

**2017**

Annual Report

# **The California-Mexico Border Relations Council**

A Summary of Council Activities Undertaken in 2017



**CalEPA**  
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July 2018



## **Council Member Agencies**

*California Environmental Protection Agency*  
*California Natural Resources Agency*  
*California Department of Food & Agriculture*  
*California Health & Human Services Agency*  
*Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency*  
*California Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development*  
*California State Transportation Agency*  
*California Governor's Office of Emergency Services*

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
*Governor*

**Matthew Rodriguez**  
*Secretary for Environmental Protection*



*The California-Mexico Border Relations Council is the central organizational body that coordinates interagency projects, programs, 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 California and Mexico.*

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# Welcome

*Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature:*

I am pleased to present this annual report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, pursuant to Assembly Bill 3021 (Núñez, Chapter 621, Statutes of 2006). The lives of Californians and Mexicans are inextricably linked, and a strong relationship between our regions is beneficial to us all.

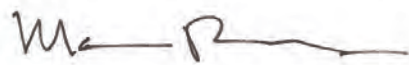
The Council is comprised of eight state secretaries or directors of state offices, appointed by the Governor. Collectively we are responsible for dealing with a large number of issues affecting the border, touching on such subjects as the environment, natural resources, transportation, human health, food and agriculture, emergency and consumer services, housing, and business and economic development. The Council meets twice every year to coordinate the activities of state agencies on California-Mexico border issues.

Throughout 2017, the Council made progress in a number of areas, with particular emphasis on addressing the priority issues of cross-border sewage flows and waste tire pollution. I asked stakeholders to convene a meeting to address a massive cross-border sewage spill that occurred in February, and as a result, an alternative approaches study will be conducted to identify options for addressing sewage issues in the Tijuana River Valley watershed. On the southeastern border, funds were appropriated to begin design plans for the New River Improvement Project, and a memorandum of understanding was signed by local stakeholders with financial commitments for long-term operation and maintenance of infrastructure to address New River pollution.

The Council's Solid Waste Working Group worked with Baja California to hold a two-day technical workshop on waste and waste tire challenges and solutions at the border. The Council's two demonstration projects concluded, collectively removing over 30,000 waste tires from the border.

As this report illustrates, the Council remains committed to protecting the environment, improving infrastructure, and ensuring the health and safety of residents and visitors along both sides of the California-Mexico border. With continued poignant challenges, the Council remains a crucial forum for addressing these matters.

Sincerely,



Matthew Rodriguez  
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Chairman, California-Mexico Border Relations Council



# Council Background

Border relations initiatives with Mexico have a long history in California. Both the United States and Mexico face challenges at the border resulting from rapid population growth, urbanization, industrial expansion, and increasing flows of international trade. In order to begin addressing these issues, legislation enacted in 1982 established the Office of California-Mexico Affairs within the California Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency. However, Assembly Bill 1757 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 229, Statutes of 2003) ended the agency in 2003, and the duties of the agency were reassigned to other state entities. In 2004, the California Research Bureau released a report that listed more than 100 California-Mexico programs operating across state agencies.<sup>1</sup> Many of these programs eventually concluded because no organizing entity existed to coordinate interagency cooperation.

In 2006, Assembly Bill 3021 (Núñez, Chapter 621, Statutes of 2006; Government Code Sections 8710-8713) 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.

In 2014, responsibilities of the Council were modified by Assembly Bill 690 (Campos, Chapter 716, Statutes of 2014). The bill created Government Code Sections 99520-99524, which direct the actions of the Council today. The Council:

- Works towards improving and protecting trade opportunities, the environment, health, safety and infrastructure along the California-Mexico border.
- Works under various memoranda of understanding and other intergovernmental partnerships.
- Coordinates cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships within California state agencies.
- Establishes California state agency policies for the collection and sharing of cross-border data.
- Identifies and recommends changes in the law needed to achieve the goals of the Council.
- Conducts statewide planning and oversight of issues of concern between California and Baja California, as well as the United Mexican States.
- Provides an annual report of activities to the California State Legislature.

## Member Agencies



<sup>1</sup> An update to this study was published in November 2017 and is available at: <https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/crb/reports/ProgramsAndProjectsRelatedToMexicoInCAStateGovt-2017UpdateFINAL.pdf>

# Council Members



## Chair

### **Matthew Rodriguez**

Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov)



### **Mark Ghilarducci**

Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
[www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov)



### **Karen Ross**

Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
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### **Brian C. Annis**

Secretary, California State Transportation Agency  
[www.calsta.ca.gov](http://www.calsta.ca.gov)



### **John Laird**

Secretary, Natural Resources Agency  
[www.resources.ca.gov](http://www.resources.ca.gov)



### **Michael Wilkening**

Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency  
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### **Panorea Avdis**

Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development  
[www.business.ca.gov](http://www.business.ca.gov)



### **Alexis Podesta**

Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
[www.bcsh.ca.gov](http://www.bcsh.ca.gov)



# Executive Summary

The California-Mexico Border Relations Council (Council) serves as the central organizing body within California state government for California-Mexico border issues. Chaired by the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Council is comprised of eight state secretaries or directors of state offices: the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA); the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS); the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA); the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA); the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA); the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES); the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH); the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz); and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), which is an ex-officio member. This annual report to the Legislature, which is required pursuant to Government Code Section 8713, includes a summary of their activities in 2017.

## Trade

Mexico remains one of California's top trading partners. In 2017, Mexico ranked as the number one export market for California, with a total of \$26.7 billion in merchandise exports to Mexico. California continues to work towards expanding trade opportunities with our neighbor. Under the 2014 *California-Mexico Trade and Investment Memorandum of Understanding*, GO-Biz has participated in various trade initiatives with Mexico, supporting in-bound trade missions and holding technical exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment.

## Business, Consumer Services and Housing

Several departments, boards, bureaus and offices overseen by BCSH conduct work relevant to the border. For example, the agency's Department of Business Oversight (DBO) attended and contributed to nearly 30 events throughout the state, targeting Spanish-speaking consumers with educational information on financial topics. The DBO also provided free consumer education materials in English and Spanish regarding fraud prevention and money management. A second example is the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), which attended and participated in the 2017 Labor Rights Week held at various Mexican Consulates throughout the state, sharing information pertaining to civil rights in the workplace and related to housing. Additional departments, boards, bureaus and offices conducted important border work in 2017, including the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

## Environment

In the border region, multiple stakeholders collaboratively work to address challenging environmental issues, including air quality, climate change, waste and water matters. Much of their efforts stem from a key memorandum of understanding - the *California-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment* (hereafter referred to as the *Climate Change and Environment MOU*) - signed in 2014. It has continued to be an important instrument for promoting exchange and collaboration on environmental issues.

In 2017, CalEPA worked to expand funding opportunities for environmental projects in watersheds at the border. Notably, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board obtained funding from Senate Bill 859 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Statutes of 2016) that will be used for engineering and design plans for the New River Improvement Project. In 2017, another achievement for funding border projects was achieved: the California

Department of Fish and Wildlife added cross-border criteria to the Watershed Restoration Grant Program and collaborated with CalEPA in border-area outreach efforts regarding this grant opportunity, resulting in two border projects obtaining a total of \$3.2 million for acquisition and planning in the Tijuana River watershed. Finally, CalEPA continued to collaborate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on the U.S.-Mexico Border 2020 Program as a partner, with a deputy secretary serving as a co-chair for the California-Baja California Regional Work Group.

Further milestones were achieved in the areas of air quality and climate change. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) facilitated development of the “Imperial Valley Air Quality” mobile app to further enhance public access to air quality information in the region. The Mexican states of Aguascalientes, Colima and Querétaro signed the Under2 Memorandum of Understanding (also known as the Under2 Coalition), signaling their commitment to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, or limit to 2 annual metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per capita by 2050. Mexico also endorsed the Under2 Coalition in 2017.

As a milestone in the area of waste, key milestones to address waste challenges include the conclusion of two pilot projects overseen by the Border Relations Council, publication of a tire flow study update with current information on cross-border tire flows, and a comprehensive two-day workshop on cross-border waste tire remediation in Tijuana.

Regarding water quality in the border region, there were accomplishments and challenges in 2017. For example, 1,500 volunteers from both sides of the border removed 435 waste tires and approximately 6,300 pounds of trash from the watershed during the 2017 Tijuana River Action Month. However, in February of 2017, a massive raw sewage spill flowed from Tijuana into San Diego via the Tijuana River, bringing national attention to the recurring sewage flows in this cross-border river and the New River. Multiple steps were taken in 2017 by local, state, national, and binational stakeholders in order to address this ongoing challenge.

## **Energy**

In 2017, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) continued to collaborate with multiple border stakeholders on energy priorities, including the advancement of energy efficiency and clean tech development. Key areas of engagement included the review of proposals for joint research projects between California and Mexico on energy efficiency in buildings, the role of data and analytics in establishing and progressing toward energy efficiency targets, and the promotion of renewable energy policies and technical exchanges.

## **Agriculture**

The CDFA continues to collaborate with Mexico on animal health, food safety, pest prevention and plant health. Specifically, CDFA collaborates under the framework of its memorandum of understanding with the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario* (SEFOA) of Baja California signed in 2016. CDFA also participates in the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, which brings together state and national agricultural representatives from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to discuss issues of shared concern. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has also continued working on border-related agriculture issues. This effort includes critical information exchanges, Promotores advocacy, field worker trainings, and an annual farmworker appreciation breakfast.

## **Transportation**

The California-Mexico border is home to six international border crossings, two of which are among the busiest of all United States crossings. In 2017, California’s international border crossings processed nearly 17.7 million pedestrian crossings, 32 million personal vehicles, and over 1.3 million commercial trucks. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) are responsible for border mobility and enforcement. Both departments are working on innovative solutions that expand opportunities to create a safe, integrated, efficient, and secure transportation system along the border. New projects like the flagship Otay Mesa East and expansion of Calexico West International Land

Port of Entry will reduce border crossing wait times, improve flow of traffic between California and Mexico, and bring California closer to meeting these objectives.

The Calexico West Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion project (Calexico West) will renovate and expand the third busiest Land Port of Entry in California, which links the agriculturally rich Imperial Valley to Mexicali, the state of Baja California's capital with a population of over 1 million people. In order to increase capacity, General Services Administration (GSA) improvements include new pedestrian and privately owned vehicle (POV) inspection facilities and administrative space. In 2017, construction continued on Phase 1 of the project, which includes five southbound POV lanes and the southbound vehicle bridge, ten northbound POV inspection lanes and associated equipment, and additional site work.

Border community outreach efforts are also largely accomplished through the CHP *El Protector* Program. The focus of this program is to utilize a bilingual CHP officer of Hispanic ancestry to participate in community events, provide traffic safety education presentations, and serve as a Hispanic role model within the communities served.

## **Safety**

In 2017, the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG) supported enhanced cooperation and coordination among Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and other federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. In 2017, agencies participating in San Diego County's OPSG produced over 2,000 citations, 506 misdemeanor arrests, 293 narcotic seizures, and 261 felony arrests. Another key safety program is Operation Gridlock V. The goal of this operation is to intercept drug courier groups transporting narcotics into and throughout the U.S. Operation Gridlock V was held in November 2017 with participation in San Diego County, resulting in nearly 200 citations and 21 felony arrests in San Diego County.

The CHP Border Division plays a large role in border safety. CHP coordinates and/or

participates in a number of investigative task forces, community outreach programs and a grant-funded regional enforcement operation. These include the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force, the Mexican Liaison Unit, U.S. Marshall Fugitive Task Force, North San Diego County and East San Diego County Gang Enforcement Teams, the Canine Unit, a joint-agency San Diego County Human Trafficking Task Force and a Human Trafficking Task Force in Orange County.

## **Health**

Border health work is largely conducted through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) and through the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). In 2017, the OBBH produced its "Annual Border Health Status Report" to the Legislature, which provides a summary of the current health status of the border region. This report presents important health indicators for border communities in California and a general overview of the health status of the population living in the San Diego and Imperial Counties. Through OBBH, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission California Outreach Office (COO) works in coordination with the other U.S. and Mexico border states and both federal governments on priority topics of both countries, such as tuberculosis, obesity/diabetes, access to care, research, and strategic planning. In 2017, the COO was committed to five initiatives, including 1) community-based healthy border initiatives, 2) the Border Reproductive Health Initiative, 3) implementation of the "Border Health Consortium of the Californias Strategic Plan," 4) U.S.-Mexico Promotores training on vector-borne diseases, and 5) Border Health Month. In 2017, the Asthma Management Academy was launched. The academy is a professional development series that prepares community health workers (CHWs) to provide national asthma guidelines and self-management education to families living with uncontrolled asthma.

OEHHA helps coordinate efforts to maintain a healthy environment for people in the California-Mexico border region. CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by OEHHA that scores

all California census tracts based on 20 indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability. In January 2017, OEHHA released the latest CalEnviroScreen version, CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Additional sources of data were incorporated in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to more accurately reflect the impacts of pollution originating in Mexico on California communities located near the Mexican border. OEHHA also collaborates with the California Department of Public Health and the Department of Toxic Substances Control in implementing the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California. Further, 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. By the end of 2017, OEHHA had issued 97 fish advisories, of which fifty-four were available in Spanish.

## **Emergency Management**

Cal OES, along with officials from federal, state, local, and tribal public safety agencies continue to participate in the Southwest Border Communications Working Group to discuss emergency communication efforts towards terrorist threats, hazmat incidents, natural disasters, border violence, escapes and evasions, and medical emergencies. Cal OES also continued to work on earthquake preparedness and response. On September 19, 2017, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Mexico City and the state of Puebla in Mexico, causing over 200 fatalities and 46 building

collapses. Cal OES immediately reached out to the Mexican Consulate and the Cal OES Fire & Rescue Branch, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, activated a California Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 2 from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and a Type 1 International Urban Search & Rescue with 56 personnel to assist Mexico City with their search and rescue operations.

The Wildfires Working Group under the *Climate Change and Environment MOU* continued binational collaboration in 2017. Notably, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and Mexico's National Forestry Commission (*Comisión Nacional Forestal/ CONAFOR*) provided five trainings to Mexican firefighters in California and Mexico.



# California Agencies' Border Activities

The California-Mexico border spans approximately 140 miles in length and is defined in the La Paz Agreement as the area of land 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) north and south of the international boundary. Although the term “border” implies separation, the region has grown increasingly dynamic, interactive, and interdependent over time, connected by people, transportation, trade, supply-chains, economies, ecosystems, airsheds, watersheds, security, health impacts, language, and many other factors. In this context, cooperative binational approaches that are closely coordinated within and across governments, such as the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, are essential.

In its 2015 “State of the Border Report,” the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Mexico Institute notes that rapid urbanization has been central to the demographic expansion of border regions.<sup>2</sup> Cities such as Tijuana and Mexicali transitioned from being medium-sized urban areas in the 1960s to the burgeoning metropolises that they are today. As these urban areas have grown, regions such as

Tijuana-San Diego and Mexicali-Calexico have fused across the border, forming dynamic trans-border metropolises that share both challenges and opportunities. They are increasingly reliant on one another for continued growth and prosperity. Industrialization in Northern Baja California began with the “Maquiladora” program (which promoted export-oriented manufacturing and assembly plants) and increased dramatically with the North American Free Trade Agreement. While rapid growth has created economic opportunities in the region, it has put a strain on Mexican border communities, particularly regarding environmental and human resources. These challenges make the development of strong relationships between California and Mexico essential.

Public safety, health, environmental, and infrastructure issues affecting California are being addressed on the California side of the border by the member agencies of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council in close coordination with federal, state, tribal, local and Mexican governments, as well as non-profit organizations and members of the public. The California-Mexico Border Relations Council will continue to support and advance their efforts to the benefit of the border region. This annual report to the Legislature summarizes border-related work conducted by Council member agencies in 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Wilson Center: [https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/mexico\\_state\\_of\\_border\\_0.pdf](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/mexico_state_of_border_0.pdf)



# Trade

Mexico remains one of California’s top trading partners, and California imports from Mexico and California exports to Mexico both increased in 2017. For instance, in 2017, Mexico ranked as the number one export market for California, with a total of \$26.7 billion in merchandise exports to Mexico. Under the 2014 *California-Mexico Trade and Investment Memorandum of Understanding*, GO-Biz has participated in various trade initiatives with Mexico. These include supporting in-bound trade missions, technical exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment opportunities, and inviting and supporting potential inward investment leads into California.

Further, in two-way trade, Mexico was second only to China. In 2017, California’s two-way trade in imports and exports equaled \$175.6 billion with China, \$73.1 billion with Mexico, and \$45.5 billion with Canada.

**FIGURE 1: TRADE STATISTICS AT A GLANCE<sup>3</sup>**

(\$ in billions)	2016	2017	Growth
U.S. Imports from Mexico	\$294.06	\$314.05	+ 6.8%
U.S. Exports to Mexico	\$229.7	\$242.99	+ 5.79%
All California Imports	\$410.18	\$440.71	+ 7.44%
All California Exports	\$163.51	\$171.93	+ 5.15%
California Imports from Mexico	\$46.35	\$46.42	+ 0.15%
California Exports to Mexico	\$25.27	\$26.7	+ 5.66%

## Business and Economic Development Memorandum of Understanding

In 2017, GO-Biz continued its robust partnership with Mexico, playing a leadership role in collaboration with ProMéxico, a subdivision of the Mexican Secretariat of Economy that promotes international trade and investment. Together, ProMéxico and GO-Biz held a series of trade and investment summits across the state, hosted multiple inbound delegation requests, and supported inbound investment interests.

To that end, GO-Biz supported and arranged a series of meetings with visiting Mexican government officials and private sector representatives in 2017. In February, Jalisco Governor Jorge Aristóteles Sandoval Díaz Garcia, along with the Jalisco Ministry of Economic Development and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, visited the Silicon and Central Valleys to learn about California’s best practices in agriculture, innovation, and

<sup>3</sup> Source: International Trade Administration statistics: <http://tse.export.gov>

sustainability. GO-Biz also met with a small visiting delegation of Mexican senators from the Foreign Affairs Committee-North America to discuss U.S.-Mexican trends and the economic integration between California and Mexico. Mexican Senator and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee-North America, Marcela Guerra Castillo, led the delegation. The delegation also included private sector representatives from the Economic Development Council of Mexicali and CaliBaja, a private organization that promotes business in the California-Mexico border region.

