



The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

Annual Report 2014



The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

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Summary of Council Activities Undertaken in 2014

July 2015

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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 (Núñez, Chapter 621, Statutes of 2006).

The Council is comprised of seven 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 2014, the Council worked closely with state and local officials from Mexico and California to improve air quality, assess environmental impacts on border communities, begin construction on the Tijuana airport cross-border pedestrian bridge, and protect human health through monitoring programs.

Our work in the border 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', 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 that oversees and collaborates 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 Rodriquez

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



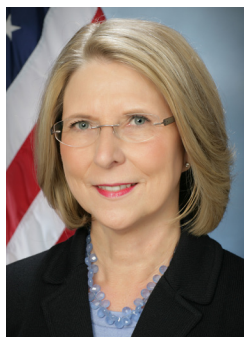
Brian Kelly

Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
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Karen Ross

Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
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Diana S. Dooley

Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency
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Mark Ghilarducci

Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
www.caloes.ca.gov



John Laird

Secretary, Natural Resources Agency
www.resources.ca.gov



Panorea Avdis

Chief Deputy Director
California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
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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 made significant progress on issues impacting both sides of the border since 2008.

This annual report to the Legislature, required pursuant to Government Code Section 8713, includes key highlights of activities from 2014:

Air Quality

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) conducted diesel truck regulation compliance assistance and enforcement activities, including training sessions and border vehicle inspections at border crossings, to reduce the exposure of border communities to toxic diesel exhaust and to promote the use of clean diesel vehicles for commerce. ARB continued to provide laboratory analytical services, certification of calibration standards, and air monitoring training for the Baja California Air Monitoring Network. As part of its ongoing development of the Imperial Count Air Quality Website, ARB began to add PM10 and PM2.5 alerts and forecasts to the site. ARB also held a workshop on vehicle inspection/maintenance in Baja California.

Waste Cleanup

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) engaged in several activities including waste tire hauler training in Spanish within Imperial and San Diego counties, conducted technical training in Southern California for waste tire inspectors, and completed the remediation of the Cactus Road (Tripp Salvage) Disposal Site.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for tracking imported and exported hazardous wastes through its Port of Entry (POE) program. DTSC began conducting southbound truck stop inspections at the Otay Mesa POE in April 2014. DTSC also assisted the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency with truck inspections for hazardous materials and non-regulated commodities. The department communicated with Mexican federal agencies to request information on facilities operating south of the border as well as to conduct training workshops and participate in forums, meetings, and other trainings across the border.

Water

The Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board 7) has completed several permitting and enforcement goals and continues to conduct regulatory surveillance in Imperial Valley. In particular, Regional Water Board 7 updated the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the major Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) in Imperial Valley. Regional Water Board 7 also has primary responsibility for implementing the regulatory actions recommended in the Strategic Plan for the New River Improvement Project. Recommendations implemented in 2014 include informal action against noncompliant dischargers, participation in Binational Technical Committee meetings, inspections of major NPDES treatment plants, and monthly sampling of the New River.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) achieved several of its top priorities for the border portion of its region in the Tijuana River Watershed. Activities in 2014 included the convening of the Binational Summit on the Tijuana River Watershed, which focused on the “Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water (Recovery Strategy),” and on ongoing issues of trash, sedimentation, flooding, and water quality in the Tijuana River watershed. San Diego Water Board initiated the review and reissuance of the International Boundary and Water Commission’s South Bay International Waste Water Treatment Facility NPDES permit, which was reissued on June 26, 2014. In addition, San Diego Water Board and its Recovery Team were involved in the efforts by the boundary and water commission and the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA) to develop the draft Treaty Minute 320.

California State Parks has accomplished several cleanup efforts on the Tijuana River through its partnership in the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR). TRNERR efforts include sediment capture and re-use, educational workshops, formal partnerships with Mexican counterparts, soil revegetation, and trash removal from the Reserve. TRNERR continues to work on a climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy as well as a flood resiliency project for the Tijuana River Valley.

Energy

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has a 40-year history of promoting efficiency and conservation, supporting cutting-edge research, and developing renewable energy resources. In July 2014, CEC Chair Robert Weisenmiller joined the governor and other California leaders in signing a Memorandum of Understanding on clean energy and grid management with Mexico. Other activities in 2014, some of which will continue in 2015 and beyond, include opportunities for a joint clean energy project at the border and discussions on energy reforms.

Agriculture

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) continues to coordinate with border state government counterparts and federal officials on plant and animal health issues. In 2014, CDFA signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Mexico’s Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food to advance cooperation on a variety of agricultural issues.

Outreach by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in the border region included several meetings and workshops on the Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program.

Transportation

With population growth on the rise near the border region, providing a safe, integrated, and efficient transportation system for the movement of people and goods is more important than ever. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 2014 concluded three studies that examined border mobility; signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mexican Ministry of Communications and Transportation to form a binational committee tasked with expediting the Otay Mesa East port of entry project; and began construction on the Tijuana airport cross-border pedestrian bridge.

Border crime has been a long-standing issue, and the enforcement efforts of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) helped combat drug trafficking, auto theft, and fraud across the border in 2014.

Health, Safety, and Emergency Management

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 2014 included the release of CalEnviroScreen version 2.0 in August, which included a subsequent update in October

incorporating potential environmental impacts of diesel particulate matter emissions and traffic in Baja California. OEHHA continued work on the Biomonitoring Program with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and issued a new fish consumption advisory in English and Spanish for Little Rock Reservoir in Los Angeles County.

The California Department of Public Health, Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) facilitated the creation of the Binational Border Health Consortium of the Californias, whose mission is to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among public and private health institutions for the benefit of communities in the California–Baja California border region. As part of its Infectious Disease Epidemiology (IDE) Program, OBBH monitored and investigated binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks in the border region. In an effort to enhance reporting of binational infectious disease cases throughout the State of California, OBBH-IDE launched the Binational Case component of the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange system at CDPH. OBBH-IDE continues to manage and coordinate the California Border Infectious Disease Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. OBBH public meetings and workshops include the “Por Tu Familia” promotores and community health workers training on prevention and management of diabetes in Imperial County, the Border Reproductive Health Summit, Community-based Healthy Border Initiatives, and the Winter Gathering of Urban American Indians.

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) continues to be active in the California-Mexico border region by maintaining emergency management agreements and initiatives. Some of Cal OES’ success and efforts in 2014 include: (1) the signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Mexico in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change, and support wildfire suppression, (2) participation in a Seismic Safety Roundtable Discussion to enhance post-disaster economic recovery, (3) continued partnership and emergency disaster assistance to Baja California, (4) participation in the Tri-National Hazmat Tabletop Exercise for preparedness during hazardous material spills, and (5) participation in the Southwest Border Communications Working Group to discuss key regulatory issues that impact emergency communications in the border region.

