



The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

Annual Report 2012 - 2013



The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

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Summary of Council activities undertaken in fiscal year 2012-2013

October 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. Together, we coordinate the activities of state agencies on California-Mexico border issues. The relationship between the State of California and the Republic of Mexico is integral to the future of both governments.

In 2012 and 2013, the Council has worked closely with state and local officials from Mexico and California to make progress on improving air quality, ongoing trash cleanup in the Tijuana River Valley, and protecting plant, animal and human health through monitoring programs.

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.

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', written in a cursive style.

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 recommend changes in the law needed to achieve the goals of the council.
- Provides an annual report of activities to the Legislature.

Council Members



Chair

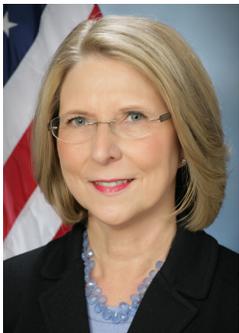
Matthew Rodriguez

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



Brian Kelly

Secretary, California State
Transportation Agency
www.calsta.ca.gov



Diana S. Dooley

Secretary, California Health &
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Karen Ross

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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 California-Mexico Border Relations Council (Council) serves as the central organizing body for California-Mexico border issues.

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

This annual report to the Legislature, required pursuant to Government Code Section 8713, includes key highlights of activities from 2012 and 2013*:

Air Quality

- The California Air Resources Board (ARB) conducted commercial diesel truck regulation compliance assistance and enforcement activities in order to reduce the exposure of border communities to toxic diesel exhaust and to promote the use of “clean” diesel vehicles for commerce.
- The ARB continued the support of the air monitoring network operated by Baja California’s Environmental Protection Agency (SPA) through a memorandum of cooperation signed in 2012. ARB continued to coordinate the real time local air quality data reporting for the Imperial/Mexicali border area.

Waste Cleanup

- The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) engaged in several activities, such as providing technical training for waste tire inspectors and managers to ensure effective and thorough oversight of waste tire regulations and laws. The department also provided grants, technical assistance, research, and dissemination of information and education on waste tires in the border region.

Water

- The Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board has primary responsibility for implementing the regulatory actions recommended in the Strategic Plan for the New River Improvement Project. Several of these regulatory actions, such as initiating enforcement actions against Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer System (MS4) permittees, developing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and auditing regulated Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs), began in 2012

Agriculture

- The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) continued coordination and dialogue with U.S. and Mexico Border States in relation to ongoing protection of animal and plant health and in the prevention of the spread of animal and plant disease. For example, farmer outreach programs related to specific animal disease outbreaks were conducted around the border region. CDFA is a member of the Agricultural Working Group of the Border Governor’s Conference and also meets frequently with other U.S. state officials that border Mexico.

Transportation

- To meet increased population growth and economic activity in both California and Mexico, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) worked to develop the Otay Mesa East Land Port of Entry, which broke ground in December 2013. Caltrans is also working on updating the existing 2008 Border Master Plan and plans to release a comprehensive California – Baja California Border Master Plan Update in 2014.
- Border crime has been a long-standing issue and the enforcement efforts of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have helped combat drug and human trafficking, auto theft and fraud, and the transportation of hazardous waste across the border between 2012 and 2013.

Health and Safety

- As a part of the Border Environmental Program, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is helping coordinate efforts to maintain a healthy environment for people in the California-Mexico border region. Some of the work done in 2012-13 included the release of CalEnviroScreen, a tool to identify environmentally sensitive communities (many of which are located near the border region), continued work on the Biomonitoring Program with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the issuance of fish consumption advisories for Spanish speakers.
- The California Department of Public Health, Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) continues to protect and improve the health of California communities by facilitating communication, coordination, and collaboration among California and Mexico health officials and health professionals, working closely with communities on both sides of the border. For example, the Early Warning Infectious Disease (EWIDS) Program within OBBH monitors and investigates infectious disease cases and outbreaks in the border region.
- The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has continued to assist in combating illegal human, firearm and ammunition trafficking while actively participating in the Border Governors' Conference to help resolve border issues between the Border States. For example, the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Program has helped identify thousands of human trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers between 2012 and 2013.