In March, GO-Biz participated in meetings with the Governor of Sinaloa, Mario Lopez Valdez, and a delegation of government and private sector officials to discuss bilateral relations in the alternative and renewable energy, tourism, and agriculture sectors. Additionally, the Governor and his delegation visited the Port of Long Beach for a technical information exchange on the best practices of port logistics. The delegation also visited city officials and private businesses representing the city of Pico Rivera.

In May, GO-Biz, in partnership with the Mexican Consulate of Sacramento and the California Chambers of Commerce, hosted the annual California-Mexico Advocacy Day, led by an international trade forum to discuss the movement of goods and the California-Mexico cross border economy under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The forum was followed by the Senate Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation, which was hosted by Committee Chair and California State Senator Ben Hueso. Conversation between select committee members, experts, and stakeholders focused on the challenges and opportunities California faces at the state level given the uncertainty surrounding changes in federal trade and commerce policies.

GO-Biz attended the California-Mexico Clean Energy Summit in September, hosted by the California Energy Commission, Mexican Consulate Sacramento, ProMéxico, and Hispanics in Energy. The summit highlighted California and Mexico's shared clean energy goals, which include: promoting a cross-border clean air and environment, developing sufficient energy capacity to meet growing demands, and

creating businesses, jobs, and investments.

Finally, in October, GO-Biz attended the Mexico Innovation Forum hosted by the Mexican Entrepreneur Association and the Mexican Association of PE & VC Funds, in partnership with the Mexican Consulate San Francisco and ProMéxico. The three-day forum included panel discussions on innovation, technology, and investment to accelerate Mexico's path towards the fourth industrial revolution and find collaboration opportunities with California counterparts.

### **California State Trade Expansion Program**

GO-Biz oversaw the reimbursement of export promotion costs to California small businesses through the California State Trade Expansion Program (STEP). The Individual Company Export Promotion (ICEP) program is a sub-program of California STEP. ICEP stipends supported export expansion and new-to-market penetration efforts to Mexico by supporting food manufacturers, water technology, transportation and logistics, and natural gas vehicle conversion technology manufacturers. California STEP serves targeted industries and leverages a network of state, federal, private, and non-profit trade organizations to increase both the number of California small businesses that export as well as the dollar value of small business exports.

# Business, Consumer Services and Housing

The BCSH mission is to oversee Departments, Boards, and Commissions that:

- Protect consumers by licensing and regulating California professionals and businesses
- Preserve, expand and fund safe and affordable housing opportunities
- Investigate and research earthquake-related issues to advise on ways to reduce earthquake risk and
- Protect the civil rights of all Californians from acts of hate violence and unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

BCSH oversees the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board, Department of Business Oversight (DBO), Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), California Horse Racing Board, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), California Housing Finance Agency, the Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) and the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel. Several of these entities conduct important work specific to border communities.

## **Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control**

The ABC issues licenses for the sale of alcohol to vendors such as restaurants, stores, and bars. It oversees licensees and activities on licensed premises and has the authority to regulate the sale of alcohol on tribal property under federal law and tribal - state compacts. ABC also investigates and enforces laws relating to alcohol distribution, sales and marketing.

The ABC San Diego District Office collaborates with its Mexican counterparts by having an agent as a member of the International Liaison Officers Association. The association is a group of law enforcement agencies, from the U.S. and Mexico, that meet monthly to share information regarding crime trends, changes in laws, and law enforcement matters from both sides of the border.

A representative from ABC serves as the Terrorist Liaison Officer for San Diego and stays in close communication with the San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center (SD-LECC) regarding border crimes/issues on both sides of the border. SD-LECC is the all-crimes, all-hazards fusion center and serves as the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Investigative Support Center for the San Diego County and Imperial County regions. The SD-LECC also serves as the Regional Threat Assessment Center for San Diego and Imperial counties as part of the California State Threat Assessment System. The SD-LECC operates as a collaborative partnership among federal, state and local law enforcement/public safety agencies to enhance coordination, share information, ensure regional preparedness, and offer training and investigative support/analysis for first responders and other public and private partners in the region. SD-LECC also provides intensive multi-disciplinary training to law enforcement, public safety, and government and private sector professionals, with exercises to strengthen counter-terrorism readiness.

## **Department of Business Oversight**

The DBO protects consumers and oversees financial service providers and products. The DBO regulates a variety of financial services, products and professionals. It also oversees the operations of state-licensed financial institutions, including banks, credit unions, money transmitters, issuers of payment instruments and travelers' checks, and premium finance companies. Additionally, the DBO licenses and regulates securities brokers and dealers, investment advisers, payday lenders, certain fiduciaries and other lenders. Conducting periodic examinations of all licensees is a critical DBO activity.



During 2017, within 60 miles of the Mexican border, DBO examined 109 non-bank and payday lenders, and other licensees under the escrow, broker dealer, investment advisor, and mortgage lender programs. In addition, the DBO completed eight comprehensive examinations of bank, credit union or money transmitter licensees with headquarters in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Conducting education and outreach is an integral part of consumer protection. During 2017, the DBO held a major convening in San Diego to train staff of other community organizations. As it has for more than a decade, the DBO also provided staff support for Financial Literacy Week events sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento. The program was created by the *Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior* of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote financial services and education. Government agencies, community organizations and financial institutions are invited to distribute financial education materials and information in Spanish. The DBO enlisted Spanish-speaking staff from throughout the department to work at its table, answer questions and participate in presentations on managing money, investing, buying a home, saving for retirement and starting a business. The annual event takes place in coordination with California Financial Literacy Month each spring. It is well organized, well promoted and attracts hundreds of visitors daily.

The DBO also conducted several education and outreach events in San Diego and Imperial counties, including the Mission Federal ArtWalk and Community Resource Fair, the San Diego Public Libraries Training with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the DBO mortgage Education and Outreach Program's Homebuyer & Homeowner Fair. The DBO also hosted the first Financial Education Trainer Convening in San Diego, gathering financial institutions, government and community organizations to discuss available financial educational resources.

In addition, the DBO attended and contributed to nearly 30 events throughout the state that targeted Spanish-speaking consumers with educational information on a variety of financial

topics. The DBO also provides free consumer education materials in English and Spanish on a variety of fraud prevention and money management topics.

## **Department of Consumer Affairs**

The DCA consists of 42 licensing programs that issue approximately 3.5 million licenses, certificates, registrations and permits in more than 250 business and professional categories that include doctors, nurses, contractors, private security companies, and private postsecondary institutions. DCA protects California consumers by investigating and prosecuting complaints, as well as helping consumers learn how to protect themselves from scams and unqualified individuals. DCA has a few programs that work on border-related issues. For example, the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau participated in a financial fair in October held at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento. Staff was on hand to answer questions about the bureau and the professional fiduciary profession.

In March 2017, the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology participated in an outreach event with the Los Angeles Mexican Consulate to educate consumers on how to obtain a license through Senate Bill 1159 (Lara, Chapter 752, Statutes of 2014), which permitted applicants to use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number instead of a Social Security Number. The board provided a presentation on licensing requirements that included instruction on how to fill out an application. DCA's deputy director of communications provided an overview of the law and explained DCA's role in licensing. On August 30, 2017, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) also participated in a similar outreach event.

## **Smog Check Collaboration**

In 2017, Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) continued to support Baja California's smog check program. BAR staff participated in a conference call in July arranged by CalEPA with officials from Baja California. Baja officials shared their concerns regarding the importation of California vehicles into Mexico without valid smog certificates. BAR provided a recommendation that Baja utilize BAR's website to validate certificates for vehicles being imported

from California. On August 31, 2017, BAR received a request from Baja officials, forwarded by CalEPA, and in collaboration with the *Climate Change and Environment MOU* Clean Vehicles Working Group, to review several “Emission Compliance Certificate” documents issued by an entity called Nation Wide Testing Services, or NTS. According to the Mexican Chamber of Commerce Tijuana branch President, this certification company is responsible for issuing approximately 70 percent of the smog certificates for vehicles being imported into Baja California. BAR found no evidence that NTS is a licensed Smog Check station in California. Further, BAR confirmed that the certificates referenced the license number of a valid Smog Check station in California, however, BAR had no records that the vehicles identified on the certificates were ever inspected by the station. On September 1, 2017, BAR sent a letter to the Secretariat for the Environment of Baja California, Mexico (*Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente/SPA*) detailing the results of BAR’s research. In 2017, BAR also collaborated with Mexican vehicle emissions inspection equipment manufacturer (*Sinergia Sistemas Integrales Ambientales y Asesoría*) on regulatory information regarding California’s Smog Check Program. BAR provided links to the Smog Check equipment specifications posted on the BAR website.

## **Department of Fair Employment and Housing**

DFEH is the largest state civil rights agency in the country. DFEH investigates, mediates and prosecutes complaints alleging discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation. It also investigates and prosecutes complaints alleging acts of hate violence.

On February 15-16, 2017, DFEH participated in outreach at the 2017 Fair Housing Laws & Litigation Conference hosted by the Fair Housing Council of San Diego. The annual conference addressed various issues in federal and state fair housing laws. DFEH discussed hate crimes and its role in addressing such crimes in California.

Additionally, from August 28-September 4, 2017, DFEH attended and participated in the 2017 Labor Rights Week held at various Mexican

Consulates throughout the state, which it has done for approximately six years. This outreach opportunity is a joint declaration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the U.S. Department of Labor. This is a collaborative effort between embassies and their consulates with local Department of Labor field offices to increase awareness and inform workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities under labor laws. DFEH set up information tables allowing individuals and organizations to ask questions about department services and obtain educational materials and pamphlets pertaining to civil rights in the workplace and in housing. Additionally, DFEH personnel and managers participated in panel presentations on various subjects including rights of the deaf community, laws enforced, and services provided.

DFEH also participated in the Workers’ Rights Clinic & Presentation, hosted by the Mexican Consulate. The Workers’ Rights Clinic provides free legal services to low-wage workers who face a range of workplace problems including unpaid wages and overtime, health and safety violations and discrimination.

## **The Department of Housing and Community Development**

HCD administers state and federal housing and community development loan and grant programs. These programs develop and rehabilitate rental and supportive housing, promote home ownership, and assist in developing special needs housing for farm workers, the disabled, and people experiencing homelessness. HCD also administers the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program that funds housing activities, public works, community facilities, and public service projects that serve lower-income individuals in rural communities.

The National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, Section 916, calls for border states to set aside a percentage of their annual state Community Development Block Grant allocations for use in the *colonias*. A *colonia* refers to a community within the mainly rural border region with marginal housing and infrastructure. These set-aside funds help meet the needs for potable

water, adequate sewer systems, and decent, safe and sanitary housing for *colonia* residents. The 2017 *colonia* set-aside was approximately \$1.3 million. Imperial County has applied for the full *colonia* set-aside, as well as for a general grant of \$5 million. The Community Development Block Grant awards will be announced in the spring of 2018.

In addition, Imperial County was successful in HCD's 2017 Emergency Solutions Grant Program with two awards totaling \$357,938 for Rapid Rehousing Assistance. Additionally, San Diego County was awarded \$1,097,919 from the Emergency Solutions Grant Program for Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing Assistance. San Diego County also received \$3,525,000 from HCD's Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program for the new construction of permanent supportive housing for veterans.



# Environment

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

## **California Environmental Protection Agency Border Affairs Program**

CalEPA's Border Affairs Program (Border Program) promotes interagency cooperation on environmental programs in California and Baja California to help ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous border region. The program is a collaborative effort between CalEPA and its boards, departments, and offices to address environmental issues on multiple fronts and coordinate efforts with other California state agencies, Baja California, the federal governments of the U.S. and Mexico and Tribal Nations in the border region.

The border region faces unique environmental challenges and opportunities, as two countries with different environmental laws meet and share common waterways and airsheds. The Border Program works towards binational solutions on border environmental issues, such as water quality, air quality and waste and sewage management. It also advocates for policies and projects that benefit the environment at the border. With the CalEPA Secretary chairing the Border Relations Council, the Border Program coordinates and oversees Council activities and projects, organizes biannual Council meetings and compiles the annual Council report submitted to the Legislature. The program works collaboratively toward implementation

of various plans developed recently that target environmental improvements at the border, such as the "New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan" (published in 2011 and updated in 2016), the "Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy" and the "Solid Waste and Waste Tire Strategic Plan." The Border Program also oversees the implementation of the *Climate Change and Environment MOU*.

## **Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment**

In July 2014, California and Mexico signed the *Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment (Climate Change and Environment MOU)*. This MOU is a four-year effort with four priority action areas: climate change, air quality, clean vehicles, and wildfires. The joint effort aims to improve and protect the environment while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources to optimize quality of life and expand trade and investment opportunities. The Border Program oversees the implementation of the MOU by managing the relationship with Mexico's Secretariat of

Environment and Natural Resources (*Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales/SEMARNAT*) and coordinating the work of the four working groups, which cover each of the priority action areas through co-leads representing both California and Mexico. CalEPA collects quarterly reports from each of the working group co-leads and uses these to prepare an annual report that tracks the progress made under the MOU. In 2017, the Border Program published the 2016 annual report, which was prepared in conjunction with counterparts in Mexico and translated to Spanish allowing for increased dissemination in Mexico. Substantive progress made in each of the working groups during 2017 is reported in the relevant thematic sections below.

## **Border 2020**

The Border 2020: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program addresses environmental and health challenges faced by communities in the U.S.-

Mexico border region. It builds upon a series of binational environmental programs initiated following the 1983 La Paz Agreement signed by the United States and Mexico. In order to ensure effective program implementation, cooperation, and communication, the U.S. EPA and Mexico's SEMARNAT provide guidance and oversight to Border 2020 coordinating bodies: Policy Fora and Regional Workgroups.

Border 2020 emphasizes a regional, bottom-up approach for decision-making, priority setting and project implementation. It also encourages meaningful participation from communities and key local stakeholders to improve air quality, enhance water quality, promote clean land, strengthen emergency response and preparedness capacity, and foster environmental stewardship along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In 2017, Border 2020 implemented several actions to improve and protect the environment in the California-Baja California region, collaborating with a range of partners and leveraging various sources of funding. In sum, project participants:

- Removed over 5000 cubic meters of trash and debris from five New River agricultural drains, advanced transboundary waste management practices, rehabilitated drainage habitat, and launched a public awareness campaign through a \$100K Border 2020 grant, leveraged by a \$200K CalRecycle grant.
- Reduced emergency visits for asthma attacks in Imperial County by supporting the Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program. The program conducted in-home asthma interventions for 100 asthmatic children and trained over 50 maintenance workers to identify and address sources of asthma triggers in low-income housing buildings.
- Continued PM<sub>2.5</sub><sup>4</sup> monitoring at two sites in

4 PM<sub>2.5</sub> is particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter. These finer particles pose an increased health risk because they can deposit deep in the lungs and contain substances that are particularly harmful to human health. PM is a mixture of substances that include elements such as carbon and metals; compounds such as nitrates, organic compounds, and sulfates; and complex mixtures such as diesel exhaust and soil. More information can be found at: [arb.ca.gov/pm/pm.htm](http://arb.ca.gov/pm/pm.htm)

Mexicali. This was made possible through an EPA-funded Clean Air Act grant given to the California Air Resources Board. The goal is to document transport of soot and fine dust from Mexicali to Imperial County in order to improve air quality modeling and planning.

- Repaired six miles of failing wastewater collection pipes and 30 sewer manholes preventing transboundary wastewater spills, from an investment of \$7M for a wastewater infrastructure project in Tijuana, partly funded with \$3M from EPA's Border Environment Infrastructure Funding (BEIF).
- Ensured interoperability of emergency notifications, reviewed the Tijuana-San Diego Sister City Plan and discussed the potential for a future joint exercise at Otay Mesa during the Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force co-chairs meeting in the Spring and Fall of 2017.

CalEPA is a Border 2020 partner, with a deputy secretary serving as a co-chair for the California-Baja California Regional Work Group. In April of 2017, CalEPA participated in the working group meetings held in San Diego along with other co-chairs from SEMARNAT, EPA and SPA. CalEPA presented progress made on the *Climate Change and Environment MOU*. The group also discussed progress on completion of the 2015-2016, "2-year Action Plan" and discussed ideas and a timeline for the creation of a new 2017-2018 plan.

## Good Neighbor Environmental Board

The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board Executive Officer represented California on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) in 2017. This board is an independent, federal committee that advises the President and Congress on "good neighbor" practices along the U.S. border with Mexico, with a focus on environmental issues that affect the border region. The GNEB met in Imperial Beach in February 2017 to start drafting a report for the President and Congress with recommendations on environmental quality and border security. Following that meeting, GNEB members held over a dozen teleconferences to work on the

report. The report was finalized and submitted to the President and Congress in September 2017.<sup>5</sup>

The report provides a brief overview of major environmental quality and environmental protection challenges in the border region in addition to describing key federal agency responsibility for environmental management and protection. It also provides detail on the changes in border security since GNEB's 2007 report. These changes include stronger communication and collaboration among security and other agencies, and significant increases in physical infrastructure and personnel in the border region. The changes also include improved border control and management and faster border crossing times for goods.

Finally, the report recommends: continued planning and coordination among federal agencies to mitigate impacts of border security infrastructure; reducing the environmental footprint of the infrastructure; protecting wildlife migration and habitat corridors; reducing flooding trash and sedimentation flows; expanding emergency response systems; improving border crossing times; and addressing aging wastewater infrastructure.

## **Air Quality**

The border region faces a number of air quality issues that require monitoring and targeted regulations to address key pollution sources. Multiple stakeholders worked on addressing these issues in 2017, including CARB and OEHHA. CARB has been able to work towards improving air quality largely through the Air Quality Working Group of the *Climate Change and Environment MOU*. CARB additionally focused on the Imperial County Air Quality website and on heavy-duty diesel compliance. In order to address vehicles emissions, CARB co-leads the Clean Vehicles Working Group under the same MOU. This group worked in 2017 on harmonizing vehicle emissions standards as well as trainings related to compliance and

maintenance programs, described in more detail below. OEHHA made progress on the "San Ysidro Community-Based Air Monitoring Study" to measure air quality.

