



**CALIFORNIA-MEXICO
Memorandum of Understanding on
Climate Change & the Environment**

2015 Progress Report



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California-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change and the Environment

2015 Progress Report

INTRODUCTION

In July 2014, California's Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Rodolfo Lacy and National Forestry Commission Director General Jorge Rescala Pérez signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance cooperation between California and Mexico on climate change and the environment. This agreement establishes tangible actions to improve air quality, protect forests and reduce the impacts of climate change on both sides of the California-Mexico border. The California-Mexico MOU is one of several international agreements that California and Mexico have pursued to address the impacts of global climate change, which include:¹

- The State of Jalisco and the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission signed an MOU on clean energy policies and programs.
- Mexico City and several Mexican states— Baja California, Chiapas, Hidalgo, Jalisco, México State, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán—have signed on to the Under 2 MOU, a subnational global climate agreement, which originated in a partnership between California and Baden-Württemberg. A total of 136 jurisdictions representing 32 countries and six continents have signed or endorsed the Under 2 MOU, an agreement to limit emissions to 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, or below two metric tons per capita, by 2050.
- California and six Mexican states—Campeche, Chiapas, Jalisco, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, and Yucatán—are members of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF), a group of 35 states and provinces collaborating to promote low emissions rural development and reduced emissions from deforestation and land use (REDD+). The GCF seeks to link these activities with emerging greenhouse gas (GHG) compliance regimes and other pay-for-performance opportunities.
- California and Chiapas have an information sharing agreement on forestry as it relates to cap-and-trade.

The California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment signed in 2014 is a four-year effort with four priority action areas: climate change, air quality, clean vehicles, and wildfires. In addition to the four priority action areas, California and Mexico are strengthening cooperation on solid waste management. The overall objective of the MOU is to strengthen the capacity of both governments to cope with the challenges of climate change and to protect and preserve natural resources.

The MOU called for the development of a Joint Action Plan to identify activities needed to address the four priority action areas, which was established in April 2015 for the duration of the MOU. The following table provides a summary of the Joint Action Plan overarching goals. The goals set out in each action area were based on the principles of equality, reciprocity, information exchange and mutual benefit.

Working groups were formed based on the priority action areas. On a quarterly basis, each working group reports internally on its progress. The specific working group goals, activities, deliverables and progress to-date are presented in the tables that follow. This public report is released annually to describe the progress and accomplishments the working groups have made in the preceding year.

¹ More information and copies of current MOUs signed between California and Mexico can be found on the California Climate Change website: http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/climate_action_team/partnerships.html

CALIFORNIA-MEXICO MOU JOINT ACTION PLAN OVERARCHING GOALS	
Climate Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work toward development of rigorous monitoring, reporting and verification to support carbon pricing or regulatory mechanisms, including potential linkage of carbon markets. 2. Share knowledge, development, and technology experience that enables economic growth while addressing climate change, including reductions in short lived climate pollutants. 3. Share information and experience on interaction between forestry and the climate, including the potential for sector-based offset credits from reduced deforestation.
Air Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate air quality planning efforts for airsheds along the border. 2. Share technical knowledge and information needed to support development of robust air quality planning and mitigation efforts. 3. Improve the comparability of data collected in Mexico and California.
Clean Vehicles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update and design the Mexican vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gas (GHG) and smog pollution based on California's standards. 2. Advance Mexico's efforts on compliance and enforcement of environmental standards for vehicles. 3. Contribute to Mexico's progress on the use of new technologies and strategies for the reduction of vehicular emissions (such as strategy for freight transportation, emissions inventories for mobile sources, vehicular emissions diagnosis and maintenance, on-board diagnostics (OBD) for vehicle inspections, clean and low-carbon fuels and strategy for the import of used vehicles into Mexico).
Wildfires	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster cooperation for wildfire assistance through the strengthening of technical and institutional capacities on fire management.

Cooperation on Climate Change

In 2015, the Climate Change Working Group made significant progress on knowledge exchange, particularly in regards to monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Much of the discussion between Mexico's natural resources agency, the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is around California's existing programs to address climate change, including questions on policy choices and implementation of California's Mandatory Reporting Regulation (MRR) and Cap-and-Trade Program. Because both ARB and SEMARNAT agree that a robust MRV framework is a necessary precursor to developing a carbon pricing program, the working group focused first on MRV.

