cross-border relations between the State and the Republic of Mexico.

Welcome Letter



Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature:

I am pleased to present the annual report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, pursuant to Assembly Bill 3021 (Nunez, Chapter 621, Statutes of 2006).

The Council is comprised of six members of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s cabinet and coordinates the activities of state agencies for cross-border programs, initiatives, projects and partnerships. The relationship between the State of California and the Republic of Mexico is integral to the future of both governments, and the California-Mexico Border Relations Council will build upon its past successes to collaborate on future improvements in the region.

In the past year, we have worked closely and effectively with local governments and stakeholders on both sides of the border to make great strides in public health and safety as well as environmental protection and restoration.

Our work in the region has been defined and supported by the Border 2020 program, the latest environmental program implemented under the 1983 La Paz Agreement. It builds on the Border 2012 Environmental Program, emphasizing regional, bottom-up approaches for decision-making to address environmental and public health problems in the border region.

The Council continues to work toward protecting the environment, improving infrastructure, and ensuring the health and safety of residents and visitors along both sides of the California-Mexico border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Rodriguez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for Environmental Protection, State of California
Chairman, California-Mexico Border Relations Council

Council Background

The issues affecting the U.S.- Mexico border region can be complex and difficult to resolve. Both the United States and Mexico are struggling to meet the demand for services produced by rapid population growth, urbanization, industrial expansion, and increasing flows of international trade. The region faces many cross-border challenges related to the environment, security, land use, and public health. Despite our common economic, social and geographic links, barriers remain that make it difficult to jointly address these important issues.

Border relation initiatives with Mexico have a long history in our state. Legislation enacted in 1982 established the Office of California-Mexico Affairs within the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency. In 2003, the agency was abolished through AB 1757, (Committee on Budget, Chapter 229, Statutes of 2003), and the duties of the agency were reassigned to other state entities. In 2004, the California Research Bureau released a report listing California-Mexico programs operating in more than 100 state agencies; a majority of these programs are now defunct because no organizing entity existed to coordinate interagency cooperation.

AB 3021 (Núñez, Chapter 621, Statutes of 2006) was enacted to fill the need for statewide oversight and coordination of multi-agency involvement with Mexico. It created the California-Mexico Border Relations Council which serves as the central organizing body overseeing and collaborating on California-Mexico border issues.

The Council:

- Coordinates cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships within California state agencies.
- Establishes California state agency policies for the collection and sharing of cross-border data.
- Identifies and recommends changes in the law needed to achieve the goals of the council.
- Provides an annual report of activities to the Legislature.

Council Members



Chair

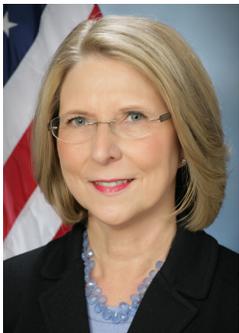
Matthew Rodriguez

Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
www.calepa.ca.gov



Brian Kelly

Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
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Diana S. Dooley

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Karen Ross

Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
www.cdfa.ca.gov



John Laird

Secretary, Natural Resources Agency
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Mark Ghilarducci

Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
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Executive Summary

The Council serves as the central organizing body overseeing and collaborating on California-Mexico border issues.

This multi-agency council has seen significant progress toward addressing issues impacting both sides of the border.

The annual report to the Legislature required pursuant to Government Code Section 8713 includes these key highlights of activities from the past year:

Environment

- The California Air Resources Board (ARB) signed an agreement with the United States and Mexico to assist with monitoring air quality along the border region to detect air pollution risks to local communities.
- The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) contracted with University of California, Berkeley to provide technical assistance on the development of an integrated waste tire management plan for Baja California. CalRecycle also provided technical assistance, research, and dissemination of information and education on waste tires in the border region.

Water

- Through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) West Coast Estuaries Initiative grant, a major project is wrapping up in the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, including erosion control, restoration, and trash cleanup at the California-Mexico border.

Fire Protection

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is a member of the Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC). The BAFC is comprised of CAL FIRE and 29 other U.S. and Mexican government agencies, represents fire protection, law enforcement, legislators, emergency responders, natural resource managers and elected officials to address public safety issues pertaining to wildfire along the U.S-Mexico international border.

Agriculture

- The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is developing recommendations to improve agricultural trade, pest management, and infrastructure to mutually benefit California and Mexico Border States, including issues dealing with animal disease, food safety, pests and pesticides.

Transportation

- The California-Mexico border is the entry point of goods to and from California's number one trading partner. The Council works with partners including the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on issues involving border ports of entry and commercial vehicle inspection facilities.

Health and Safety

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) collaborates with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in implementing the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program. The program measures various chemicals in human tissues or fluids to determine levels of toxic chemical exposure from sources such as air, soil, water, dust and food.

- The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), in partnership with the Nine Border States of the U.S. and Mexico, is pursuing a binational memorandum of understanding to establish a legal framework to support cross-border emergency mutual aid and cooperation during emergencies and natural disasters.
- The CalOES State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) produces a broad spectrum of analysis including threat assessments, bulletins, and intelligence reports related to transnational crime between California, Mexico, and the Southwest border.
- Barriers created by economic differences, cultural and political traditions and dissimilar public administration systems can make it difficult to coordinate across the international boundary. California and its partners in Mexico and Baja California remain committed to developing programs and policies that will benefit and enhance our vibrant border region.