*Note: This report captures only activities that occurred 2012-2013. Actions taken in 2014 will be discussed in detail in the 2013-2014 report, which will be released next year.

Border Region Profile

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.

While issues such as 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, many opportunities exist between California and Mexico to help address traffic congestion, water shortages, poor air quality, 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 the California Environmental Protection Agency; the California Health and Human Services Agency; the California Natural Resources Agency; the California State Transportation Agency; the California Department of Food and Agriculture; and the Office of Emergency Services.

Mexico remains one of California's top trading partners.

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 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 2013:

Trade

Mexico remains one of California's top trading partners, behind China. Highlights of the economic importance of Mexico to California include:

- California exports to Mexico totaled \$23.93 billion in 2013, representing 14.2 percent of total California exports in 2013.

Trade statistics at a glance:

(\$ in billions)	2012	2013	Growth
U.S. Imports from Mexico	\$277.7	\$280.46	1% ¹
U.S. Exports to Mexico	\$216.3	\$226.15	4.6% ²
All CA Imports	\$376.42	\$380.91	1.2% ³
All CA Exports	\$161.88	168.13	3.9% ⁴
CA Imports from Mexico	\$36.04	\$38.24	6.1% ⁵
CA Exports to Mexico	\$26.37	\$23.93	-9.3% ⁶

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

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

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

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

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

6 <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

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has provided technical expertise and perspectives on U.S.-Mexico border issues since the mid-1990s. ARB's border activities support ARB programs while directly and indirectly reducing pollution in the border area.

Heavy-Duty Diesel Compliance Training

Outreach events at the U.S. – Mexico border in Imperial and San Diego counties are important to the success of the Truck and Bus Regulation as well as Drayage Regulations. This is a very active goods movement corridor with many fleets providing a short-haul “transfer” service across the border. ARB has conducted special outreach in these areas to ensure that all operators are aware of the rule requirements and compliance milestones. During these events, ARB provides detailed regulatory information and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions, collect fact sheets, and learn about funding assistance programs.

ARB ensured vehicles were complying with regulations designed to reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxides emissions, 2,200 diesel vehicles were inspected and 370 citations, totaling over \$260,000, were issued.

During 2013, ARB offered ten training courses in the border region covering “How to Comply with ARB Diesel Regulations.” In partnership with the CalEPA's Border Affairs Unit, three training events offered simultaneous Spanish translation services and attracted operators from both sides of the border. The standard course was also available via 22 webinars throughout the year. In addition, compliance assistance was offered at six workshops and events, including the mid-year conference on border activity. The final two workshops of the year covered potential changes to the Truck and Bus Regulation and a venue for affected fleets to provide feedback regarding the changes.

Additionally, in a joint effort by ARB and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), commercial diesel vehicles were stopped at the border 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 ARB regulations designed to reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxides emissions, including the Truck and Bus Rule, the Drayage Truck Rule, and the Truck Idling Rule. Approximately 2,200 diesel vehicles were inspected at three California border crossings in 2013, and approximately 370 citations, totaling over \$260,000, were issued.

Capacity Building

Air Monitoring Network Transfer and Training

ARB originally established the Baja California ambient air monitoring network, consisting of thirteen stations, and operated it for over ten years under a U.S. EPA grant. In March 2007, ARB

transferred the ownership and operation of the Baja California ambient air monitoring network to Baja California's Environmental Protection Agency (SPA). ARB continued to support the network under an MOU that expired in 2010.

In September 2012, ARB signed a memorandum of cooperation with SPA, the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), and the U.S. EPA to continue support of the Baja California ambient air monitoring network. Under this new memorandum, ARB's responsibilities are to provide continued laboratory analytical services, training, and certification of calibration standards.

Local air quality data helps Baja residents and officials build the case for greater control of emissions sources. Data from the network are also reported in ARB's air quality databases, and can be used in air quality modeling and transport assessments.

Emissions Inventories

ARB has incorporated current and projected emission inventories for the Mexicali, Tecate 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. The emission inventories were developed by contractors for U.S. EPA, with input from ARB.