### **Air Quality Working Group**

The primary accomplishments of the Air Quality Working Group in 2017 were: the continuation of an air quality study in Mexicali, continued support of the Baja California Network with laboratory analytical services, certification of calibration standards, and participation in recurring trans-border air quality meetings. A two-year PM2.5 study in the city of Mexicali has been underway since April 2016 and will run through April 2018. PM2.5 is being measured continuously at two locations and the chemical and elemental constituents of PM2.5 are being measured at one location. Meteorological measurements are also included in the field campaign. Lastly, representatives from CARB participated in periodic Air Quality Task Force meetings along with Mexican and U.S. national and other state agencies.

### **Imperial County Air Quality Website**

In 2017, CARB continued its support of Imperial County's air quality website,<sup>6</sup> which provides public access to local air quality data in real-time as well as delivering air quality alerts and associated health information. The website is available in Spanish and English and provides users with forecasts of ambient ozone levels during the ozone season of March 1 through October 15 and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) levels year-round. The public may register to receive notifications via email or text when the air quality is expected to reach unhealthy levels.

During 2017, CARB also facilitated development of the "Imperial Valley Air Quality" mobile app to further enhance public access to air quality information in the region. This free app provides daily air quality updates and alerts. CARB will continue to coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and the website developer to evaluate accessibility and air quality forecasts in Imperial County to ensure that timely air quality information is provided to the public.

<sup>5</sup> A copy of the report can be downloaded at: [nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100STQO.PDF?Dockkey=P100STQO.PDF](https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/P100STQO.PDF?Dockkey=P100STQO.PDF)

<sup>6</sup> The website can be found at: [imperialvalleyair.org](http://imperialvalleyair.org)

## Clean Vehicles Working Group

The “Clean Vehicles Group Action Plan” under the *Climate Change and Environment MOU* sets forth several goals to reduce emissions from both new vehicles sold into Mexico and in-use emission rates from the existing fleet. One of the key goals is the alignment of Mexico’s light-duty vehicle criteria and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards with those set in California and the U.S. under the Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) III/ Tier III standards and GHG emission programs. These emission standards are being phased in from 2015-2025 in California. In 2017, SEMARNAT transitioned from laying the groundwork for updating its GHG emission standards under Mexico’s official fuel economy standards program, known as Norma Oficial Mexicana 163 (NOM 163), to drafting new regulatory language. SEMARNAT has also registered its rules for light-duty vehicle criteria emissions in the National Standardization Program for 2018.

Another area of focus has been on the implementation of improved emissions inspection and maintenance programs (such as Smog Check) in Mexico. In September of 2017, SEMARNAT published new standards and test procedures for inspection programs that will apply nationally. The procedures make greater use of vehicle on-board diagnostic systems in the inspection process, much like how similar programs work within the U.S. The new rules were published under NOM-167-SEMARNAT-2017.

## Heavy-Duty Diesel Compliance

During 2017, CARB offered ten classroom training sessions in the border region of California. These classes addressed diesel filter technologies and provided instruction on how operators can comply with CARB’s heavy-duty diesel vehicle regulations. In addition, CARB staff reached out to truckers from both sides of the border by hosting two drop-in events at CHP’s truck scales. During the events, they provided one-on-one instruction in English and Spanish on compliance, regulations, enforcement, and funding for cleaner vehicles. Along with on-site trainings and outreach events, CARB held nine webinars on diesel regulation compliance.

Additionally, in a joint effort by CARB and

CHP, commercial diesel vehicles were stopped at the border by CHP and inspected by CARB for potential excess emissions, evidence of tampering with emission control devices, and for verifying the use of U.S. EPA certified engines. CARB also verified that vehicles were complying with CARB regulations, specifically the Truck and Bus, Drayage Truck, Transport Refrigeration Unit, and Commercial Vehicle Idling regulations. Approximately 1,274 diesel vehicles were inspected at three California border crossings and surrounding areas in 2017, with 285 citations issued, totaling more than \$113,228 in penalties.

## San Ysidro Community-Based Air Monitoring Study

Working with the local community, OEHHA has funded the “San Ysidro Community-Based Air Monitoring Study” with additional support from academia and government.<sup>7</sup> Air quality data provided by the network of monitors captures air pollution at a neighborhood scale, which in turn can provide air pollution data on the border region.

Overall, the goals of the study include:

- Assessing community needs and concerns;
- Providing data to inform future efforts to reduce impacts in this region;
- Measuring air quality in the community using regulatory monitoring data, research



The San Ysidro Air Study is a collaborative effort between government, academia, and community residents that established a network of low-cost community air monitors in the San Ysidro community of San Diego. Image Courtesy: Casa Familiar

<sup>7</sup> The San Ysidro community-led study can be found at: [deohs.washington.edu/san-ysidro-air-quality-and-border-traffic-study](http://deohs.washington.edu/san-ysidro-air-quality-and-border-traffic-study)

instruments, and next-generation low-cost sensors to assess air quality for one year;

- Developing capacity to continue data collection;
- Supporting ongoing improvements in public health; and
- Providing data to improve air quality characterization for CalEnviroScreen.

Community residents participated in extensive mapping exercises, questionnaires, and meetings to inform the selection of air monitoring locations. Based on community resident input, results of previous research, and a sampling strategy, 11 air monitoring sites were selected.

The first of the community air monitors were deployed in August 2016. In June 2017, the San Ysidro project team launched the San Ysidro website providing real-time air quality data.<sup>8</sup> The website was unveiled at a community meeting. Prior to its launch, the community steering committee made up of community residents worked closely with study researchers to best determine how website data would be visualized.

The San Ysidro air study was modeled after another community air study in Imperial County.<sup>9</sup> The Imperial air study is an ongoing four-year community-based air monitoring research project funded by the National Institutes of Health. That project consists of 40 air monitors located throughout Imperial County with measurements displayed on the IVAN (Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods) website.<sup>10</sup> The project is a collaboration between the California Environmental Health Tracking Program, the University of Washington, and a local organization, Comité Cívico Del Valle. After completion of the Imperial Air study, OEHHA will seek to evaluate the data collected in that study for potential inclusion or adjustment of CalEnviroScreen indicators.

The San Ysidro and Imperial community air studies could allow for better cross-border characterization for CalEnviroScreen's PM<sub>2.5</sub> indicator. The ongoing collection of data in

8 The San Ysidro study's data website can be found at: [syairstudy.org](http://syairstudy.org)

9 Information about the Imperial community air study can be found at: [cehtp.org/page/imperial\\_county](http://cehtp.org/page/imperial_county)

10 The IVAN website can be found at: [ivan-imperial.org/air](http://ivan-imperial.org/air)



A community member unveils the first community air monitor with California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Matthew Rodriquez. Image Courtesy: OEHHA

these communities will be valuable to the understanding of localized impacts from cross-border air pollution. The San Ysidro study was originally a 2-year study, but the study team was recently awarded additional funds from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) to continue the project.

There has been tremendous interest to collaborate with the San Ysidro study team from academic institutions and local government. Currently, the team is working with Caltrans District 11 to potentially expand the air monitoring network to the existing Otay Mesa and proposed Otay Mesa East Land Ports of Entry. Additionally, there has been interest from investigators at the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) to support translational research needs. As a result, a university student has produced a film, currently in draft form, describing the



community and the air monitoring network.

The next steps for the San Ysidro air study include:

- Deployment of community monitors in Tijuana, Mexico, and maintenance of current sites as a result of additional funding from BECC
- Data preparation for potential inclusion into CalEnviroScreen
- Continued capacity to sustain the project
- Submission of a CalEPA Environmental Justice small grant application to support development of an Air Quality Task Force to identify and prioritize pollution-reduction projects
- Continued distribution of updates to community and other interested stakeholders

## Climate Change

### Under2 Coalition

During 2017, three Mexican states of Aguascalientes, Colima and Querétaro signed the *Under2 Memorandum of Understanding* (Under2 Coalition), signaling their commitment to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, or limit to 2 annual metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per capita, by 2050. Mexico also endorsed the Under2 Coalition. The Under2 Coalition, started by California and Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in 2015, is a diverse group of governments around the world who set ambitious targets to combat climate change. As of November 2017, the Under2 Coalition is comprised of 205 jurisdictions, covering 43 countries on six continents.

### Climate Change Working Group

Climate change work between California and Mexico is largely implemented through the Climate Change Working Group of the *Climate Change and Environment MOU*. During 2017, the group continued to share the progress made on climate change policies and program implementation in Mexico and California through biweekly calls. To support the development of Mexico's national emissions trading system (ETS), the group dedicated a significant amount of time to talk through topics that are critical to designing a robust system. At the request of SEMARNAT, the Canadian provinces of Québec and Ontario also joined

the biweekly calls to share their experiences in designing their cap-and-trade programs. Mexico successfully launched a carbon trading simulation in October 2017 and the national ETS is planned for 2018.

CARB continued to engage with CONAFOR on Mexico's National Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENA-REDD+). In 2017, the information exchange on forests also included updates from the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) member states in Mexico on the progress made in subnational programs to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The Mexican states expressed ongoing interest in approaches to effectively structuring subnational programs within the national climate policy framework. As a follow-up to the 2016 workshop in Sacramento, CONAFOR hosted a three-day forestry and climate change meeting in Mérida, Yucatán in September 2017. The meeting was well-attended with participants from CARB, SEMARNAT, and the eight Mexican state governments of Jalisco, Yucatan, Campeche, Quintana Roo, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Chihuahua, and Tabasco. The workshop covered technical and policy cooperation on forests and climate change between California and Mexico under the MOU. It also covered components of a jurisdictional sector-based crediting forest program, as well as the development of Mexico's ETS program. Topics also included the progress made by the Mexican state governments on forests as well as their interests in engaging on the overall climate change discussion between CARB and SEMARNAT/CONAFOR.

## Waste

The border region faces excessive solid waste and sedimentation challenges, including issues caused by improper disposal of waste tires. In order to address these issues, Senate Bill 83 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2015) established the Solid Waste Working Group. Overseen by the Border Relations Council, the group is tasked with developing and coordinating long-term solutions to address challenges and remediate issues associated with waste tires, solid waste, and excessive sedimentation along the

California-Mexico border region. These issues degrade valuable estuarine and riparian habitats and threaten water quality and public health. In 2017, key milestones to address waste challenges include conclusion of two pilot projects overseen by the Border Relations Council, publication of a tire flow study update with current information on cross-border tire flows, and a comprehensive two-day workshop on cross-border waste tire remediation in Tijuana.

### **Border Region Solid Waste Working Group**

Senate Bill 83 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2015) established the Solid Waste Working Group under the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. The working group includes members from CalRecycle, CalEPA, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks), and the San Diego and Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The group set out to develop and coordinate long-term solutions to address challenges and remediate issues associated with waste tires, solid waste, and excessive sedimentation along the border. This bill also called for the development of a waste tire abatement plan, in coordination with the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, which may provide for the abatement of solid waste. This bill provides that that border region activities include the development of projects in Mexico in the California-Mexico border region that address the movement of used tires from California to Mexico, and support the cleanup of illegally disposed waste tires and solid waste that negatively impact California's environment along the border. The Solid Waste Working Group finalized a strategic plan in December 2016 entitled the "Solid Waste and Waste Tire Strategic Plan" and presented the plan to the Council in January 2017. Through the rest of the year, several goals from the plan were met through the activities described below.

#### **Demonstration Projects**

Senate Bill 83 appropriated \$300,000 from the California Tire Recycling Management Fund to support the Border Relations Council. In 2015, the Council directed the Solid Waste Working

Group to develop spending recommendations for this appropriation. In February 2016, the group recommended funding for two waste tire and solid waste clean-up projects.

WILD Coast was awarded \$100,000 to conduct a demonstration pilot project to clean up waste tires in Tijuana. The international nonprofit organization based in Imperial Beach conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife. The project that ran from May 2016-December 2017 hoped to demonstrate the financial effectiveness of investing resources in Mexico and preventing waste tires from crossing the border. These waste tires negatively impact the sensitive riparian and estuarine habitat of the Tijuana River Valley watershed. WILD Coast recovered a total of 33,620 waste tires from areas in close proximity to the California-Mexico border and adjacent to tributaries of the Tijuana River.

The Sonoran Institute, a nonprofit with offices in Arizona and Mexico, was awarded \$200,000 to conduct a pilot project. The objective was to reduce the illegal disposal of solid waste in drains in the city of Mexicali that contributes to the pollution of the New River. The project would also eliminate public health risks, improve the urban landscape in Mexico, and improve the water quality of the New River as it flows into California. The project began in March 2016 and concluded mid-2017. The main achievements of this project included:

- Installed two trash screens in Mexicali in the International Drain (installed one new screen and replaced one old screen with a new one).
- Installed two permanent trash containers near the drains.
- Installed four cameras that monitor illegal dumping activities, which can then be acted upon by police.
- 450 trees planted in and near the drains.
- 6,066 cubic meters of trash removed.
- 1,760 tires removed.
- Six street lights installed at the drains.
- Identified four illegal dump sites in Calexico, California.

#### **Tire Flow Study Update**

In December 2017, San Diego State University's

Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias completed a study for CalRecycle on waste tires, which updated a 2009 study on the same subject. The 2017 study, “The Flow of Used Tires from California to Mexico and Waste Tire Disposal Issues in Baja California and the Adjacent Area of Sonora,” will inform stakeholders in Baja California with specific suggestions for actions as they address the waste tire issue. Research for this project included a literature review, survey of tire dealers in the study area, and interviews of key actors from the public and private sectors in the region. Binational information-sharing workshops were held in San Diego, Sacramento, and Tijuana to assemble key stakeholders involved in the flow of used tires and disposition of waste tires. These productive workshops assembled stakeholders who normally do not interact on the challenge of used tire management in the region. The study will facilitate CalRecycle’s efforts to share information with public and private stakeholders in Baja California on waste tire tracking systems, alternative uses for waste tires such as Rubberized Asphalt Concrete and civil engineering applications, and other topics.

The study found that the yearly flow of used tires from California into northern Mexico is approximately 1 million units per year, when legally imported tires and informally imported tires without permits are considered. These generate about 1 million waste tires per year and a similar amount result from sales of new tires, for a yearly waste tire production of about 2 million. Baja California has improved efforts to properly dispose waste tires since the 2009 study. The state constructed a managed disposal site in Mexicali and took other measures. The municipalities of the region have also increased efforts through establishment of informal collection sites and some regulation of used tire dealers. By 2017, about 1 million were disposed at regulated sites and about 90 percent of the properly disposed tires were used as tire-derived fuel in cement kilns in Sonora and Baja California.

Principal findings and recommendations of the study include suggestions for California-Baja California collaboration and additional initiatives for Baja California and California stakeholders.

### ***Baja California Workshop***

On November 13-14, 2017, SPA held a workshop in Tijuana regarding California-Baja California waste tire and solid waste management. Speakers included waste tire and waste management experts from San Diego State University, CalRecycle, and SPA. Director Secretariat Thelma Castañeda of SPA and the CalEPA Assistant Secretary for Border Affairs Alejandro Rodarte attended the workshop.

Approximately 60 people attended the first day of the workshop, which included technical trainings on end-use tire products, particularly tire-derived aggregate and rubberized asphalt concrete. Approximately 40 people attended the second day of the workshop, which focused on waste tire and waste management policies and solutions. Attendees included private sector, non-profit and government organizations from Baja California, as well as the North American Development Bank (NADB) and the College of Civil Engineers in Baja California.

At the workshop, San Diego State University presented an update to their tire flow study, and the California-Mexico Border Relation Council’s Solid Waste Working Group’s “Solid Waste and Waste Tire Strategic Plan” was distributed. Technical information was shared on end-use tire products, members of the community shared suggestions and concerns regarding waste tire management and disposal, and San Diego State University compiled the workshop outcomes regarding solutions and next steps.<sup>11</sup>

### **Hazardous Waste**

CalEPA’s Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for tracking imported and exported hazardous wastes through its Port of Entry (POE) program. The POE database shows that during 2017, DTSC received three import notifications and 24 export notifications.

In 2017, 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. Information identifying the types and volumes

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<sup>11</sup> Presentation materials are available at: [calepa.ca.gov/border-affairs-program/border-activities/](http://calepa.ca.gov/border-affairs-program/border-activities/)

of wastes imported and exported, and the companies that import and export hazardous wastes, were retained.

The DTSC San Diego Border Office also conducts coordinated inspections with 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 Office of the Attorney General for Environmental Protection (*Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente/ PROFEPA*) of any rejected hazardous waste shipments. During this reporting period, there were more than 6,583 trucks inspected, with five Summary of Violations issued to importers of record and/or transporters.

In 2017, DTSC also conducted southbound truck stop inspections at the Customs and Border Protection Calexico East POE and the Otay Mesa POE. A limited number of these coordinated inspections were conducted, as they required the assistance from CBP officers. In 2017, southbound truck stop inspections were conducted in February, April, June and November. Because of the inspections, 406 trucks were inspected for compliance with Federal and State Environmental Law and Regulations. Of the 406 trucks inspected, five violations were issued that resulted in three enforcement cases.

DTSC is an active participant in the Border 2020 binational meetings and the local San Diego County Hazardous Waste Task Force meetings. In 2017, DTSC participated in a binational meeting in the Imperial County border region, which included the California Border Environmental Task Force Meeting.

DTSC staff also has direct communication with Mexico's PROFEPA and 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 trainings regarding the import and export requirements for representatives from maquiladoras (export-oriented manufacturing and assembly plants), Mexican government officials, industry, and

nongovernmental agencies. DTSC also provides support to CBP on special projects related to imports and exports of hazardous waste materials.

## **Water**

At the state level, water quality in California along the California-Mexico border is under the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board). Both regions face environmental challenges. In 2017, the two water boards made progress towards environmental solutions. The San Diego Water Board worked on many positive projects in the Tijuana River Valley Watershed, largely in collaboration with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team. The Colorado River Basin Water Board made progress as well, particularly related to the New River Improvement Project.

California State Parks collaborates with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association for management of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (the Reserve) along the border. Many California State Parks efforts focused in the border region are accomplished with support by and in the context of the Reserve partnership.

