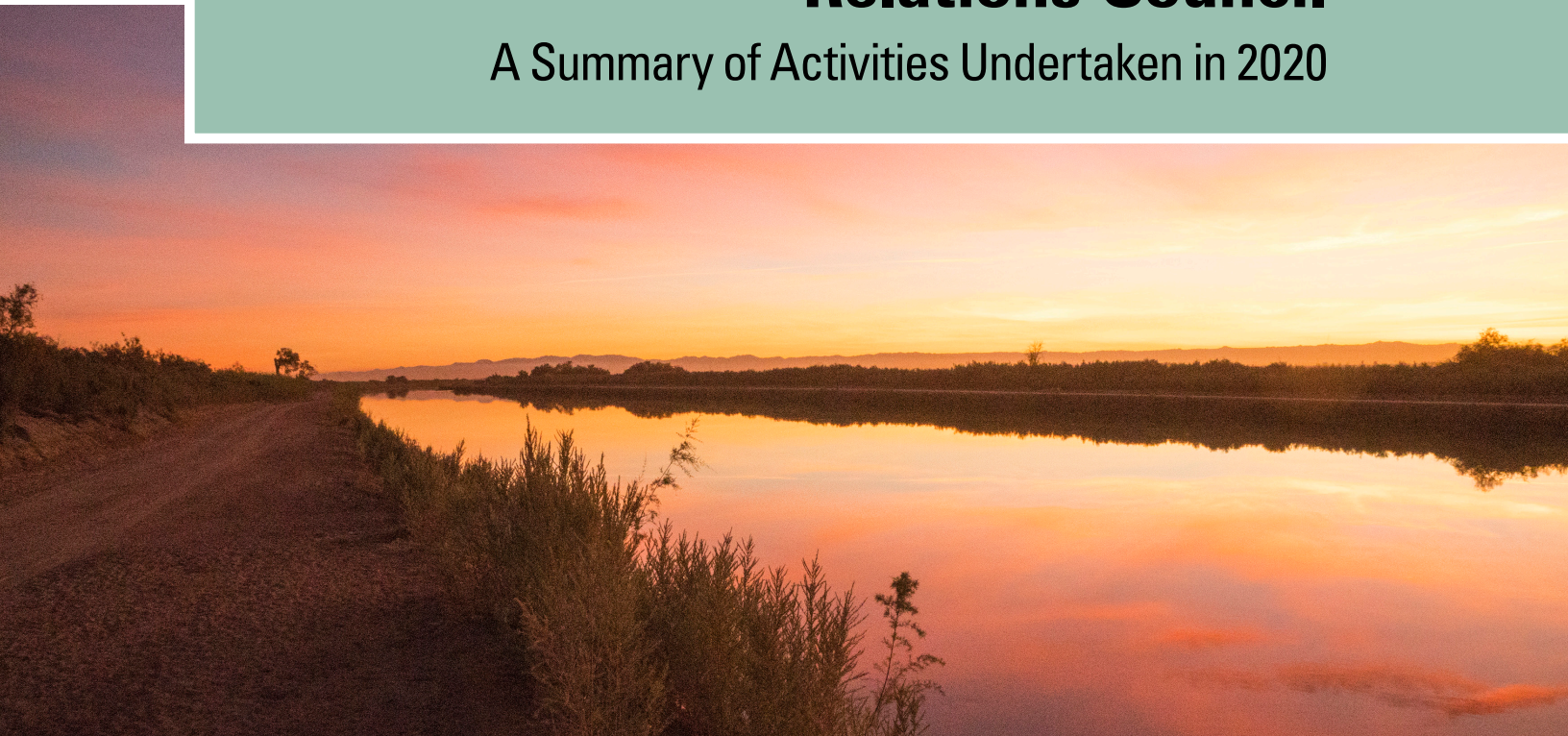


2020

Annual Report

The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

A Summary of Activities Undertaken in 2020



Published in December 2021





Council Member Agencies:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Health and Human Services Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Transportation Agency
California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (ex-officio)

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Jared Blumenfeld
Chair, 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,

The importance of collaboration in the interconnected border region of California and Mexico was on full display in 2020, a year of unprecedented challenges. From responding to the COVID-19 pandemic to improving the environment and enhancing infrastructure, our long-term binational collaboration continued to benefit border communities and our state and federal entities as a whole. Despite the incredible difficulties of this past year, the California-Mexico Border Relations Council continued to make crucial strides, exemplifying the significance of cross-border collaboration.



We can see the significance of our binational partnership in the council's efforts to address COVID-19:

- The California Office of Binational Border Health, in its mandate to reduce the risk of disease in the border region, handled over 10,000 binational COVID-19 cases, and established a binational health care plan.
- The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services provided over 2.4 million Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items to San Diego County, as well as 1.5 million PPE items to Imperial County, for distribution on both sides of the border.
- The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council awarded \$54 million to address and prevent homelessness and the spread of COVID-19 in Imperial and San Diego counties.

In addition to addressing the pandemic, long-term binational collaboration continued in border communities:

- Full funding was awarded to the New River Improvement Project through the Governor's Budget to address polluted transboundary river flows in the city of Calexico.
- \$300 million was awarded to address transboundary flows of sewage, trash and sediment in the Tijuana River through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and local and state entities actively informed project selection.
- Mexico continued to supply organisms that suppress pests to California in order to enhance pest prevention and plant health.

- The California State Transportation Agency, with multiple partners, completed the renovation and expansion of the San Ysidro Port of Entry, the fourth busiest border crossing in the world.

As this 2020 report illustrates, the council remains a crucial forum for addressing these matters, as well as unexpected challenges along both sides of the California-Mexico border. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 3021 (Statutes of 2006), I would like to present this annual report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. We look forward to working diligently to accomplish so much more, together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Blumenfeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the last name.

Jared Blumenfeld, Chair
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Council Background

The California-Mexico border region has long-standing interconnectedness and interdependency. Both the U.S. 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 were operating across state agencies, with no organizing entity to coordinate interagency cooperation. The report was updated in 2017 and shows continued engagement with Mexico (the report can be found on the California State Library website: [*Programs and Projects Related to Mexico in California State Government*](#)).

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 coordinates cross-border programs,

initiatives, projects and partnerships. The council is comprised of the leaders of eight state entities, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency serving in an ex-officio capacity. Collectively these entities are responsible for addressing a wide range of issues affecting the border relating to the environment, natural resources, transportation, human health, food and agriculture, emergency and consumer services, housing, and business and economic development.

The council meets at least once a year to coordinate the activities of state agencies 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 is legislatively mandated to:

- Coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that exist within state government, to improve the effectiveness of state and local efforts that are of concern between California and Mexico.
- Invite representatives of the State of Baja California and the Mexican government to participate in meetings.
- Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of data related to cross-border issues among agencies.
- Establish the Border Region Solid Waste Working Group to develop and coordinate long-term solutions to address and remediate problems associated with waste tires, solid waste, and excessive sedimentation along the border that cause the

degradation of valuable estuarine and riparian habitats, and that threaten water quality and public health in the state.

- Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law needed to achieve the goals of Section 99523.
- Submit a report to the Legislature on the council's activities annually.

Council Members



David Kim

Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

calsta.ca.gov



Chair

Jared Blumenfeld

Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

calepa.ca.gov



Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez

Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)

bcsh.ca.gov



Wade Crowfoot

Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

resources.ca.gov



Dee Dee Myers

Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

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Mark Ghaly

Secretary, California Department of Health and Human Services (CHHS)

chhs.ca.gov



Karen Ross

Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

cdfa.ca.gov



Mark Ghilarducci

Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

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Deborah Jordan

Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) - Ex-officio

epa.gov

Executive Summary

The California-Mexico Border Relations Council serves as the central organizing body within California state government for California-Mexico border matters. This annual report to the Legislature, which is required pursuant to Government Code Section 8713, includes a summary of activities and milestones in the calendar year of 2020.

Trade

Mexico remains the number one destination for California exports and is California's number two overall trade partner. California's top exports to Mexico include computer and electronic products, transportation equipment, and machinery. Reciprocally, Mexico is a significant source of foreign investment in California. Recent data indicates that nearly 500 Mexican-owned companies in California support almost 13,000 jobs. Notably, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) came into force in July 2020, creating opportunities for even stronger commercial ties between California and Mexico. In 2020, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) strengthened binational partnerships through various efforts. For example, GO-Biz organized a virtual trade mission to Mexico to increase aerospace, defense, and civil aviation opportunities. GO-Biz supported small businesses in their market expansion to Mexico, which

included cross-border e-commerce enhancement and virtual trade mission participation.