Outreach and Advocacy

Imperial County Air Quality Website

ARB coordinates the development of an air quality website that gives the public access to real-time local air quality data, air alerts, and health impacts information at www.imperialvalleyair.org. The website also provides air quality forecasts during the ozone season and the public may register to receive a notification when air quality in Imperial County reaches unhealthy levels. ARB continues to coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and the website manager to monitor the site's accessibility and air quality forecasts. The successful Imperial County website also served as a prototype for the real-time reporting of Baja California air quality data on the SPA website, <http://www.spabc.gob.mx/dependencia/gestion-ambiental>. U.S. EPA's Border Program funded the development and operation of the Imperial County website as well as the SPA website.

Waste Cleanup

Tire Recycling

While the improper disposal of used tires has been an ongoing area of concern in the border area⁷, there are several programs in place to help address the issue, such as the assistance by CHP in statewide CalRecycle enforcement of waste tire hauling and disposal regulations, including activities along the border. CalRecycle conducted its regular technical training series in November 2012 for waste tire inspectors and managers. These sessions provided information on: (1) inspection skills and investigative techniques for waste tire field inspectors, (2) basic waste tire facility permitting, (3) investigative techniques and how to involve other agencies, (4) tire evidence collection and case file preparation, (5) effective report writing for tire inspections, (6) tire surveillance, and (7) a tour of a local tire-derived product producers. The next technical training series will be held in March 2014.

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 38 registered waste tire haulers from Mexico and 185 waste tire businesses identified in CalRecycle Waste Tire Management System (WTMS) database. Four Spanish-speaking staff members work in the

⁷ Mexico imports tires from California that have little remaining life because there is a strong market for the tires there, but they can quickly become waste tires. 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.

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.

Tire Cleanup Grants

CalRecycle awarded three Local Government Waste Tire Cleanup Grant Program grants in 2012-13 to projects in the border region. These were awarded to Imperial Valley Resource Management Agency for \$248,408, the city of San Diego for \$98,842, and the San Diego County for \$73,605. These three grants, totaling \$420,885, represent 24 percent of the total cleanup grants awarded (\$1,723,223) statewide. These projects are still being implemented; therefore, at this time there is no data to report on how many tires will be cleaned up in the region. However, they demonstrate cleanups on the U.S. side of the border helps prevent tires from entering sensitive areas along the border region.

Water

Tijuana River Valley

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team's strategy document, "Living with the Water," has several key elements that will be part of a five-year Action Plan to be implemented starting in 2014. These elements include source reduction of sediment and trash; a sediment management plan for the River Valley; reclamation of the Nelson Sloan Quarry; the Brown Family Property Restoration; acquisition of property from willing sellers as a management measure to improve flood protection, habitat and recreational uses in the region; channel improvement and trash interception; a climate change and adaptation plan for the estuary and river valley; targeted sediment and trash removal projects; and a binational Tijuana river, estuary, offshore, and watershed monitoring and assessment project.

The State of California (through California State Parks) currently has sediment and trash management responsibilities for the Goat Canyon Sediment Basins – the only formal sediment and trash capture facility in the Tijuana River Valley. In the past, disposal of sediment has occurred through a variety of outlets including export to local construction sites, use in beach nourishment research projects, and for agricultural purposes. However, the landfill is often only the viable disposal option at costs of up to \$20.00 per cubic yard. The Goat Canyon Sediment Basins capture an average of 40,000 cubic yards of sediment each year, costing the State nearly \$1 million per year for full maintenance. Finding long-term sustainable alternatives to landfill disposal will reduce costs of excavation, and allow for greater environmental protection and restoration efforts valley wide. In the State of California Fiscal Year 13-14 budget, State Parks received the first \$1 million of a \$3 million total commitment to be spent across three years for management of the Goat Canyon Sediment Basins. State Parks must return to the Legislature in 2016 to report on spending as well as alternatives for future sediment management.

The New River

Implementation of various regulatory actions recommended in the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan are expected to occur in 2014. These actions include

- The revision of the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements for Imperial County
- The adoption of conditional waivers for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Coachella and Imperial Valleys
- Bringing all Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) into compliance with the updated permit requirements adopted in 2012

The Federal Water Resources Development Act of 2007 authorized \$20 million to the Army Corp of Engineers for planning, design, and construction of wastewater infrastructure to improve water quality in the New River. A 25% local match is required for all project funded under this authorization. To date, however, Congress has not provided a federal appropriation. CalEPA will continue to be in close communication with U.S. EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss the possibility of using funds, upon appropriation, for projects in Calexico.