At the federal level, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) is headed by commissioners from the U.S. and Mexico to provide binational solutions to issues that arise during the application of U.S.-Mexico treaties regarding boundary demarcation, national ownership of waters, sanitation, water quality, and flood control in the border region. A key issue for 2017 was a large sewage spill that occurred in February in the Tijuana River, originating in the city of Tijuana and flowing across the border into San Diego.

### **Activities in the Tijuana River Valley Watershed**

#### ***Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team***

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

(Recovery Team) consists of over thirty federal, state, and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other interested parties. Created in 2009, these parties work collaboratively to address sediment, trash, flooding, and water quality issues in the watershed. In January 2017, the Recovery Team held a joint meeting with the U.S. EPA Border 2020 Tijuana River Watershed Task Force to share updates on several projects, including projects described below.

In June 2017, San Diego Water Board staff and 15 Recovery Team guest presenters from other agencies and NGOs provided the San Diego Water Board members with an update on the Tijuana River Valley at their monthly public meeting. The update primarily focused on the progress of the Recovery Team's "Five-Year Action Plan," and impacts and investigative findings related to the large-scale cross-border raw sewage release in February. The update emphasized the significant ongoing need for improved source control, notifications, and diversions of cross-border sewage spills originating in Tijuana. It also revealed that although there has been good progress on some "Five-Year Action Plan" project tasks, there are also significant obstacles, including securing funding (especially for operation and maintenance), inability to control sources (in Tijuana), and leadership commitment (minimal top-down advocacy and funding).

### ***Los Laureles Sediment Modeling***

Los Laureles is an 11-square-kilometer canyon (approximately four miles) in Tijuana through which large quantities of sediment cross the border into the U.S. This excessive sedimentation harms sensitive habitats in and near the Tijuana River Estuary. In 2017, *Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada* (CICESE) conducted modeling of sediment erosion. CICESE also conducted a three-dimensional image assessment of factors controlling ephemeral gully erosion in Los Laureles.

### ***Tijuana River Watershed Historical Ecology Project***

In 2017, the San Francisco Estuary Institute discussed findings from their historical

ecology investigation. The geographic scope encompassed the estuarine and alluvial portions of the Tijuana River watershed from the river mouth in San Diego County to the Rodríguez Dam in Tijuana. It synthesized hundreds of historical maps, photographs, and texts to reconstruct the ecological, hydrological, and geomorphic conditions of the Tijuana River Valley prior to major European-American landscape modification in order to provide scientists, land managers, and residents with information designed to support and inspire ongoing management and restoration activities.

### ***Climate Understanding & Resilience in the River Valley***

The Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley (CURRV) project is funded by the NOAA and is being carried out by the Reserve with substantial stakeholder involvement. The project is focused on the development of a climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan for the Tijuana River Valley and looks at flooding from the Tijuana River as well as sea level rise vulnerabilities. In 2017, the Reserve began incorporating climate adaptation strategies into its update of its "Comprehensive Management Plan" and continues to promote a binational exchange of information and ideas regarding conservation of the Tijuana River Watershed along the border, with a focus on climate change. The Reserve shared information on "scenario planning." Scenario planning involves assessing current and future climate change vulnerabilities, while overcoming the challenges associated with having to make informed decisions in the short-term while planning for long-term resilience. Potential changes in physical landscape and natural habitats were carefully evaluated for various scenarios as they impact critical infrastructure and management approaches.

### ***Reclamation of the Nelson Sloan Quarry***

A key project included in the Recovery Team action plan is reclamation of the former Nelson Sloan quarry using sediment excavated from the Tijuana River Valley. The County of San Diego acquired the quarry through funding by the California Coastal Conservancy for reclamation and restoration of native upland habitat. In

2016, the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management’s workgroup that reviews proposed projects for Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Grants made a recommendation to California’s Department of Water Resources to provide \$890,000 of funding to California State Parks for planning needs for this project. This funding is leveraged by an additional \$250,000 from the CA Coastal Conservancy. California State Parks will manage the design and environmental review phase. Together, these funds will support work in 2018-2019 on the following next steps:

- Environmental impact review;
- Engineering design;
- Regulatory permitting;
- Facilitation of a multi-agency agreement for use of the quarry; and
- General coordination to advance the project to the implementation stage.

### ***Tijuana River Action Month***

The Tijuana River Action Network consists of grassroots community groups and NGOs from the U.S. and Mexico. This network is committed to cross-border collaboration to address conservation and restoration in the Tijuana River watershed by engaging in outreach, education, and advocating for natural resources. Tijuana River Action Month (TRAM) is a series of educational and stewardship events held during September and October to benefit the Tijuana River watershed and inspire stewardship in community volunteers. TRAM 2017 was the eighth annual event. Close to 1,500 volunteers from both sides of the border removed 435 waste tires and approximately 6,300 pounds of trash from the watershed. In addition, approximately 8,000 pounds of invasive plant species were removed. In addition, improvements were made to two miles of recreational trails and 10 acres of open space habitat. Unfortunately, during TRAM 2017, several staff members from the leading organizations fell ill after cleaning up trash in critically impacted areas of the Tijuana River Valley. Since TRAM organizers want to ensure the utmost safety for their staff and volunteers, only beach clean-ups will be included in future TRAM activities. The focus will also shift to tours, education, and advocacy.

### ***Tijuana River Watershed Hydraulics and Hydrology Studies***

The city of San Diego and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a jointly coordinated hydraulics and hydrology (H&H) study of the Tijuana River Valley. The completed work focused on existing conditions in the Tijuana River Valley. The next phase will integrate data provided by Mexican agencies so that the H&H assessment reflects conditions in Mexico as well. Ultimately, the H&H study findings may inform a sediment management plan for the Tijuana River Valley, which is a priority project in the Recovery Team’s “Five-Year Action Plan.” A sediment management plan could inform regulatory requirements (such as waivers and waste discharge requirements) in general for the Tijuana River Valley, and specifically for Brown Property fill removal and sediment deposition/processing/reuse at the former Nelson Sloan quarry. Both of these are priority projects in the “Five-Year Action Plan” as well.

Additionally, the National Science Foundation-funded Flood Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Environments (FloodRISE) project led by the University of California Irvine, in partnership with the Reserve, developed modeling and mapping products that can effectively support flood risk management in the Tijuana River Valley and Los Laureles Canyon (Tijuana). The project produced: flood hazard maps which reflect focus group input to understand mapping needs and wishes of different end users; hydraulic and hydrologic analysis to support several on-going projects in the River Valley; and an online flood hazard viewer.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Funding Awarded to Tijuana River Valley Projects***

In October 2017, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 507 (Hueso, Chapter 542, Statutes of 2017). This legislation makes up to \$500,000 available to the County of San Diego to update the Recovery’s Team’s 2012 recovery strategy to include issues related to wastewater and runoff, and to conduct a study focused on the improvement and protection of natural lands, including the main river channel, in the Tijuana River Valley.

<sup>12</sup> Maps and analysis are available at: [bit.ly/floodrise\\_TRV](http://bit.ly/floodrise_TRV)

In December 2017, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced its grant winners to receive funding from the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) Restoration Grant Program. One of the Recovery Team's priority projects, the Regional Park Brown Fill Restoration Project, was awarded \$1.328 million for planning. This project is intended to improve the hydrology and habitat functions of the Tijuana River. The Brown property, within the Tijuana River Valley, was the site of unauthorized fill activities in the past. The desired ultimate outcome of the project is the removal of the fill and restoration of the site to riparian forest floodplain, which would substantially improve the hydrology of the Tijuana River Valley.

### ***Tijuana River Integrated Water Management Program***

The development of a Tijuana River Integrated Water Management Program is supported by the Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation, which funds a variety of water quality, health, and substance abuse programs in Mexico. The foundation has designated the Tijuana River watershed as a priority watershed. University and NGO partners in Tijuana are developing a program with funding from the foundation that is expected to support a series of projects planned to address pollution and other water-related issues upstream in the watershed, closer to and at the sources. The program partners have reached out to agencies and organizations from both sides of the border to provide information about their projects in order to make the most of the foundation's anticipated investments.

### **San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board**

The San Diego Water Board continues to work with the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (U.S. IBWC) to address sewage infrastructure problems in Tijuana, Mexico and cross-border flows of wastewater into the U.S. Per its South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, U.S. IBWC is required to conduct binational technical

committee meetings, at least twice a year, to discuss transboundary flow. The committee also addresses pretreatment issues that affect the commission's wastewater treatment plant, which treats approximately 25 million gallons per day (in an average month) of sewage originating in Tijuana, Mexico. These meetings help agencies from both sides of the border understand the issues and the steps needed to address water pollution along the border.

In June 2017, the San Diego Water Board hosted its first environmental justice symposium, attracting 121 people to attend. It was held to provide an opportunity for local residents to voice their water quality concerns directly to all six of the San Diego Water Board members. The most common and passionate issue raised was the need to address the ongoing cross-border flows of sewage, trash, and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley. As a result, this was included in the San Diego Water Board's 2017 "Draft Environmental Justice Action Plan" as a top priority. Part I of the plan is specifically dedicated to improving water quality and the quality of life in environmental justice communities in and near the Tijuana River Valley, and contains six resource-intensive recommended actions to take in 2018 and 2019.

### **California Department of Fish and Wildlife Watershed Restoration Grant Program**

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) authorizes \$7.545 billion in general obligation protection. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) supports two Restoration Grant Programs as outlined in Proposition 1:

1. The Watershed Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (the Delta).
2. The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta.

Proposition 1 provides funding to meet "California Water Action Plan" objectives of more reliable

water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, and more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades. Since 2015, these grant programs have committed to investing \$285 million in projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta and \$87.5 million in projects that benefit the Delta over a 10-year period.

The Tijuana River watershed and the Salton Sea/New River watershed are both vital cross-border watersheds. In 2015, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 965 (Garcia, Chapter 668, Statutes of 2015). This bill required CDFW to collaborate with the Border Relations Council to establish criteria to fund watershed restoration projects that improve conditions for cross-border urban creeks and watersheds.

In 2017, cross-border criteria were added to CDFW's final grant solicitation, creating the opportunity for projects that qualify to apply for acquisition, planning or implementation funding. CDFW developed the following priority for its Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program:

Protect and Restore Cross-border Urban Creeks and Watersheds Funding Priority:

*The ecological health of California-Mexico cross-border urban creeks and watersheds is threatened by urban and agricultural encroachment and pollution, sedimentation, trash, and other stressors. The CDFW is seeking projects that address these threats. Projects under this priority should address the unique ecological, flood control, water quality, and hydrological conditions associated with urban creeks and watersheds on the California-Mexico border.*

This priority was included in CDFW's Fiscal Year 2017-18 Proposal Solicitation Notice, and CDFW and CalePA hosted workshops in San Diego and Calexico in 2017 to raise awareness of this cross-border grant opportunity. Ultimately, ten Cross-Border Priority Proposals were received in response (six Tijuana River watershed projects and four New River watershed projects). Two of the cross-border projects were awarded a total of \$3.2 million, out of the \$31.7 million total awarded by CDFW in 2017. The two projects

include an acquisition project in the Tijuana River watershed and a planning project for the Brown Fill Restoration Project.

### **Cross-border Sewage Challenges**

Starting in early February 2017, and over the course of several weeks, the U.S. IBWC and other agencies received many complaints from local residents in and near the Tijuana River Valley concerning foul raw sewage odors and health effects (e.g., respiratory irritation and headaches). However, the U.S. IBWC was not aware of the source of raw sewage until February 23, when it was reported by the IBWC's Mexican Section (MX IBWC). This prompted much public outcry, as the inadequate notification compounded the risk to public and ecological health.

In March, the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer sent a letter to the U.S. IBWC and MX IBWC (jointly referred to as the IBWC) commissioners asking that the IBWC consider the following measures: 1) a detailed investigation of the breakdown in communications that resulted in the ongoing release without any apparent attempt at diversion or public notification; 2) the development of a binational public notification protocol for future sewage releases; 3) a back-up IBWC pump station to divert emergency flows; 4) construction of a weir across the main river channel to manage unexpected dry weather flows; and 5) an enhanced and binationally-coordinated watershed and coastal waters monitoring program.

In April, IBWC submitted a report of transboundary bypass flows into the Tijuana River. According to the report, U.S. IBWC overestimated the amount of sewage spilled when it first reported that 143 million gallons spilled on February 23. The IBWC report states that the actual volume was closer to 28 million gallons. However, it also states that wastewater collection/treatment records indicate that approximately 256 millions of gallons of raw sewage were missing at (not pumped to) the SBIWTP during the months of January and February. The report does not identify the final location of that large volume of raw sewage.



### ***Binational Communication Protocols for Sewage Spills***

In early February 2017, Cal OES initiated a review of the Tijuana River Spill that took place on February 1, 2017. Cal OES's objective was to determine why they were not notified of the spill in a timely manner and whether notification procedures and protocols between the IBWC and their Mexican counterpart existed.

Cal OES participated on a conference call on June 7, 2017 with the IBWC to discuss the incident and notification procedures and protocols. Based on IBWC's report and the conference call, Cal OES was informed that the *Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana* (CESPT) confirmed they failed to notify the MX IBWC of the emergency work and bypassing of wastewater flows to the river. The MX IBWC was notified on February 23, 2017 and they in turn notified the IBWC on that day. The IBWC notified the San Diego Office of Emergency Services and the San Diego Water Board on February 24, 2017, which in turn notified Cal OES.

Both the IBWC and their Mexican counterpart have collaborated on developing an international protocol so that when an incident occurs, there is a communication and action plan in place to bring swift assistance to all stakeholders on both sides of the border. Since February 2017, the Cal OES State Warning Center has been notified in a timely manner of 35 spill reports regarding the Tijuana River. The majority of these reports were called in by the IBWC indicating the communication protocols have improved. Cal OES continues to attend the IBWC Public Forums on the Tijuana River Spill and monitors the progress of the communication protocols between the governing agencies.

### ***Threats to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agents***

Noxious cross-border wastes have posed a direct threat to on-site CBP agents for many years. The agents' duties require close proximity to the wastes carried into the Tijuana River Valley by cross-border flows. Recently, the threat has been more publicized. Newspaper articles and union advocacy have highlighted concerns over the wastes in areas the agents must patrol and the health effects they have experienced

while in close proximity to them. These include respiratory problems, skin rashes, and chemical burns. The large-scale cross-border raw sewage release in February 2017 and subsequent decomposition of the sewage in the Tijuana River Valley further heightened the concerns CBP has for its agents' health.

As a result, CBP is highly focused on three key goals to address the primary challenges that the cross-border wastewater issue poses to their agency. Those goals are near-term prevention and mitigation, identifying needed infrastructure investment and enforcement, and increasing data gathering and sampling. CBP is engaged in a number of measures to achieve near-term prevention and mitigation to include expanding and improving its inventory of personal protective equipment, field testing vehicle cabin filtration improvements, exploring early warning and monitoring capabilities within the affected areas, and ensuring that its safety guidance and post-exposure monitoring protocols are socialized and well understood. To identify needed infrastructure and enforcement, CBP is working closely with several U.S. federal agencies, including the U.S. EPA, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of Treasury, and U.S. IBWC. They are also working with the Mexican government to resolve both the technical and financial challenges.

To increase data gathering and sampling, CBP developed a six-month water quality monitoring program, to begin on January 24, 2018, to better characterize the agents' potential risks from exposure to the cross-border flows of waste in Tijuana River Valley. Once CBP identifies the specific pollutants in the waste that their agents are exposed to, U.S. federal agencies will be better positioned to assess risks to human health and identify data-driven root-cause solutions, to be implemented in coordination with the Mexican government.

### ***Notice of Intent to Sue U.S. IBWC and Contractor***

In September 2017, the city of Imperial Beach, the city of Chula Vista, and the San Diego Unified Port District sent U.S. IBWC and its contracted SBIWTP operator, Veolia Water North America

– West, LLC (Veolia), notice of their intent to sue for imminent and ongoing violations of the federal Clean Water Act. Subsequently, the city of San Diego, city of National City, and county of San Diego joined the suit.

In December 2017, the claimants, U.S. IBWC, Veolia, attorneys from the Department of Justice, and the San Diego Water Board participated in a workshop facilitated by U.S. EPA to discuss a number of project concepts to address cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley, potentially as an alternative to court action. The workshop participants developed project concepts based on the conditions, priorities, and opportunities for improvement. The San Diego Water Board then agreed to convene members of the Recovery Team’s Steering Committee to further develop the project concepts. The priorities driving the project concepts are as follows:

- Control of cross-border pollution in the main channel of the Tijuana River
- Control of cross-border pollution at cross-border tributaries
- Implementation of a monitoring and assessment program to characterize the sources, extent, magnitude, and threat of specific pollutants from existing and potential cross-border flows into the Tijuana River Valley
- Mitigation and/or restoration of the Reserve and other areas of the Tijuana River Valley with a nexus to cross-border pollution from U.S. IBWC facilities

Descriptions of projects associated with each priority are planned to be sent to the U.S. IBWC by the San Diego Water Board in January 2018, with a response to the proposal requested by February 28, 2018.

#### ***Investigative Order for Cross-Border Flows into the Tijuana River Valley***

In October 2017, the San Diego Water Board developed a draft investigative order to issue to the U.S. IBWC. The purpose of the investigative order is to implement water quality-related monitoring and assessment in the Tijuana River Valley in order to evaluate the characteristics, extent, magnitude, and risks associated with

illicit cross-border flows containing pollutants such as human pathogens, toxic chemicals, and trash. The investigative order may be formally issued to the U.S. IBWC in 2018, and will be included as a proposed priority project to U.S. IBWC in January 2018.