Border Region Profile

The California and Baja California border is a political line that runs 136 miles from the coast of San Diego on the west to the desert at the Colorado River on the east. The current land boundary was established by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848. For environmental and trade purposes, the 1983 La Paz Agreement signed by the U.S. and Mexico defined the border area as 62 miles (100 km) to the north and south of the political boundary.

Over the past 25 years, rapid industrialization in Northern Baja California spurred by the “Maquiladora” program and the North American Free Trade Agreement has created strain on Mexican border communities. The Maquiladora program allowed foreign corporations to set up facilities and manufacture goods in Mexico which drove workers to Mexican cities at the U.S. – Mexico border.

The resulting population and industrial growth, combined with the lack of public financial resources to meet the expanding needs, has led to pressures on public safety, environmental ecosystems and infrastructures in the region. The border region is experiencing greater traffic congestion, water shortages, reduced air quality, increased generation and disposal of hazardous wastes, sewage infrastructure deficiencies and contaminated beaches and waterways.

Public safety, health, environmental and infrastructure issues affecting California are being addressed on the U.S. side of the border by the member agencies of the Council in close coordination with federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and members of the public. These issues present a difficult challenge for California due to the lack of U.S. jurisdiction in Mexico, making the development of strong relationships with Mexican counterpart agencies essential.

California Agencies' Border Activities

The Council is comprised of the state secretaries from five California agencies and one Department: California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA); Health and Human Services Agency; Natural Resources Agency; Transportation Agency; CalOES; and CDFA.

Along with their boards, departments and offices, these state leaders continue to work toward improving and protecting the trade opportunities, environment, health, safety, and infrastructure along the California-Mexico border. Through the work of Agreements of Cooperation, Memorandums of Understanding, and intergovernmental relationships, the entities within the Council have made significant progress in these areas.

Following are major issues the Council is addressing, along with activities conducted and progress made by the Council's member agencies during the Fiscal Year 2011-12:

Mexico remains California's number one trading partner.

Trade

Mexico remains California's number one trading partner. Highlights of the economic importance of Mexico to California include¹:

- California exports to Mexico totaled \$26.37 billion in 2012, representing 16.3 percent of total California exports in 2012.
- The California-Mexico border metropolitan areas of San Diego/Carlsbad/San Marcos and El Centro recorded a total of \$20.2 billion in merchandise exports (\$17.4 billion and \$2.8 billion respectively).

Trade statistics at a glance:

(\$ in billions)	2011	2012	Growth
U.S. Imports from Mexico	\$262.87	\$277.7	5.6% ²
U.S. Exports to Mexico	\$198.07	\$216.3	9.2% ³
All CA Imports	\$351.6	376.42	7.1% ⁴
All CA Exports	\$159.14	161.88	1.7% ⁵
CA Imports from Mexico	\$33.64	\$36.04	7.1% ⁶
CA Exports to Mexico	\$25.80	\$26.37	2.2% ⁷

1 <http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/statereports/states/ca.pdf>

2 <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/highlights/top/top1212yr.html>

3 <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/highlights/top/top1212yr.html>

4 <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/imports/ca.html>

5 <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/ca.html>

6 <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/imports/ca.html>

7 <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state/data/ca.html>

Environment

The Council's member agencies work together to maintain a healthy environment in the California-Mexico border region. Substantial efforts over the past year have focused on air quality, tire recycling, cleanup efforts, land use, and water projects.

Air Quality

In September 2012, ARB signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Secretaria de Protección al Ambiente (SPA) of Baja California, the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, and the U.S. EPA. Under this new memorandum, ARB's responsibilities are to provide continued laboratory analytical services, training, and certification of calibration standards to SPA through September 2017.

As a result of the 2004 signing of a memorandum of cooperation, ARB established a 13-station ambient air monitoring network in Baja California, which was funded by a U.S. EPA grant. In April 2007, ARB transferred the network operation to SPA. To facilitate this transition and assist with continued network operation, ARB staff agreed to provide SPA with technical assistance, training, lab analysis, parts, and audit support.

ARB... provided training for heavy-duty truck drivers on California regulations designed to reduce emissions of toxic diesel particulates... reaching more than 600 truck owners and operators.

Local air quality data collected by the network helps both Baja California residents and U.S. border residents. Mexican officials use the data to build their case for greater control of emissions sources. ARB uses it for air quality modeling and transport assessments. It has incorporated current and projected emission inventories for the Mexicali and Tijuana-Rosarito regions into the Southern California air quality models. These models are an important component of developing and testing air quality strategies in the Southern California region.

ARB also provided training for heavy-duty truck drivers on California regulations designed to reduce emissions of toxic diesel particulates. The "How to Comply with CARB Diesel Regulations" program was conducted in the border region eight times in the spring of 2012 reaching more than 600 truck owners and operators.

In late 2012, ARB participated in Border Goods Movement events hosted by the chambers of commerce in Otay Mesa and El Centro designed to help transporters and importers understand California laws, regulations and assistance programs. ARB conducted workshops at these events regarding important changes to its regulations for diesel vehicles and trailers.