In addition, CalEPA is a member of the Border 2020 Program and one aspect of the program is the identification of potential projects for funding consideration by the federal government. The New River is one of the projects currently under review for inclusion in the Border 2020 Action Plan.

Agriculture

Mexico is California's fifth largest agricultural export destination representing more than \$888 million in 2012, a 7 percent increase over the previous year. Of the top 30 agricultural exports to the market – 70 percent experienced market growth, 15 of which exceed 20 percent growth over the previous year. Top products include dairy, table grapes, processed tomatoes, almonds, tree fruit and flowers/nursery products.

Mexico remains a fast growing export market for California agricultural products – an export destination for 42 percent of all flowers/nursery exports, 27 percent of all dairy exports, and 10 percent of table grape exports. The rapidly changing retail food sector combined with the developing processed food industry and relatively stable currency provide an attractive market for California exporters.

CDFAs' activities in the market have focused on coordination with Border State government counterparts in regards to plant and animal health issues.

Animal Health and Food Safety

CDFAs' Animal Health and Food Safety Services Department communicates on an ongoing basis with other U.S. Border States on issues of importance impacting the border region – specifically common animal disease issues such as bovine tuberculosis and avian influenza. When funding allows, or when disease outbreaks are prevalent, farmer outreach programs related to the specific animal disease are conducted. An example of this process is the distribution of bilingual Avian Health Calendars to feed stores in the border region, which were distributed in 2012 and 2013.

Pests and Pesticides

CDFAs' Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services division continues to participate in 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 plant pests of mutual interest to improve pest prevention in both countries.

Transportation

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) all work together to ensure California's transportation systems are safe and efficient for the movement of people and goods.

Traffic

The flow of traffic at California-Mexico land ports of entry is an ongoing challenge. With population growth and increased economic activity for both California and Mexico, California's land ports of entry are expected to handle more cars, trucks, and pedestrians than ever before. Already over 90 percent of the state's trade with Mexico moves by truck through California's land ports of entry.

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To meet this demand, Caltrans, in coordination with the San Diego Association of Governments, is developing, designing and constructing the new Otay Mesa East Land Port of Entry. California's project will consist of a new tolled international land port of entry, its road connector California's State Route (SR) 11 and, a new commercial vehicle enforcement facility. The project will be constructed in three segments. The first segment broke ground in December 2013.

The cost for the project is estimated at approximately \$700 million to \$750 million. The first segment will cost \$112 million, with \$71 million coming from the Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund and \$41 million from the Federal Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program. To fund Segments 2 and 3, innovative financing methods, such as the sale of bonds backed by future toll revenues, loans, grants, and private sector sources, are planned to be used.

As part of the project's binational financial strategy and border management approaches, two significant studies are in progress: the Binational Investment Grade Traffic and Revenue Study and the Intelligent Transportation Systems Concept of Operations Study. Both studies are expected to conclude in 2014.

Two additional studies led by Caltrans commenced in 2013. California's Integrated Border Approach Study seeks to address solutions to solve, in an integrated approach, California's border community regional mobility problems resulting from cross border movements of both people and goods. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Access Study will identify and prioritize future projects and operational improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists at California's land ports of entry. Together the two studies explore innovative approaches for planning and funding border infrastructure projects, and will identify opportunities for Caltrans and its partners to improve mobility, safety, and the environment at the border.

A third significant study, also led by Caltrans, is scheduled to be completed in 2014 and will redefine project priorities for international land ports of entry (POEs) and their transportation connectors in our border region at all levels of government. The "California – Baja California Border Master Plan 2014 Update," will follow its 2008 predecessor, and include all U.S. and Mexico's entities involved in transportation and POEs redefined priorities and, amongst other initiatives, launch an effort to develop a binational modeling platform with the ability to forecast the inter-play of different POEs within a regional setting.

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.

Border Crime

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. In 2013, the Mexican Liaison Unit recovered 660 vehicles, valued at over \$5.5 million, and assisted Mexico in the prosecution of 133 suspects. 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.