#### ***Mexicali and New River Sewage Spills and Equipment***

The Colorado River Basin Water Board participated in bi-monthly Binational Technical Committee meetings and binational observations of the New River in Mexicali to assist Mexico with sewage infrastructure challenges. The Baja California Commission of Public Works in Mexicali (*Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali/CESPM*) owns and operates the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali. In May 2017, at the request of the Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair and the Secretary of CalEPA, U.S. EPA hosted a meeting in San Francisco to discuss the results of a sewage infrastructure diagnostics report and measures to prevent discharges of raw sewage into the New River from Mexico. Meeting participants included the Acting U.S. EPA Regional Administrator, the U.S. IBWC Commissioner, the CalEPA Secretary, and the Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair, as well as representatives from the NADB and the U.S. Department of State. The diagnostics report identified close to \$75 million worth of sewage infrastructure problems in Mexicali—problems that pose a significant threat to New River water quality in California. During the meeting, it was agreed that while CESPM worked with the NADB on putting together a series of projects to address the \$75 million problem, U.S. EPA and the NADB would look for funding opportunities to enable Mexico to acquire equipment to prevent bypasses of raw sewage into the New River. In November 2017, NADB identified and approved the use of approximately \$320,000 for Mexico to purchase the equipment. Further, in December 2017, U.S. EPA reported that it authorized the purchase of an additional \$96,000 worth of equipment for CESPM. All of the purchased equipment is expected to be delivered to Mexicali in February 2018.

### ***International Boundary and Water Commission Treaty Minute 320***

IBWC Treaty Minutes implement the 1944 U.S. - Mexico Water Treaty. Minute 320, signed in 2015, is the first IBWC agreement focused on sediment, trash, and water quality issues in the Tijuana River Watershed. Developed an international agreement known as Minute No. 320, “General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin,” which establishes a Binational Core Group and Binational Works Groups with stakeholder involvement to focus on priority issues of sediment, solid waste, and water quality. In order to address sewage and water challenges, in 2017 IBWC conducted the following activities:

- Prepared a scope of work to develop a diagnostic for the existing binational diversion and pumping system that conveys wastewater in the Tijuana River for treatment, and to develop new alternatives for additional infrastructure in the U.S. and/or Mexico.
- Finalized a scope of work for a feasibility study for sediment basins.
- Developed an updated plan for regular water quality monitoring in the Tijuana River Basin and began working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to develop a special monitoring program to focus on transboundary flow in the canyons.
- Worked with the Mexican Section of the IBWC to finalize operating protocols for Pump Station CILA to ensure more reliable operation of the equipment that diverts wastewater out of the river.
- Installed a new flow meter to provide real-time information about the status of the pump and river flow while the Mexican Section of the Commission installed three flow meters.
- Enacted a plan to conduct binational inspections every other month at key sites that are known to contribute to transboundary wastewater flows. Planned binational meetings. Arranged to conduct more frequent inspections or inspections at additional sites as needed.
- Developed a revised and more detailed

binational spill notification protocol. The protocol provides for quick communication between the U.S. and Mexico, and prompt notification to U.S. stakeholders. Mexican authorities have also implemented a notification protocol for transboundary spills between Mexican agencies.

- Completed a scope of work for a trash boom study. The study will consider the possible construction of a structure to capture trash for disposal to reduce solid waste in the Tijuana River Valley.



Entrance monument at the north end of the Reserve. Image Courtesy: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

### **Tijuana River Valley Estuarine Research Reserve**

California State Parks collaborates with NOAA, the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for management of the Reserve. Many efforts focused in the border region are accomplished with support by and in the context of the Reserve partnership. Reserve programs include tracking “vital signs” of ecosystems through long-term research and monitoring, “K–gray” education, outreach to decision-makers, promotion of bi-national cooperation, enhancing climate resilience, and land stewardship.

#### ***Public Access on Monument Road***

Within the Reserve, Monument Road extends roughly 1.5 miles, connecting the entrance to Border Field State Park with the Reserve’s day-use facility atop Monument Mesa in the southwest corner of the U.S. The facility offers stunning views of the Reserve, Mexico, downtown San Diego and the surrounding mountain ranges. It



Monument Road flooded. Image Courtesy: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

is also the location of Friendship Park, an area long cherished by the local community as a gathering place for people in the U.S. and Mexico to come together and meet at the International Border Fence.

Aside from the Department of Homeland Security access road (typically not available to the public), Monument Road is the only vehicle-based access to this location. However, due to sedimentation and flooding, the road is heavily damaged and remains flooded for up to seven months of the year, significantly affecting public access to the Reserve and inhibiting effective Reserve operations. A sustainable fix to Monument Road has long been a priority of the Reserve. The recent settlement of a long-term lawsuit between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and California related to seizing of state land for the purpose of border infrastructure has resulted in \$5.9 million settlement to California State Parks. Parks staff, Legislators, and the public are focused on the possibility of this funding being used to address the issues with Monument Road.

The State Legislature included language in the California State Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 to direct nearly \$700,000 to Border Field State Park for preliminary studies toward repairs to Monument Road, and also toward the development of a Border Educational Plaza on Monument Mesa.

The Legislature also included intent language to direct the remainder of the settlement funding toward subsequent phases of the project. During the 2017 calendar year, California State Parks worked through a preliminary planning process for this project, completing baseline

resource and conditions inventories and several concept designs including bridges, arching culverts, causeway structures, and fill-on-grade alternatives. In addition, several public scoping meetings were held to develop thematic elements to inform the design of the Border Educational Plaza.

### **Goat Canyon Sediment Basin**

In 1997, the Coastal Conservancy, the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, and California State Parks responded to increased sedimentation and habitat loss issues by beginning the planning process for the Goat Canyon Enhancement Project. The “Enhancement Plan” was developed between 1998 and 2002 to protect the coastal wetland habitat of the Tijuana River Estuary from further degradation and included strategies to reduce sediment flows to the Estuary. Between 2003 and 2005, two sediment basins were constructed in series within the upper floodplain of Goat Canyon to annually retain over 40,000 cubic yards of sediment. As a result, sedimentation to downstream marsh habitats has been reduced. However, due to the location of the basins downstream from the urbanized and degraded watershed in Mexico, regular sediment removal and maintenance is required. Between 2003 and 2008, habitat restoration efforts were initiated downstream of the Goat Canyon Sediment Basins.

In Fiscal Year 2013-14, California State Parks received funding from the State Parks and Recreation Fund of \$1,001,000 per year for three



Goat Canyon sediment basin. Image Courtesy: California Department of Parks and Recreation



Goat Canyon sedimentation processing. Image Courtesy: California Department of Parks and Recreation

years through a California State Budget Change Proposal. In Fiscal Year 2016-17, the Department received a funding allocation of \$1.8 million for each year through a similar process. In 2017, California State Parks worked on the 2017 sediment basin clean-out operation. This project allocated \$900,000 for excavation of 40,000 cubic yards and haul-off of 32,000 cubic yards of deposition material.

California State Parks maintains trash capture infrastructure in Goat Canyon, consisting of two lines of floating booms deployed across the creek channel. During the 2017 calendar year, California State Parks invested an additional \$30,000 in trash capture system upgrades and coordinated additional improvements to the Goat Canyon trash boom infrastructure. With these upgrades, the upper boom is reinforced bank-to-bank with double boom infrastructure, including four feet of additional trash capture



Measuring trash captured by the trash boom. Image Courtesy: California Department of Parks and Recreation



Goat Canyon lower trash boom. Image Courtesy: California Department of Parks and Recreation

netting. These upgrades are proving extremely effective.

***NOAA Marine Debris Community-Based Cleanup Grant***

The Reserve was awarded \$150,000 in spring 2014 from NOAA’s Marine Debris Program Community-Based Cleanup Grant initiative. This grant funds a range of clean-up and education and outreach efforts focused on resolving land-based sources of marine debris, such as the trash flows in the Tijuana River Valley. In spring of 2016, this effort was furthered through an additional allocation of roughly \$80,000 through the same competitive grant program. The project builds upon the success of the 2014 award and includes a focus on policies around single-use plastic and foam containers in San Diego and Tijuana. In 2017, the grant supported upgrades to the Goat Canyon Sediment Basin trash booms, as well as coordination and implementation of Tijuana River Action Month along with the Tijuana River Action Network partners.

***The Tijuana River Valley Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction and Habitat Project***

California State Parks staff and Reserve volunteers started restoration work on a one-acre mule fat scrub habitat. The Tijuana River Valley Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction and Habitat Project is a joint effort between WILD COAST, Urban Corps, California State Parks, the Reserve, UCSD, and Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association. The project aims to

engage underserved community members and youth in stewardship and restoration of habitat in the Tijuana River Valley. From September to December 2016, long-term volunteers participated in the Reserve's weekly Wednesday stewardship days to help install an irrigation system, remove nine cubic yards of invasive weeds, and plant 620 one-gallon container native plants. During the next 24-month period, WILDCOAST and Urban Corps will carry out 12 debris and tire removal events to help enhance an additional four acres surrounding the site.

### ***Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program***

The Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program is focused on long-term protection and restoration of the Tijuana Estuary. Initiated in the 1980's, this program has provided important guidance and vision for all major projects and programs focused on conservation and restoration of the Tijuana Estuary. The current focus of this program is to take the 2008 feasibility study for the 250-acre salt marsh restoration project to implementation, focusing on an 80-acre section in the northern portion of the project site. This effort will involve development of final engineer designs, complete environmental review and regulatory permits, and contract documents, with funding from the CA Wildlife Conservation Board.

During the 2017 calendar year, the Reserve, in partnership with the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, convened a science advisory team to help steer the design of the project, including incorporating features that address potential sea level rise impacts. In addition, with funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, pre-restoration monitoring at the site began in 2017.

### ***Needs Assessment for Decision-Makers on the International Border***

The Reserve's Coastal Training Program (CTP) strategic plan identifies current and anticipated training partnerships and decision-maker training audiences that CTP has reached through its training and technical assistance offerings. CTP evaluated which audiences could be better supported by CTP in Tijuana and the Mexican portion of the Watershed. A needs assessment

will be delivered in 2018 to identify opportunities for providing training and technical assistance on key topics.

### ***King Tides in Baja California***

CTP continues to grow the King Tides Initiative (KTI) in the border region by identifying key decision-makers to reach with collected photos and data, including the cities of Tijuana, Ensenada and Playas de Rosarito. CTP facilitates the communication between ongoing efforts to collect real-time data on inundation, flooding, erosion and other coastal change to help coastal decision-makers validate sea level rise projections being considered among local adaptation planning efforts, and increase understanding of impacts to coastal ecosystems and coastal change.

### ***Advancing Solutions for Reduction of Solid Waste***

During rain events, trash compromises flood conveyance channels and exacerbates flood hazards, while resulting in marine debris and other environmental consequences in the Tijuana Estuary. To address this issue, CTP has partnered with non-profit organizations, academia, flood risk managers, and emergency managers to explore training and technical assistance opportunities to address the trash condition while concurrently reducing flood risk. An early identified project is to develop a module for a flood risk training delivered by municipal government that is focused on solid waste reduction.

Additionally, CTP supported the University of California San Diego's Cross-Border Initiative Summer Field Internship by leading a group of students at the Cross-Border Community Station, based in Los Laureles Canyon and the Tijuana River Estuary. Surveys were delivered to the residents of the *Divina Providencia* (a community in Los Laureles) to gather information about perceptions of solid waste in their community and solutions. Additional data collection will occur to ultimately inform training for the community and local decision-makers related to collaborative interventions to improve the management of solid waste in their community.

## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Throughout 2017, Colorado River Basin Water Board staff participated in a series of meetings with Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County Farm Bureau representatives to ensure compliance with the Regional Water Board Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for agricultural runoff from Imperial Valley farmers. The Board also issued eight Notices of Violation to Imperial Valley farmers for failure to comply with the waiver.

In January 2017, following a public hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board rescinded the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) it had issued against the city of Brawley in 2008. The Order (as later amended in 2008 and 2010) required the city to stop discharging wastes from its Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) into the New River in violation of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. More specifically, it required the city to complete WWTP upgrades, and develop and implement a Pretreatment Program. The city completed its WWTP upgrades in early 2012 and the Colorado River Basin Water Board approved the city's proposed Pretreatment Program on March 20, 2014. Based on the water quality data obtained from the California Integrated Water Quality System and information provided by the city, the WWTP has achieved full compliance with applicable permit limitations, with no violations for over the last three and a half years. Consequently, the Colorado River Basin Water Board rescinded the CDO.

In January 2017, the Colorado River Basin Water Board issued a new permit to One World Beef for a proposed new wastewater treatment plant for

its Brawley beef plant, and to reuse up to 230,000 gallons per day from the new plant to irrigate 140 acres to be planted with Bermuda Grass for cattle feed. As of December 2017, the plant has yet to be built.

In May 2017, the Regional Water Board adopted Resolution R7-2017-0022, which requests that the U.S. EPA and IBWC, the NADB, and BECC:

- Recognize the bypasses of raw sewage from Mexico into the New River result in a public health hazard in the Calexico area that must be dealt with as an emergency crisis; and
- Enable Mexico to acquire the necessary equipment to prevent additional bypasses of raw sewage into the New River as a matter of priority, before spending any additional U.S. funds to help replace existing sewage infrastructure in Mexico.

In 2017, the Regional Water Board renewed the NPDES permits for Seeley County Water District and the city of Westmorland. Colorado River Basin Water Board staff also conducted compliance inspections of the Seeley, Brawley, Westmorland, McCabe School District, and Heber Public Utilities District WWTPs, all of which discharge treated, disinfected domestic wastewater into the New River. Further, staff also inspected 11 feedlots in the Imperial Valley for compliance with their NPDES Permit.

In December 2017, the Colorado River Basin Water Board Assistant Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint against the Seeley County Water District. The Complaint proposes that the District pay \$216,000 in liability for alleged violations of its NPDES Permit and its Cease and Desist Order (R7-2011-0058).



### **Salton Sea Management Program**

The Colorado River Basin Water Board continued to work with the California Natural Resources Agency to carry out the Governor’s directive to develop and implement a Management Program to address the problems of the Salton Sea. Board staff continue to serve as members of the Agency’s Public Outreach and Education Committee, Science Committee, and Planning Committee. In November 2017, the Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer provided testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies and Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on the Salton Sea. The testimony focused on water quality policy applicable to the program.

### **The New River**

In 2017, the Colorado River Basin Water Board continued to work cooperatively with U.S. EPA, the IBWC, and Mexico to address New River pollution originating from Mexicali. The Board also worked to implement its regulatory programs to address New River pollution from sources in the Imperial Valley, and to assist the Border Relations Council with the implementation of the “New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan.”

Throughout 2017, the Board continued to implement its monthly water quality monitoring program for the New River at the international border with Mexico to track the river’s cleanup progress, track compliance with California water quality standards, and track emerging pollutants of concern.

On October 30, 2017, the New River Improvement Project (NRIP) took a big step forward with an MOU signing regarding long-term operation and maintenance of the project. Under the agreement, the city of Calexico, Imperial County and the Imperial Irrigation District will contribute to the long-term operation and maintenance costs for the NRIP once it is complete. At the signing ceremony, the Secretary of CalEPA noted, “This agreement marks an important milestone in our efforts to improve the health of the New River. It shows that local stakeholders are committed and working together to realize the benefits of this

project for the people of Calexico and Imperial County.”<sup>13</sup>

### **Water Quality Assessment for Rural Communities in Imperial County**

The primary source of water in the Imperial Valley is the Colorado River. Over 3,000 miles of canals are used to convey water from the Colorado River to the area. The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) operates the canal system and supplies untreated water to city water systems, farmland, industrial sites, and households. In 2016, 2,758 households relied on untreated canal water to shower, wash food and dishes, and other domestic uses.<sup>14</sup> Because the water is untreated, domestic users are not allowed to drink or cook with the water and households served by canals must demonstrate proof of an alternate water supply that meets the drinking water standards described in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Therefore, these connections are not considered “service connections” as defined by Section 116275(s) of the California Health and Safety Code and IID is exempt from public water system permitting requirements. Nevertheless, canals serving communities may run through agricultural and industrial areas and the potential presence of pesticides, fertilizers, and other contaminants is a concern. In this case, residents have commented that the water has a



Unlined, open-air canals provide water for domestic use to rural homes in Imperial County. Image Courtesy: OEHHA

- 13 The full text of the MOU can be found at: [calepa.ca.gov/border-affairs-program/border-affairs-program-publications/](http://calepa.ca.gov/border-affairs-program/border-affairs-program-publications/)
- 14 Source: Bradshaw, David. “2016 Annual Report – SDWA Compliance Project.” Imperial Irrigation District, 22 March 2017, Letter





Unlined, open-air canals provide water for domestic use to rural homes in Imperial County. Image Courtesy: OEHHA

foul odor, stains clothing, and has caused rashes in infants.

OEHHA and CalEPA have partnered with the State Water Resources Control Board, Comité Civico Del Valle, Inc., and the University of Washington to answer the following questions:

- What contaminants are in the canal water serving households in the Imperial Valley?
- Do residents drink the canal water?
- Is the canal water safe for domestic use such as showering and washing food and dishes?

To address these questions, the study has the following aims:

- Identify and quantify contaminants in the canal water at connections to households in Imperial County
- Work alongside the community during planning, sampling, and results dissemination
- Conduct an educational campaign tailored to community needs

The data generated from this study<sup>15</sup> also may be included in the impaired water body indicator of CalEnviroScreen. Additionally, it may be appropriate to include the data in the CalEnviroScreen drinking water indicator if study results suggest drinking water usage. The study's first community steering committee meeting was held in November 2017, where 11 community members learned about water quality, shared their insights, and expressed their concerns.

<sup>15</sup> The community-led study website can be found at: [ccvhealth.org/water/](http://ccvhealth.org/water/)

Next steps in 2018 include:

- Identify high impact areas where canal water users are densely populated
- Conduct surveys on community water needs to collect data on water use, environmental health literacy, and economic burdens of water service
- Work with residents to map areas of concern where the canals are highly polluted
- Develop a sampling plan prioritizing citizen science and community engagement
- Collect and analyze water samples

# Energy

## Advancing Energy Efficiency

In September 2017, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) met with high-level officials from Mexico's Ministry of Energy (*Secretaría de Energía de México/SENER*), researchers from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), and other energy experts from Mexico and California to discuss the role of data and analytics in the establishment of energy efficiency targets. Following that meeting, the Energy Commission created a factsheet that details California's work on data and energy efficiency target setting. It has since been translated into Spanish by staff at LBNL's UC Mexico Energy Initiative and shared with SENER and Mexico's National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy (*La Comisión Nacional para el Uso Eficiente de la Energía*), both of which are keen to expand knowledge sharing and technical exchange in this area.