Business, Consumer Services and Housing

Under the umbrella of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH), multiple departments work to address a broad scope of issues in the border region, ranging from homelessness to binational medical partnerships. In 2020, the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council awarded \$54 million to address and prevent homelessness and the spread of COVID-19 in Imperial and San Diego Counties. The Department of Housing and Community Development awarded more than \$136 million to those two border counties for various housing programs, including permanent supportive housing, and veteran housing and homelessness assistance. The Department of Consumer Affairs' Medical Board of California administers the Mexico Pilot Program, which aims to bring qualified physicians to California from Mexico to practice for up to three years. Twenty-five physicians from Mexico are expected to begin the program in 2021.

Environment

Various departments and boards within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) made significant strides in the border region to improve air and water quality. In 2020, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) supported eight air grant projects in the border region. As part of this program, over 40 community air monitors were deployed in San Ysidro, El Centro, and Calexico. Full funding was awarded to the New River Improvement Project through the 2021-2022 State Budget to address polluted transboundary

river flows in the City of Calexico. The federal budget includes \$300 million for the U.S. EPA to address transboundary flows of sewage, trash and sediment in the Tijuana River through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and local and state entities actively informed project selection. The San Diego Water Board continued developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for solid waste and bacterial indicators and pathogens in the Tijuana River, enhancing regulatory authority over polluted flows.

In 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), completed 755 acres of dust suppression in the Salton Sea to protect public health and began construction to restore approximately 4,100 acres of exposed lakebed. CDFW was an active partner in the recovery of the federally threatened California red-legged frog, and supported egg mass transport from Baja California into California to establish new and viable populations.

Energy

On Dec. 4, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Governor Bonilla from the State of Baja California and Governor Mendoza, from the State of Baja California Sur, establishing the Commission of the Californias: a forum for information sharing, with particular focus on common challenges and the development of collective solutions to address them. In 2020, the California Energy Commission led the drafting of an additional MOU specific to engagement with Baja California. As regions around the world begin to recover and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the

Energy Commission is optimistic for reengagement with counterparts in the Baja States during the summer of 2021.

Agriculture

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) continued engagement and collaboration with border counterparts on a wide variety of agricultural issues and participated in the Tri-National Agricultural Accord. Throughout 2020, CalEPA's Department of Pesticide Regulation carried out its normal functions – including important worker safety and community outreach – in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines. Activities included working with rights groups, promotores (community health workers), and Mexican consulates throughout California, as well as the community members they serve in border regions and throughout the state.

Transportation

California's international border crossings processed more than 11 million pedestrian crossings, 23 million personal vehicles, and over 1.3 million commercial trucks. The San Ysidro Port of Entry renovation and expansion was completed in 2020, and the development of a new Otay Mesa East Port of Entry began.

Safety

Border safety issues continued to be addressed largely through the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OSPG), Operation Gridlock, the California Highway Patrol Border Division and the California Maritime Security Program. Collaboration within Operation Gridlock 2020 yielded one of the largest narcotic seizures in history on land and sea within the continental U.S. in August 2020.

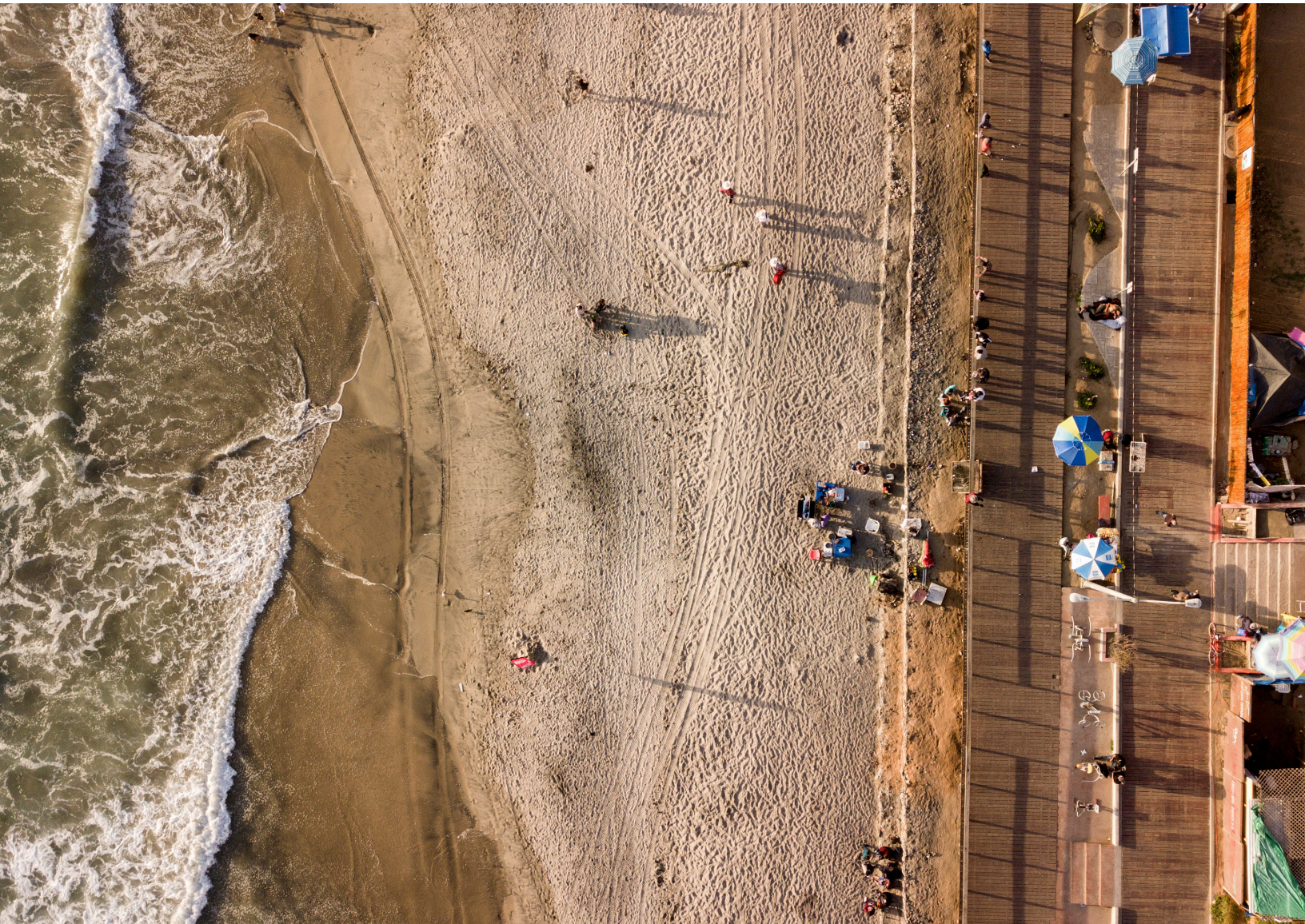
Health

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) continued promoting wellness and health equity by collaborating with local stakeholders and monitoring binational infectious disease cases throughout California. In response to the pandemic, OBBH handled over 10,000 binational COVID-19 cases, allowing for the implementation of binational U.S.-Mexico protocols and the establishment of a collaborative binational health care plan, Sistemas Medicos Nacionales, S.A.

Emergency Management

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) continued to support key initiatives through partnerships with Mexico. Through an unprecedented 2020, CalOES and Mexico worked jointly to enhance a COVID-19 bilateral response coordination along the border, including the distribution of PPE and printed materials for staying healthy during the pandemic to Mexican Consulates, farmworkers, and migrant camps.

Aerial view of the Boardwalk, beach and the border wall between Tijuana, Mexico and the United States.



Trade

Mexico remains the number one destination for California exports and is California's number two overall trade partner. California's top exports to Mexico include computer and electronic products, transportation equipment, and machinery. More than 10 percent of all U.S. exports to Mexico are from California.

Trade Statistics with Mexico (\$ in billions of U.S. dollars)

Category	2019	2020	% Change
U.S. Exports to Mexico	\$256.57	\$212.67	-17.1%
California Exports to Mexico	\$27.96	\$24.08	-13.9%
U.S. Imports from Mexico	\$357.97	\$325.39	-9.1%
California Imports from Mexico	\$46.69	\$47.91	2.6%

(Source: USA Trade Online – U.S. Census Bureau. State Exports by North American Industry Classification System.)