The CHP Border Division participates with federal, state, county and municipal police agencies annually in a joint effort to address California-Mexico border crimes. This joint effort is funded through the federal Operation Stonegarden grant. CHP was awarded approximately \$949,000 in FY 2012-13 for both San Diego and Imperial counties. In 2013, the joint effort accounted for 2,375 citations issued, 45 arrests, 14 narcotic seizures, and six U.S. currency cash 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 2013, the canine unit made 162 narcotics seizures, confiscating 3,569 pounds of marijuana, 313 pounds of methamphetamine, 274 pounds of cocaine, and 25 pounds of heroin. The Canine Unit also seized over \$9 million in U.S. currency, recovered 15 guns, made 369 arrests, and issued 3,540 citations.

In 2013, the CHP Border Division continued to monitor "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.

Also in 2013, the DMV Investigations Division investigated counterfeit, fraudulent and forged DMV documents, odometer fraud, licensee fraud or misconduct, unlicensed conduct, and fraudulent representations by licensees. The Investigations Division's Document Border Enforcement Unit (DDBEU), which works closely with the Department of Homeland Security and the Customs and Border Protection Agency, enforces laws pertaining to the security and integrity of DMV documents at the California-Mexico border. The DDBEU oversees DMV's participation in OPSG.

DMV Investigations' objective is to reduce the threat of trans-national criminal enterprise including the manufacture, distribution, and use of fraudulent or counterfeit documents utilized to further illegal entry of persons or contraband into the United States. In 2013, DDBEU reviewed 736 potentially fraudulent documents. Of the 736 documents reviewed, 541 were brought to DMV's attention through OPSG. There were 203 potentially fraudulent documents seized at the border for further investigation. DDBEU's operations lead to 88 arrests, 156 citations, and 36 vehicles impounded.

Hazardous Waste

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for tracking imported and exported hazardous wastes through its Port of Entry (POE) program. During FY 2012-13, DTSC received at least 26 import notifications, and 20 export notifications for the POE program. Data from the notifications and reports are continuously being entered into the POE database.

DTSC initiated 46 cases, settling on 41 through civil or administrative action, resulting in fines and penalties totaling \$2,181,494.

Emphasis was placed on tracking imported and exported wastes. 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, was retained.

Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, DTSC initiated formal enforcement actions in 54 cases. Eight of these cases have been referred to the Office of the Attorney General or the District Attorney, have not had administrative orders issued or civil complaints filed, and negotiations for these cases are in progress.

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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 7 violations cited.

Several formal enforcement actions were taken in 2012 and 2013 in the San Diego border region. Examples include the following:

- On April 17, 2013 a consent order was signed with R.Z. Metals resolving violations observed during truck stop inspection at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The company failed to follow the requirements for the importation of hazardous waste in California and agreed to a penalty of \$10,000.
- A consent order was signed with SOS Metals of San Diego for failing to follow the requirements for the importation of hazardous waste into California observed during a truck stop inspection on April 30, 2013 at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. The company agreed to a penalty of \$10,500 of which \$2,000 is a credit to send two employees to California Compliance School.

Health & Safety

Health and safety concerns along the California-Mexico border remain as important as ever. In the area of public health, the state's efforts to document the levels of potentially toxic chemicals inside the bodies of Californians includes efforts to measure pesticide and other chemical exposures among foreign-born farmworkers and low-income immigrants.

California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen)

CalEPA and OEHHA released the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) in April 2013 and updated it in September 2013.⁸ The updated tool, CalEnviroScreen 1.1, and the accompanying report, also available in Spanish, presents the nation's first comprehensive screening methodology to identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and social stressors.

CalEnviroScreen builds on published, peer-reviewed studies that have found that multiple pollution sources are disproportionately concentrated in low-income communities with high-minority populations, and that residents of communities with certain socioeconomic characteristics (such as low income) have an increased sensitivity to pollution. These characteristics are typical of many immigrant and border communities. The tool estimates pollution burdens and vulnerabilities in ZIP codes throughout California using publicly available data on air quality, traffic, contaminated sites and water bodies, solid and hazardous waste facilities, pesticide use, asthma, low-birth weight infants, poverty, educational attainment, linguistic isolation and other factors.