To advance Mexico's MRV framework, ARB and SEMARNAT discussed California's requirements for MRV and exchanged information on each organization's emissions reporting programs, including an examination of associated costs. ARB provided SEMARNAT with information about the development of California's greenhouse gas accounting systems—MRR and the California Electronic Greenhouse Gas Reporting Tool (Cal-EGGRT)—as well as verification training materials. SEMARNAT shared its emissions reporting law and regulations related to direct measurements of emissions, emissions reporting methodologies, and covered gases. SEMARNAT

also provided ARB with a comprehensive, in-person presentation of its reporting system tool, COA Web.

Although the Climate Change Working Group focused on MRV in 2015, representatives from California and Mexico also had fruitful exchanges on California's Cap-and-Trade Program. ARB and SEMARNAT discussed cap setting and the development of a Carbon Allowance Allocation System. Of particular interest to SEMARNAT was the cap-inclusion threshold and California's choice of sectors to include in the cap. In April, ARB presented the program to a delegation of Mexican electricity officials who were visiting the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in Sacramento. In September, SEMARNAT representatives participated in the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) workshop in Sacramento on building carbon registries at which representatives from California offered their perspectives. In conjunction with APX, Mexico developed an offset registry to record emission reductions.

Going forward, the Working Group will continue to hold bi-weekly calls on the above and other topics. The Working Group has also defined several in-person training priorities for the second half of 2016 related to carbon pricing and linkage, forestry offset-related issues, and other relevant topics both in California and in Mexico and is exploring various options to follow through on these trainings.

PROGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change Overarching Goal 1	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Work towards development of rigorous MRV to support carbon pricing or regulatory mechanisms, including potential linkage of carbon markets.	Share lessons learned on construction and design (as reporting tools) and data management tools (technical cooperation).	1. Possibility to align Mexico's registry system with California's Annual GHG Reporting System. 2. Information sharing.	● ● ○ ○
	Consider standardization of algorithms of quantification methodologies in order to calculate emissions.	Information sharing	● ● ○ ○
	Pursue standardization of verification parameters for emission reports.		● ○ ○ ○
	Cooperate to share training for Verifying Entities, or for process verification and/or validation.		● ○ ○ ○

Climate Change Overarching Goal 2	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Share knowledge, development, and technology experience that enable economic growth while addressing climate change, including reductions in short-lived climate pollutants.	Develop specific recommendations for the design of effective tools for pricing carbon in Mexico and California.	Results and recommendations of analysis due within reasonable time frame.	● ○ ○ ○
	Determine cap threshold and an emissions permit distribution system.	1. Share information on how California has developed its cap in every sector. 2. Discuss external training. 3. Potential future workshops.	● ● ○ ○
	Exchange technical assistance and experiences for the construction of a Carbon Market.		● ● ○ ○
	Improve capacity of staff of the ministry, through the exchange of information and experiences on vulnerability assessments to climate change in different sectors, as well as the design, implementation and monitoring of measures to adapt to climate change.	1. Possible transfer and development of technology. 2. Share experiences of successful projects to adapt to climate change in the region, monitoring and evaluation tools, development of climate change scenarios, early warning systems, preventive care approach to disaster management and conservation of ecosystems to new climate conditions.	○ ○ ○ ○
	Look to create opportunities for biomass energy and biomass energy plants to replace fossil fuels.	Share with bioenergy working group the opportunity of eventual support from this cooperation.	○ ○ ○ ○

Progress Key	No Progress	○ ○ ○ ○
	Initial Progress	● ○ ○ ○
	Moderate Progress	● ● ○ ○
	Significant Progress	● ● ● ○
	Deliverable Achieved	● ● ● ●

Climate Change Overarching Goal 3	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
<p>Share information and experience on interaction between forestry and the climate, including the potential for sector-based offset credits from reduced deforestation.</p>	<p>Discuss methodologies with the potential of producing offsets for both regions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploration of methodologies from California. 2. To analyze methodologies in order to include them into an eventual Mexican accreditation system. 	<p>● ○ ○ ○</p>
	<p>Explore the inclusion of offsets from Mexico in the California market.</p>		<p>● ○ ○ ○</p>
	<p>Collaboration of programs on forest management and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, with a view to incentivizing forest carbon approaches.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Core Team. 2. Review existing Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force documentation. 3. Technical meetings. 4. Determine whether CA could help develop interest in subnational/regional linking within Mexico (i.e., Chiapas, Yucatan, Quintana Roo, and Jalisco efforts) to include sectoral offsets in CA market. 5. Encourage exchanges between Mexican and CA universities. <p>Examine possibility of linkage between national and subnational policies.</p>	<p>● ○ ○ ○</p>

Cooperation on Air Quality

The primary accomplishments of the Air Quality Working Group in 2015 include the coordination of air monitoring training, the initiation of a contract for a major air quality study in Mexicali, the donation of surplus equipment to Baja California, certification of Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente (SPA) calibration standards, continued laboratory support for the SPA air monitoring sites, and participation in recurring trans-border air quality meetings.