The California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) is the state's leader for job creation and economic development. In close partnership with the state's designated lead on international trade, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, GO-Biz supports economic development

by promoting California exports, attracting foreign investment, and maintaining and developing California's global partnerships. Ongoing engagement with Mexico is significant in each of these areas. Although the coronavirus pandemic created unique challenges for international work, the state maintained its important collaboration with one of California's most significant trade partners.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was signed in July 2020, enhancing trade relationships in North America and creating opportunities for even stronger commercial ties between California and Mexico. Building on this agreement, GO-Biz facilitated various trade initiatives with Mexico. GO-Biz organized a virtual outbound trade mission to Mexico City, provided individual export assistance to California small businesses, led virtual exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment, and steered webinars on how small and medium-sized enterprises can benefit from the USMCA.

GO-Biz hosted a virtual trade mission to Mexico as part of the California State Trade Expansion Program (STEP). The mission highlighted aerospace, defense, and civil aviation opportunities. The business delegation was welcomed by Lt. Gov. Kounalakis and Stephen Alley, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. GO-Biz hosted 22 California small businesses and facilitated more than 40 private, one-on-one business meetings through a partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, the U.S. Commercial Service in California, and Kallman Worldwide. Top Mexican buying authorities participated, including Agencia Federal de Aviacion Civil, the Mexican Air Force, Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares, Aeropuerto

International Queretaro, TAR Aerolneas, and Mexicana MRO.

GO-Biz formally administered the Individual Company Export Promotion Program (ICEP), a sub-program of STEP designed to issue direct financial reimbursements to eligible small businesses in support of export expansion. Through the STEP ICEP program, GO-Biz supported small businesses in their market expansion to Mexico, which included cross-border e-commerce enhancement and virtual trade mission participation. This foreign market expansion opportunity is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration and administered in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

GO-Biz, in partnership with the U.S. Trade Representative Office of Western Hemisphere and the University of Southern California (USC) Gould School of Law, hosted two webinars on the USMCA, highlighting new chapters, significant changes from the original North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and enhanced support for small and medium-sized business participation in North American trade.

Foreign Investment

Mexico is a significant source of foreign investment in California. According to the World Trade Center of Los Angeles FDI Report, dated 2019, nearly 500 Mexican-owned companies in California support almost 13,000 jobs. Mexican investment sectors include manufacturing, professional services, and wholesale/retail trade. Foreign investment from Mexico has an impact across California, with significant job concentration in the greater San Diego and Los Angeles regions, as well the Inland Empire and

Central Valley. GO-Biz also worked closely with the U.S. Commercial Service in Mexico to support Mexican businesses looking to expand in California. This included helping Mexican companies navigate regulatory requirements and incentives, and making introductions to local partners statewide.

International Engagement

Although in-person travel was not possible for most of 2020, due to the pandemic, California maintained open lines of communication with Mexico and supported a number of meaningful virtual engagements. Lt. Gov. Kounalakis maintained and enhanced California's close ties with Mexico through high-level, diplomatic engagement. Prior to the pandemic, she met with Undersecretary for North American Affairs Jesus Seade to discuss the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA). After global lockdowns came into place, Lt. Gov. Kounalakis engaged in many conversations with counterparts in Mexico on areas of mutual support. She collaborated with Governor Jamie Bonilla of Baja California, Governor Carlos Mendoza Davis of Baja California Sur, and Undersecretary Jesus Seade regarding the coronavirus pandemic and response.

In July, the Lieutenant Governor met virtually with the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., Martha Barcena, and the Mexican Consul General of Sacramento, Lilianna Ferrer. Among other topics, they discussed the new Port of Entry at Otay Mesa II. Also in July, the Lieutenant Governor spoke at an event titled "Beyond COVID-19: The Future of California-Mexico Relations" hosted by UC San Diego's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

In December, under the purview of the Commission of the Californias,

representatives from the states of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur convened. After welcoming remarks from Lt. Gov. Kounalakis, Undersecretary Rubén Roa of Baja California, and Secretary Luis Humberto Araiza López of Baja California Sur, technical experts from each state convened to discuss best practices and opportunities for collaboration on the topics of environment and energy, transportation and infrastructure, agriculture and trade, and disaster response and health.

San Ysidro Land Port of Entry East/West Pedestrian Bridge. The bridge connects an existing transit plaza on San Ysidro Boulevard to the west side of Interstate 5 for pedestrians entering into Mexico.



Business, Consumer Services and Housing

The Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) is responsible for fostering an equitable and inclusive California by coordinating and promoting alignment across departments to guard civil rights, license professionals, protect consumers, prevent and end homelessness, and create and preserve affordable housing for all Californians. Departments within BCSH continued to focus on providing assistance and consumer protection to border communities.

In 2020, Gov. Newsom signed Assembly Bill 83 into law, authorizing the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) to implement a second round of Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) funding totaling \$300 million. The Governor also signed Senate Bill 89 to aid in fighting the spread of COVID-19, which allocated an additional \$100 million in emergency funding to HCFC to administer to local governments. It helped protect this vulnerable population and reduced the spread of COVID-19 by safely getting individuals into shelters and providing immediate housing options. Through these two funding streams, HCFC awarded over \$54 million to address and prevent homelessness, and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Imperial and San Diego counties. Throughout the year, HCFC staff have also partnered with the border region's cities, counties,

and Continuums of Care — providing written guidance, webinars and bi-weekly technical assistance calls.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) promotes safe, affordable homes and sustainable communities for all Californians. To increase the supply of affordable housing, HCD awarded \$42.8 million to Imperial County and \$49.2 million to San Diego County through several grant programs: the Multifamily Housing Program, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program, and the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs. To address and prevent homelessness, HCD awarded \$40 million to San Diego County under the No Place Like Home program to create permanent supportive rental housing for people living with serious mental illnesses who are experiencing homelessness. HCD also awarded \$1.7 million to Imperial County and \$2.9 million to San Diego County to support homelessness service activities through the California Emergency Solutions Housing and Pet Assistance and Support program: providing shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness. To create livable communities and improve the lives of low- and moderate-income residents in the region's rural cities and counties, HCD awarded Imperial County \$3.4M through the Community Development Block Program, allowing the region to create and expand community and economic development opportunities.

The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) is charged with enforcing California's civil rights laws. In 2020, DFEH published a fact sheet summarizing civil rights protections for immigrants in California. It is available in

12 languages, including Spanish, Mixteco, and Trique on the [DFEH's Posters, Guides and Fact Sheets webpage](#). In addition, DFEH conducted educational trainings on civil rights laws in border communities, sharing information regarding protections against discrimination in employment and housing regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) protects California consumers through oversight, enforcement, and licensure of professions. The Medical Board of California is responsible for administering the Mexico Pilot Program, which was created to allow up to 30 licensed physicians from Mexico to practice medicine in California for up to three years. In 2020, 25 physician applicants from Mexico committed to the program, with an expected launch of the program in 2021.

Pages 1 and 2 of the Immigration Rights Fact Sheet. Image Credit: DFEH

CALIFORNIA PROTECTS THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS
FACT SHEET

DFEH

The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) is California's civil rights agency. DFEH enforces the state's robust laws against discrimination and harassment in employment, housing, business establishments, and state-funded programs and activities, as well as laws against bias-motivated violence and human trafficking. DFEH is committed to ensuring that all Californians, regardless of immigration status, can live free from discrimination.

EMPLOYMENT

You are protected from being fired from your job, harassed at work, treated worse than co-workers with the same job, and other forms of discrimination, because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, age (40 and over), and certain other characteristics. In addition, there are certain protections related to immigration status, citizenship, and language.

EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION:

- National Origin/Ancstry.** "My employer treats employees from a particular country (or a particular ancestry) worse than employees originally from the United States, even though we do the same job and have more experience."

Harassment. "My co-workers regularly say derogatory things about immigrants and people originally from the country where I was born, and my employer refuses to do anything to stop it."

English Only. "My employer told me I have to speak English, even when I'm on break and even though, during work time, there is no business reason for this rule."

Accent. "My employer treats me unfairly because I speak English with an accent, even though my co-workers and our customers understand me perfectly."

Retaliation. "My employer threatened to call immigration authorities on me because I complained about harassment I was experiencing on the job."

Immigration Inquiries. An employer may not look into an applicant's or employee's immigration status, unless the employer must do so to comply with federal immigration law.

Citizenship Requirements. Citizenship requirements are unlawful if a pretext for discrimination or have the purpose or effect of discriminating against applicants or employees on the basis of national origin or ancestry, unless pursuant to a permissible defense.

For more information about immigration, citizenship, and language issues in employment, see California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section 11028.

If you have been the subject of unlawful employment discrimination, you may be entitled to back pay, front pay, reinstatement, and other remedies.