Each ZIP code received a CalEnviroScreen score based on these factors, with a higher score reflecting higher pollution burdens and vulnerabilities. In accordance with a 2012 state law (Senate Bill 535), CalEPA will use the CalEnviroScreen results to identify disadvantaged communities in California. Senate Bill 535 requires that certain expenditures from the state's greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program must benefit these communities. CalEPA also plans to use the CalEnviroScreen results in making decisions such as awarding Environmental Justice small grants, and prioritizing cleanup and enforcement activities. In developing CalEnviroScreen, OEHHA and CalEPA released public review drafts for public comment, convened a series of regional and stakeholder-specific workshops throughout the state as well as an academic expert panel workshop, and nine meetings of a stakeholder advisory group. The regional workshops included Spanish interpreters to enable the Spanish-speaking public to comment on the draft tool. One regional workshop was held in the Barrio Logan area of San Diego and was attended by many primarily Spanish speakers who raised issues related to their health. A webinar was also held specifically for Riverside and Imperial Counties.

Implications for border-related issues

Some ZIP codes containing communities within 30 miles of the US-Mexico border are among those found by CalEnviroScreen to have the highest burdens from multiple pollution sources along with socioeconomic characteristics that are associated with increased vulnerability to the effects of pollution. These include several urban ZIP codes in San Diego County and ZIP codes covering significant portions of Imperial County. California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, Version 1.1 Report (CalEnviroScreen 1.1) can be obtained electronically by using the following links below:

- English language version <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/CalEnviroScreenVer11report.pdf>
- Spanish language version http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/CalEnviroScreen%201.1_Spanish.pdf

Additional information about CalEnviroScreen 1.1 including a mapping tool showing the most affected communities is available here: <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces11.html>.

CalEPA plans to release Version 2.0 in August 2014. The new version of CalEnviroScreen will refine the tool by incorporating the additional indicators of drinking water and unemployment rates, modifying the geographic scale by using census tracts, and enhancing current indicators by incorporation of the most up-to-date information.

⁸ 2014 updates to CalEnviroScreen will be covered in the 2014-2015 California-Mexico Border Relations Council Report.

California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program

Biomonitoring is the measurement of chemicals (or their metabolites) in a person's body tissues or fluids, such as blood or urine. It can help tell us the amount of chemicals that get into people from all sources (for example, from air, soil, water, dust, consumer products, and food) combined. Because of this, biomonitoring is a good way to measure how much exposure to toxic chemicals a person has had.

Biomonitoring California addresses issues of public health importance for Spanish-speaking and border communities.

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, 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?
- Do regulatory efforts, including bans or phase-outs of chemicals, actually reduce exposures among Californians?

Biomonitoring California has several projects that involve Spanish-speaking participants, including:

- The Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project (MIEEP), which is being done in collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco and the University of California, Berkeley. Spanish- and English-speaking pregnant women were recruited at San Francisco General Hospital. Chemicals measured in MIEEP include metals (arsenic, cadmium, mercury), flame retardants, pesticides, perfluorinated chemicals, phthalates, and others.
- The Biomonitoring Exposures Study, a joint effort between Biomonitoring California and the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research, started as a pilot with 100 participants and has been expanded to an additional 400 adult KPNC members living in California's Central Valley. The expanded study placed a special emphasis on sampling of Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders. Questionnaires (in English and Spanish), medical information, and blood and urine samples were collected in 2013. Data from this study are currently being analyzed.
- Laboratory collaboration with the Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas is being conducted by the University of California, Berkeley. The study follows a cohort of children in the agricultural communities of the Salinas valley and includes many Spanish-speaking participants. The Environmental Health Laboratory of CDPH analyzed phthalates in urine samples from a subset of participants for the study.

Biomonitoring California addresses issues of public health importance for Spanish-speaking and border communities. For example, Biomonitoring California detected elevated levels of mercury in one MIEEP participant. A follow-up investigation identified the source of mercury as face cream that had been purchased in Mexico, taken to a local store in Mexico ("farmacia") where mercury and other ingredients were added to the cream, and then brought into the U.S. in personal luggage. CDPH and others had previously measured elevated levels of mercury in imported face cream; CDPH published a health alert on this issue in 2010. The Biomonitoring California case brought renewed attention and publicity to this serious public health problem.