One of the overarching goals in the Joint Action Plan is the exchange of technical knowledge and information needed to support the development of robust air quality planning and mitigation efforts. To accomplish this, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) conducted several training sessions with staff of Baja California's environmental protection agency, SPA in 2015. In April, ARB held a two-day, hands-on training on air monitoring station operation and instrument maintenance in El Centro, California. In May, ARB provided training on air monitoring instrument calibration in Imperial County, California, which was followed by training on data review in Calexico, California. In addition to the training provided during 2015, ARB shared a summary of California's air toxics laws with Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT).

ARB worked with SPA to initiate a joint, two-year study of particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) in Mexicali, Mexico. The study will continuously measure PM_{2.5} at two locations, and chemical and elemental constituents of PM_{2.5} at one location. The request for proposals was released in May 2015, and the contract was awarded in July 2015 to SCS Engineers. Monitoring began in April 2016 and data from the new Mexicali monitors are

currently being streamed to the SPA website. The field study will run through March 2018. At the conclusion of the study, all air monitoring equipment will be donated to Baja California and become SPA property. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) formally offered SPA surplus air monitoring equipment, which ARB delivered to the border in March 2015. SEMARNAT has also provided SPA with resources for air monitoring spare parts and consumables. ARB continued to certify SPA calibration equipment to the primary standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and will provide subsequent, periodic recertification. ARB also continued to provide laboratory analysis support for the air monitoring sites in Baja California.

Representatives from California and Mexico participated in several trans-border air quality meetings. ARB and SPA staff participated in Air Quality Task Force meetings in Mexicali in May and September, which brought together representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD), the City of Mexicali, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public. ARB and SPA staff also participated in the U.S.-Mexico Air Quality meeting in Tijuana in May with representatives from SEMARNAT, the Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC), San Diego Air Pollution Control District, and ICAPCD.

The Air Quality Working Group has defined its goals for 2016, which include initiation of the Mexicali PM_{2.5} Study field campaign, additional training, certification of air monitoring standards, and transition from the ARB filter mass analysis laboratory to the SPA laboratory.

PROGRESS ON AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Overarching Goal 1	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Coordinate Mexico-California air quality planning efforts for air sheds along the Mexico- California border.	Coordinate development and implementation of Baja California ProAire and California air quality planning efforts.	Information sharing and coordination	● ○ ○ ○

Air Quality Overarching Goal 2	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Share technical knowledge and information needed to support development of robust air quality planning and mitigation efforts.	Implement emissions reporting system for Baja California.	Information sharing	● ○ ○ ○
	Strengthen Baja California air toxics regulations.	Information sharing	● ○ ○ ○

Air Quality Overarching Goal 3	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Improve the comparability of data collected in Mexico and California.	Strengthen the air quality monitoring network in Baja California.	Provide training and information sharing on various technical aspects of air quality monitoring including field operations, quality control activities, and data management and reporting.	● ● ● ○
	Capacity building and improved understanding of cross-border air quality and emissions sources.	Enhance air monitoring stations in Mexicali with continuous PM2.5 monitors and a PM2.5 speciation sampler. These monitors will be used in a two-year PM2.5 study of the Mexicali/ Imperial County region.	● ● ● ○
	Improve auditing of the Baja California air quality monitoring network.	Provide training on how to conduct performance audits of air monitoring instruments and samplers.	● ○ ○ ○

Progress Key	No Progress	○ ○ ○ ○
	Initial Progress	● ○ ○ ○
	Moderate Progress	● ● ○ ○
	Significant Progress	● ● ● ○
	Deliverable Achieved	● ● ● ●

Cooperation on Clean Vehicles

Considerable progress was made in 2015 towards the alignment of Mexico's light-duty vehicle criteria and GHG emission standards with those set in the United States. ARB staff presented an overview of California's standards for criteria and GHG emissions under the LEV III Advanced Clean Cars program. The workshop also covered ARB's On-Board Diagnostic requirements, certification and compliance programs, and California's Smog Check Program. Following the meeting, Mexico formed a tentative plan of action to update its new vehicle emissions standards. The plan was drafted in September 2015 with the help of the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) to fully harmonize Mexico and California/U.S. light duty standards by 2022 for GHGs and by 2025 for criteria pollutants.