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 nongovernmental 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; the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; and the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

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 the 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 calendar year 2014:

Memorandum of Understanding Agreements

As part of its ambitious goals to increase international collaboration on environmental protection and economic development, California has signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with Mexico that focus on partnerships to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; protect the environment; support wildfire suppression; establish a cross-border air monitoring network; invest in clean energy infrastructure; collaborate on electric grid management; cooperate in agricultural trade; improve transportation infrastructure at border crossings; cooperate on issuance of California driver's licenses for undocumented individuals; and strengthen trade and investment across the border. Ongoing border activities that the Council agencies have pursued in accordance with their MOU agreements are included in this report. Figure 1 summarizes the active MOU agreements that California and Mexico are undertaking. For additional information on these MOUs, please refer to Appendix 1.

Figure 1. 2014 CMBRC Active MOU Agreements

Active Memorandum Agreement	Responsible CA Agency	Term
Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment	California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board	2014-Present
Cooperation in Clean Energies MOU	California Energy Commission	2014-Present
Strengthen Trade and Investment Cooperation	California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development	2014-Present
Establishment of an Oversight Committee for the New Otay Mesa East Port of Entry	California State Transportation Agency	2014-Present
Cooperation on Implementation of AB 60: California Driver’s Licenses for Undocumented Individuals	California State Transportation Agency	2014-Present
Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food	California Department of Food and Agriculture	2014-Present
Air Quality Monitoring Memorandum of Cooperation	California Air Resources Board	2012-Present

Trade

Mexico remains one of California’s top trading partners, behind China.¹

California exports to Mexico totaled \$25.42 billion in 2014, representing 14.6 percent of total California exports in 2014.

Mexico remains one of California’s top trading partners.

Figure 2: Trade statistics at a glance:

(\$ in billions)	2013	2014	Growth
U.S. Imports ² from Mexico	\$280.53	\$294.16	+28%
U.S. Exports ³ to Mexico	\$226.08	\$240.30	+6.0%
All CA Imports	\$381.07	\$403.45	+5.9%
All CA Exports	\$168.04	\$174.13	+4.0%
CA Imports from Mexico	\$36.25	\$41.25	+13.8%
CA Exports to Mexico	\$23.90	\$25.42	+6.0%

Business and Economic Development

The California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) led the negotiation and completion of a trade and investment MOU with Mexico’s Ministry of Economy in July 2014 and serves as the state’s lead in implementing this MOU. While not specific just to border relations, the agreement will boost economic, cultural, and academic cooperation between California and Mexico, with an emphasis on advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, health and biotechnology, education, agricultural technology, and tourism, including in the border regions. The agreement will also enable Mexican companies to access California’s Innovation Hub (iHUB), a network that includes 16 clusters of research parks, technology incubators, universities, and federal laboratories along with economic development organizations, business groups, and venture capital funds, including the iHUB in San Diego.

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

2 <http://tse.export.gov/stateimports>

3 <http://Tse.export.gov>

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 perspective on U.S.-Mexico border issues since the mid-1990s. ARB's border activities support ARB statewide programs that directly and indirectly contribute to reductions of air pollution in the border area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) often cites projects that ARB spearheaded or supported, such as the ambient air monitoring network and the Baja California emissions inventory updates, as examples of successful collaboration between U.S. EPA, the states, and their Mexican counterparts.

Heavy-Duty Diesel Compliance

Outreach events at the U.S.—Mexico border in Imperial and San Diego counties are important to the success of ARB's Truck and Bus Regulation as well as Drayage Regulations. This is an 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 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.

During 2014, ARB offered nine classroom training sessions in the southern border region of California. These classes addressed diesel filter technologies and how operators can comply with ARB's heavy-duty diesel vehicle regulations. Three of these training sessions were conducted in Spanish. In addition, outreach and compliance assistance was offered at three drop-in events and two enforcement events at California Highway Patrol (CHP) scales. These events featured individualized interactions with truckers from both sides of the border in both English and Spanish and included information on regulations, enforcement, and funding assistance for cleaner vehicles. Along with on-site trainings and outreach events, 21 webinars on diesel regulation compliance were conducted throughout the year.

Additionally, in a joint effort by ARB and the 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 verified that vehicles were complying with ARB regulations, specifically the Truck and Bus Rule,⁴ the Drayage Truck Rule,⁵ the Transport Refrigeration Unit Rule,⁶ the Emission Control Label

4 Adopted by ARB in December 2008, the Truck and Bus Rule significantly reduces particulate matter, or PM, and oxides of nitrogen emissions from existing diesel trucks and buses (GVWR > 14,000 lbs) operating in California. Newer heavier trucks and buses must meet PM filter requirements beginning January 1, 2012. Lighter and older heavier trucks must be replaced starting January 1, 2015. By January 1, 2023, nearly all trucks and buses will need to have 2010 model year engines or equivalent.

5 Adopted by ARB in December 2007, the Drayage Truck Rule applies to all on-road class 7 and class 8 (GVWR > 26,000 lbs) diesel-fueled vehicles that transport cargo to and from California's ports and intermodal rail yards regardless of the state or country of origin or visit frequency. By January 1, 2014, all drayage trucks were required to operate with a 2007 or newer model year engine.

6 Adopted by ARB in February 2004, the Transport Refrigeration Unit (TRU) Rule uses a phased approach over about 12 years to reduce diesel PM emissions from in use TRUs and TRU generator sets that operate in California, irrespective of where they are registered.

Program,⁷ and the Truck Idling Program.⁸ Approximately 2,030 diesel vehicles were inspected at three California border crossings in 2014, and 430 citations, totaling more than \$324,000, were issued.

Air Quality Monitoring Network

ARB originally established the Baja California ambient air quality monitoring network, consisting of 13 stations, and operated it for more than 10 years under a U.S. EPA grant. In 2007, ARB transferred the ownership and operation of the Baja California monitoring network to Baja California's Secretary of Environmental Protection (SPA). And in 2012, ARB signed a memorandum of cooperation with SPA, the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, and the U.S. EPA to continue support of the Baja California monitoring network. Under this memorandum, ARB's responsibilities are to provide continued laboratory analytical services, certification of calibration standards, and training. ARB continued to provide this support in 2014.

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. In 2014, ARB obtained U.S. EPA border grant funds totaling \$338,187 for a PM_{2.5} study in the city of Mexicali, MX. ARB also obtained formal support and cooperation on this project from SPA. The study is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2015.

Emissions Inventories

ARB has incorporated current and projected emission inventories for the Mexicali, Tecate, and Tijuana-Rosarito, Mexico regions into the Southern California air quality models. These models are an important component of developing and testing air quality management strategies in that part of the State. The emission inventories were developed by U.S. EPA contractors with input from ARB.