Biomonitoring California's new website was launched in July 2013 (visit <http://www.biomonitoring.ca.gov>), and includes content for Spanish-speaking audiences (<http://www.biomonitoring.ca.gov/informacion-en-espanol>), such as frequently asked questions, information on how to become involved in the Program, and a video about Biomonitoring California that includes Spanish subtitles (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrGcvOtwzKg>). The Spanish content will be expanded in 2014 to include a second video with Spanish subtitles, a guide to biomonitoring, and chemical fact sheets, which provide information on sources of exposure to biomonitored chemicals, potential health concerns, and possible ways to reduce exposure.

Fish Consumption Advisories for Spanish Speakers

OEHHA is responsible for evaluating potential public health risks from chemical contamination of sport fish. This task includes issuing advice on fish caught in California waters that are healthier to eat and those that should not be eaten or consumed in limited amounts because of chemical contaminants such as mercury. The health advisories are posted on OEHHA's web site and published in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing Regulations booklets under the "Public Health Advisory on Fish Consumption" section. Many local agencies also post signs containing the advisories at popular fishing locations.

The San Diego and Mission Bay health advisories, issued in 2013, give guidance for border areas, and are available in Spanish. A statewide advisory for lakes without local consumption guidelines and advisories for Folsom Lake, Lake Natoma, San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Reservoir, Silverwood Lake, and other water bodies) have been translated into Spanish to provide in-language consumption guidance to immigrant fishers and their families throughout the state.

Binational Border Health

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 state and federal officials in California and Mexico. Their 2012 Annual Border Health Status Report to the Legislature was released presenting important health indicators for border and binational communities in California and describing the border region experiences in terms of public health challenges and issues that are distinctive to the region. Health issues that impact the region's 3.5 million residents are important to California statewide. Significant geographic and ethnic disparities exist for a variety of issues, including demographics, access to health care, obesity, diabetes, mental health, asthma, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections.

In partnership with the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services, the Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) facilitated the creation of the California Border Health Collaborative to enhance communication, collaboration and coordination among public, private, and academic institutions in order to protect and improve the health of individuals, families and communities along the California/Baja California border region. Moreover, the Border Health Collaborative will bring resources to the U.S.-Mexico Border Region as well as educate and advocate with local, state, and federal policymakers regarding public health issues affecting border and binational communities.

The Early Warning Infectious Disease (EWIDS) Program within OBBH focuses on enhancing the detection and response capabilities to infectious disease incidents and threats in the border region. During 2012-2013, OBBH-EWIDS monitored and investigated binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks. As part of these efforts OBBH-EWIDS worked closely with public health professionals in Baja California and California to facilitate exchange of information and cross-border investigation activities. In collaboration with border partners, OBBH-EWIDS also conducted surveillance for syndromic and virologic influenza through its Binational Border Influenza-Like-Illness Surveillance Network, which consists of sentinel sites in California and Baja California. OBBH-EWIDS is also a member of the Four Corner Regional Epidemiology Work Group which includes 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 California, OBBH-EWIDS also worked on the incorporation of a Binational Case Module into the existing California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE) system at CDPH. CalREDIE 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 system is scheduled to go live beginning of 2014. As of summer of 2013 the activities of the EWIDS program will be continued at OBBH by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program.

The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission's California Outreach Office (USMBHC-COO) through OBBH, 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. In 2013, the USMBHC-COO assisted in the planning and participation of key California stakeholders in the Border TB Consortium and Legal Forum and the Border Obesity Prevention Summit, as well as the U.S.-Mexico Leaders Across Borders educational program. The Outreach Office supports various representatives of CDPH in coordinating communication for follow-up actions from the Annual 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 via Border Binational Health Week, National Infant Immunization Week, and Binational Council activities. In addition, the Outreach Office in conjunction with the New Mexico Office of Border Health hosted six regional stakeholder meetings across the border region focusing on Prevention and Health Promotion among vulnerable populations. California hosted meetings in San Diego and Imperial counties in May 2013.