Additionally, in a joint effort by ARB and the CHP, Mexican commercial vehicles operating in California were stopped by the CHP and inspected by ARB for potential excess emissions and tampering with emission control devices, and to ensure the vehicles had U.S. EPA-certified engines. ARB also ensured vehicles were complying with recently adopted ARB regulations designed to reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions, including the Truck and Bus Rule, the Drayage Truck Rule, and the Truck Idling Rule. Approximately 2,000 Mexican vehicles were inspected at three California border crossings in 2012, and approximately 260 citations were written.

On the local level, ARB provided technical assistance to the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District to help residents access real-time local air quality data, air alerts, and information on health impacts. ARB helped Imperial County create a website, <http://imperialvalleyair.org/>, which provides air quality forecasts during periods of increased ozone from May to September. The ARB continues to coordinate with Imperial County and the website manager to monitor the site's accessibility and air quality forecasts. The website has served as a prototype for Baja California air quality data reporting on the SPA website at www.spabc.gob.mx. Funding for the development and operation of the SPA website was provided by the U.S. EPA Border Program.

Tire Recycling

The improper disposal of used tires is a major problem in the border area. Mexico imports tires from California that have little remaining life because there is a strong market for the tires there, but they quickly become waste tires. The 2009 *California/Mexico Border Tire Flow Study* found that about 637,500, used tires were taken across the border from California to Mexico legally and an additional 10 percent were estimated to have been taken across the border illegally. Tires continue to flow into Mexico, and many are dumped along the border. These illegally disposed tires can cause environmental hazards for both California and Mexico.

CalRecycle is engaged in several activities, both independently and with other state agencies, to ensure effective, thorough, and cross-jurisdictional oversight of waste tire regulations and laws. The department provides technical assistance, research, and dissemination of information and education on waste tires in the border region. The CHP provides assistance in statewide CalRecycle enforcement of waste tire hauling and disposal regulations, including activities along the border.

In January 2011, CalRecycle contracted with the University of California, Berkeley to provide technical assistance on the development of an integrated waste tire management plan for Baja California. The final report was published in November 2012 and can be found online in *English* and *Spanish* at www.calrecycle.ca.gov.

CalRecycle also conducted its annual technical training series for waste tire inspectors and managers. These sessions provided information on:

- Inspection skills and investigative techniques for waste tire field inspectors
- Basic waste tire facility permitting
- Investigative techniques and how to involve other agencies
- Tire evidence collection and case file preparation
- Effective report writing for tire inspections
- Tire surveillance
- A tour of a local tire-derived product producer.

CalRecycle's Tire Hauler Compliance Unit, which includes the waste tire hauler manifest system, continues to be successful in registering Mexican tire haulers. Currently, there are 48 registered waste tire haulers from Mexico. Five Spanish-speaking staff members work in the registration unit, allowing easier and more receptive communications with the Spanish-speaking regulated community. Additionally, the unit established a toll-free waste tire hotline for people in Mexico. The hotline enables CalRecycle to train Mexican tire haulers about California's waste tire manifest program regulations, requirements, and hauler checkpoint participation. The hotline project was carried out with cooperation from the Association of Used Tire Dealers for the Mexican States of Baja California, Baja California Sur, and Sonora.

On-site training has not occurred for the past several years because of safety concerns and travel limitations. However, staff has worked closely with Southern California tire generators who help provide the initial contact between CalRecycle and Mexican tire haulers who are new to the industry. The CalRecycle compliance unit works closely with CalRecycle enforcement staff and tire enforcement grantees to locate areas where waste tires are being illegally dumped and to determine their source.

In an interagency and binational partnership that included community outreach, training, and technical support, CalEPA and CalRecycle led the cleanup of large scrap tire sites at facilities at Innor and El Centinela in Baja California. Combined, the sites contained more than 1.25 million tires. These tires were shredded and used as fuel in various cement kilns in Mexico. To date, nearly 7 million tires have been recovered in the border region through the partnership.

Waste Cleanups

In September 2012, CalRecycle took the lead on a major cleanup, involving Border Field State Park, Tijuana River Valley and Estuary, and the Goat Canyon trash capture and removal system cleanout. Refuse-laden sediment was removed from the basins, and the material was screened for future studies and use. The California Department of Parks and Recreation contributed \$300,000 to the \$1 million cleanup project.

CalRecycle is currently working to develop new cleanup project concepts in the Tijuana River Valley.

Water

Throughout 2012, the Council has continued to focus on sediment and trash control in the Tijuana River Valley, with an emphasis on developing plans for priority projects outlined in the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team's strategy document, "Living with the Water." The Tijuana River Valley has been identified by the International Boundary Water Commission and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as a priority watershed. The recovery team's work is serving as a basis for an amendment to the 1944 U.S.-Mexico water treaty, which will focus directly on sediment and trash issues on both sides of the border.

The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) initiated an engineering report on management options for sediment and trash in the Tijuana River Watershed. The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team worked with the city of Tijuana and with Baja California state agencies on the report. The Principal Engineer's Report will be released for discussion and review in March 2014.