Imperial County Air Quality Website

ARB coordinated 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 is expected to reach unhealthy levels. In 2014, ARB began working with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District to add PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} forecasting to the website. Incorporating PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} alerts and forecasts will ensure that residents will be better informed when the air quality in Imperial County is forecasted to reach unhealthy levels.

ARB ensured vehicles were complying with regulations designed to reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions by inspecting 2,030 diesel vehicles and issuing 430 citations, totaling more than \$324,000.

7 Each vehicle operating in California, including those in transit from Mexico, Canada, or any other state, must have a label, called an Emission Control Label, showing that the engine met the required federal emission standards applicable for the model year of the engine. If an inspected vehicle is found not to meet those standards, it is prohibited from operating in California.

8 Applies to heavy-duty diesel engines with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 10,000 pounds that operate on California highways including operators of both in-state and out-of-state registered sleeper berth equipped trucks. Engines from 2008 and newer models must be equipped with a non-programmable engine shutdown system that automatically shuts down the engine after five minutes of idling.

ARB continues to coordinate with the district and the website manager to monitor the site's accessibility and air quality forecasts. The website also served as a prototype for the real-time reporting of Baja California air quality data on the SPA website, www.spabc.gob.mx/dependencia/gestion-ambiental. U.S. EPA funded the development and operation of both the Imperial County and SPA websites.

Inspection and Maintenance Workshop for the States of the Northern Border of Mexico

In November 2014, ARB staff participated in a two-day vehicle Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) workshop in Baja California. The goal of the workshop was to advance uniform and effective I/M programs across the Mexican states that border the United States. The I/M programs that are currently in place in the northern states of Mexico are relatively new and differ from state to state, and not every state has one. They also face significant challenges in effectively reducing high in-use emissions from a fleet of vehicles that is older and less maintained than U.S. fleets. ARB staff made a presentation on the progress California has made in reducing emissions from light-duty vehicles and how its On Board Diagnostics (OBD) program helps to keep in-use vehicles clean through the Smog Check program. A representative of the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) made a presentation on the role BAR plays in administering California's Smog Check Program and improvements they have made in implementing the STAR program and OBD-focused inspections. Officials at the state and federal levels in Mexico spoke on a variety of topics, including the implementation of Smog Check and related programs like remote sensing, the health impacts of mobile source emissions, inventory, modeling, and public outreach.

CalRecycle provides training on the regulatory requirements of California's waste tire hauler registration and manifest programs.

Waste Cleanup

In 2014, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) provided two waste tire hauler trainings in Spanish in Imperial and San Diego counties. Between both trainings, approximately 50 Mexican tire haulers, who mainly reside in Mexico but purchase used tires from California businesses, along with a few California tire haulers that transport loads into Mexico, were trained on the regulatory requirements of California's waste tire hauler registration and manifest programs. These trainings were carried out with the cooperation of the Association of Used Tire Dealers for the Mexican States of Baja California, Baja California Sur, and Sonora. CalRecycle also continued a Spanish-speaking hotline through which CalRecycle staff provide stakeholders with California waste tire information.

CalRecycle held technical training sessions in Southern California for waste tire inspectors. These sessions provided information on inspection skills and investigative techniques for waste tire field inspectors; basic waste tire facility permitting; investigative techniques including how to involve other agencies; tire evidence collection and case file preparation; effective report writing for tire inspections; tire surveillance; practical field exercise in estimating waste tire counts in various pile configurations; and a tour of a local waste tire processor. The next technical training will be held in October 2015.

In early March of 2014, the remediation of the Cactus Road (Tripp Salvage) Disposal Site was completed by CalRecycle's Solid Waste Disposal and Codisposal Site Cleanup Program under a \$1.6 million cost recovery agreement with the property owners. The site, which is located in the Otay Mesa area of San Diego, less than one mile from the border with Mexico, was used for the disposal of auto shredder waste and other materials for a period of 20 years starting in the 1960s. The remediation of the site, which is an environmentally sensitive and technically challenging

location, involved more than a decade of planning, design and permitting. The construction of the soil cap and drainage structures, installation of erosion control measures, and completion of environmental mitigations took approximately five months to complete with the assistance of CalRecycle's Southern California remediation contractor, numerous specialized subcontractors, and multiple governmental agencies. The site is currently in the final phase of the required one-year monitoring and maintenance period and will soon be turned over to the owners, who will be responsible for conducting the future monitoring and maintenance of the site.

Water

Imperial Valley

The Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) has completed several permitting and enforcement goals and continues to conduct regulatory surveillance in Imperial Valley. The Board conducted inspections and review of annual monitoring reports for all the feedlots in Imperial Valley to assure that all the Confined Feeding Operations continued to operate in compliance with their permits. The Board updated the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for the City of Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), City of El Centro WWTP, Niland Community Services District WWTP, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Centinela State Prison WWTP, and the Imperial Irrigation District Generating Station. The Board also updated the Waste Discharge Requirements for the WWTP serving the U.S. Calexico East Port of Entry. The Board adopted a Cleanup and Abatement Order against National Beef California for the proper closure of NBC's wastewater facilities in March of 2014. The Board also issued seven formal enforcement orders for facilities in the Imperial Valley that were in noncompliance with Board requirements. Board staff completed the review of the 252 monthly, 68 quarterly, 14 semiannual and 21 annual monitoring reports for all of the WWTPs in Imperial Valley, including all WWTPs discharging into the New River. These actions led Board staff to take approximately 60 informal actions against dischargers who were found in noncompliance.

Board staff participated in watershed meetings held in Holtville, El Centro, and Brawley for the Imperial Valley farming community to discuss a draft waiver of waste discharge requirements for discharges of agricultural wastewater originating in the Imperial Valley. Approximately 200 farmers attended the meetings. The proposed waiver was also a recommended action of the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan.

The New River

The Regional Water Board 7 continued to participate in the Binational Technical Committee for the New River/Mexicali Sanitation Program in Mexicali, Mexico, to discuss sewage infrastructure needs and emerging problems that are resulting in bypasses of raw sewage into the New River. The Board also conducted monthly sampling of the New River at the International Boundary in Calexico. The water quality results have been posted at the Regional Water Board 7 webpage. To continue implementation of the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan, the Board attended meetings with the Calexico New River Committee.