The Asociación Mexicana de la Industria Automotriz (AMIA) proposed a set of test procedure and emission control system requirements intended to accommodate an update to the emission standards. ARB staff reviewed the AMIA document and provided its comments and suggestions to ICCT. ICCT will compile comments received from industry experts for submission to SEMARNAT. ARB staff continues to work with ICCT, SEMARNAT and other stakeholders to guide the adoption of any such requirements. ARB also reviewed and provided formal comments to SEMARNAT concerning the proposed amendments to NOM-044-SEMARNAT-2006, which would update Mexico's emission standards for on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles. The new standards for 2018 and later model year would align Mexico's standards with the most current standards

in California and the United States. SEMARNAT, with the help of ICCT, estimates that the new standards would reduce urban area emissions by 24,000 tons for PM_{2.5}, and 410,000 tons of NO_x by 2037.

In August, ARB staff traveled to Mexico City to participate in a workshop on motor vehicle fuels. Workshop topics included: the current fuel situation in Mexico, the need for clean fuels to lower emissions and facilitate the use of advanced emission controls, the characteristics of clean fuel formulations, enforcement mechanisms for clean fuel compliance, experience and lessons learned in the U.S. from the introduction of cleaner motor vehicle fuels, and a discussion of the challenges ahead for the fuels market in Mexico. ARB also provided training on fuels standard implementation and enforcement at the workshop.

In 2015, the working group also made progress on compliance and enforcement of environmental standards. ARB staff provided in-depth training on California's Smog Check program and how it uses vehicle On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) systems as an inspection tool. Mexico worked to finalize standards to shape Mexico's vehicle inspection programs in a similar manner. SEMARNAT's Dirección General de Fomento Ambiental, Urbano y Turístico (DGFAUT) drafted a Vehicle Inspection Guide that includes technical procedures and specifications for using OBD systems for emission inspections. ARB staff reviewed the draft and provided comments and suggestions to DGFAUT.

PROGRESS ON CLEAN VEHICLES

Clean Vehicles Overarching Goal 1	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Update and design the Mexican vehicle emission standards for GHG and smog pollution based on California's standards.	Improve the Mexican regulatory requirements for vehicular criteria pollutant emissions: Develop the standards for light vehicle emissions in 2015 and beginning of 2016 and the standards for heavy duty vehicles in 2016 and 2017 (for new and in use vehicles including motorcycles).	1. Mexican Official Norms drafts and Regulatory Impact Study.	● ● ○ ○
Clean Vehicles Overarching Goal 2		Deliverables	Progress
Advance Mexico's efforts on DGFAUT compliance and enforcement of environmental standards for vehicles.		2. Publication of an "Emission Standards Equivalence Guide" [DGFAUT].	● ● ○ ○

Progress Key	No Progress	○ ○ ○ ○
	Initial Progress	● ○ ○ ○
	Moderate Progress	● ● ○ ○
	Significant Progress	● ● ● ○
	Deliverable Achieved	● ● ● ●

PROGRESS ON CLEAN VEHICLES

Clean Vehicles Overarching Goal 3	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
<p>Contribute to Mexico's progress on the use of new technologies and strategies for the reduction of vehicular emissions (e.g. strategy for freight transportation, emissions inventories for mobile sources, vehicular emissions diagnosis and maintenance, OBD for vehicle inspections, clean and low-carbon fuels and strategy for the import of used vehicles into México).</p>	<p>Develop an integrated strategy on freight transportation for improving SEMARNAT's Clean Transportation Program: Learn from California's experience about the implementation of measures to prevent and control the emission in this sector.</p>	<p>Collaboration with SEMARNAT staff who will visit California to discuss the freight trucks program and exchange experiences.</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○</p>
	<p>Training and experience exchange on the elaboration of an emissions inventory for vehicular and off road mobile sources.</p>	<p>Development of a methodology for the emissions inventory estimation for vehicular and off road sources for Mexico.</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○</p>
	<p>Training and experience exchange on methods to ensure compliance with mobile source standards.</p>	<p>Collaboration between California and Mexican technical personnel [DGFAUT].</p>	<p>● ● ● ○</p>
	<p>Establish a workgroup to define the environmental criteria for the import of used vehicles into Mexico.</p>	<p>1. Environmental Criteria for the definitive import of used vehicles into Mexico. 2. Collaboration between California and Mexican personnel on options for strategy development for imported vehicles and mitigation of their environmental impact in Mexico.</p>	<p>● ○ ○ ○</p>
	<p>Training on the OBD Systems: Training and experience exchange for the application of OBD as part of Vehicle Emissions Verification Programs.</p>	<p>Criteria and technical specifications for the reliable use of OBD systems during the process of Vehicular Emissions Verification.</p>	<p>● ● ● ○</p>
	<p>Experience Exchange related to strategies for introducing and promoting the use of alternative fuel and vehicular technologies.</p>	<p>Work Document that includes California's experience to promote the production and use of alternative vehicular fuel and technologies.</p>	<p>● ● ○ ○</p>