For more information, visit: www.dfeh.ca.gov/employment/

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CALIFORNIA PROTECTS THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS
FACT SHEET

DFEH

BUSINESSES

You are protected from discrimination by businesses of every kind, such as retail stores, restaurants, hospitals, and health care providers. All immigrants are protected against discrimination because of their race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, and certain other characteristics, as well as primary language, immigration status, and citizenship.

EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION:

- "A hardware shop would not rent machinery to me if I could not prove I am a lawful immigrant."
- "A restaurant denied service to me and my family because we are not from the United States."
- "A hospital made me wait much longer than every other patient because they were not sure I am a citizen or lawful immigrant."

If you have been the subject of unlawful discrimination by a business, your remedies could include damages of no less than \$4,000.

For more information, visit: www.dfeh.ca.gov/unru/

HOUSING

You are protected from being evicted, denied an apartment, charged higher rent, denied repairs, and other forms of discrimination if based on your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, source of income, and other bases.

If your landlord/housing provider qualifies as a business, you are also protected against housing discrimination related to your citizenship, immigration status, or primary language.

EXAMPLES OF UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

- "The management company that runs the apartment complex I live in threatened to tell immigration authorities that I am undocumented if I don't move out of my apartment."

- "A landlord wanted to charge me a higher rent than advertised, because I wasn't originally from the U.S."
- "A new condominium complex is selling units and refused to provide me with an application because I am not a U.S. citizen."
- "A realtor's office refused to show me properties because I was not born in the United States."

If you have been the subject of unlawful housing discrimination, you may be entitled to access the housing that was denied to you, out-of-pocket expenses, and other remedies.

For more information, visit: www.dfeh.ca.gov/housing/

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

You are protected from violence or threats of violence against you, your family, and your property. Violence and threats of violence that are motivated by your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion, citizenship, primary language, immigration status, and certain other characteristics are considered "hate violence" or "bias-motivated violence."

EXAMPLES OF BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

- "A stranger spit on me and yelled at me to go back to where I came from."
- "My co-worker keyed my car because I don't speak English very well."
- "My neighbor tried to punch me while screaming racial slurs."

If you have been the victim of bias-motivated violence, you have the option to go to the police. You also have the option to file a civil complaint with the DFEH, and your remedies could include a restraining order and money to compensate you for the harms you suffered.

For more information, visit: www.dfeh.ca.gov/hateviolence/

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Environment

CalEPA's Border Affairs Program

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Border Affairs Program promotes cooperation to help ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous border region. The program is a collaborative effort among CalEPA and its boards, departments and offices to address environmental issues on multiple fronts and coordinate efforts with other California state agencies, Tribal Nations in the border region, and federal, state, and local governments in the U.S. and Mexico. In 2020, the program:

- Facilitated the New River Improvement Project in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and the City of Calexico.
- Supported riparian habitat and restoration planning efforts along the New and Alamo Rivers.
- Collaborated with CalRecycle to prioritize border waste tires in CalRecycle's Five Year Tire Plan Update.
- Delivered policy input regarding the California-Baja California Border Master Plan, a comprehensive, binational approach to coordinate planning and delivery of cross-border transportation infrastructure.
- Informed development of criteria and priorities for the Tijuana

River through the Eligible Public Entities Group regarding \$300 million in sewage infrastructure improvements.

- Supported state investment in Tijuana River Valley border canyon pollution reduction.
- Served on the Tijuana River Recovery Team steering committee.
- Co-Chaired the California-Baja California Regional Workgroup under the Border 2020 Program.
- Supported CARB efforts to increase air monitoring in the border region.
- Organized the California-Mexico Border Relations Council annual report and activities.
- Led an environmental working group session under the Commission of the Californias.
- Hosted a virtual workshop on circular economies with Mexico City and the City of San Francisco.
- Improved language access to governmental services and enhanced community outreach through providing effective translation and interpretation services.

Air Quality

The California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program, established under Assembly Bill 617 (C. Garcia, 2017), includes a provision for grants to community-based organizations and tribes to support their efforts in identifying, evaluating, and ultimately reducing the sources air pollution in their own communities. CARB administers these air grants. In January 2020, CARB approved the Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) for the Calexico, El Centro, Heber Corridor in Imperial County. CARB, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District,

and the community steering committee continued to work together to implement the strategies identified in the program. Since approval of the CERP, several projects have been completed.

In the San Diego region, CARB continued to support the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) and its AB 617 steering committee as they developed a CERP for the Portside Communities in San Diego. The SDAPCD gave an update to the CARB board in November 2020 on the status of their AB 617 efforts.

In addition to San Diego and Imperial counties, CARB has supported AB 617 efforts in the Eastern Coachella Valley by working with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the valley's community steering committee. Air quality concerns impacting the community include fugitive dust, agricultural activities/pesticides, truck traffic, open burning/illegal dumping, a power plant and the receding Salton Sea.

In October 2020, CARB began a two-year PM2.5 study in Mexicali. Data from this study will be used to help identify sources of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and the extent of particulate matter pollution transport in the Imperial County-Mexicali border region. In terms of air quality standards, in November 2020 CARB approved the San Diego County Air Quality Management Plan for attaining the Federal 8-hour 75 parts-per-billion, and 70 ppb ozone standards. These efforts are expanded upon in Appendix A.

Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) works protect and enhance the health of Californians and the state's environment through

scientific evaluations that inform, support and guide regulatory and other actions. OEHHA's border-related activities in the year 2020 included continued work on the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), fish consumption advisories, and biomonitoring.

CalEnviroScreen

CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by OEHHA that scores California's 8,057 census tracts based on multiple indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability to pollution's health effects. In January 2017, OEHHA released Version 3.0 of CalEnviroScreen, which incorporated additional data to more accurately reflect the impacts of pollution originating in Mexico on California communities located near the border. In 2020, OEHHA updated datasets for CalEnviroScreen Version 4.0, including continued evaluation of pollution sources in Mexico near the border. The draft of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was released for public comment in February 2021 and the final version was released in October 2021.

OEHHA provided consultation support to CARB and academic researchers on a project to improve the quality and completeness of environmental pollution data from the Mexican side of the border for use in CalEnviroScreen. The resulting report, *Improving the CalEnviroScreen score at the US-Mexico border*, produced in 2019 by San Diego State University in collaboration with the Molina Center for Energy and the Environment and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, detailed the improvements. Data from the report was used in CalEnviroScreen 4.0. New information includes verified location and emissions data from larger Mexican facilities releasing toxic air

contaminants that may be transported across the border region, as well as solid and hazardous waste facilities in Mexico that may pose environmental concerns to California communities.

Biomonitoring California

OEHHA collaborates with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to implement the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California. In 2020, the Biomonitoring California participants working on the California Regional Exposure (CARE) Study visited border communities to measure metals and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in samples collected from participants. This was part of the program's work in San Diego and Orange counties (CARE Region 3). Results from the CARE Study, which measures and compares levels of environmental chemicals in people across California, can help identify highly exposed communities and inform the state's efforts to reduce harmful chemical exposures. Data collection for the CARE Study was put on hold in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so work in the border region is yet to be completed.

Transboundary River Flows/ Water Quality

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 Water Board) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board). Both regions made notable progress in 2020.

The New and Tijuana Rivers received significant and unprecedented funding in 2020 to address cross-border transboundary pollution. Significantly, full funding was awarded to the Calexico portion of the New River Improvement Project through the Governor's Budget. Additionally, \$300 million was designated to the U.S. EPA to address transboundary flows of sewage, trash and sediment in the Tijuana River through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and local and state entities actively informed project selection. The San Diego Water Board continued developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for solid waste and bacterial indicators and pathogens in the Tijuana River, enhancing regulatory authority over polluted flows. For additional information on 2020 border-region water quality accomplishments, please visit Appendix B.

Border Field State Park

CNRA has a direct role in the management of the Tijuana River Valley (TRV) through the California Department of Parks and Recreation's (California State Parks) oversight of the 800-acre Border Field State Park, situated in the southwest corner of the continental United States, and adjacent to the California-Mexico Border. Border Field State Park receives direct flows from the often-polluted main channel of the Tijuana River and polluted tributary canyons. California State Parks serves as the state partner for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the management of the 2,500-acre Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. California State Parks implements core programs, including Research, Education, Coastal Training, and Stewardship. Current projects include the following:

Goat Canyon Sediment Basins

Capture cross-border flows of sediment and solid waste before they inundate the Tijuana Estuary and coastal environment. 20,000 cubic yards of sediment and solid waste were removed at a cost of \$1.8 million in 2020.

Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration Project

California State Parks currently functions as the lead agency for the final design and Environmental Impact Report to restore natural landform and native habitat at the abandoned Nelson Sloan Quarry in the Tijuana River Valley.

Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program

California State Parks currently functions as lead agency for the design and environmental review of the Environmental Impact Report to restore and maintain the valued coastal salt marsh habitat of the Tijuana River Valley.

California Red-Legged Frog

CDFW has been an active partner in the recovery of the federally threatened California red-legged frog, *Rana draytonii*, by authorizing and participating in transporting egg masses from Baja California, Mexico into the U.S. to establish new and viable populations. These efforts will continue through 2021 in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Service, and partners in Mexico.

Projects and Grants

CNRA is proud to facilitate programs that enhance biological vitality and restoration in the California-Mexico border region. Since 2017, CDFW has awarded a total of approximately \$2.2 million to three planning projects under its cross-border initiative. Two grants were awarded in Spring 2020:

1. "Tijuana River Valley Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Plan" (Grantee: San Diego County): A draft habitat restoration plan is expected in early 2021.
2. "Alamo and New Rivers Riparian Habitat Restoration" (Grantee: River Partners): Design plan currently in progress since September 2020.

The third proposal was initially awarded in 2017 for fill removal and restoration within Tijuana River Valley (Grantee: San Diego County). The restoration plan is near completion.

Looking ahead: CDFW's next solicitation for grant proposals under the Proposition 1 Grant Program began in 2021. The solicitation again included a priority to "Protect and Restore Cross-Border Urban Creeks and Watersheds." \$33 million was available for funding and awarding of proposals was announced in 2021.

U.S. EPA

Border 2020

The U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest Office (Region 9) and CalEPA continued their collaboration under Border 2020, the Mexico Border Program, to address public health and environmental transboundary issues in the California and Baja California border region. Border 2020 engages multiple state partners including the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), California Department of Public Health, the State Water Resources Control Board, and partner agencies in Mexico, and includes the binational North American Development Bank (NADB). CalEPA is a co-chair of the California/Baja California Regional Workgroup, which includes the Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources/Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), the U.S. EPA, and the Sub-Secretariat for Sustainable Development of Baja California/La Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable (SDS).

In 2020, the U.S. EPA and NADB coordinated to implement four Border 2020 projects with a total investment of \$280,000. The program's regional workgroup and task forces continued to meet virtually and all projects advanced despite the challenges of COVID-19. These and other program projects are tracked in the "*California-Baja California 2019-2020 Border 2020 Action Plan*" to meet the program's goals and objectives to benefit border communities. In 2020, the U.S. EPA and SEMARNAT facilitated multiple bilingual stakeholder engagement events and a public comment period for the development of the new, five-year binational Border 2025 program, expected to launch in 2021.

Improve Air Quality

The Air Quality, Transportation, and Environmental Justice Analysis Project in Mexicali/Calexico, a Border 2020 grantee, worked to assess and identify which public bus routes could be electrified for greatest emissions reductions to benefit city residents and the most sensitive populations in Mexicali. The Redspira project, also a Border 2020 grantee, continues monitoring and data analysis efforts in Mexicali. The U.S. EPA provided two virtual bilingual trainings for Imperial and Mexicali to share information tools and low-cost air sensors. The U.S. EPA Clean Air Act grants funded air quality monitoring in San Diego-Tijuana and Imperial-Mexicali airsheds and through the Targeted Airshed Grant Program. The U.S. EPA funded \$3,350,371 to pave alleyways in Calexico to reduce particulate matter emissions.

Improve Water Quality

U.S. EPA and NADB certified two Mexicali projects: (1) Rehabilitation of Small Lift Stations and (2) Wastewater Collection System (Phase I) and Lift Station Improvements. These projects will rehabilitate and replace deteriorating infrastructure in Mexicali's wastewater system to reduce the risk of wastewater overflow into the New River, which flows north into Imperial Valley. In 2020, the U.S. EPA convened stakeholders for input on projects to solve long-term transboundary water pollution with \$300 million from the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Promote Materials Management, Waste Management, and Clean Sites

4-Walls International, a Border 2020 grantee, is developing a framework using unmanned aerial survey tools to predict binational land-

based trash flow and impacts to the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve ecosystem. In 2020, 4-Walls completed a trash assessment of 216 sites in the Milenio 2000 site of Los Laureles, Tijuana, Baja California, and surveyed over 40 acres in Milenio 2000 site, and over 10 acres in Goal Canyon, before and after rainfall events downstream of the border, and in areas encompassing the sediment basin complex.

Enforcement and Compliance

DTSC and its local partner, San Diego County, continued to monitor transboundary movement by collecting and reviewing manifests and coordinating with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enforce the federal Resource

Conservation and Recovery Act's (RCRA) hazardous waste import/export requirements, and California's hazardous waste management requirements at the California port of entry.

Environmental and Public Health Outreach

For Children's Health and Binational Health months, the U.S. EPA, NADB, and Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit collaborated on a virtual *"Ask the Experts" bilingual webinar* with over 240 views. They also launched public service announcements on air quality, wildfire smoke, and children's health, which reached over 700 viewers.

Cleaning and maintenance work on the Tijuana river gates that divides Mexico and the United States.



Energy

On Dec. 4, 2019, Gov. Newsom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gov. Bonilla from the State of Baja California and Governor Mendoza, from the State of Baja California Sur, establishing the *Commission of the Californias*: a forum for information sharing, with particular focus on common challenges and the development of collective solutions to address them. Specific areas of focus include, but are not limited to, the following: environment and energy; transportation and infrastructure; emergency preparedness and response; economic development and tourism; agriculture; and public health. The California Energy Commission remained an active participant and drafted an additional MOU to further enhance engagement with Baja California. As regions around the world begin to recover and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the California team is optimistic for reengagement with counterparts in the Baja States during the summer of 2021.

On Nov. 18, 2020, Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister participated in a “Cali-Baja Dialogue,” organized by the United States Consulate in Tijuana. The meeting was convened by Consul General Sue Saarnio, together with the Mexican Consul General in San Diego. During the dialogue, Commissioner McAllister shared information regarding the role of the Western Energy Coordinating Council

and the potential benefits of a Baja California partnership if they were to join the energy system. Participants included representatives from Baja California state government, the Consulate of Mexico in Sacramento, San Diego Gas and Electric, the Institute of the Americas, San Diego State University, SEMPRA, IENOVA, Stanford University, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, and the California Energy Commission.

Additional information about further collaboration between the CEC and Mexico, including Jalisco, Mexico City, and Guanajuato, can be found in Appendix D.

Agriculture

California Department of Pesticide Regulation

Throughout 2020, the Department of Pesticide Regulation carried out its normal functions – including important worker safety and community outreach – in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines. Activities included working with rights groups, promotores (community health workers), and Mexican consulates throughout California, as well as the community members they serve in border regions and throughout the state. Staff also participated in radio interviews on Spanish and Mixteco-language stations and created more than a dozen public service announcements aired throughout 2020.

For more information, see Appendix E.

California Department of Food and Agriculture

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is committed to engagement and collaboration with border counterparts on a wide variety of agricultural issues. CDFA maintains participation in the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, an annual meeting of state agriculture departments from the United States, Canada and Mexico. As part of the accord, the three countries discuss a variety of cross-border issues, including animal/plant health and regulatory

harmonization. CDFA also maintains engagement with Mexico’s Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) and signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2019 addressing issues related to trade, climate and plant/animal health. COVID-19 impacted many partnership initiatives with Mexico in 2020, including collaboration on a border fruit fly symposium and a climate smart agriculture seminar at Casa de California. CDFA led a session on agricultural partnerships in a virtual meeting of the Commission of the Californias in 2020. In 2021, CDFA looks forward to a variety of activities and engagement with national and border state agricultural leaders.

CDFA’s Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division continues to work with border state counterparts in addressing plant pests of mutual concern. CDFA continued to participate 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 of Imperial and San Diego counties, and representatives from Mexico’s local, state and national governments. In order to enhance pest prevention and plant health, Mexico continues to supply CDFA with biological control parasitoids (organisms that suppress pests) for addressing an infestation of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug in Southern California. This effort allows for the continued commercial viability of several specialty crops in California.

CDFA also works closely with International Services to assist with delivery of Mexfly pupae from Guatemala through Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to the production facility in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. In addition to assisting with pupae logistics, CDFA will

occasionally host tours for International Services staff from Tijuana, provide materials and equipment, and exchange knowledge and information. Much of this was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

CDFA'S Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division continues to work with border state counterparts in addressing Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and the devastating disease that it vectors, Huanglongbing (HLB): a threat to citrus trees and citrus fruit production. COVID-19 significantly impacted collaboration in 2020, as border closures caused a decrease in treatment activity. California and border states continue to mirror exclusion activities and share information related to ACP activities.

CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Division focuses, in collaboration with the U.S. and Mexican border states, on animal health issues. CDFA's and Baja

California's state animal health officials maintain a collaborative and close working relationship in protecting animal health along the border. This is achieved through outreach and ongoing communication. CDFA participated alongside the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in staffing a booth at the AgroBaja Exposition in Mexicali in March 2020 and met face-to-face with Baja California animal health officials. In advancing the effort to protect animal health along the border through collaboration in 2020, CDFA participated in bilateral working groups on Bovine Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Cattle Fever Ticks. In addition, CDFA participated in bilateral virtual meetings with Mexico about the regional outbreak of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease. These activities complement the ongoing collaboration and communication between state animal health officials along the border region.



Left to right:
Dr. Isabel Studer, Director of Alianza UCMX,
CDFA Secretary Karen Ross, Liliana Ferrer,
Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento.
Image Credit: CDFA

Transportation

The California-Mexico border is home to seven international border crossings, two of which are among the busiest of all U.S. crossings. In 2020, California's international border crossings processed more than 11 million pedestrian crossings, close to 23 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.

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, expanding opportunities to create a safe, integrated, efficient, and secure transportation system along the California-Mexico border.

California-Baja California Border Master Plan

The California-Baja California Border Master Plan (BMP) is a binational, comprehensive roadmap for the U.S. and Mexico to coordinate the planning and delivery of Ports of Entry (POE), as well as transportation investment along the California-Baja California border. The report was developed in 2020. In early 2021, an international delegation of

transportation officials approved the final report. Participants included nearly 40 agencies from the U.S. and Mexico at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. The report has identified close to 200 POE and related transportation projects on both sides of the border. These represent an investment of approximately \$13.5 billion for the California-Baja California region over the next 20 years. The BMP also identified more than 30 different strategies to address climate goals, reduce air pollution emissions, mitigate community impacts, and improve the flow of people and goods. The BMP development was co-managed by Caltrans and by Baja California's Secretariat of Infrastructure, Urban Development, and Territorial Reorganization (SIDURT).

Impacts of Border Delays

Tens of thousands of personal and commercial vehicles travel between California and Baja California every day. These travelers often experience unpredictable border-crossing traffic congestion and delays. Wait times routinely exceed two hours at the seven existing POE. These delays are not only frustrating for pedestrians and drivers, but they have a significant negative impact on the environment, economy, and overall quality of life of border communities. In 2020, Caltrans, in close partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC), developed the "The Impacts of Border Delays at California-Baja California Land Ports of Entry" report (released in February 2021). This study assesses the economic and air quality/climate impacts caused by border delays at the California POEs. According to the study, CO2 emissions generated by border delay at POE between San Diego County and Baja California reflect about 1% of

the CO2 emissions from on-road motor vehicles in San Diego County. Similarly, the CO2 emissions generated by border delay between Imperial County and Baja California reflect between 2% and 3% of the CO2 emissions from on-road motor vehicles in Imperial County.

Binational Transportation Investment

Communities at the border are amongst the most under-served communities, experiencing fewer benefits and a greater share of negative impacts associated with California's binational transportation system. In order to reduce impacts of border operations and congestion, Caltrans, in partnership with several U.S. and Mexico agencies, are implementing several innovative strategies and infrastructure improvements. These initiatives will help achieve California's climate goals, reduce air pollution emissions, address community impacts, improve the flow of people and goods, and foster better collaboration between the U.S. and Mexico. Key 2020 border improvements include the items below.

Advanced Technology Corridors Border Pilot Project

An important piece of California's overall strategy to combat vehicle congestion and reduce cross-border wait times is the usage of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Such systems improve transportation safety and mobility and enhance productivity through the integration of advanced communications technologies into the transportation infrastructure and in vehicles. ITS encompass a broad range of wireless and wireline communications-based information and electronics technologies. The 2016 Sustainable Freight Action Plan

identifies the importance of using such systems in the border region, and 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. The pilot project aims to disseminate accurate wait time information to assist local, state, and federal agencies in border operations and traffic management. The construction bid of the Border Wait Time element of the Pilot Project was released at end of 2020.

San Ysidro Port of Entry Expansion

The San Ysidro Port of Entry renovation and expansion was completed in 2020. The San Ysidro POE is the busiest land border crossing in the Western Hemisphere with an average of approximately 70,000 northbound vehicle passengers and 20,000 northbound pedestrians per day. Caltrans worked closely with the federal government on the planning and construction of the POE's expansion, which was led by the U.S. General Services Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Caltrans also contributed funding to build a transit station at San Ysidro and is currently coordinating construction projects to help ease border traffic on Interstate 5 and Interstate 805.

Otay Mesa Port of Entry

The U.S. General Services Administration and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection

announced the start of construction to modernize the Otay Mesa POE. Otay Mesa POE is the busiest commercial port in California. It processed more than \$15 billion in exports and \$29 billion in imports in 2020. Additionally, the Otay Mesa POE processes more than 2 million pedestrians and 5 million vehicles annually. Caltrans continues working with the federal government on the planning of the POE's expansion.

Otay Mesa East Port of Entry

A new port of entry, the Otay Mesa East POE, and improvements to State Route 11 (SR-11), 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 the SR-11/Otay Mesa East POE project along the San Diego-Tijuana border. The project includes the development of a toll road approaching the border crossing that will allow travelers to pay a fee to get to the border more quickly. The project's goal is to achieve a 20-minute average wait time using a variable tolling system that serves as both a revenue collection tool and a transportation demand management tool. Once completed, it will be California's first toll road that leads to a POE. In 2020, Caltrans and SANDAG received \$42.5 million from the Senate Bill 1 (Statutes of 2017) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program for advanced utility relocation and services. This includes the relocation of two existing gas lines, bringing water, sewer, communication, and gas lines to the future POE and CHP-operated Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility, and development of a "bridging document" and supporting studies (including design plans and specifications).

Also in 2020, SANDAG, in partnership with Caltrans, received a \$10 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant from the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment program to implement the regional border management system. In order to support cross-border activities at the future Otay Mesa East POE, this system will integrate security, dynamic tolling, and improved transportation operations. It will also include wait time and lane detection devices, communications modems, and new advance traffic controllers.

In November 2020, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary David S. Kim met with Secretary Jorge Arganis Díaz Leal of the Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation to form a standing binational Border Infrastructure Policy Group. The group will meet quarterly, track milestones, and resolve any policy issues to advance Otay Mesa East and other border projects. CalSTA and Caltrans are hoping to execute a Shared Vision agreement between Mexico, California, and regional partners for the Otay Mesa East. The Shared Vision agreement will set project delivery milestones, provide for the location of tolling facilities in the United States, and establish a framework for developing toll revenue sharing policies to finance the project on both sides of the border.

Calexico West Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion Project

The Calexico West Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion Project (Calexico West) will expand and modernize the third busiest land POE in California, which links the agriculturally rich Imperial Valley to Mexicali, the

State of Baja California's capital with a population of over one million people. Complementing the Calexico West expansion project, Caltrans, ICTC, and the Southern Association of Governments (SCAG) led the "Calexico West Port of Entry Traffic Management Study." This study analyzed and implemented traffic management strategies that assist traffic flow into the expanded POE.

Calexico East Expansion Project

The Calexico East expansion project proposes to widen the off-system bridge over the All-American Canal at the U.S.-Mexico border approximately 0.7 miles south of State Route 7 (SR-7). The concept includes widening the existing structure by adding two lanes, providing an eight-foot outside shoulder on both the east and west sides of the bridge, adding new barriers, and installing a security fence in each direction. The Environmental

Impact Report and the Project Report for the Calexico East expansion project was completed in the summer of 2020. Also, in 2020 the California Transportation Commission awarded \$7.4M to complete the construction of the project.

EI Protector Program

The goal of the EI Protector Program is to educate and encourage positive traffic safety behavior and to build better community relations between the community and law enforcement agencies.

The driving force and focus of this program is the use of a CHP officer of Hispanic ancestry or officers that are bilingual and bicultural - known as the EI Protector Program Coordinator. The coordinator organizes community events, provides traffic safety education presentations and serves as a role model.

San Ysidro vehicle border crossing from USA to Mexico.



Safety

Border safety issues continued to be addressed largely through the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OSPG), Operation Gridlock, the California Highway Patrol Border Division and the California Maritime Security Program. Collaboration within Operation Gridlock 2020 yielded one of the largest narcotic seizures in history on land and sea within the continental U.S. in August 2020.