San Diego

In 2014, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) completed several of its top priorities for the Border portion of the Region in the Tijuana River Watershed. The San Diego Water Board and the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) convened a Binational Summit on the Tijuana River Watershed, which focused on the "Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water (Recovery Strategy)," and ongoing issues of trash, sedimentation, flooding, and water quality in the Tijuana River watershed. The Binational Summit was attended by the Mayors of Tijuana, Mexico, San Diego, Imperial Beach,

and National City, Supervisor Greg Cox of the County of San Diego, City Council members David Alvarez of the City of San Diego and Francisco Hernandez of the City of Tijuana. Also participating were representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. EPA, Cal EPA, State Coastal Conservancy, State Parks, California State Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, United States International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), and Wildcoast, as well representatives from the offices of Congressman Juan Vargas, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, State Senator Ben Hueso, and Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez. The Binational Summit initiated a discussion on top priorities from the Recovery Strategy to be implemented over the next five years that was followed by 90 days of facilitated public workshops on the priorities. The result was the development of an aggressive Five-Year Action Plan for the Recovery Strategy and a funding request of \$1.55 million from the state Cleanup and Abatement Account. On March 16, 2015, the San Diego Water Board formally endorsed the Recovery Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan.

The South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, located in San Diego County at the U.S.-Mexico International Border, treats an average daily flow of 25 million gallons per day of sewage wastewater.

After concluding long-standing litigation with IBWC in June 2013, the San Diego Water Board initiated the review and reissuance of the IBWC South Bay International Waste Water Treatment Facility (South Bay IWTP) NPDES Permit. The permit was reissued on June 26, 2014, in Order No. R9-2014-0009. The South Bay IWTP, an international wastewater treatment plant located in San Diego County at the U.S.-Mexico international border, treats an average daily flow of 25 million gallons per day of sewage wastewater originating from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico and then discharges the secondary treated effluent approximately 3.5 miles out into the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall. The treatment plant plays a key role in addressing U.S.—Mexico international border pollution problems. The existing Tijuana wastewater collection and treatment system has insufficient capacity to handle all of the sewage wastewater generated in Tijuana. The IWTP treatment plant is connected to the Tijuana Collection System and, by treating a portion of the sewage wastewater flow from Tijuana, significantly reduces the burden on that system. The plant also captures and treats dry weather transboundary wastewater flows from five canyons (Smuggler’s Gulch, Goats Canyon, Canyon del Sol, Stewart’s Drain, and Silva’s Drain) that would otherwise

come into the United States and discharge into the Tijuana River Estuary. The new permit includes requirements for IBWC to maintain and operate five canyon collectors as part of the treatment plant facility and to minimize the discharge of dry weather transboundary flows into the Tijuana River Estuary. The permit also includes pretreatment provisions that require IBWC to formally communicate with CILA, the Mexican section of the IBWC, about any issues IBWC has regarding the influent quality and improvements to the receiving waters monitoring and reporting program.

The San Diego Water Board and the Recovery Team, alongside the efforts by IBWC and Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA), developed the IBWC draft Treaty Minute 320. When approved by both countries, the draft Treaty Minute will establish an inclusive process for binational coordination of transboundary issues in the Tijuana River Basin and implement cooperative measures that are jointly determined to be of common interest and benefit to residents on both sides of the border with respect to sediment and trash at the border. The San Diego Water Board also supported efforts to form the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to coordinate joint efforts and partnership on sediment, trash, flooding, and water quality issues in the Tijuana River Watershed.

Tijuana River Valley

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) is a federal-state partnership between NOAA and California State Parks. TRNERR is managed in partnership with the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association for the purpose of coastal conservation, research, and education. The programs and projects below highlight some of the most recent TRNERR accomplishments on the international border.

Goat Canyon Sediment Basin

The Goat Canyon Sediment Basin complex (GCSB), managed by California State Parks and constructed in 2005, is a sediment capture/retention facility located within Border Field State Park. It captures cross-border run-off from Mexico. The GCSB includes the Sediment Basins, which consist of a concrete bottom in-canyon diversion structure that transitions into a flow-through sedimentation basin system of a series of two earth bottom sedimentation retention basins. GCSB maintenance activities for 2014-2015 included the haul-off of 45,000 cubic yards of sediment. The majority of this sediment was applied to beneficial re-use projects such as base material for recreational trails and fill for construction sites.

The Tijuana River Estuary Water Quality Improvement and Community Outreach Project

TRNERR completed final work and reporting for a five-year grant-funded effort known as the Tijuana River Estuary Water Quality Improvement and Community Outreach Project. This project addressed the severe and growing threats to water quality in the Tijuana River Estuary from environmental degradation upstream in Mexico and habitat loss within the reserve. Some project milestones and accomplishments include educational workshops, training and construction of pervious pavers; tire reutilization workshops; soil revegetation; trash and tire removal by volunteers; Tijuana River Action Month cleanup events; construction of a native plant nursery; habitat improvement; community-based watershed improvement projects; and several volunteer programs focused on restoration and endangered shorebirds.

Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley

TRNERR continues work on a climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the Tijuana River Valley titled "Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley (CURRV)". The three-year project was funded by NOAA. This project incorporates binational exchange of information regarding climate change through workshops regarding conservation of the Tijuana River Watershed along the U.S.–Mexico border. For more information, please visit www.trnerr.org/currv/

The Flood Resilience Infrastructure and Sustainable Environments (FloodRISE) Project

This research project is funded by the National Science Foundation to promote resilience to coastal flooding in southern California (see <http://floodrise.uci.edu>). The project is based at two sites: the Tijuana River Valley and Los Laureles, Tijuana. TRNERR is the community partner and site lead for research integration. Through this project, CURRV stakeholders identified several shortcomings in how risk to communities is communicated through models for sea level rise and flooding. CURRV is leveraging the FloodRISE project in binational communities bordering TRNERR by helping to bridge the gap between modelers, social scientists, and communities to determine how to increase the effectiveness of using visual tools (i.e., flood maps) to communicate climate risk, including flood hazards, to local communities.

California King Tides Project

In this project, local citizens and NGOs photographed extreme high tides along San Diego and Tijuana's coastline to highlight how coastal homes, infrastructure, and ecological habitats may be affected by future sea level rise. In July 2015 the TRNERR will showcase these photographs in an exhibit in San Diego and Tijuana.

Historical Ecology of the Tijuana River Valley

The California Coastal Conservancy and the NERR System Science Collaborative have funded a historical ecology study of the Tijuana River Valley. The project examined historical conditions in the estuary and the river corridor up into Tijuana, Mexico, focusing on conditions in the mid-1800s and the changes that have occurred over the last 150 years. Work for this project has included visits to archives and field sites in the United States and Mexico (including Tijuana and Mexico City) in order to better understand both the habitats and functioning of this lower part of the watershed. This project is led by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. Project partners include the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and the Sacramento State University Center for Collaborative Policy.

The Clean Energy Forum discussed proposed energy reforms in Mexico, the opportunities for investment in renewable and clean technologies, California's policies on energy efficiency and renewable energy, opportunities to facilitate cross-border grid cooperation and interconnection, and educational exchanges in clean technology between California and Mexico.