In 2012, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to study and plan for climate change and sea level rise in the river valley estuary.

Also in 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approved \$400,000 for binational coordination of the recovery team and assessment of sediment and trash sources and management options in the several drainage tributaries to the Tijuana River Valley.

At the May 25, 2012 Council meeting in Calexico, California, the New River Improvement Project – Strategic Plan was released. The Plan outlines a number of issues and projects for improving the water quality of the New River. The Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is the lead agency for water quality on the New River and has been implementing the regulatory actions recommended in the Plan.

In October 2012 the Regional Board initiated enforcement actions against all Imperial Valley Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permittees for noncompliance with the SWRCB General Storm Water Permit requirements. The Regional Board is working with the permittees to achieve full compliance with these requirements. The Regional Board is also revising and updating its

MS4 permit requirements for Imperial County. It is anticipated that these revised requirements will be effective in early 2014.

Also in early 2012, the Regional Board adopted conditional waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for agricultural runoff in the Palo Verde Valley, the Palo Verde Mesa and the Bard Valley. It is anticipated that similar waivers for the Coachella and Imperial Valleys will be presented to the Regional Board for adoption by June 2014. The waivers address the constituents of concern recommended in the Strategic Plan. The Regional Board continues to implement its previously adopted Silt Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Conditional Prohibition of Discharge. These regulations proscribe the discharge of agricultural runoff with silt in a manner that violates TMDL requirements.

Further, in October 2012, the Regional Board began auditing all regulated Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) in the Imperial Valley, including the New River Watershed, verifying compliance with existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements. On June 20, 2012 the Regional Board adopted new, updated permit requirements and is working to bring all the CAFOs into compliance with these new requirements.

Finally, in 2012 the Regional Board approved grant funds for projects that restrict discharges of waste into sensitive areas and areas of biological significance such as wetlands, or provide for water quality monitoring. The Regional Board authorized the use of approximately \$80,000 in funding by the Calexico New River Committee, the Comité Cívico del Valle and the Desert Wildlife Unlimited for projects that address New River pollution including development and implementation of new wetlands in the Imperial Valley, as well as the operation and maintenance of the existing wetlands along the New River. Funding provides outreach and education on the Strategic Plan and New River Cleanup to the residents of the Imperial Valley.

Recognizing the need to work cooperatively with our federal and Mexican counterparts to address New River pollution south of the border, the Regional Board participates in the Binational Technical Committee (BTC) for the New River/Mexicali Program. The BTC was presented the Plan and Mexico's Federal and State water agencies have since begun implementing recommendations for encasement of open drains in Mexicali and have developed a watershed monitoring program.

In addition, the BTC is working with Mexican authorities on expanding the treatment capacity of the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Facility within the next two years by 20 million gallons per day, ensuring capacity for Mexicali's future.

State Parks and Infrastructure

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) maintains a close working relationship with its counterparts in Mexico to protect vital natural resources and state parks.

One of several border areas California State Parks manages is the Goat Canyon Sediment Basin sediment and trash retention system. It captures up to 60,000 cubic yards of waste runoff annually flowing from Los Laureles Cañón in Tijuana. Part of this management includes collaborative meetings and outreach with Mexican representatives, especially from Tijuana.

In order to effectively manage parks that border Mexico, California State Parks must work closely with U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The CBP has been constructing additional infrastructure on the border since 2009. The main focus has been on a four-mile stretch between the Pacific Ocean and the San Ysidro port of entry, an area that adjoins much of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. California State Parks has worked closely with CBP to ensure natural areas disturbed by the border infrastructure are restored with native vegetation.

California State Parks is conducting the Tijuana River Estuary Water Quality Improvement and Community Outreach Project, a major project funded by a U.S. EPA West Coast Estuaries Initiative grant. This multi-year project includes successful outcomes in erosion control, restoration, and trash cleanup at the California-Mexico border. On the Mexican side of the border, the project has also included some demonstration paving projects that use pervious pavement, which captures storm water and allows it to seep into the ground; and construction projects using waste tires. Additionally, the grant supported the establishment of a conservation easement in Los Sauces, a canyon with natural habitat and park infrastructure in the community of Playas de Tijuana in Baja California. The grant has also supported a community outreach element that has involved more than 3,000 volunteers to date. A significant development of the community outreach effort has been the creation of the Tijuana River Action Network, a collaboration of nonprofits in the United States and Mexico that coordinate projects to improve the environmental health of the border region in the Tijuana River Valley.

U.S. and Mexican firefighters remain available to assist each other for wild land emergencies on either side of the international border.

Fire

The Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC), comprised of CAL FIRE and 29 other U.S. and Mexican government agencies, representing fire protection, law enforcement, legislators, emergency responders, natural resource managers and elected officials to address public safety issues pertaining to wildfire along the U.S-Mexico international border.

Through collaborative efforts, the BAFC has improved the environment that runs along the border to allow better access into wild lands for emergency responders. These efforts have also ensured better protection of threatened or endangered species and habitat in the area. Member agencies have enhanced communication among responders on both sides of the border and have reached out to people in both countries with fire safety messages.