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

Security

Health and Safety

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has continued to monitor and manage \$3.7 million in grant funds for two programs to train, identify, investigate, and combat the threat of human trafficking. These programs are the Human Trafficking of Minors Law Enforcement and First Responder Training Program, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Recovery Act Program, now known as the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Program as of December 31, 2013.

The Human Trafficking of Minors Law Enforcement and First Responder Training Program is responsible for training law enforcement, community-based organization and first responders on how to identify, investigate, and respond to cases of human trafficking of minors. In 2012 and 2013, the program provided approximately 17 regional trainings in the field, training a total of 577 individuals from state and federal Law Enforcement, District Attorney's Offices, Probation Officers, and victim services providers. Over 2,000 copies of the 10-minute training DVD on the human trafficking of minors have now been distributed, as well as over 3,500 copies of the officer pocket guide.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Program supports and funds nine local task forces to identify human trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers through multi-jurisdictional law enforcement collaborations. The 9 task forces were responsible for 919 investigations initiated in 2012-2013 and 534 individuals arrested; of these 112 human traffickers were accepted for state prosecution and another six for federal. Over 1,600 human trafficking victims received services from non-governmental organizations, who received 25 percent of all funding to serve the victims of human trafficking to specifically address their needs.

Firearms and Ammunition

Cal OES had previously monitored and administered \$700,000 of grant money to the Firearms Trafficking Task Force Program, enabling multiple agency coordination to combat the illegal trafficking of firearms and ammunition across the border between California and Mexico. From July 2012 through June 2013, there was a total of 410 weapon seizures, resulting in 44 prosecution filings.

The primary goal of the task force is to systematically dismantle firearms trafficking organizations in order to reduce firearms trafficking and firearms-related violence around the California-Mexico border. The task force is comprised of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Departments in Imperial and San Diego counties, and Mexican law enforcement agencies. The task force continues to progress in the fight against illegal trafficking of firearms and ammunition, however, as of December 31, 2013, the grants to this program were discontinued.

From July 2012 through June 2013, there was a total of 410 weapon seizures, resulting in 44 prosecution filings.

Border Governors' Conference

Cal OES continues to be an active participant of the largest bi-national forum to discuss and resolve important border issues affecting the United States and Mexico Border States. This venue comprises of ten U.S. and Mexico Border States, and is divided into seven Worktables which include; Agriculture & Livestock, Competitiveness, Education, Health & Emergency Management, Logistics & Border Crossing, Security, and Sustainable Development. Cal OES is an active member of the Security Worktable, and is the current Chair of the Health & Emergency Management Worktable. Priorities for these two Worktables include coordinating the distribution of information for public safety matters and issues of human trafficking, as well as working with federal partners to create the framework for cross-border emergency mutual aid.

Border Area Chaptered and Pending Legislation 2012-2013

AB 60 (Alejo) requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, no later than Jan. 1, 2015, to issue a driver's license to an applicant who is unable to submit satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the United States is authorized under federal law if he or she meets all other qualifications for licensure and provides satisfactory proof to the department of his or her identity and California residency. **Statute Chapter 524.**

AJR 4 (Hueso) urges the federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, to fund necessary improvements at the San Ysidro, Calexico, and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry. **Resolution Chapter 24.**

SCR 90 (Hueso) declares the Legislature's intent to work with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to take various actions to protect and preserve the Tijuana River Valley, to encourage collaboration with the team to protect and enhance our natural resources through improved management of sediment and trash, flood control, ecosystem management, and recreation and education, and to promote bilateral ties with Mexico that will be beneficial to the enhancement of one of California's most resilient ecosystems. **Resolution Chapter 80.**

List of Acronyms

ARB	Air Resources Board
BTC	Bi-national Technical Committee
CAFO	Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
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
CDFA	Department of Food and Agriculture
CDPH	Department of Public Health
CHP	California Highway Patrol
DDBEU	Document Border Enforcement Unit
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EWIDS	Early Warning Infectious Disease System
MDFS	Milk and Dairy Food Safety
MIEEP	Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OBPH	Office of Binational Border Health
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
POE	Port of Entry
SEMARANT	Secretariat of the Environment & Natural Resources
TB	Tuberculosis
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USMBHC-COO	U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission’s CA Office
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WTMS	Waste Tire Management System

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

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