Energy

In July 2014, Chair Robert Weisenmiller from the California Energy Commission (CEC) attended Governor Jerry Brown's trade mission to Mexico City as the representative for California on energy. There, key events took place during the trade mission. First, Weisenmiller joined Brown, first lady Anne Gust, Senior Advisor Mike Rossi, Cal EPA Secretary Matt Rodriguez, Cal STA Secretary Brian Kelly, and Deputy Legislative Secretary Martha Guzman-Aceves in a meeting with Secretary Joaquín Coldwell of Mexico's Secretary of Energy (SENER) on July 29, 2014, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on clean energy and grid management. The MOU encourages cooperation and joint implementation of programs to promote low carbon energy, clean technology, biofuels, and energy efficiency, and will help Mexico as it implements its energy reforms through information exchanges and training on energy sector regulation and grid management.⁹ Second, Weisenmiller and Brown met with Undersecretary Sergio Alcocer at Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss cross-border energy, water issues, and opportunities for cooperation and joint projects at the border. There, both parties agreed to investigate joint energy projects along the California-Baja border. Finally, Chair Weisenmiller co-hosted a Clean Energy Forum with SENER. The Clean Energy Forum featured four panels consisting of representatives from both Mexico and California governments, NGOs, academics, and electricity developers to discuss the proposed energy reforms in Mexico, the opportunities for investment in renewable and clean technologies, California's policies on energy efficiency and renewable energy, opportunities to facilitate cross-border grid cooperation and interconnection, and educational exchanges in clean technology between California and Mexico.

⁹ See appendix 1 for details on the Energy Commission's MOU with Mexico.

Following the trade mission, the Energy Commission engaged in several follow-up activities in 2014, which continue into 2015. It met with three Mexican delegations, two of which sought more information about California's Renewable Portfolio Standard and renewable energy credit mechanisms as the Mexican government began setting up the rules for clean energy participation under the new energy markets. With the third Mexican delegation, consisting of representatives from the geothermal development company ENAL Group, the Institute of Electric Research (IIE), and the National Center of Energy Control (CENACE), the CEC discussed opportunities for a joint clean energy project at the border. ENAL Group subsequently submitted a proposal to establish a clean energy facility at the border, starting with workshops hosted by the CEC to showcase California's research and development on renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy and integration and to bring together renewable energy companies to identify the best ways to build out border renewable energy facilities. The CEC also coordinated with the California Independent System Operator to ensure that CENACE receives the requested training on grid operations and management. Finally, the CEC participated in a public forum on November 13, 2014, hosted by the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento and the University of Southern California's Price School of Public Policy, to discuss the energy reforms and implementation of the clean energy MOU with interested parties.

Agriculture

Mexico is California's fifth-largest agricultural export destination, representing more than \$1 billion in 2013, a 13 percent increase over the previous year. Of the top 30 agricultural exports to the market, eight exceeded 20 percent growth over the previous year. Top products included dairy, table grapes, processed tomatoes, almonds, tree fruit, and flowers/nursery products.

Mexico remains a fast-growing export market for California agricultural products: It is an export destination for 43 percent of all flowers/nursery exports and 21 percent of all dairy 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.

Mexico is California's fifth-largest agricultural export destination including 21 percent of all dairy exports.

Animal Health and Food Safety

CDFA's California-Mexico activities have focused on coordination with border state government counterparts in regard to plant and animal health issues.

CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division communicated 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. Bilingual avian health calendars are distributed annually to feed stores in the border region.

Pests and Pesticides

CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division continued to participate in the California-Baja California Integration Group, which includes representatives from the 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 shared information on plant pests of mutual interest to improve pest prevention in both countries.

In 2014, the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) Jim Shattuck and Mike Papathakis as well as Cal EPA's Alejandro Rodarte met with Max Cervantes of Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food and other health department officials from Baja California to discuss food safety issues related to pesticide residues. The meeting took place in El Centro, Calif., and included a presentation by DPR titled "Regulating Pesticide Residues on Produce Sold within California." DPR's presentation included a discussion about recent illegal pesticide residues found on produce commodities imported into California from Mexico. The presentation also provided internet resources for growers and regulatory officials in Mexico to reduce illegal pesticide residues in produce. DPR staff also explained how to locate information on U.S. EPA established tolerances for pesticide residues on fruit and vegetable commodities.

DPR also held workshops in Mexicali and Ensenada, Mexico regarding its Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program. DPR presented to approximately 160 Mexican fruit and vegetable growers. The presentation covered several topics including online resources available to help growers locate U.S. EPA established tolerances for pesticide residues on commodities; DPR enforcement tolerances and quarantine actions; and online resources to help growers determine whether a pesticide they are planning to apply to their commodity is approved for use on that commodity in the United States and California. Information on DPR's Pesticide Residue Database for 2013 and 2014 as well as Illegal Pesticide Residues found in fruits and vegetables imported from Mexico from January 2009 to June 2014 was shared and discussed. DPR also discussed its partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Pacific Region and Southwest Import District. DPR staff traveled to the workshops with Carlos Padilla of the San Diego DTSC Office, where Padilla led a discussion on hazardous waste issues.

Transportation

Transportation is a critical component of the overall health of the California-Mexico border region. Every year, tens of millions of motorists, bicyclists, transit users, pedestrians, and commercial truckers depend upon the region's border crossings for safe and timely travel. With population growth on the rise, providing a safe, integrated, and efficient transportation system for the movement of people and goods is more important than ever.

Border Mobility

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is examining how to make mobility at the border more sustainable and integrated. In 2014, Caltrans concluded three important studies that took an in depth look at this approach:

- **Phase one of the California's Integrated Border Approach Strategy Study (CA-IBAS)** aims to address regional mobility impacts resulting from cross-border flows of people and goods into California's border communities. The study as a whole seeks to enhance interagency coordination and partnerships to improve joint project delivery under a single border coordination mechanism in California. Caltrans completed the study's first phase in 2014.
- **The Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Access Study** identified future projects and operational improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists in the immediate vicinity of California's international land ports of entry. The goal of this study is to improve the travel experience for people walking or bicycling across the border. The study was conducted in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments, the Imperial County Transportation Commission, and the Koa Corporation.

- **The California – Baja California Border Master Plan 2014 Update** redefined bi-national project priorities for international land ports of entry and their transportation connectors in our border region. One goal of the plan is to support the development of a binational modeling platform with the ability to forecast the interplay of different land ports of entry within a regional setting. The Border Master Plan 2014 is included in President Barack Obama and President Enrique Peña Nieto’s United States—Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue border development strategy.