The Energy Commission's efficiency work with Mexico has continued to evolve since participation in a 2016 energy efficiency workshop in Mexico City. In 2017, the Energy Commission continued to work with a network of partners in California and Mexico to advance progress in the area of energy efficiency, including data collection, progress tracking and achievement, and research and development opportunities.

Another tangible outcome of California's engagement with Mexico on energy – specifically energy efficiency – is the recent funding awards for five projects that were developed by Mexican research institutions in partnership with University of California colleagues in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) launched by Mexico's National Council of Science and Technology (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología/

CONACYT) and SENER's Energy Sustainability Fund. These grants will support research initiatives aimed at reducing the energy demand of buildings and urban services and transitioning to a low-carbon economy via demonstration projects and comprehensive energy efficiency solutions. The Energy Commission participated in the evaluation and review of submissions for this RFP. Three of the five awarded projects submitted by Mexican research institutions are in partnership with UC Davis. The other two are in partnership with LBNL. All five were awarded funds to develop joint research collaborations.

## Policy Sharing and Technical Exchanges

In November 2017, the Energy Commission and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) co-hosted a delegation of energy leaders from Mexico and California for a Distributed Generation (DG) Study Tour. The objective of the tour was to help advance clean energy policies and practice through engagement in technical, policy, and regulation discussions with local California energy experts. During the study tour high-level delegates from Mexico's leading energy agencies had the opportunity to meet with members of the California Public Utilities Commission, the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, UC Davis, and the California Independent System Operator to discuss various topics related to distributed energy deployment. Delegation members included representatives from SENER, Mexico's National Energy Control Center (*Centro Nacional de Control de Energía*) and *Federal Electricity Commission (Comisión Federal de Electricidad)*, and the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Energy Commission worked closely with NREL to manage the itinerary and logistics for the study tour, which would not have been possible without strong support from California's energy community and the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento.

## **Supporting the Under2 MOU through Engagement with Mexican States**

In addition to California's MOU with Mexico's Ministry of Energy, the Energy Commission has MOUs with the Mexican states of Jalisco and Aguascalientes. The MOU between the Energy Commission and Jalisco was signed in 2016, during the Summit of the Americas, and the Energy Commission's MOU with Aguascalientes was signed in Sacramento, in January 2017.

Both Jalisco and Aguascalientes are members of the Under2 Coalition and signatories to the *Under2 MOU*, which means they recognize the importance of international efforts to limit the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius, and the substantial emissions reductions that will be required in order to do so. Jalisco and Aguascalientes are unique states, different from one another, with their own challenges and opportunities, so the path they take to reduce emissions may be somewhat different; however, they share an opportunity to transform and develop their energy systems. By increasing energy efficiency, and through the development and incorporation of low-carbon energy resources, both states can grow their economies and communities in a sustainable, productive, and healthy way. The Energy Commission is committed to helping them do so, particularly when the result brings mutual benefit to our collective regions.

The Energy Commission's engagement with the Jalisco has been especially productive since the MOU signing in 2016. Of particular note is the establishment of the new Lighting Applications Research Center, which is being made possible through a partnership between the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara (UAG) and UC Davis, which is funded by SENER-CONACYT Mexico. The new lighting center was one of five projects awarded funding in November 2017.

## **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Clean Energies**

The Energy Commission also continued engagement with Mexico through the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Clean Energies (Energy MOU)*, signed in 2014 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and the Ministry of Energy of the United Mexican States. The *Energy MOU* focuses on strengthening partnerships on both sides of the border to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, share best practices and technology, increase investments in clean technology, expand collaboration on electric grid management, and improve trade and job opportunities. Since the signing of the *Energy MOU* in 2014, the Energy Commission has worked continuously to implement the agreement.

# Agriculture

Agricultural issues remain significant at the border and CDFA has maintained close ties with Baja California's government to continue binational collaboration. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has also continued working on critical border-related agriculture issues between California and Mexico.

## **Binational Collaboration**

In 2016, CDFA signed a memorandum of understanding with the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario* (SEFOA) of Baja California, and continues collaborating under the MOU framework. CDFA also participates in the annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord, which brings state and national agricultural representatives from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. together to discuss issues of shared concern. In October 2017, the accord was held in Denver, Colorado. CDFA and the SEFOA of Baja had the opportunity at this venue to continue discussion related to the MOU. CDFA continues collaborating with Mexico regarding animal health, food safety, pest prevention and plant health.

## **Animal Health and Food Safety**

CDFA's California-Mexico activities focus on collaboration with the U.S. and Mexican border states on animal health. At the AgroBaja Fair in Mexicali, Baja California, held in March 2017, a representative of CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Services joined Imperial County's Agricultural Commissioner to distribute animal disease prevention information in the form of bilingual avian health calendars and Spanish language fliers. In April 2017, CDFA representatives attended a site inspection of

Mexican cattle importation from Chihuahua to New Mexico at the Santa Teresa Port and attended a meeting of the binational subcommittee on Mexican Cattle Importation. CDFA participated in bilateral working groups on animal health, which included the meeting of the Binational Committees on Bovine Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Cattle Fever Ticks that was held in Durango, Mexico in May 2017. In September 2017, CDFA participated in an evaluation of a tuberculosis program in the state of Coahuila, Mexico, helping Coahuila to improve their tuberculosis control and preparing them to achieve a higher status with respect to disease control. This will facilitate their ability to export cattle more easily into the U.S. in the future.

Additionally, in 2017, a CDFA representative visited a site near San Luis, Arizona where it has been proposed to build receiving pens for Mexican feeder cattle to be exported from Sonora and Baja California into Arizona and California. In August and September a CDFA veterinarian visited dairy farms and a slaughterhouse in Baja California while working with a Mexican veterinarian to better understand the epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis there and how it relates to strains of bovine tuberculosis found in California and other U.S. dairy herds. In October 2017, a CDFA representative attended the U.S. Animal Health Association's Tuberculosis Subcommittee of the Cattle Health Committee and presented an update of the activities of the binational committee. Representatives of the Mexican National Confederation of Cattlemen's Organizations were present.

## **Pest Prevention and Plant Health**

CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division continues to work with border state counterparts in addressing plant pests of mutual concern. This includes collaboration and monitoring for the Asian Citrus Psyllid, citrus Leprosis and Huanglongbing. Mexico continues to supply CDFA with biological control parasitoids for the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug infestation in Coachella Valley. The division also continues to collaborate in the California-Baja California Integration Group, which includes representatives from the U.S. Department

of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the agricultural commissioners' offices in Imperial and San Diego counties, and representatives from Mexico's local, state, and national governments. In February 2018, CDFA participated in a Citrus Summit with federal plant health government officials from the U.S. and Mexico in San Diego. Representatives from the Mexican states of Baja California, Tamaulipas, Sonora and Sinaloa were also in attendance. This meeting reaffirmed the ongoing cooperation and collaboration to address citrus issues.

### **Department of Pesticide Regulation**

DPR has also continued working on border-related agriculture issues. This effort includes critical information exchanges, *Promotores* advocacy, field worker trainings, and an annual farmworker appreciation breakfast.

### **Information Exchanges**

On March 2 and 3rd, 2017, DPR attended the Migrant Labor and Global Health Conference for two days. This conference was sponsored by the Migration and Health Research Center at UC Davis. At this conference, government representatives from the border presented on health, and agricultural immigration. In April 2017, DPR provided pesticide safety outreach materials at a community meeting in Lompoc that was organized by the Oxnard Mexican Consulate. Approximately 200 people attended this event where representatives answered questions from farmworkers and their families.

In 2017, DPR continued to provide pesticide safety information. For example, on November 19, 2017, DPR provided pesticide safety outreach materials at a community meeting that was organized by the Oxnard Mexican Consulate in Santa Barbara. DPR also presented information on pesticide safety during the Labor Rights Week organized by the General Mexican Consulates' of California from Aug. 28 – Sept. 1, 2017.

### ***Promotores***

On May 22, 2017, DPR attended a *Promotores* Conference in San Francisco. The objective of the

conference was to relate the work of community health workers, known as *Promotores de Salud (Promotores)*, in the U.S. with those in Mexico to improve the health of migrant workers.

On May 23, 2017, DPR attended a *Promotores* Workplace Symposium, organized by *Vision y Compromiso* - the official network of over 4,000 *Promotores* in 13 counties in the state. The purpose of the symposium was to meet and learn from binational colleagues regarding their programs and the importance of the integration of *Promotores* in the clinic, academic and non-profit sectors. On August 16, 2017, DPR participated in the 2017 *Adelante Promotores* Conference in San Diego. This annual conference aims to increase the professional and interpersonal capabilities of *Promotores* by teaching and increasing their knowledge on various health related topics affecting our community.

### **Fieldworker Training**

On March 16, 2017, DPR assisted at a fieldworker pesticide safety training session sponsored by the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner. The training was provided as part of the outreach efforts related to the Farm Worker Health Initiative, which includes members from industry, farm worker advocacy groups, health providers and other county, state and U.S. EPA representatives. The purpose of the training was to improve pesticide safety by utilizing new Worker Protection Standards.

### **38th Annual Farmworker Appreciation Breakfast**

On December 1, 2017, DPR's Chief Deputy Director and staff attended the 38th Annual Farmworker Appreciation Breakfast in Calexico. CDFA, U.S. EPA Region 9 and Imperial County Agriculture Commissioner staff served breakfast to farmworkers from Mexicali, Mexico coming to work in Imperial Valley. This early morning event was sponsored by the California Employment Development Department in partnership with the Farmworker Services Coalition of Imperial County.

# Transportation

The California-Mexico border is home to six international border crossings, two of which are among the busiest of all United States crossings. In 2017, California's international border crossings processed nearly 17.7 million pedestrian crossings, 32 million personal vehicles, and over 1.3 million commercial trucks. While today's cross-border flow of people and goods supports economic growth and opportunity, it also strains nearby roads and highways serving border communities and produces greenhouse gas emissions.

Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) are responsible for border mobility and enforcement. Both departments are working on innovative solutions that expand opportunities to create a safe, integrated, efficient, and secure transportation system along the California-Mexico border. A healthy border region is vital to achieving the region's economic, public health, air quality, and mobility objectives. New projects like the flagship Otay Mesa East International Land Port of Entry will reduce border crossing wait times, improve flow of traffic between California and Mexico, and bring California closer to meeting these objectives.

## **Border Mobility**

In 2016, Caltrans completed the first of two important studies looking at ways to make border mobility more integrated and sustainable. "California's Integrated Border Approach Strategy Study" examined regional mobility impacts resulting from the cross-border flow of people and goods in California's border communities through an institutional perspective.

The second study, "California-Baja California Binational Region - A Fresh Look at Impacts of

Border Delays," is still underway, and it assesses how cross-border delays impact economic activity and air quality/climate change emissions. Caltrans is working in close partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC). This study updates a similar study completed in 2006, and assesses air quality impacts of passenger and commercial vehicles resulting from border crossing congestion. The study also examines practices to improve border wait-time data collection and reliability. During 2017, the Project Study Team finalized a summary report of border crossing times for passenger and commercial vehicles, conducted 20 interviews with businesses identified in the "Economic Outreach Plan," improved the travel demand model that will provide cross border volume and delay projections, and prepared the economic and emissions models. Currently, the draft report documents are being reviewed and the consultant team is completing the model runs. The estimated completion date for this study is spring of 2018.

Together these efforts explore innovative approaches for binational transportation planning and border infrastructure project funding, and identify opportunities for Caltrans and its partners to improve the California-Mexico border.

## **Border Infrastructure**

Tens of thousands of personal and commercial vehicles travel between San Diego, California and Tijuana, Baja California every day. These travelers are plagued by unpredictable border-crossing traffic congestion and delays. Wait times routinely exceed two hours at the most of the existing six ports of entry. These delays are not only frustrating for pedestrians and drivers, but they further have a significant negative impact on the environment, economy, and overall quality of life of border communities. A 2006 study funded by Caltrans and SANDAG found that more than eight million trips in the region were lost per year as drivers chose to avoid battling the congestion. The study equated impacts of border delay to an economic loss of nearly \$1.3 billion in potential yearly revenues.

## Otay Mesa East International Land Port of Entry Project

The Otay Mesa East International Land Port of Entry project (Otay Mesa East) will improve mobility and reduce wait times at the California-Mexico border. Caltrans, in coordination with SANDAG, is working with local, state and federal stakeholders in the U.S. and Mexico to construct Otay Mesa East along the San Diego-Tijuana border. Once complete, State Route 11/Otay Mesa East will be the California's first tolled facility leading to a Land Port of Entry (POE). Construction of State Route 11/Otay Mesa East will take place in multiple segments.

Segment 1 of SR 11 was completed and opened to traffic in spring 2016 and the northbound connectors between SR 905, SR 125, and SR 11 were opened to traffic in fall 2016. Construction of Segment 4, the southbound connectors between SR 125 and SR 905 and SR 11 and Segment 2A currently is being designed and is scheduled for construction in 2019.

Caltrans has obtained a possession and use agreement with a major parcel owner that secures the right-of-way for the majority of the POE and a large portion of the roadway. Caltrans also is proceeding with acquiring the remaining right-of-way for the project.

Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration recently completed a Cost Estimate Review (CER) for the project. This risk based estimate review is required for all high-profile projects with a total cost of \$500 million dollars or higher. The CER exercise verified that the project estimates are within an acceptable range of risk.

SANDAG and Caltrans continue working closely

with Mexican partners, including the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, Mexican Customs, and other stakeholders on the "Innovation Concepts Study," which should be completed in mid-2018. The study will provide elements needed to move the POE into advanced stages of planning and development leading to a preferred concept, including ranges for capital costs, staffing costs, assessment of improved throughput innovations such as flexible lanes; plans for the tolling and traffic management systems; and a cost benefit analysis. As part of the study, quarterly meetings with United States and Mexican partners are taking place to discuss these issues for both sides of the border.

In January 2018, Caltrans submitted an application for a suite of border projects under the California Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP). The funding request included: construction of the Siempre Viva Interchange, which will complete the final piece of State Route 11 roadway as part of Segment 2; site preparation for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility as part of Segment 2; and, site preparation for the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry as part of Segment 3. SB 1 TCEP awardees will be announced in May 2018.

The Presidential Permit for the project was issued in 2008. This permit was the first issued by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) with a ten-year expiration date (November 20, 2018). Caltrans and SANDAG have held discussions with the U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. DOS regarding the parameters required to issue the Notice to Proceed, which would meet the requirements of the current Presidential Permit. The project team also was advised to



follow a parallel route, which includes preparing an application for a new Presidential Permit, ensuring the project stays permitted under any eventuality. The application has been submitted to the U.S. DOS for approval. Currently the application is under public review and a new presidential permit is expected to be issued in the summer of 2018.

### **Advanced Technology Corridors Pilot Project at Border Ports of Entry**

California's international border crossings and surrounding roadways experience severe congestion. One important piece of the California's overall strategy to combat vehicle congestion and reduce cross-border wait times is to use intelligent transportation systems. Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s 2016 "Sustainable Freight Action Plan" identifies the importance of using such systems along the border region. The "Sustainable Freight Action Plan" outlines the Advanced Technology Corridors Border pilot project in which Caltrans will work with federal, state, regional, local, and Mexican partners to implement information management systems, innovative operation techniques, and enhanced traffic management technology.

The pilot project will use a range of advanced technologies to improve safety and mobility while reducing the environmental impact of transportation across the border. Caltrans completed a work plan for this pilot project in July 2017, which outlines how this interagency group intends to facilitate progress on this pilot project and includes background information, a project description, cost estimates and a general project timeline. As highlighted in the work plan, the goal of this pilot project is to provide cross-border travelers with better information to aid them in travel decisions on when and how to travel across the border in the least amount of time. Moreover, one objective of the pilot project is to disseminate accurate wait time information to assist local, state and federal agencies in border operations and traffic management. Contingent on federal and local support, the pilot project may incorporate a component

on mobility incentives for zero and near-zero emission vehicles crossing the border.

Portions of this pilot project, including Phases I (Southbound ITS Infrastructure Improvements) and II (Information Dissemination Process) of the work plan, were also included in the Caltrans SB 1 TCEP application submitted in January 2018.

### **Calexico West Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion**

The Calexico West Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion project (Calexico West) will renovate and expand the third busiest Land Port of Entry in California, which links the agriculturally rich Imperial Valley to Mexicali, the state of Baja California's capital with a population of over 1 million people. In order to increase capacity, General Services Administration (GSA) improvements include new pedestrian and privately owned vehicle (POV) inspection facilities and administrative space. In 2017, construction continued on Phase 1 of the project, which includes five southbound POV lanes and the southbound vehicle bridge, ten northbound POV inspection lanes and associated equipment, and additional site work. Phase 1 is scheduled to be complete in late summer 2018. Phase 2, which has been included in the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget estimated at \$275 million, includes additional site work, demolition of the existing port building, a new pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, five southbound POV inspection lanes, and six additional northbound POV inspection lanes. Complementing the Calexico West expansion project, Caltrans authorized a special planning grant in 2017 for the "Calexico West Port of Entry Traffic Management Study," which will analyze and propose traffic management strategies that will assist traffic flow into the expanded Land Port of Entry. Caltrans, ICTC, and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) will lead the study in partnership with the City of Calexico, GSA, and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Consultant selection is in progress and the study will be underway in May 2018.



## ***El Protector Program***

One full time CHP Officer is assigned to the Border Division *El Protector* Program. The focus of this program is to utilize a bilingual CHP officer of Hispanic ancestry to participate in community events, provide traffic safety education presentations, and serve as a Hispanic role model within the communities served. Additionally, the officer interacts with multiple radio, television and newspaper outlets giving interviews and participating in question-and-answer sessions to disseminate important information to the Hispanic community.

In 2017, the *El Protector* Officer facilitated 15 Assembly Bill 60 Drivers Licenses for Undocumented Worker events. These two-day presentations have seen a significant increase in attendance, now totaling approximately 5,000 civilians. The event curriculum, conducted in Spanish, includes law enforcement procedures, general driving strategies, traffic regulations and familiarization with the California Driver's License examination workbook. Additionally, in 2017, the *El Protector* Officer conducted three Start Smart presentations, in Spanish, which specifically targeted teen drivers.