Operation Stonegarden Program

The Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OSPG), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in consultation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), provides funding to support joint efforts to secure the United States' borders along routes of ingress from international borders. Routes include travel corridors in states bordering Mexico and Canada, as well as states and territories with international maritime borders. OPSG supports enhanced cooperation and coordination with CBP and its United States Border Patrol (USBP), along with other federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. There are 20 border patrol sectors, two of which are in California: The San Diego Sector and the El Centro Sector. Both of these sectors received Operation Stonegarden Grants. For statistics on results, see Appendix F.

San Diego County

OSPG for the San Diego Sector is awarded to and administered by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The program has 25 participating agencies including most city police departments in San Diego County, the San Diego Harbor Police, and sheriff's departments from San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Mateo counties. Additionally, it includes state agencies such as the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Parks and Recreation; and other local law enforcement agencies including University of San Diego Police Department, Sycuan Tribal Police Department, Huntington Beach Police Department, and Oxnard Police Department participate in the program.

The San Diego County OPSG grant provides for enforcement capabilities along international maritime borders from the U.S.-Mexico border to San Mateo County, covering approximately 489 linear miles of coastline. Together, the agencies participating in the San Diego OPSG grant provide increased law enforcement presence in their designated areas of jurisdiction as support for U.S. Customs and Border Protection's efforts in the region to reduce border-related crime and further enhance border security.

Historically, San Diego County has been a highly favored operational area for drug trafficking organizations. As the maritime smuggling threat continues to increase, these organizations are taking to more extreme measures by going farther out to sea and further up the California Coast as demonstrated by the discovery of vessel landings more than 400 miles north of the US-Mexico border in Santa Barbara County.

Border-related crime represents an all-threat environment in that the primary criminal activity (drug/human trafficking) often results in cross-border criminal organizations and individuals undertaking secondary, and frequently tertiary, criminal activities that involve a wider range of crimes, such as kidnappings, assaults, murders, money laundering, cross-border weapons trafficking and others. These criminal activities, when undertaken in the U.S., constitute a threat to domestic security, subsequently triggering involvement by state and local law enforcement.

One of the largest narcotics seizures in U.S. history on land and sea within the continental United States took place in 2020 in Southern California as a result of a Stonegarden Grant. Several patrols and surveillance were performed on the Ventura County beaches and the northern beaches of Santa Barbara County, including Gaviota State Beach and Arroyo Quemada Beach.

On Aug. 19, a multi-engine panga boat with four people on board was spotted off the coast of the Arroyo Quemada beach. When it came to shore, officers performing surveillance along the beach saw the load crew begin off-loading several bundles. Agents and officers seized the boat, the 58 bundles of narcotics, and several load vehicles. They also arrested 33 people.

The bundles of narcotics were determined to be crystal methamphetamine. With a total weight of 3,164 pounds (1435.1 kilograms) and a street value of over \$40 million, this narcotics seizure is one of the largest in U.S. history.

OPSG for the San Diego Sector added Huntington Beach Police Department, Oxnard Police Department, and the Riverside County Sheriff Department in 2020.

The outlook for San Diego's OPSG in 2021 is optimistic. In 2020, the San Diego County OPSG award had a minimal increase in funding, despite the number of agencies and increased administrative costs. San Diego County is hopeful that there will be an increase in award funds to this region. An increase in funding would allow California OPSG to expand its layered enforcement approach and continue to increase community safety.

Imperial County

OPSG in Imperial County is administered by the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, with El Centro Sector (ELC) having operational oversight. The program has 11 participating law enforcement agencies.

The Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) operating in the ELC area of responsibility are involved in a network of criminal activities including human and drug trafficking. Historically, Imperial County has served as a heavily trafficked and preferred entry corridor, largely due to the increase in border security in San Diego Sector (SDC), proximity of the interstate and State Routes/highway system to the international border, and the close proximity of major metropolitan cities such as Los Angeles, California. ELC and the Imperial Valley Stonegarden partners continue to target TCO reliance on vehicles that are used to smuggle.

One of the major challenges faced in the Imperial Valley was the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic impacted border security operations in several ways. Most friendly forces were required to limit physical contact with the public, thereby hampering proactive policing efforts. These limitations also affected participation in key meetings and other typical planning and coordination activities.

OSPG Accomplishments

Imperial County law enforcement agencies acquired a regional automated license plate reader program (ALPR) during the OPSG 2016 grant year and continued to expand it under the 2020 grant. The reader continues to enhance the ability of officers to interdict stolen vehicles and recover compromised license plates, both of which are often utilized by smugglers.

Operation Bravo Sweep was a collaborative effort between various federal and local law enforcement agencies to target known criminals operating in the Imperial Valley. The operation supported border security efforts by advancing the common goal of disrupting and degrading TCO activity in the El Centro Sector's area of responsibility.

Operation Barrett was a collaborative effort among the ELC, Yuma Police Department, and Imperial County Sheriff's Office/ Border Crimes Suppression Team. Together they targeted burglary suspects operating in Yuma, Arizona, and the Imperial Valley. This operation supported border security efforts by denying criminal elements on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border access to dangerous weapons, to include several high caliber weapons such as 7.62 mm NATO and .50 BMG.

Imperial County law enforcement agencies continue to provide ELC invaluable support in combating the complex cross-border security threat of narcotics smuggling. International Civil Aviation Organization assistance during a recent Ultralight Aircraft smuggling event resulted in the seizure of 68.74 kg of methamphetamine and 5.6 kg of cocaine. During a separate OPSG operation, 2,374 fentanyl pills were seized.

Operation Gridlock 2020

An example of the cooperation and collaboration between agencies can be demonstrated by Operation Gridlock 2020 (OPG20), which was conducted on Nov. 17-18, 2020. The intent of the operation was to gather intelligence, disrupt, dismantle, and ultimately terminate the criminal activity associated with drug trafficking and transnational criminal organizations' use of Southern California interstates and highway corridors. Modeled after the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Operation Gridlocks, OPG20 was a multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction, narcotics, currency, and weapons interdiction operation. Within San Diego County, OPG20 simultaneously targeted Interstate 5, Interstate 8, Interstate 15 and adjacent state routes.

California Maritime Security Program

The California Maritime Security Program is responsible for maritime safety and security awareness for California state government. It has assigned units in all regions of the state focused on maritime recovery, security, and intelligence. These units collaborate with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) which collaborates with all state security programs and the U.S. Navy. They are permanent members of the USCG Sector Staffs and coordinate with the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC), local fusion centers throughout the state, and are staff members of the USCG Command Staff, District 11 in Alameda.

The Cal OES Maritime Security Program participates in joint operations with USCG, the U.S. Navy, and local marine law enforcement agencies, including those in San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles County, and the San Francisco

Bay Area/Delta Region. The Cal OES Maritime Security Program also provides subject matter expertise, observation, and full coordination into USGC's marine training and meetings. In some rare cases, it also provides coordination into real world operations with Mexico. Cal OES also shares best practices, lessons learned, and catastrophic plans with the Mexican Marine operators, as they are part of the West Coast.

The joint operational efforts also focus on monitoring, responding, and securing the offshore waters of Western Mexico, California and beyond. They provide classified training to Mexican units on special tactics, such as marine night infiltration operations. In 2020, Cal OES participated in planning and debriefs of such operations. During 2020, Cal OES continued to offer military and maritime expertise as advisors or observers to the Mexican units.

Efforts continue between the USCG, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Cal OES, and the Mexican Government for oil spill response. When a spill occurs, USCG and CDFW, the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) activate and establish a Unified Command in response to an oil spill. The Cal OES Maritime program's role is to coordinate stakeholders for the Liaison Unit, including representatives from the Mexican Government. It also coordinates with the leader (USCG) of the Unified Command to appoint the Local Government On-Scene Coordinator (LGOSC). A Cal OES Maritime representative also assumes the role of Co-leader of the Marine Transportation Systems Recovery Unit (MTSRU) as part of the Unified Command.

In 2020, no real-world oil spills occurred that required a California-Mexico joint response. However, Cal OES, CDFW,

and USCG invited Mexico to participate virtually in three oil spill response drills. Mexican Liaison Officers at U.S. Navy Third Fleet headquarters attended virtually. Planning for 2021, Cal OES will support Mexican Liaison Officers to further involve participation physically and/or virtually.