Together, these efforts explored innovative approaches for planning and funding border infrastructure projects and identified opportunities for Caltrans and its partners to improve mobility, safety, and the environment along California’s international border.

Border Infrastructure

The flow of traffic at California-Mexico land ports of entry is an ongoing challenge. With population growth and increased economic activity projected for both California and Mexico, California’s land ports of entry are expected to handle more cars, trucks, and pedestrians than ever before. Already, more than 90 percent of goods moved between California and Mexico cross the border by truck.

To meet the increasing demand for improved mobility for people and goods, Caltrans is working closely with key local, state, and federal stakeholders on a new international port of entry located in San Diego County. This flagship international port of entry project, known as the Otay Mesa East Land Port of Entry (Otay Mesa East), will be connected to California’s highway system via State Route 11. Otay Mesa East will be the first tolled port of entry on the California—Mexico border and is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2017.

Caltrans, in coordination with the San Diego Association of Governments, is developing, designing, and constructing Otay Mesa East and its State Route 11 highway connector. The project will be constructed in three segments. The first segment, which broke ground in 2013, consists of connecting State Route 11 from the State Route 905 connector to Enrico Fermi Drive. As of the end of 2014, this segment was 60 percent complete.

In the summer of 2014, the California State Transportation Agency agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mexican Ministry of Communications and Transportation to form a binational committee tasked with expediting the Otay Mesa East project. The binational committee met for the first time in November 2014 and will continue to monitor major project milestones and coordinate project development in the coming years.

Another important California-Mexico border project began construction in 2014. Although privately funded and operated, the Tijuana airport cross-border pedestrian bridge will aid in reducing congestion at neighboring ports of entry. The pedestrian bridge will connect the Tijuana airport to a terminal-like structure on the California side of the border, allowing ticketed passengers to easily cross over the U.S.—Mexico border and avoid crossing at the busy San Ysidro and Otay Mesa ports of entry.

Enforcement and Border Crime

The California Highway Patrol’s Border Division (Border Division) coordinates and participates in investigative task forces and community outreach programs to enhance its ability to fight crime along the border and keep California’s highways safe for the traveling public. The Border Division also participates with multiple allied law enforcement agencies in Operation Stonegarden, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security border enforcement grant program. The federal government granted the Border Division close to \$1 million in 2014 to enhance law enforcement operations along the California—Mexico border.

To protect the tens of millions of motorists, bicyclists, transit users, pedestrians and commercial truckers that depend upon the region's border crossings, the CHP issued more than 20,000 citations at the Otay Mesa and Calexico ports of entry.

The Border Division operates commercial vehicle inspection facilities at the Otay Mesa and Calexico ports of entry. In 2014, the CHP inspected 64,000 vehicles, issuing more than 20,000 citations at the two inspection facilities. On average, 3,100 vehicles pass through the Otay Mesa inspection facility per day, and 1,050 vehicles pass through the Calexico facility.

The Border Division's Canine Unit is among one its busiest units. In 2014, the Canine Unit made 202 seizures, amounting to 6,801 pounds of Marijuana, 272 pounds of methamphetamine, 17 gallons of liquid methamphetamine, 261 pounds of cocaine, and 11.5 pounds of heroin. The Canine Unit also assisted in seizing more than \$7.5 million in U.S. currency and making 156 arrests.

Auto theft is a long-standing issue at the border. The Border Division partners with the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force to combat auto theft. This team of local law enforcement agencies works to intercept stolen vehicles headed across the border. In 2014, the Border Division helped the task force recover 323 stolen vehicles, valued at approximately \$1.5 million. In addition, the CHP Mexican Liaison Unit, which works to recover stolen vehicles that make it across the border, recovered 606 vehicles in Mexico, valued at approximately \$5 million.

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 2014, DTSC received 16 import notifications and 12 export notifications for the POE program. Data from the notifications and reports are continuously being entered into the POE database. Emphasis was placed on tracking imported and exported wastes. Import notices were reviewed, and the receiving California facilities were checked to assure that they were permitted to accept the wastes in question. In addition, information identifying the types and volumes of wastes imported and exported as well as 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 (CBP) 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 time frame, there were more than 2,400 trucks inspected, with four violations issued.

In 2014, DTSC tracked imported and exported hazardous wastes through its Port of Entry program which resulted in more than 2,400 truck inspections and the issuing of four violations.

In April 2014, DTSC began conducting southbound truck stop inspections at the Otay Mesa POE. A limited number of these coordinated inspections were conducted as they required the assistance from CBP officers. During the months of April and May 2014, more than 50 trucks were inspected.

DTSC assists CBP on other potential hazardous waste activities as requested by CBP. Such assistance includes inspecting trucks containing scrap debris (nonhazardous materials), hazardous materials, and other non-regulated commodities.

DTSC is an active participant in the Border 2020 bi-national meetings and the local San Diego County Hazardous Waste Task Force meetings. DTSC staff has direct communication with Mexico's Federal Enforcement Agency (PROFEPA) and the Mexican Federal Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) officials to request information on facilities operating south of the border that are importing hazardous waste and electronic waste from California. This open communication is essential for investigations and enforcement activities. DTSC plans, organizes, and implements training on the import and export requirements to the maquiladoras, Mexican government officials, industry, and nongovernmental agencies. Two training workshops have been conducted as a joint effort with the two groups. DTSC also provides support to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency on special projects related to imports/exports of hazardous waste/hazardous material.

In 2014, DTSC participated in several training workshops and meetings in the San Diego border region. They include:

- **Supplemental Environmental Project: Hazardous Waste Training, City of Tijuana, Mexico:** On March 12, 2014, DTSC staff traveled to the Tijuana to oversee a one-day training workshop on California hazardous waste laws and regulations. The training was provided by Advanced Chemical Transport (ACT) as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) pursuant to a Consent Order between DTSC and ACT on August 22, 2013. The purpose of this training was to promote the level of awareness in hazardous waste management along the California/Mexico border region and targeted maquiladoras (U.S.-based companies in Mexico), transporters, consultants, and brokers that import/export hazardous materials and/or hazardous waste in the California-Mexico border. The training was well received by the approximately 180 participants.
- **Environmental Forum-Hazardous Waste Management (II Foro Industrial de Residuos Peligrosos) City of Tijuana, Mexico:** On May 21, 2014, DTSC staff participated in the second annual hazardous waste forum sponsored by the Mexican National Chamber of Industry and MAYPA, a private cargo carrier company. Staff provided a presentation regarding federal and state requirements for import and export of hazardous waste, recycling, and final disposition of hazardous waste generated by the maquiladora industry operating in Mexico. The training was well received by the approximately 150 participants from the maquiladora industry.
- **California Border Environmental Task Force Meeting, City of El Centro, Imperial County:** On May 28, 2014, DTSC staff attended the California Border Environmental Task Force meeting in the City of El Centro in Imperial County. The meeting was the first one under the new Border 2020 Program, replacing the Border 2012 Program. Reports by U.S. EPA, CPB, Campo Band of Mission Indians, DTSC, CalRecycle, California Department of Public Health, California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District were provided during the meeting.