Cooperation on Wildfires

In 2015, the Wildfire Working Group, comprised of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and Mexico's Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) advanced its action plan and corresponding plans for training. In January, the working group held a meeting at the San Diego Fire-Rescue Training Facility to discuss interagency training opportunities that aim to increase knowledge and capacity in areas such as wildfire suppression, fuel management, and the Incident Command System (ICS).

In the months following, the Wildfire Working Group developed its Action Plan to identify and leverage Cal OES and CAL FIRE training opportunities for CONAFOR officials. In addition to the Action Plan, the working group also developed a list of equipment needed in Mexico. This list includes

items such as wildfire boots, gloves, helmet lights and fire hoses, among other things.



In 2016, the working group will implement the training opportunities identified in the Action Plan which includes the CAL FIRE S-130/S-190 Wildfire Suppression Training Course in Baja California. In addition, Mexican firefighters will have the opportunity to participate in a wildfire simulation exercise in southern California and observe an Incident Management Team (IMT) in the field. These collaborative efforts will promote capacity building opportunities with our partners in areas such as technical expertise in personal protective equipment and best practices in fire suppression and personal safety. The working group will also continue to work to identify and acquire any surplus equipment that can be donated to CONAFOR at end of the fire season.

PROGRESS ON WILDFIRES



Wildfires Overarching Goal 1	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Wildfire Suppression	To exchange human resources and materials to collaborate on wildfire suppression within the Baja CA -California border region.	Share best practices, expertise, and technical assistance to Mexican wildfire firefighters through international exchange programs, site-visits, and training courses to further improve the suppression of wildfires.	● ○ ○ ○
Wildfires Overarching Goal 2	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Capacity Development	Provide Incident Command System (ICS) training to Mexican technical personnel in California	Train several Mexican trainers (train-the-trainer) on ICS and provide the opportunity to observe the incident management teams on ICS during real time.	● ○ ○ ○
		Training and working alongside to establish a history of successfully working together in an effort to establish future joint activities.	● ○ ○ ○

Progress Key	No Progress	○ ○ ○ ○
	Initial Progress	● ○ ○ ○
	Moderate Progress	● ● ○ ○
	Significant Progress	● ● ● ○
	Deliverable Achieved	● ● ● ●

PROGRESS ON WILDFIRES

Wildfires Overarching Goal 2 (Cont.)	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Capacity Development	Participation of technical personnel on fuel management methods (mechanical, prescribed burns and others): Mexican trainers to participate on prescribed burning to expand their technical knowledge and enhance their experience in fuel management.	For Mexican Leader's Program (One time): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Sharing experiences/lessons learned to establish a prescribed burning program. 2) Strategy of social communication. 3) Cost analysis of a prescribed burning program/fuel management program. 4) Requirements to establish an equipment and technical training program. 5) Other fuel management methods to reduce fuel loads on forest. 	
		For Mexican trainers (each year): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Review plans for natural resource management and fire management plans. 7) Review / Formulation burning plans and objectives. 8) Participation of Mexican technicians with prescribed fire brigades of CA. 9) Participation of Mexican technician with fuel management brigades of CA. 	