# Safety

Border safety issues continue to be addressed largely through the Operation Stonegarden Program and through the CHP Border Division. The Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG) supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among CBP, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), and other federal agencies, along with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. CHP coordinates and/or participates in a number of investigative task forces, community outreach programs and a grant funded regional enforcement operation. These include the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force, the Mexican Liaison Unit, U.S. Marshall Fugitive Task Force, North San Diego County and East San Diego County Gang Enforcement Teams, the Canine Unit, a joint-agency SD County, Human Trafficking Task Force and a Human Trafficking Task Force in Orange County. Border community outreach efforts are largely accomplished through the CHP El Protector Program.

## **Operation Stonegarden Program**

The Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG) provides funding to support joint efforts to secure the U.S. borders along routes of ingress from international borders to include travel corridors in states bordering Mexico and Canada, as well as states and territories with international water borders.

The OPSG for the San Diego Sector is awarded to and administered by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The program, which now has 22 participating agencies, includes most city police departments in San Diego County (cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado,

Escondido, La Mesa, National City, Oceanside and San Diego), the San Diego Harbor Police, sheriff's departments from San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Mateo counties, and state law enforcement agencies, that include the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Parks and Recreation and University of San Diego Police Department.

The San Diego County grant provides enforcement of international water borders from the U.S.-Mexico border to San Mateo County, covering approximately 489 miles of coastline north of San Diego County. Together, the agencies participating in the San Diego OPSG provide increased law enforcement presence in their designated areas of jurisdiction, which supports CBP efforts in the region to reduce border-related crimes and improve border security.

Historically, San Diego County has been a highly favored operational area for illegal immigration and drug smuggling organizations. San Diego is a consistent target, given the close proximity of Tijuana, Mexico, to San Diego, California, and its population density, significant coastline, and extensive transportation networks leading to the interior immediately north of the border. As the maritime smuggling threat continues to increase, these organizations are taking more extreme measures by going farther out to sea and further up the California coast, as demonstrated by boat (*panga*) landings being discovered more than 400 miles north in San Mateo County. Border-related crime represents an all-threat environment in that the primary criminal activity (drug/human smuggling) may result in cross-border criminal organizations and individuals undertaking secondary and sometimes, tertiary criminal activities that involve a wider range of crimes (kidnappings, assaults, murders, money laundering, cross-border weapons trafficking, etc.). These criminal activities, when undertaken in the U.S., constitute a threat to domestic security, subsequently triggering involvement by state and local law enforcement.

## **Accomplishments for 2017**

During the 2017 calendar year, the agencies

participating in the San Diego County OPSG produced the following results:

- 11,718 vehicle stops
- 820 pedestrian stops
- 280 vessel stops
- 2,604 citations issued
- 4,300 field interviews of suspicious subjects conducted
- 506 misdemeanor arrests
- 261 felony arrests
- 293 narcotics seizures
- 141 non-drug seizures, which includes weapons and currency

An example of the cooperation and collaboration between agencies can be demonstrated by Operation Gridlock V (GLV), which was held on November 3-4, 2017. The goal of the operation was to gather intelligence and intercept drug courier groups transporting narcotics into and throughout the U.S. The multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional operation was a simultaneously conducted narcotic interception in four separate time zones across the country. Within San Diego County, GLV simultaneously targeted Interstate 5, Interstate 8, Interstate 15 and adjacent state routes. GLV also included maritime operations along Southern California coastal waterways.

In addition to thoroughfares in Southern California, on a national level Operation Gridlock V targeted narcotic thoroughfares identified in the states of Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico, Michigan and Wyoming. The statistics for Operation Gridlock within San Diego County and nationwide are provided in the table Operation Gridlock V Statistics.

## OPERATION GRIDLOCK V STATISTICS

	San Diego County	Nation-wide	Total
Vehicle Stops	923	494	1,417
Citations	193	249	442
Misdemeanor Arrests	33	38	71
Felony Arrests	21	26	47
Field Interviews	305	208	513
Pursuits	1	1	2
Narcotic Seizures	18	27	45
Non-Drug Seizures	13	2	15
Warrants Cleared	5	6	11
Methamphetamine (Pounds)	.1	4.25	4.35
Fentanyl (Pounds)	14	0	14
Marijuana (Pounds)	2.5	189.6	192.1
US Currency Seized	\$1,890	\$47,346	\$49,236
Pharmaceuticals Pills	102	3,124	3,226
Cocaine (Pounds)	33	.1	33.1
Firearms	4	0	4

The outlook for the OPSG in 2018 is optimistic. Over the past few years, the San Diego County Operation Stonegarden award has increased very little, despite the number of agencies and increased administrative costs. As of the end of 2017, there have been talks regarding the grant increasing nationwide. Should this happen, San Diego County is hopeful that there will be an increase in the award to this region. An increase in funding will allow San Diego County OPSG to expand its layered enforcement approach.

## **California Maritime Security Program**

The California Maritime Security Program, formerly known as the Cal OES Ports and Harbors Program, is responsible for maritime safety and security awareness for California. It has assigned units throughout the state, including Sacramento, Northern and Southern California, focused on maritime intelligence. These units collaborate with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) who collaborate with all state security programs, as well as the U.S. Navy. They are permanent members of the USCG Interagency Operations Centers (IOC), as well as staff members of the USCG Headquarters' External Affairs Unit. Both the USCG IOC and Headquarters External Affairs Unit are the West Coast nerve centers for continual situation awareness for the Pacific Ocean and all surrounding land masses. They have global networking protocols and capabilities to network around the world including land, air and sea.

The Cal OES Maritime Security Program collaborates with USCG, U.S. Navy, and local marine law enforcement, including San Diego, Orange County and Los Angeles County, in joint operational efforts. The Cal OES Maritime Security Program participates as subject matter experts and observers in marine training, meetings, and in some rare cases, in real world operations with Mexico. Cal OES has briefed Mexican marine operators in the area of Marine Transportation Systems Recovery through a joint effort with the USCG. Through this joint effort, the USCG plan was translated into Spanish and provided to Mexico. The plan is currently under review and once finalized, the Mexican marine operators will be trained. The joint operational efforts also focus on monitoring, responding and securing waters off shore of Western Mexico, the California and beyond. As the seaport in Ensenada, Baja California continues to develop, the seaport will become part of the Western Sea Board tying directly to California's economy. Therefore, in the future, Ensenada would be part of the West Coast Shipping Network further strengthening the collaboration between Cal OES, the USCG, and Mexico.

In addition, the USCG and U.S. Navy provide

classified training to Mexican units on special tactics, such as marine night infiltration operations. Cal OES participates in these trainings and offers military and maritime expertise to the Mexican units

## **California Highway Patrol Border Division**

The California Highway Patrol Border Division (Border Division) is a diverse region of California encompassing four counties: San Diego, Imperial, Orange and Riverside.

Given the high population density and the amount of visitors to this border area, safety remains an important priority. CHP Border Division coordinates and/or participates in a number of investigative task forces, community outreach programs and a grant funded regional enforcement operation. These include the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force, the Mexican Liaison Unit, U.S. Marshall Fugitive Task Force, North San Diego County and East San Diego County Gang Enforcement Teams, the Canine Unit, a joint-agency San Diego County Human Trafficking Task Force, and a Human Trafficking Task Force in Orange County. One full-time CHP Investigator is assigned to the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force housed at the Anaheim Police Department. One full time CHP Investigator is assigned to the San Diego County Joint-Agency Human Trafficking Task Force, housed at a Department of Justice Facility. Border Division also participates in OPSG. The quantifiable results of these efforts are represented below.

## **2017 Inspection Facility, Task Force, Unit & Grant Operation Statistics**

### Otay Mesa Inspection Facility:

- 960,000 trucks inspected
- 30,016 vehicles inspected
- 6,509 citations issued
- 3,674 verbal warnings issued

### Calexico Inspection Facility:

- 331,896 trucks inspected
- 20,876 vehicles inspected
- 6,170 citations issued

### SD Regional Auto Theft Task Force:

- 150 vehicles recovered, valued at approximately \$1.9 million dollars total
- 139 arrests
- Identified the most sought after or frequently stolen vehicles: 1994-1998 Honda Accord and Civic model cars, late model sport-type motorcycles
- Late-model Jeep Wranglers, Nissan and Chevrolet pickup trucks continued to be targeted

### CHP Canine Unit:

- 109 seizures, which resulted in seizing: 1,914 pounds of marijuana; 956 pounds of methamphetamine; 249 pounds of cocaine and 97 pounds of heroin
- \$4,659,130 U.S. currency seized
- 21 illegal firearms
- 9,450 enforcement contacts
- 252 arrests, resulting in 195 felonies
- 2,710 citations issued
- 151 canine demonstrations
- 183 canine deployments

### CHP Mexican Liaison Unit:

- 615 vehicles recovered, valued at approximately \$5,771,972
- 1 commercial vehicle recovered, valued at approximately \$30,000
- 7,711 investigation assists
- 10 arrests
- 424 suspects prosecuted in Mexico

### Stonegarden Enforcement, Federal Grant:

#### San Diego County:

- \$603,232 total expenditures, \$119,971 provided to CHP Coastal Division

- 1,654 citations issued
- 107 total arrests, resulting in 91 misdemeanors and 16 felonies
- 10 narcotics seizures
- 4 U.S. currency seizures

#### Imperial County:

- 161 drug related felony arrests; 148 non-drug felony arrests
- 139 drug related misdemeanors / 35 Non-Drug Misdemeanor Arrests
- 7 U.S. currency seizures, totaling \$334,065

#### Human Trafficking Task Force Participation:

##### Orange County:

- 54 Arrests
- 72 victims identified/located
- 21 juveniles freed

##### San Diego County:

- 59 investigations
- 314 leads opened
- 3 federal prosecution arrests
- 20 felony arrests and 53 misdemeanor arrests
- 58 victims freed, 6 of which were juveniles
- 47 enforcement operations conducted targeting human traffickers and sex buyers

# Health

Border health initiatives are largely addressed through the CDPH Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) and through OEHHA. This includes work on CalEnviroScreen, environmental contaminant biomonitoring, and fish consumption advisories.

## Office of Binational Border Health

The OBBH is responsible for maintaining communication and for collaboration with health officials in Baja California, Mexico. Knowing in advance if there is an outbreak or binational case in the border region helps OBBH prepare Californians and assist Baja California.

## Health Status

In 2017, the OBBH produced its “Annual Border Health Status Report” to the Legislature, which provides a summary of the current health status of the border region.<sup>16</sup> This report presents important health indicators for border communities in California and a general overview of the health status of the population living in the San Diego and Imperial counties. The 2016 report covers demographics, obesity, diabetes, mental health, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, and vaccine preventable diseases in California. Additionally, there is a chapter on vector-borne-diseases, which includes information on Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

## Collaboration

In 2017, OBBH programs focused 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. One of these efforts is in partnership with the county of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Services via the San Diego Border Health Collaborative. The mission of the Collaborative is to enhance communication, collaboration and coordination among public, private and academic institutions in order to protect and improve the health of individuals, families and communities along the California-Baja California border in San Diego County. Collaborative meetings are held bimonthly.<sup>17</sup>

## Monitor and Surveillance

The OBBH focuses on enhancing the detection and response capabilities to infectious disease incidents and threats in the border region. During 2017, OBBH monitored and investigated binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks in the border region. The Office 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.

OBBH 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 Office monitored all binational infectious diseases cases throughout the California via a computer application known as the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange

16 The 2016 report is available on the CDPH website at: [cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/OBBH/CDPH%20Document%20Library/2016%20BHSR%20FINAL%20docx.pdf](http://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/OBBH/CDPH%20Document%20Library/2016%20BHSR%20FINAL%20docx.pdf)

17 To learn more about the Collaborative, please visit: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4443723/](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4443723/)

(CalREDIE) system at CDPH. 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.

On January 26-27, 2017, the OBBH coordinated a tabletop exercise in San Diego that included representatives from the local, state and federal levels in the U.S. and Mexico. The overall purpose of the exercise was to enhance binational collaboration, communication and coordination among U.S. and Mexico public health representatives as it relates to infectious diseases. More specifically the exercise provided an opportunity to exercise a binational protocol that was developed by CDC's Border Technical Workgroup in its current form and identify future areas for improvement. Additionally, the tabletop exercise also served to enhance awareness and familiarize key public health officials with existing Zika epidemiological surveillance and vector control guidelines in the U.S. and Mexico, as well as identify potential areas for collaboration in an effort to enhance preparedness and response activities for Zika in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

### **U.S. - Mexico Border Health Commission**

Through OBBH, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission California Outreach Office (COO) works in coordination with the other U.S. and Mexico border states and both federal governments on priority topics of both countries. These include tuberculosis, obesity/diabetes, access to care, research, and strategic planning. The mission of the commission is to provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the U.S.-Mexico border. The COO's role is to serve as a link to border health partners in the California border region and work binationally with Mexico partners to address mutual public health issues on both sides of the border.

In 2017, the COO committed to five initiatives. The first initiative is called the Community-based Healthy Border Initiative (CbHBI). One purpose of the CbHBI is to improve access, referral and awareness of health and human services among

low-income, indigent and migrant/immigrant populations, including adults and children through health education, health screening and insurance enrollment efforts. The initiative also is intended to provide capacity-building and networking opportunities to service providers and advocacy organizations to enhance and develop cultural and linguistically appropriate services to improve health care quality in San Diego and Imperial counties' diverse communities.

The second initiative is called the Border Reproductive Health Initiative (BRHI). The COO and Coahuila Outreach Office coordinated the first BRH-TWG meeting on February 18-19, 2015 in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, México to establish the health priorities of the BRH-TWG and develop the strategic map which focused on two priorities areas, maternal and prenatal mortality and teen pregnancy prevention. On April 15, 2015 a second BRH-TWG meeting took place to finalize the BRH-TWG Strategic map and develop a work plan. From the work plan, the BRH-TWG began working collectively compare reproductive health data and best practices across all 10 U.S.-Mexico border states. A final report summarizing this project was submitted to HHS for final approval.

The third initiative is the implementation of the "Border Health Consortium of the Californias Strategic Plan." The goals of the consortium are to create networking opportunities in order to strengthen collaboration, improve communication, streamline coordination, share knowledge, best practices, and disseminate information amongst groups/organizations/individuals working in public health in the border region. The consortium has developed small work groups to address specific health issues (initial topics selected obesity, tuberculosis (TB), mental health, and HIV/AIDS); and holds two binational meetings each year to report out and focus on specific binational health issues.

The fourth initiative is the U.S.-Mexico *Promotores* training on vector-borne diseases. The COO coordinated with the commission Baja California Outreach Office to provide a training on vector-borne diseases for over 40 *Promotores de Salud*.

The fifth initiative is Border Health Month, held in October 2017. It includes numerous health promotion and disease prevention activities on both sides of the border. In 2016 and 2017, the focus was on the promotion of Partnerships for a Healthy Border. It is estimated that about 1.6 million border residents have benefited from this initiative.<sup>18</sup>

### **Advisory Group**

OBBH convenes a voluntary statewide community advisory group twice a year to develop a strategic plan with goals for implementation, and to advise CDPH and the California members of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. The group of 12 members includes representatives from the county health departments of Los Angeles, San Diego, and Imperial, an association of local health officers, local government, hospitals, health plans, community-based organizations, and universities. In 2017, the OBBH Advisory Group led two public meetings to share information about the “California Tuberculosis Elimination Plan” and to review the Office’s 3-year strategic plan.

### **Environmental Investigations Branch**

In 2017, the CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch worked in Imperial and San Diego counties to deliver the Asthma Management Academy. Launched in 2017, the academy is a professional development series that prepares community health workers (CHWs) to provide national asthma guidelines and self-management education to families living with uncontrolled asthma. The academy is built around five modules that include: the scope of asthma, asthma trigger identification, asthma medications, monitoring and assessing asthma, and medication delivery devices control. CDPH recruits participants from federally qualified health centers and other organizations in communities in the top quartile for emergency department visits.

CHWs who attended the academy learned guidelines-based care in a rigorous, encouraging,

and skill-building environment. Participants received ongoing technical assistance and professional development, networking opportunities, an asthma education toolkit, and a certificate of completion from CDPH and the Association of Asthma Educators.

Asthma self-management education and home environmental asthma-trigger assessment are evidence-based strategies that can lead to significant cost savings, increased medication adherence, and reduced ED visits and hospitalizations.

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

### **Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment**

OEHHA is helping to coordinate efforts to maintain a healthy environment for people in the California-Mexico border region. This includes continued work on CalEnviroScreen, environmental contaminant biomonitoring, and fish consumption advisories.

### **California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool - CalEnviroScreen**

As noted above, CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by OEHHA that scores all California census tracts based on 20 indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability.

In January 2017, OEHHA released the latest CalEnviroScreen version, CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Before its release, OEHHA held seven public workshops in September 2016 in several cities throughout the state, including San Diego and Calexico, to receive public comments. Additional sources of data were incorporated in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to more accurately reflect the impacts of pollution originating in Mexico on California communities located near the Mexican border. OEHHA conducted a review of pollution sources in Mexico and adjusted numerous pollution indicators for CalEnviroScreen. Adjustment were made to ozone, particulate matter, diesel particulate matter, toxic releases from facilities, and traffic indicators. There are currently two OEHHA studies underway to collect, understand, and potentially include

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18 To learn more, please visit: [hhs.gov/about/agencies/oga/about-oga/what-we-do/international-relations-division/americas/border-health-commission/activities/index.html](https://hhs.gov/about/agencies/oga/about-oga/what-we-do/international-relations-division/americas/border-health-commission/activities/index.html)



pollution data for CalEnviroScreen at the California-Mexico border. One study includes a 2-year OEHHA-funded study that has been collecting data from 11 community air monitors (see pages 21-22). Another study includes in-kind participation by OEHHA to quantify water contaminant data.

### **California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program**

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

OEHHA collaborates with the CDPH and DTSC in implementing the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California.<sup>19</sup> In 2017, Biomonitoring California launched the "California Regional Exposure Study," a new multi-regional, statewide project, which will ultimately include the border region.<sup>20</sup> Given resource limitations, the project has to be phased in over time. The study is starting in Los Angeles County, measuring metals (including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury) in blood and/or urine, as well as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in serum. In a subset of Los Angeles County participants, an indicator of diesel exhaust exposure called 1-nitropyrene will also be measured.