Health and 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.

OEHHA's CalEnviroScreen was updated in 2014 and now shows several communities along the Border Region among the most impacted in the state and eligible for SB 535 money.

California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen)

CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) that scores California census tracts based on 19 indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability. CalEnviroScreen is being used by the Cal EPA to identify "disadvantaged communities" for the implementation of Senate Bill 535 (Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012). This law requires that a portion of monies from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund be allocated to communities considered disadvantaged based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria. For the purposes of SB 535, Cal EPA has designated census tracts in the highest 25 percent of CalEnviroScreen scores as disadvantaged.

OEHHA released version 2.0 of CalEnviroScreen in August 2014 and updated it in October 2014. CalEnviroScreen 2.0 results have shown that several communities in Imperial

County along the California-Baja California border are among the most impacted in the state and eligible for SB 535 money.

Communities near the border face pollution impacts from sources in both California and Mexico. Currently, OEHHA is identifying and collecting data on environmental impacts from sources in Mexico to incorporate into CalEnviroScreen. The initial focus has been on sources in three municipalities in Baja California: Tijuana, Tecate, and Mexicali. In these efforts, OEHHA is collaborating and meeting with various governmental and local agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Border Office, the Baja California Secretariat for Environmental Protection, City of Tijuana and Tecate Environmental Protection Director, City of Mexicali Ecology Director, and the San Diego Association of Governments.

In October 2014, OEHHA updated the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool by incorporating potential environmental impacts of diesel particulate matter emissions and traffic in Baja California. Diesel particulate matter emission estimates where commercial truck crossings occur were included in this update. In addition, traffic data from roads in Tijuana, at the ports of entry, and within 150 meters of the border have been incorporated. More information regarding these updates can be found at <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/CES20SummaryMajorChanges.pdf>.

OEHHA is currently seeking to obtain traffic data from roads in Tecate and Mexicali and plans to incorporate information on traffic volume in those cities into future updates of CalEnviroScreen. OEHHA is also continuing its efforts to identify and collect data on other types of pollution sources in Mexico for use in CalEnviroScreen. These data include PM2.5 concentrations, ozone concentrations, toxic releases from facilities, hazardous waste facilities and generators, and solid waste sites and facilities. Updates for these sources will be incorporated into the next version of CalEnviroScreen.

See Appendix 1 for full reports and mapping tools on CalEnviroScreen 2.0.

Fish Consumption Advisories for Spanish Speakers

OEHHA evaluates the health risks from chemical contamination of sport fish and advises the public on which fish are safe to eat and those that should not be eaten or should be consumed only in limited amounts. The fish advisories are posted on OEHHA's website 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.

Fifteen OEHHA fish advisories are available in Spanish, including the advisories for San Diego and San Francisco bays and the statewide advisory for lakes and reservoirs that do not have site-specific advice. During 2014, OEHHA developed and released a new advisory in English and Spanish for Little Rock Reservoir in Los Angeles County.

For more information on this program, go to www.oehha.ca.gov/fish.html or send email to fish.advisory@oehha.ca.gov. Fish advisories and fact sheets in Spanish are posted at www.oehha.ca.gov/fish/pescado.html.

Binational Border Health

The California Department of Public Health, Office of Binational Border Health's (OBBH) mission is to protect and improve the health of California communities by facilitating communication, coordination, and collaboration among California and Mexico health officials and health professionals, while working closely with communities on both sides of the border.

In 2014, OBBH 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. OBBH's Annual Border Health Status Report to the Legislature presents important health indicators for border and binational communities in California and describes 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 each of the health issues covered in this report including demographics, access to health care, obesity, diabetes, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, and vaccine-preventable diseases.

In partnership with the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services, OBBH facilitated the creation of the Binational Border Health Consortium of the Californias (BHCC) whose mission is to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration among public and private health institutions for the benefit of the communities of the California—Baja California border region.

The goals of the Binational BHCC are to:

- Create networking opportunities in order to improve communication, strengthen collaboration and streamline coordination.
- Share knowledge and best practices and disseminate information amongst groups/organizations/individuals working in public health in the California—Baja California border region.
- Facilitate access to trainings and capacity building for individuals and organizations working in public health in the California—Baja California border region.
- Educate local, state, and federal legislators regarding public health issues affecting the border region and advocate for resources or policies to address these concerns.

Moreover, the BHCC agreed to develop small work groups to address specific health issues (initial topics selected: obesity, tuberculosis, and HIV); create a binational directory of participating individuals and organizations; and schedule two general binational meetings per year during the months of May and November alternating between California and Baja California.

The California Reportable Disease Informational Exchange (CalREDIE) system at the CDPH was updated in 2014 to include binational cases.

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology (IDE) Program within OBBH focuses on enhancing the detection and response capabilities to infectious disease incidents and threats in the border region. During 2014, OBBH-IDE monitored and investigated binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks in the border region. OBBH-IDE worked collaboratively with state, local, and federal partners focused on surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases, developed routine and emergency binational communication protocols, facilitated the cross-border exchange of information, investigated binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks, and facilitated communications between public health officials in California and Baja California on infectious disease matters of binational interest. As part of these efforts, OBBH-IDE worked closely with public health

professionals in Baja California and California to facilitate exchange of information and cross-border investigation activities. OBBH-IDE also conducted surveillance for syndromic and virologic influenza in the border region. Results of this surveillance are published weekly during the influenza season in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Influenza Surveillance Program report.

In an effort to enhance reporting of binational infectious disease cases throughout the State of California, OBBH-IDE launched the Binational Case component of the 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 CalREDIE 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 statewide basis. This new binational component within CalREDIE allows OBBH-IDE to monitor, report, and follow up on binational cases throughout the state of California in real time. The system went live in March of 2014.

OBBH-IDE continues to manage and coordinate the California Border Infectious Disease Program (CA-BIDS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CA-BIDS is a collaboration between CDPH, CDC, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, and the Imperial County Public Health Department. CA-BIDS activities focus on enhancing surveillance, laboratory testing, and reporting of urgent and routine infectious diseases in the border region.

The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission's California Outreach Office (COO) works in coordination with the nine other U.S. and Mexican border states and both federal governments on priority topics of both countries, which include tuberculosis, obesity/diabetes, access to care, research, and strategic planning. In 2014, the outreach office continued its collaboration with key regional stakeholders on a variety of health issues including two "Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations" workshops in Imperial County, in partnership with the Mexican Consulate in Calexico. The purpose of the workshops was to increase information sharing on specific topics identified by stakeholders.