PROGRESS ON WILDFIRES

Wildfires Overarching Goal 2 (Cont.)	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Capacity Development	Provide training for utilization and operation of water pump truck engines.	Exchange lessons learned between CAL FIRE technicians and Mexican Leader Program: 1) Process to establish a fire engine program for fighting fires and prescribed burn. 2) Policies and procedures in short, medium and long term to run a fire engine program (including decision-maker's actions before, during and after fire season). 3) Developing capacities strategy in México under the concepts used by CALFIRE. 4) What the decision makers must do before, during and after fire season.	
		For Trainers: 5) Allow Mexican trainers to participate in fire engine use courses in CA. 6) Train several Mexican trainers on fire engine use in real time. 7) Process to establish preventive and corrective fire engine maintenance program (including what crew engines must do before, during and after fire season).	

PROGRESS ON WILDFIRES

Wildfires Overarching Goal 2 (Cont.)	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Capacity Development	Exchange technical information about Emergency Operations Centers, dispatching protocols and mobilization, statistics management, inter-institutional coordination, among others.	1) Providing technical information and exchange on emergency operation centers, dispatching protocols and mobilization. 2) Statistics management, hardware and software, communications protocols, interagency coordination. 3) Visit CA emergency operation centers to share lessons learned.	● ○ ○ ○ ○
Wildfires Overarching Goal 2 (Cont.)	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Capacity Development	Conduct joint training regarding Wildland Urban Interface issues.	For Mexican Leader Program: 1) Development of the Urban Interface Strategy, implementation, policies and procedures 2) Provide training for Mexican trainers on how to develop educational actions on wildland urban interface issues. 3) Process to develop fire severity zone maps. 4) Share lessons learned on interagency coordination for law enforcement, wildfire prevention engineering, owner's participation, and wildland hazards/ building codes.	● ○ ○ ○ ○
		For trainers: 1) Train several Mexican trainers on: a) Procedures for fighting fires on Wildland urban interface zones. b) Safety issues for fighters, owners and public.	● ○ ○ ○ ○

PROGRESS ON WILDFIRES

Wildfires Overarching Goal 3	Working Group Activities	Deliverables	Progress
Equipment	Equipment and tools donations	Support Mexican Fire Program with equipment, hand tools and Personnel Protective Equipment through CA surplus donations.	

California- Baja California Cooperation on Solid Waste

While management of solid waste streams was not included in the Joint Action Plan, both California and Mexico recognize the importance of coordination in this area. California and Baja California have begun expanding their activities related to solid waste in the California-Mexico border region. In 2015, the California-Mexico Border Relations Council (CMBRC) established the Border Region Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG), pursuant to California Senate Bill 83 (Atkins, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2015). The SWWG was tasked with developing and coordinating long-term solutions to the problems associated with waste tires, solid waste, and excessive sedimentation in the California-Mexico border region. SB 83 also appropriated \$300,000 to support the CMBRC. The SWWG made spending recommendations to the CMBRC for these funds, which included two projects one led by WILD Coast and one led by the Sonoran Institute. WILD Coast is working to recover 100,000 waste tires before they cross the border into California, shred the collected waste tires and recycle them by selling them for tire-derived products. The Sonoran Institute is working to remove solid waste from portions of five drains in Mexicali and provide environmental education in local schools on the importance of maintaining sanitary drains. WILD Coast and the Sonoran Institute began work in 2016, and will complete their projects in 2017.

In July of 2016, the CMBRC reconstituted SWWG, creating a smaller group to work on the technical aspects of the California-Mexico Border Solid Waste

and Tire Strategic Plan. The group plans to hold a series of workshops in 2016, the first of which took place in August 2016. The August workshop focused on market drivers of waste tires and other solid waste at the border. Presenters included a representative from SPA Baja California, a representative from USEPA, and a representative from CalRecycle working on the annual update to the Tire Flow Study. The SWWG will work to complete the Strategic Plan, which is expected to be presented to the Council at its meeting in January 2017. California and Mexico will work to define their Goals, an Action Plan for a Solid Waste Working Group and deliverables to include in the Joint Action Plan for the MOU.

Conclusions

This annual report summarizes the work carried out under the California-Mexico MOU during 2015, as reported by the various working groups. As demonstrated, progress has been made in all of the priority areas. Most of the deliverables have seen some level of progress, with many sub items having significant progress. With the working groups now fully formed and working consistently towards their goals, work is expected to accelerate throughout 2016 and 2017.

The working groups face challenges, including lack of funding and staff time as well as travel restrictions. However, the working groups continue to coordinate, some through biweekly calls, to advance their goals. In 2016, the working groups will continue to use the Joint Action Plan to guide their work in all of the priority areas, in order to progress towards meeting the deliverables stated for each of the overarching goals.

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