Public awareness and natural conditions helped to make the 2011-2012 fire season mild in San Diego County. Only 46 fires were reported in the county in that time period, and they were all extinguished before they became large wildfires.

CAL FIRE also works with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Comisión Nacional Forestal, and the private Mexican Conservancy Pronatura to protect citizens and habitat from fire. The ongoing work on the International Fuel Break on Otay Mountain is an excellent example of fire mitigation on an interagency basis that provides benefits to local communities in both the U.S. and Mexico. Agencies continue to rehabilitate the international fuel break to protect life and property by providing fire suppression control.

CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service provide wild land fire training to Mexican firefighters. In keeping with the Mutual Assistance Plan, U.S. and Mexican firefighters remain available to assist each other for wild land emergencies on either side of the international border. Air resources are not allowed to cross the border; however, the BAFC is pursuing the establishment of a new operations protocol that will allow an aircraft to fly one mile across the border in order to suppress fires in either country.

Finally, CAL FIRE helped update the BAFC *Natural Resource Protection Guidebook*, which contains emergency contact information for the San Diego area, a valuable tool for response agencies that work in sensitive habitat.

Agriculture

Through the Border Governors Conference, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) develops recommendations to improve agricultural trade, pest management, and infrastructure to mutually benefit California and Mexico Border States. Animal disease and health, food safety, and pests and pesticides are issues of concern.

Animal Health and Food Safety

The CDFA Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division is responsible for the safety and security of meat, poultry, and dairy products. The division protects the public and animal health through prevention, detection, and eradication of livestock and poultry diseases and dairy contamination. In addition, the division protects cattle owners against loss of animals by theft, straying, or misappropriation through ongoing inspections and investigative services.

The CDFA State Veterinarian communicates with other U.S. states sharing the border with Mexico to discuss common disease issues, such as bovine tuberculosis and avian influenza. In August 2012, the State Veterinarian spoke at an anti-terrorism workshop in Mexicali, Baja California, which was sponsored by the Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Program and included agencies from California and Baja California.

Multiple branches of the CDFA participate in activities to ensure animal health and public safety from animal food products. The CDFA's Animal Health Branch distributed Avian health calendars to feed stores in the California-Mexico border area and surveyed them about the types of birds and feed they are currently selling.

The CDFA's Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch (MDFS) charged with ensuring that California's milk, milk products, and milk-like products are safe, meet microbial and compositional requirements, and are properly labeled, participates in the "Queso Fresco Task Force." The Queso Fresco Task Force was developed as a result of a 2004-05 Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak in San Diego County caused by unlicensed cheese being transported from Mexico through non-commercial land ports of entry. The task force is currently developing a public education poster about the dangers of manufacturing, selling, purchasing and/or consuming illegally manufactured cheese. The posters will be distributed in mid-February, 2014 to legal aid offices, day care centers, and medical clinics.

Pests and Pesticide

In addition to monitoring dairy safety, MDFS participates in quarterly meetings of the San Diego and San Francisco Port Pest Risk Committees. The quarterly meetings provide an opportunity for training, planning, and implementation of joint agency surveys or interdiction operations, as well as discussion of recent pest and plant risk discoveries, issues, and trends.

Another branch of CDFA that addresses pest issues is the Pest Detection/Emergency Projects Branch. This branch is responsible for the early detection and prompt eradication of serious agricultural pests from California. This is accomplished through a statewide detection trapping program, special detection surveys, and the maintenance of emergency projects response teams. Pest Detection/Emergency Projects administers the statewide detection trapping program through trapping contracts with 46 county departments of agriculture.

The Pest Detection/Emergency Projects Branch represents CDFA on the California-Baja California Integration Group, which includes representatives from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Imperial and San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner's Offices, and representatives from Mexico's local, state, and national governments. The group shares information on the transfer of plant pests to improve pest prevention in both countries.

The Pesticide-Illness Surveillance and Prevention program is part of the Council's continuing involvement in the CDPH, California-Baja California Pesticide-Illness Surveillance and Prevention Project. This program is an ongoing effort of OEHHA, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, CDPH, and the University of California's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. To promote protective measures for the community, and to help identify problem pesticides, the program provides essential pesticide illness surveillance information for appropriate public health, investigative and regulatory actions following pesticide exposures.

The California-Baja California Integrated Pesticide Illness and Exposure Prevention Project provides training on the recognition, management and reporting of pesticide illnesses and a medical supervision program. It also presents various training modules on health issues related to pesticides and offers continuing education credits to medical providers and nurses. Some training modules are available in Spanish. Physicians or surgeons who know, or have reasonable cause to believe, a patient is suffering from pesticide poisoning or any related disease or condition are required by law to promptly report that fact to the local county health officer. Physicians in Baja California are provided with the necessary information to report incidents in order to track any episodes that may occur in California, but go unreported.

Transportation

Caltrans and the CHP maintain California's roadways and ensure safe and efficient mobility for both the movement of goods and people. The California-Mexico border is the entry point of goods and the gateway to many of the most-visited tourist destinations in California, such as, Disneyland, San Diego, and many desert resorts.

The California-Mexico border is the entry point of goods and the gateway to many of the most-visited tourist destinations in California...