OEHHA, on behalf of Biomonitoring California, began leading the new East Bay Diesel Exposure Project to assess diesel exhaust exposure using 1-nitropyrene as an indicator.<sup>21</sup> The project design allows an assessment of 1-nitropyrene results within a household, across age groups, between communities, and by season. This

data will also provide a point of comparison for results from the "California Regional Exposure Study" and from potential future work on diesel exhaust exposure along the border.

In 2017, Biomonitoring California completed an environmental justice consultation project. OEHHA conducted a survey of community organizations and in-person meetings with representatives organizations across the state, including the border region, to learn more about their concerns regarding chemical exposures in their communities. The purpose was to identify concerns that could be addressed through biomonitoring, and build relationships for possible future studies pending funding.

CDPH, DTSC and OEHHA also produced the first edition of a community-oriented newsletter to increase accessibility to community members.<sup>22</sup> The newsletter includes practical tips that will help people to reduce their chemical exposures. The second issue is due out in spring 2018.

To ensure accessibility, Biomonitoring California's website also includes a range of materials for Spanish-speaking audiences.<sup>23</sup> Spanish materials include an interactive guide to biomonitoring, the community newsletter "Biomonitoring Matters," a video about Biomonitoring California that includes Spanish subtitles, and chemical fact sheets that provide information on sources of exposure to chemicals, potential health concerns, and possible ways to reduce exposure.

### **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, those that should not be eaten and those that 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

19 For more information on Biomonitoring California, please visit: [biomonitoring.ca.gov](http://biomonitoring.ca.gov). Summary results from the projects available so far can be accessed at: [biomonitoring.ca.gov/results/explore](http://biomonitoring.ca.gov/results/explore)

20 For more information, please visit: [biomonitoring.ca.gov/care](http://biomonitoring.ca.gov/care)

21 For more information, please visit: [biomonitoring.ca.gov/projects/east-bay-diesel-exposure-project](http://biomonitoring.ca.gov/projects/east-bay-diesel-exposure-project)

22 The newsletter, "Biomonitoring Matters," can be found at: [biomonitoring.ca.gov/newsletter/vol-1-march-2017](http://biomonitoring.ca.gov/newsletter/vol-1-march-2017)

23 Spanish materials can be found at: [biomonitoring.ca.gov/informacion-en-espanol](http://biomonitoring.ca.gov/informacion-en-espanol)

Consumption” section. Many local agencies also post signs containing the advisories at popular fishing locations.

By the end of 2017, OEHHA had issued 97 fish advisories, of which fifty-four were available in Spanish, including the advisories for San Diego and San Francisco Bays and the statewide advisories for lakes, reservoirs, and coastal areas that do not have site-specific advice. In 2017, OEHHA released 18 new fish consumption advisories, including Wiest Lake in Imperial County, located approximately 40 miles north of the border.<sup>24</sup> Also in 2017, OEHHA developed an updated fish advisory poster that is easier for the public to understand. OEHHA plans to post these posters in English and Spanish for all advisories by the end of 2018.

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<sup>24</sup> Posters for advisories published in 2017 are available in both English and Spanish at OEHHA’s website: [oehha.ca.gov/fish/advisories](http://oehha.ca.gov/fish/advisories)  
Fish advisories and fact sheets in Spanish are posted at: [oehha.ca.gov/fish/pecado.html](http://oehha.ca.gov/fish/pecado.html)

# Emergency Management

Cal OES is responsible for the coordination of overall state agency response to disasters, assuring the state's readiness to respond to and recover from all hazards and assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. In 2017, Cal OES continued to work with Mexico on several border projects.

## **Southwest Border Communications Working Group**

Cal OES, along with officials from federal, state, local, and tribal public safety agencies continue to participate in the Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) to discuss emergency communication efforts towards terrorist threats, hazmat incidents, natural disasters, border violence, escapes and evasions, and medical emergencies.

In 2017, SWBCWG held three meetings where members discussed interoperability communications issues along the southwest border. The working group continues to serve as a forum to share information on common emergency communications issues, collaborate on existing and planned activities, and facilitate federal involvement in multi-agency projects within the southwest border region, which includes Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. The group also 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. The SWBCWG's efforts help to ensure success in meeting end users'

communications needs while improving coordination between U.S. departments and agencies at all government levels. The SWBCWG quarterly meetings continue the discussion of ongoing efforts and to identify communications gaps along the border with the goal of providing justification for establishing federal funding to help fill those gaps.

## **Earthquake Preparedness**

The "San Diego-Tijuana Earthquake Planning Scenario" updates a 1990 planning scenario for a major earthquake in the San Diego-Tijuana Regional area with the intent to initiate emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration between the U.S. and Mexico governments, along with their communities. Participants are from all levels of government, including federal, state, and local. The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) has taken the initiative to form a working group of private and government professionals to review and update the scenario considering current information resulting from improved technology and information about seismic behavior, geology, engineering, social, economic and cultural evolution since 1990.

The San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan region is home to more than five million people living in an integrated cross-border community with interdependent infrastructures and economies. The interdependence of economies and communities demands that emergency managers on both sides of the border assess ways to improve resilience. This scenario will help address fundamental questions, such as the preparedness of the region, types of damages and impacts expected, and the social and economic impacts to the region from such a catastrophic event. This information is fundamental to determine actions needed to improve the region's earthquake safety and resilience.

This earthquake scenario project has volunteer engineers, scientists, researchers, architects, geologists, seismologists, emergency managers, planners, building officials, social scientists, and economists working together to determine how the community will respond in the event of a major earthquake, but steps that can be taken to improve the disaster resilience of the cross-

border region. These volunteers are organized into three interconnected working groups that will yield a final scenario report and policy recommendations for the region.

### **Working Group 1:**

This work group focuses on earth sciences hazard definition and mapping. In 2017, members designed the earthquake scenario, its earthquake shaking levels and intensities, as well as the secondary hazards associated with earthquakes, including landslides, liquefaction and possible tsunami. ShakeMaps and PAGER (Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response) were developed by U.S. Geological Survey to rapidly estimate the impact of significant earthquakes. A preliminary ShakeMap and PAGER report have been developed in this group, and the workgroup goals were 95% complete by the end of 2017.

### **Working Group 2:**

Workgroup 2 focuses on engineering and continues to study building and infrastructure inventories and vulnerabilities to estimate the expected physical damage from the scenario earthquake. The workgroup is using the ShakeMaps and secondary maps developed by Workgroup 1 to enter the information into Hazards U.S. (HazUS), a multi-hazard loss estimation methodology developed by FEMA, to estimate the region's earthquake losses. Finally, the numerical results will be reviewed by a panel of experts to generate the final assessment of damage in the region.

The HazUS is 95% complete which included, running the preliminary HazUS report, refining the HazUS analysis, obtaining and using tax assessor's data, and reviewing essential facilities. The vulnerable building assessment is 50% complete and defining and implementing the infrastructure plan is 25% complete.

### **Working Group 3:**

This workgroup focuses on social science and plans to estimate impacts on social and economic systems on both sides of the international border. Members plan to schedule a series of stakeholder workshops to engage in discussion around the social and economic impacts of the

Scenario. The goals of this work group are 20% complete. To date, it has identified partners and interviewed stakeholders.

Once the three scenario working groups have completed their studies, a final report will be prepared to summarize the scenario findings. The report will tell the story of the scenario event and its possible consequences to the San Diego and Tijuana region. The report will be designed to prompt residents, business owners, decision makers and community stakeholders to determine the level of preparedness in the region and make for a more resilient community. The goal is to develop policies that enhance earthquake safety. Policy recommendations could include many topics, including earthquake education, emergency planning, and building codes.

### **California Aid to Mexico after Chiapas Earthquake**

Cal OES has a strong, lasting relationship with Mexico. During times of emergencies or disasters, Cal OES and Mexico stand in solidarity with one another and provide emergency assistance. On September 19, 2017, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Mexico City and the state of Puebla in Mexico causing, causing over 200 fatalities and 46 building collapses.<sup>25</sup> Cal OES immediately reached out to the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento on behalf of the state to offer assistance and to stand in solidarity with Mexico. The Mexican Consulate informed Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to relay California's offer of emergency assistance.

The Cal OES Fire & Rescue Branch, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, activated a California Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Task Force 2 from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and a Type 1 International US&R with 56 personnel to assist Mexico City with their search and rescue operations.

Cal OES also reached out to various California state agencies, private partners and

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<sup>25</sup> Source: [researchgate.net/publication/320297374\\_Preliminary\\_Statistics\\_of\\_Collapsed\\_Buildings\\_in\\_Mexico\\_City\\_in\\_the\\_September\\_19\\_2017\\_Puebla-Morelos\\_Earthquake](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320297374_Preliminary_Statistics_of_Collapsed_Buildings_in_Mexico_City_in_the_September_19_2017_Puebla-Morelos_Earthquake)

nongovernmental organizations to determine the kinds of assistance that could be provided to Mexico. The CaliforniaVolunteers Disaster Volunteering and Preparedness Department launched a webpage with donation information for the Mexico City earthquake. The California Transportation Agency was ready to assist by providing engineers to assess damage to critical infrastructure. Within the California Health and Human Services Agency, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development was ready to provide personnel to assess and evaluate the stability of hospital buildings.

Cal OES's Office of Private Sector/NGO Coordination communicated with multiple companies and organizations and synchronized their relief efforts for Mexico. Several private partners and national corporations with California presence provided assistance to Mexico. Below is a snapshot of the aid that was provided by these California-based partners:

- Philanthropy CA directed donors to Center for Disaster Philanthropy for donation information
- An NGO called Disaster Relief provided medical and pharmaceutical supplies
- Several California foundations established funds for Mexico-specific disaster relief
- Lowe's, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, and Target provided supplies and financial support
- Proctor & Gamble partnered with several Mexican organizations to distribution cleaning supplies and drinking water

Cal OES continues to work collaboratively with the Mexican Consulate. Currently, they are exploring entering into a memorandum of understanding on emergency management and establishing a framework for sharing best practices, training, and resources.

### **Seismic Safety Commission**

Under BCSH, the Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) researches earthquake issues, holds public hearings on seismic safety and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on policies to reduce earthquake risk. SSC also investigates and evaluates earthquake damage and reconstruction efforts following earthquakes, conducts earthquake

preparedness, education and outreach programs, and provides consistent policy direction for earthquake-related programs for agencies at all government levels.

The Seismic Safety Commission has a working relationship with the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento. The Consul General briefs the commission once a year on what is happening in Mexico regarding earthquake safety. In 2017, the topic was the terrible earthquakes that struck Mexico in September 2017. Two commissioners travelled with other organizations to view the damage. The commission also heard a presentation in September 2017 from the EERI regarding their earthquake scenario that will impact Tijuana and San Diego.

### **Wildfire Working Group**

In 2017, the Wildfire Working Group, comprised of Cal OES, CAL FIRE, and CONAFOR continued collaborating and advancing their MOU action plan. The workgroup was established under the framework of the *Climate Change and the Environment MOU*.

The Wildfire Work Group participants collaborated and held five training opportunities from March 2017 through November 2017. Training was provided to Mexican firefighters in both California and Mexico by instructors from CAL FIRE and CONAFOR.

With the support of CalEPA, the CAL FIRE Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Operating Principles was translated into Spanish in 2017 and will be provided to CONAFOR in 2018. This document is intended as a reference to provide first responders with tools to more effectively respond to, command, and understand challenging incidents involving the WUI, with a unique combination of wildfire attack and structure defense demands. The knowledge compiled in this volume can save property, but more importantly, lives—of both civilians and firefighters.

### **Public Safety Interaction with Mexico**

Cal OES Public Safety Communications 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Branch (Cal OES 9-1-1 Branch) works with and enables various local public safety answering points (PSAPs) to provide expedient telephone access to emergency

## 2017 WILDFIRE WORK GROUP TRAINING SCHEDULE

Date	Training Description	Location	Students Trained	# of Days
March 2017	VMP	Corte Madera, San Diego Unit	8	1
April 2017	Wild Preparedness Exercise	Corte Madera, San Diego Unit	10	1
May 2017	Driver Operator IA	Rancho La Puerta, Tecate	20	3
May 2017	Engine Operations and WUI	Rancho La Puerta, Tecate	40	3
November 2017	Helicopter Operations/Crew Members, ICS and S-212 Chainsaw	Tecate, Mexico	40	3

services for all 9-1-1 emergency callers by assisting PSAPs in the administration and funding of this lifesaving resource in their communities. The Cal OES 9-1-1 Branch reimburses Public Safety Answering Points statewide for costs necessary for the delivery and answering of 9-1-1 calls and operation of the 9-1-1 system. These funds are made available through the State Emergency Telephone Number Account as set forth in the Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Act (RTC 41001-41176), which is administered by the Cal OES 9-1-1 Branch.

Through the administration and reimbursement of these funds, Cal OES works closely with the PSAPs in both San Diego and Imperial Counties who interact daily with Mexico to assist in the routing, answering, and processing of 9-1-1 calls originating within Mexico or from citizens of Mexico that live and/or work in bordering cities and towns within California. The Calexico Police Department, Imperial County Sheriff, Chula Vista Police Department, and San Diego County Sheriff are the four PSAPs located in San Diego and Imperial Counties who interact on an ongoing basis with Mexico to ensure accurate and effective handling of 9-1-1 calls in the border region.

For example, the Calexico Police Department works with Mexico's 9-1-1 dispatching authorities regarding the routing of wireless 9-1-1 calls. Wireless 9-1-1 calls are routed to a PSAP (or 9-1-1 center) based upon the predetermined routing assignment of cellular towers and sectors to the

most appropriate PSAP. In order to optimize this routing assignment, border PSAPs (city, county, state, country) work collaboratively to review available data when assigning routing to new cellular towers/sectors and to ensure that assignments are correct for existing towers/sectors on at least an annual basis.

Imperial County Sheriff receives 9-1-1 calls originating within Mexico on a daily basis. These calls require Imperial County Sheriff to transfer the calls to the proper jurisdictional entities outside of California. As such, Imperial County Sheriff maintains relationships with Mexican jurisdictions and border entities to facilitate these transfers when they are necessary. The Chula Vista Police Department, as with the example above, routinely answers 9-1-1 calls from Mexican citizens that live and work in Chula Vista or Tijuana. In border cities and towns, it is not uncommon for citizens of each country to live on one side of the border and conduct business on the other. Chula Vista PD manages requests for emergency services on a daily basis for individuals along the border region. The San Diego County Sheriff also cooperates with Mexican dispatching authorities to ensure that citizens and visitors receive the emergency services they need regardless of the country of origin. Through this partnership with the PSAPS and administration of funding, Cal OES continues to support and promote collaboration efforts with Mexico.

## Border Area Legislation 2017

In order to help address sewage flow challenges in the Tijuana River Valley, Senate Bill 507 (Hueso, Chapter 542, Statutes of 2017) passed and states:

*Up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of the moneys appropriated to the department and available to the County of San Diego, described in subdivision (a), shall be used to update or conduct, as the case may be, the following studies:*

*(1) An update to the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team's "Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water," January 2012 to include issues related to wastewater and runoff.*

*(2) A study focused on the improvement and protection of natural lands, including the main river channel, in the Tijuana River Valley.*

Senate Bill 5 (De Leon, Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017) passed, and is awaiting voter approval as a Proposition in 2018. This bill states:

*The sum of seven hundred sixty-seven million dollars (\$767,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as described in this chapter.*

*(a) Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) shall be available to the Salton Sea Authority for capital outlay projects that provide air quality and habitat benefits and that implement the Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Program. Of this amount, not less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be available to the Salton Sea Authority for purposes consistent with the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program, as described in Section 71103.6.*





# List of Acronyms

ABC	Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
BAR	Bureau of Automotive Repair
BCSH	Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
BRHI	Border Reproductive Health Initiative
CA-BIDS	California Border Infectious Disease Surveillance Program
CalEnviroScreen	California Environmental Screening methodology, used to identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Cal OES	California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
CalREDIE	California Reportable Disease Information Exchange System
CalSTA	California State Transportation Agency
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CbHBI	Community-based Healthy Border Initiative
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CESPM	Baja California Commission of Public Works in Mexicali - <i>Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali</i>
CESPT	Baja California Commission of Public Works in Tijuana - <i>Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana</i>
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CHHS	California Health and Human Services Agency
CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
CONACYT	Mexico’s National Council of Science and Technology - <i>Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología</i>
CONAFOR	Mexico National Forestry Commission - <i>Comisión Nacional Forestal</i>

CRE	Mexico Energy Regulatory Commission - <i>Comisión Reguladora de Energía</i>
DBO	Department of Business Oversight
DCA	Department of Consumer Affairs
DFEH	Department of Fair Employment and Housing
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EERI	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
ENA-REDD+	Mexico's National Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
FERC	U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GO-Biz	California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
HazUS	Hazards U.S. - a multi-hazard loss estimation methodology developed by FEMA
HCD	Department of Housing and Community Development
H&H	Hydraulics and Hydrology
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IBWC	International Boundary and Water Commission
ICEP	Individual Company Export Promotion
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
LEV	Low Emission Vehicle
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOM 163	Mexico's Fuel Economy Standards Program – <i>Norma Oficial Mexicana 163</i>
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
OBBH	Office of Binational Border Health
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OPSG	Operation Stonegarden Grant Program
PM	Particulate Matter
PM2.5	Particulate Matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter
PM10	Particulate Matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter
POE	Port of Entry
PROFEPA	Mexico's Federal Enforcement Agency - <i>Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente</i>
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SB	Senate Bill

SD-LECC	San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center
SEFOA	Mexico Secretariat of Agricultural Development – <i>Secretaría de Fomento Agropecuario</i>
SENER	Mexico Secretariat of Energy – <i>Secretaría de Energía</i>
SEMARNAT	Mexico Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources – <i>Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales</i>
SPA	Secretariat for the Environment of Baja California, Mexico – <i>Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente</i>
SSC	Seismic Safety Commission
STEP	State Trade Expansion Program
SWBCWG	Southwest Border Communications Working Group
TB	Tuberculosis
TRAM	Tijuana River Action Month
UC	University of California
UCSD	University of California, San Diego
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface



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