The outreach office, in partnership with the American Diabetes Association, coordinated the "Por Tu Familia" promotores/community health workers training on prevention and management of diabetes in Imperial County. The trainings were conducted to 325 community members

in Holtville, Sealy, El Centro, and Westmore. Through the “Por Tu Familia” training program, promotores received education on four modules that addressed the signs and symptoms of diabetes, nutrition, eye care, and heart health.

In March 2014, in partnership with the BHCC, the State of Coahuila, Mexico and the University of California San Diego, the BHC-COO held the Border Reproductive Health Summit to bring together federal, state, local, and other partners to address reproductive health inequalities and related issues impacting the U.S–Mexico border region and to discuss potential solutions.

Community-based healthy border initiatives were implemented by CDPH throughout the California-Baja California Border Region to improve capacity-building and networking opportunities to service providers and advocacy organizations, and to support partner agencies in the planning of events or activities. Some highlights included collaboration with the Cancer Resource Center of the Desert (CRCD) and “Mujeres Que Viven” in the planning of the Binational Breast Screening Campaign.

The Winter Gathering of Urban American Indians event was held in December 2014 and was co-sponsored by the San Diego American Indian Heritage Events Committee and the San Diego American Indian Health Center (SDAIHC). SDAIHC provided outreach and educated individuals on both the Affordable Care Act and Covered California, focusing on access to health insurance for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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

Emergency Management

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) continues to be active in the California-Mexico border region by maintaining emergency management agreements and initiatives.

The following are some of Cal OES’ successes and efforts for 2014:

Memorandum of Understanding on Wildfire Suppression

During the governor’s trade mission to Mexico, California and Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change, and support wildfire suppression. In support of the MOU, a Wildfire Working Group was created to further the goals of preparing and coordinating efforts for wildfire emergencies along the California-Mexico border region. Cal OES leads the working group, which is comprised of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and Mexico’s National Forestry Commission. It is responsible for interagency coordination and for providing training opportunities through its Fire & Rescue Branch.

California and Mexico
are cognizant of
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change.

Since the governor’s trade mission, the parties have met twice and discussed the possibility of California donating tools, providing training to enhance Mexico’s knowledge on wildfire suppression, and exchange of technological information. California and Mexico are both cognizant of the importance of becoming strategic partners to combat the effects of climate change.

California-Mexico Seismic Safety Roundtable

Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci participated in the governor's trade mission to Mexico in July 2014. He led a delegation group to Mexico for a roundtable discussion on seismic safety. The group met with the general coordinator of Civil Protection, the director of the National Center for Disaster Prevention, and the director of the Center for Instrumentation and Seismic Record.

The roundtable discussion established communications between the parties, who are committed to creating a bilateral agenda to exchange information and develop collaborations for new technologies, training, and education programs. Furthermore, the parties proposed the signing of a MOU for all hazard collaborations for preparedness, security, social service, and response and recovery, which will take place in 2015. In addition, the California Seismic Safety Commission, Cal OES, and Baja California are currently exploring and discussing topics for developing an early alert and warning system for early earthquake detection. Key objectives include post-disaster economic recovery to protect jobs and businesses, the strengthening of water delivery systems to increase resiliency to earthquakes, and the detection of agricultural vulnerabilities due to seismic disruptions.

Baja California Director of Emergency Management visit to California

Cal OES continues to maintain a long-standing partnership with Baja California. In 2014, Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci met with the new State Director of Civil Protection to discuss binational efforts and initiatives and to renew the MOU on risk prevention and emergency response. Cal OES continues to expand its emergency management partnership with Baja California and provide emergency disaster assistance for natural disasters, as it did after the April 2010 Mexicali-Calexico Earthquake. Cal OES also provided fire equipment (fire engines, portable generators, cots, and water) and hazard materials training.

Tri-National Hazmat Tabletop Exercise

In May 2014, Cal OES, in coordination with federal, state, local, Mexican and tribal entities, participated in the Tri-National Hazmat Tabletop Exercise in Yuma, Arizona. The participants exercised a training response to a railcar incident that resulted in a release of hazardous materials, including crude oil, into the Colorado River. The exercise focused on objectives, such as operational coordination and communications, to ensure protection of natural and cultural resources.

Southwest Border Communications Working Group

Cal OES, along with officials from both the United States and Mexico, participated in the Southwest Border Communications Working Group meeting in League City, Texas in January 2014 to discuss emergency communication for terrorist threats, hazardous material incidents, natural disasters, border violence, escapes and evasions, and medical emergencies. This working group continues to build partnerships among emergency communications practitioners in the Southwest Border region, identify best practices and lessons learned for border area communications, and share information regarding key regulatory issues that impact emergency communications in the border region.

Appendix I

California-Mexico Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)

Links to MOUs are listed below:

- Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment
http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/climate_action_team/intergovernmental/MOU-Ministry_of_the_Environment_Mexico.pdf
- Cooperation in Clean Energies MOU
http://gov.ca.gov/docs/7.29.14_energy_mou_eng.pdf
- Strengthen Trade and Investment Cooperation
http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/climate_action_team/intergovernmental/MOU-Ministry_of_the_Economy_Mexico.pdf
- Establishment of an Oversight Committee for the New Otay Mesa East Port of Entry
http://www.calsta.ca.gov/res/docs/pdfs/2014/Draft%20Final%20Transportation%20MOU%2007_30_14.pdf
- Cooperation on Implementation of AB 60: California Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Individuals
Contact DMV to obtain a copy of this MOU: Wesley Goo at wesley.goo@dmv.ca.gov or (916) 657-6721
- Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/pdfs/MOU-Trade-USA-Mexico.pdf>
- Air Quality Monitoring Memorandum of Cooperation
Contact Cal EPA to obtain a copy of this MOU at cepacomm@calepa.ca.gov or (916) 323-2514

CalEnviroScreen

Full reports regarding CalEnviroScreen 2.0 can be found at:

- *English language version:* <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/CES20FinalReportUpdateOct2014.pdf>
- *Spanish language version (versión en español):* <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/pdf/SpanishCES20FinalReport2014.pdf>

Additional information about CalEnviroScreen 2.0, including a mapping tool showing the most affected communities, is available at <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>

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	California Department of Transportation
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDPH	California 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
IBWC	International Boundary and Water Commission
MDFS	Milk and Dairy Food Safety
MIEEP	Maternal and Infant Environmental Exposure Project
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OBH	Office of Binational Border Health
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
POE	Port of Entry
SEMARNAT	Secretariat of the Environment & Natural Resources
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 <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Border/CMBRC/>

For more information, contact:

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