Traffic

The flow of traffic at California-Mexico ports of entry is an ongoing challenge, especially with increasing population growth in the border region. Caltrans is the lead agency for design and construction of the new State Route (SR) 11, and the San Diego Association of Governments is the lead agency for the design and construction of the federal port of entry. SR 11 and a new port of entry will improve both the movement of goods and people between the United States and Mexico. The SR 11 project includes a new four-lane toll highway with interchanges, a commercial vehicle enforcement facility, and a new port of entry located in the unincorporated community of East Otay Mesa in the southernmost portion of San Diego County. SR 11 will extend east approximately 2.5 miles to the proposed Otay Mesa East Port of Entry at the U.S. - Mexico border, and is expected to be completed in 2017.

The new road and port will curb traffic congestion and reduce wait times for both commercial and passenger vehicles at the existing Otay Mesa and San Ysidro crossings. It will provide a safe, secure and seamless connection to key regional, state, and international highways including SR 125, SR 905, and the Tijuana -Tecate and Tijuana-Ensenada free and toll roads.

The cost for SR 11 and the commercial vehicle facility is estimated at approximately \$400 million. The Port of Entry facility is estimated to cost \$350 million. The projects are being financed through funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program (\$13 million), Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (\$64.9 million), Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Funds (\$80 million), and the sale of bonds backed by future toll revenues. Other innovative financing methods, such as loans, grants, and private sector sources, will also be pursued.

A traffic and revenue study is currently under way for the toll facility. This study will provide an estimate of the revenue-generating capacity of the project. Results from the study are expected to be available in spring 2014.

A major focus of this project is to offer shorter and more reliable border crossing times for passenger and commercial vehicles. Therefore, an Intelligent Transportation Systems Study is being conducted to assess innovative operating concepts and technologies that will help to create this secure, state-of-the-art border crossing. The first phase of this study should be complete by spring 2014.

Inspection Facilities and Port of Entry Issues

The Border Division within the CHP faces many issues at inspection facilities, including farm labor machinery on the roads, illegal immigrant smuggling, and weather-related emergency incidents. Due to the proximity to Mexico, the CHP operates two state-of-the-art commercial inspection facilities: the Otay Mesa Inspection Facility and the Calexico Inspection Facility. The inspection facilities work jointly with U.S. Customs inspecting thousands of trucks annually to ensure they are mechanically sound before traveling California's roadways.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for tracking imported and exported hazardous wastes through its Port of Entry program. During FY 2011-12, 26 import and 20 export notifications were received. Import notices were reviewed and the receiving California facilities were checked to ensure that they were permitted to accept the wastes in question. Information identifying the types and volumes of wastes imported and exported, and the companies that import and export hazardous wastes were retained.

The San Diego DTSC Border Office also conducts coordinated inspections with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the Otay Mesa and Calexico east ports of entry. All northbound trucks importing hazardous waste and/or hazardous materials are inspected, and the office notifies Mexico's Federal Enforcement Agency of any rejected hazardous waste shipments. During this reporting timeframe, there were more than 2,300 trucks inspected, with no violations cited.

Several formal enforcement actions were taken in 2011 and 2012 in the San Diego border region. They include:

Three Notices of Violation issued: one for missing information on manifest, one for improper labeling on waste drums, and one for universal waste mixed in scrap plastic.

An administrative enforcement order to Otay Landfill Inc. in San Diego for violations discovered on July 14, 2011, during a routine border truck stop inspection at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The company illegally accepted and disposed of non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste at its municipal landfill.

An administrative enforcement order was mailed to Advanced Cleanup Technologies Inc. of San Diego for illegally storing hazardous waste without authorization from DTSC. On Oct. 17, 2012, the company notified DTSC that it was not interested in reaching a settlement agreement through negotiations; therefore, the case will go to hearing. The company was cited for this same violation on Aug. 4, 2011.

A violation for transporting, accepting and storing broken fluorescent lamps and hazardous waste without a permit from DTSC was issued to Lights Out Disposal Co. of El Cajon. On Nov. 27, 2012, the company signed a consent order resolving violations observed during a complaint investigation. The company agreed to pay a total penalty of \$35,000, of which \$12,000 is a monetary fine, \$20,000 is a credit for providing a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) and \$3,000 as credit to send employees to California Compliance School. The SEP includes providing training to 26 San Diego County School Districts on the proper management of universal waste.

Border Crime

The CHP continues to combat auto theft. CHP's Border Division has a Mexican Liaison Unit that works closely with Mexican law enforcement authorities to recover stolen vehicles located in Mexico. The unit assists California law enforcement agencies with the location and recovery of vehicles sought in connection with crimes, provides a liaison and escorts Mexican dignitaries visiting California, provides vehicle theft investigation training at conferences including Western States Auto Theft Investigators, and participates with the Border Governors Conference Security working group. The CHP's Border Division also continues to partner with the United States Customs and Border Protection to recover stolen vehicles destined for Mexico and other countries.

In 2012, the [CHP Border Division] canine unit made 211 narcotics/cash seizures totaling \$10,940,000, confiscated 82,155 pounds of narcotics, made 279 arrests, and seized 15 guns.

Additionally, the CHP Border Division participates with federal, state, county and municipal police agencies annually in a joint effort to address California-Mexico border crimes. In 2012, the joint effort accounted for 4,767 vehicle stops; 3,304 citations issued; 24 misdemeanor arrests; 63 felony arrests; 24 narcotic seizures; 10 cash seizures; four warrant arrests, and 25 non-drug seizures.

The CHP Border Division also has a canine unit that focuses primarily on traffic enforcement and assists multiple allied law enforcement agencies with criminal investigations and suspect searches. In 2012, the canine unit made 211 narcotics/cash seizures totaling \$10,940,000, confiscated 82,155 pounds of narcotics, made 279 arrests, and seized 15 guns.

The Border Division Foreign Export and Recovery Team partners with Customs and Border Protection to recover vehicles stolen in the United States and destined for Mexico or other countries.

Current investigative trends include monitoring of "Panga" fishing boats used for human and narcotics trafficking along California's coast in San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey counties. Ultra-light aircraft, which are often used to fly at low altitudes across the U.S.-Mexico border to deliver bundles of narcotics, are also monitored.

Health & Safety

Health and safety concerns along the California-Mexico border remain as important as ever. Border security, arms and human trafficking, have taken on an especially high profile as the federal government attempts to address the longstanding issues surrounding illegal immigration. In the area of public health, the state's efforts to document the levels of potentially toxic chemicals inside the bodies of Californians include efforts to measure pesticide and other chemical exposures among foreign-born farmworkers and low-income immigrants.

Biomonitoring

Biomonitoring is the measurement of various chemicals in a person's body tissues or fluids such as blood or urine. It is an important scientific tool that helps determine how much toxic chemical exposure a person has received from sources such as air, soil, water, dust, and food.

OEHHA collaborates with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and DTSC in implementing the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California.

Biomonitoring California is helping scientists and policymakers answer such questions as:

- Which chemicals are in people's bodies and how high are the levels?
- Are the levels of chemicals changing over time?
- Are there groups or populations in California that have higher exposures to certain chemicals?
- Have regulatory efforts, including bans or phase-outs of chemicals, successfully reduced exposures among Californians?

Biomonitoring California is involved in several projects that involve Spanish-speaking participants, including:

- The Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project, being carried out in collaboration with UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley. Spanish- and English-speaking expectant mothers were recruited at San Francisco General Hospital. Chemicals measured include metals, flame retardants, pesticides, and a number of chemicals that occur in consumer products.
- Laboratory collaboration with the Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas study. This University of California study is following children in the agricultural communities of the Salinas Valley. It includes many Spanish-speaking participants.
- The program addresses issues of public health important for Spanish-speaking and border communities. For example, Biomonitoring California detected elevated levels of mercury in one project participant. A follow-up investigation identified the source of the mercury as face cream that had been purchased from a local store in Mexico where mercury and other ingredients were added to the cream, and then brought into the United States in personal luggage.

Biomonitoring California launched a new website, www.biomonitoring.ca.gov, that includes more content for Spanish-speaking audiences, such as chemical fact sheets and information on how to become involved in the program. An introduction to biomonitoring is available online in *Spanish* as well as a *video* on Biomonitoring California that includes Spanish subtitles at www.oehha.ca.gov.

CDPH works closely with communities on both sides of the border through the California Office of Binational Border Health, comprised of three border health programs: the legislatively mandated core program Office of Binational Border Health, the Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Program, and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission.

In 2012, the border health programs continued to focus on border and binational communities throughout California and Baja California by sustaining partnerships and enhancing communications between officials from border counties and state and federal officials in the United States and Mexico. The 2011 Annual Border Health Status Report focused on the impacts of chronic diseases such as diabetes; communicable diseases such as HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis; obesity; vaccinations; influenza; and mercury. Training was conducted throughout the year for community health workers and health professionals to increase education and outreach on pesticide illness and reporting; mercury in beauty products; diabetes prevention; STDs; the HPV vaccine; cervical cancer screening; and affordable health care access.

In collaboration with border partners, the early warning program developed and maintained the Binational Border Influenza-Like-Illness Surveillance Network, which consists of sentinel sites in California and Baja California that monitor both syndromic and virologic influenza activity throughout the border region. CDPH is a member of the Four Corner Regional Epidemiology Work Group. Other group members include key public health officials from Arizona, Sonora, and Baja California. The group was established in an effort to strengthen cross-border and multi-jurisdictional communication capabilities, providing a platform to discuss and plan bilateral and multilateral surveillance, epidemiology, preparedness and response related issues via a collaborative and regional approach.

In an effort to enhance reporting of binational infectious disease cases throughout the State of California, public health officials at CDPH are working together to incorporate a Binational Case Module into the existing California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CaIREDIE) system. CaIREDIE is a computer application that CDPH has implemented for web-based disease reporting and surveillance. The purpose of this effort is to improve the efficiency of surveillance activities and the early detection of public health events through the collection of more complete and timely surveillance information on a state wide basis.

The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission's California Outreach Office works in coordination with the nine other U.S. and Mexican Border States and both federal governments on priority topics of both countries to include Tuberculosis (TB), obesity/diabetes, access to care, research, and strategic planning. The California Outreach Office collaborated with key regional stakeholders on a variety of health issues to include facilitating a draft Declaration of Cooperation between several California and Baja California agencies to address continuity of care for Mexican nationals being repatriated to Mexico with a TB diagnosis. In 2012, the Outreach Office assisted in the planning and ensured the participation of key California stakeholders in the Border TB Consortium and Legal Forum and the Border Infectious Disease Conference, as well as the U.S.-Mexico Leaders Across Borders educational program. The Outreach Office also took the lead with the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon to coordinate the Border Health Research Forum Work Group and Expert Panel Meeting focused on key border research topics in June 2012. The Outreach Office supports various representatives of CDPH in coordinating communication for follow-up actions from the Border Governors Conference – Health and Emergency Management Worktable. In addition to enhancing communication and coordination between federal, state and local partners on national and regional initiatives, it supports local initiatives focusing on vulnerable border populations by via Border Binational Health Week National Infant Immunization Week, and Binational Council activities.

The CDPH commitment will continue to focus on border and binational communities through the efforts of border health programs.

Security

CalOES, (formerly the California Emergency Management Agency), together with the nine other U.S. and Mexico border states, continues to work through the Border Governors Conference, to discuss and resolve some of the most important border issues affecting the United States and Mexico in order to establish a framework to support cross-border emergency mutual aid and cooperation during emergencies and natural disasters.

The CalOES STAC produces a broad spectrum of intelligence products related to California and Mexico, Southwest border and transnational crime. The STAC partners with multiple U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices throughout California. The threat assessment center maintains situational awareness of transnational criminal organizations and their evolving criminal enterprise and collaborates and shares information with other federal partners and fusion centers. The threat assessment center and California's regional fusion centers routinely share information and coordinate with local, state, and federal partners on a wide range of border and transnational criminal issues with a California or Southwest border nexus.

Human Trafficking

CalOES monitors and administers \$3 million in grant funds for three programs to train, identify, investigate, and combat the threat of human trafficking. These programs are the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Program, the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Recovery Act, and the Human Trafficking of Minors Law Enforcement and First Responder Training Program.

The Human Trafficking of Minors Law Enforcement and First Responder Training Program is responsible to train law enforcement, community-based organizations and first responders on how to identify, investigate, and respond to cases of human trafficking of minors. In 2011 and 2012, the program provided consistent regional trainings in the field and developed a 10-minute training DVD on the human trafficking of minors. The DVD was distributed to police chiefs throughout California and was available to more than 700 personnel from state and federal law enforcement agencies, district attorney's offices, probation offices, and faith-based organizations.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Task Recovery Act supports and funds nine local task forces to identify human trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers through multi-jurisdictional law enforcement collaborations. The nine task forces include Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Fresno, Los Angeles, Westminster, Riverside, and San Diego. In 2011 and 2012, the task forces provided training to 30,333 individuals, were responsible for the initiation of 2,769 investigations, conducted 1,029 operations, arrested 1,887 human traffickers, and served more than 1,300 victims.

Firearms and Ammunition

CalOES continues to monitor and administer the \$3.3 million grant award of the Firearms Trafficking Task Force, enabling multiple agency coordination to combat the illegal trafficking of firearms and ammunition across the border between California and Mexico. The task force's primary goal is to systematically dismantle firearms trafficking organizations, thereby reducing firearms trafficking and firearms-related violence around the California and Mexico border. The task force is comprised of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the CHP, sheriff's departments in Imperial and San Diego counties, and Mexican law enforcement agencies.

The task force has continuously made strides in the battle against illegal trafficking of firearms and ammunition. Through Dec. 31, 2012, there had been a total of 757 weapon seizures, resulting in 82 prosecution filings. In an effort to further extend the fight against firearms trafficking, OES has awarded an additional \$688,000 in grant funds to the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Task Recovery Act supports and funds nine local task forces to identify human trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers through multi-jurisdictional law enforcement collaborations.

Border Area Chaptered and Pending Legislation 2011-2012

Fiscal Year 2011-12 saw little in the way of border area legislation. The Senate passed Joint Resolution 10 (de León, Resolution Chapter 10, Statutes 2012), which urged the President and the Congress to pursue a comprehensive approach to stem the trafficking of illegal firearms and ammunition into Mexico. An Assembly bill was proposed that would have created the Office of California-Mexico Affairs and would have recast provisions of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. This bill was subsequently amended to deal with the Salton Sea issues, however it did not make it out of Committee.

List of Acronyms

ARB	Air Resources Board
BAFC	Border Agency Fire Council
BTC	Binational Technical Committee
CAFO	Concentrated Annual Feeding Operations
CAL FIRE	Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CalOES	Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
CalRecycle	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
CalRedie	California Reportable Disease Information Exchange
Caltrans	Department of Transportation
CBP	Customs and Border Protection
CDFA	Department of Food and Agriculture
CDPH	Department of Public Health
CHP	California Highway Patrol
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
MDFS	Milk and Dairy Food Safety
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
SEP	Supplemental Environmental Projects
SPA	Secretaria de Protección al Ambiente
STAC	State Threat Assessment Center
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

For more information on the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, visit www.calepa.ca.gov/Border/CMBRC/

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