Finally, in 2020 due to COVID-19, Mexico Vessel Control, California Seaports, USCG, Cal OES Maritime, and Maritime Stakeholders had to increase coordination of vessel traffic scheduling and vessel status between Mexico and the United States. In 2020, many ships that normally make port-of-calls in Mexico did not, due to Mexican work slowdowns – primarily in agriculture. When ships do not make their stops in Mexico, the ship's tonnage is too high to clear the depth requirements into California's inland ports (Stockton and West Sacramento). Mexican officials, USCG, Cal OES Maritime, and the ports successfully maintained delivery of critical payloads to California's agricultural industry by forming a virtual task team to monitor this situation during 2020 and into 2021.

Health

California Department of Public Health’s Office of Binational Border Health

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) was legislatively mandated in 1999 by Assembly Bill 63 (Health & Safety Code 475) to facilitate cooperation between California and Mexico health officials and professionals to reduce the risk of disease in the California border region. The mission of OBBH is to facilitate communication, coordination, and collaboration between California and Mexico health officials, health professionals, and communities in order to optimize border and binational health. OBBH has collaborated with partners on both sides of the border to address priority issues through collaborative projects, such as binational symposiums and epidemiology partnerships on public health issues of mutual interest with Mexico.

Monitor and Surveillance

OBBH focuses on enhancing the detection and response capabilities to infectious disease incidents and threats in the border region. During 2020, OBBH continued to monitor and investigate binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks in the border region. The Office worked collaboratively with state, local,

and federal partners focused on the surveillance, monitoring, notification, and investigation of infectious disease cases and outbreaks, including COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, OBBH handled over 10,000 binational COVID-19 cases, allowing for the implementation of binational U.S.-Mexico protocols for the exchange of epidemiological information and joint work with Mexico to take public health action. Such protocols include the United States-Mexico Coordination on Public Health Events of Mutual Interest & the Operational Protocol for Binational Communication and Coordination on Disease Notifications and Outbreaks. OBBH strengthened its long-standing collaboration with the Department of Epidemiology, Baja California Secretariat of Health. OBBH issues situational awareness reports, shares existing COVID-19 guidance, and serves as the liaison between Baja California and U.S. entities at the local, state, and federal level.

In 2020, OBBH established collaboration through a binational health care plan, *Sistemas Medicos Nacionales, S.A (SIMNSA)*, for routine and urgent notifications of COVID-19 patients in the border region. OBBH’s reporting mechanisms were instrumental in the control and mitigation of COVID-19 in the border region by enhancing its partnership with Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Global Migration & Quarantine, the Arizona Border Infectious Disease Program, and the Mexican Consulate in San Diego. In its role as the communication linkage between California and Baja California, OBBH developed situational awareness reports for distribution to California state and local partners of COVID-19 epidemiology and enhanced system capacity in Mexico.

OBBH continued to manage and coordinate the California Border Infectious Disease Program (CA-BIDS), 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. CA-BIDS also conducts surveillance for respiratory illness, such as influenza-like illness and COVID-19 like illness at four sites in the border region. One of the sites is part of the CA SARS-CoV-2 and Respiratory Virus Sentinel Surveillance Program. Surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) is ongoing at two hospitals in Imperial County and one in Mexicali, Baja California.

Border Health Status Report

CDPH-OBBH continue to produce the Border Health Status Report to the Legislature that provides the health status of the border region using national, state and local community health indicators – based on the Healthy People 2020 priorities and other health issues of importance to California. The latest report, *2017-2018 Border Health Status Report to the Legislature*, is available online.

Border and Binational Collaboration

In 2020, OBBH programs focused on border and binational communities throughout California and Baja California by sustaining partnerships and enhancing communication between state and federal officials in California and Mexico. OBBH collaborated with the County of San Diego Office of Border Health and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop emergency protocols for COVID-19 to address

system strain and joint surge capacity planning. OBBH was also a stakeholder at the San Diego Region Border Unified Command, which sought to monitor and respond to the impact that U.S. citizens crossing into the U.S. from Mexico seeking medical treatment related to COVID-19 or other illnesses may have on hospitals or emergency resources in San Diego County. As part of the office’s commitment to work closely with border counties to ensure the health of vulnerable populations, OBBH represented CDPH for the Imperial County State Agency Working Group, which guided the state COVID-19 response in Imperial County. OBBH reported activities and progress on public health matters to the working group and worked in collaboration with other state agencies to provide assistance to the COVID-19 response in Imperial County and Mexicali. OBBH linked San Diego physicians to Mexicali General Hospital and Baja California Secretariat of Health officials for support to Mexicali, given the strain on their medical system. This was emulated after the County of San Diego Health and Human Services initially facilitated San Diego physicians to support Tijuana General Hospital on a volunteer basis with site visits and workflow optimization.

OBBH is an active participant of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Technical Workgroup (BTWG). The goal of the BTWG is to improve public health in the U.S. and Mexico. The workgroup also advances binational collaborations in areas of mutual interest, such as outbreak investigations, improved technology for laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases, laboratory and epidemiology trainings, and infectious disease surveillance. Members include federal, state and local public health partners from the U.S. and Mexico. OBBH presented

monthly situational awareness reports on California’s COVID-19 plans and actions, such as the Blueprint for a Safer Economy and stay at home orders that impacted binational populations.

Promotores de Salud/ Community Health Workers

OBBH focused on promoting health and wellness and increasing health equity by affirming its commitment to working with promotores/community health workers, adjusting to the reality of web-based collaboration by organizing a series of webinars following the train-the-trainer model on the topic of antibiotic resistance. In 2020, OBBH staff also participated in other activities that serve migrant farmworkers, essential workers, and other binational and border vulnerable populations. For example, OBBH coordinated with state and federal partners to host a workshop related to working during the pandemic.

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 Los Angeles, San Diego, and Imperial counties’ health departments, association of local health officers, local government, hospitals, health plans, community-based organizations, and universities. In 2020, two public meetings were held by the OBBH Advisory Group with discussion of OBBH’s Strategic Plan, the 2019 Border Health Status Report, and the office’s role in the prevention, control, and mitigation of COVID-19 in the border region.

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

Emergency Management

Cal OES, a leader in emergency management and homeland security, builds towards a safer, more resilient California, especially in the California-Mexico border region. It does this by leveraging effective partnerships with federal, state, local, non-governmental organizations and with its Mexican counterparts. Together, Cal OES collaborates on initiatives and shares best practices in preparing for, protecting against, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating the impacts of all hazards.

Through these partnerships, Cal OES supports many key initiatives that directly benefit California's relationship with Mexico. Below are Cal OES programs that collaborate and support California-Mexico initiatives.

Cal OES-Mexico COVID-19 Collaborations

The year 2020 was a calamitous time as the world faced a global pandemic that demonstrated how quickly a public health emergency crosses borders and geographical boundaries. During times of emergencies and disasters, Cal OES and Mexico stand together in solidarity and offer assistance, as well as share disaster information to support the survivors. Throughout an unprecedented 2020, Cal OES and Mexico worked jointly to enhance a COVID-19 bilateral response coordination along the border.

Cal OES participates in the Cross-Border Communication Workgroup, which is comprised of the County of San Diego, City of San Diego, City of Tijuana, and the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California. In response to the pandemic, the workgroup participated in weekly binational COVID-19 video conference calls for the San Diego-Tijuana Region to share information, provide updates, and available resources. Counterparts from various organizations participated in the weekly meetings, including Cal OES, the California Department of Public Health Office of Binational Border Health, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, Consulate of Mexico in San Diego, Jurisdicción de Servicios de Salud Tijuana, Ciudad de Tijuana, Dirección Municipal de Salud in Tijuana, Protección Civil in Tijuana, La Comisión de Salud Fronteriza México-Estados Unidos, Hospital General Tijuana, U.S. Consulate in Tijuana, United Nations Refugee Agency in the Tijuana office, and Sistemas Medicos Nacionales (SIMNSA).

Cal OES worked in close coordination with San Diego County, the Mexican Consulate, and the Ministry of Health of the State of Baja California on the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the southern border region. Specifically, Cal OES provided San Diego County over 2.4 million in PPE for distribution to the Mexican Consulate of San Diego. As a result, the Consulate was able to facilitate PPE transport to the State of Baja California's Secretary of Health for distribution to public health and healthcare workers in Tijuana. Cal OES also allocated 1.5 million PPE items to Imperial County for distribution to the City of Mexicali and regional non-governmental organizations in support of their COVID-19 containment efforts along the border.

Furthermore, Cal OES and the Mexican

Consulates collaborated on various outreach in efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 amongst the vulnerable populations. Weekly, Cal OES provided the Consulates COVID-19 information on guidance, available resources, and tool kits to disseminate within their jurisdictions and inform communities on best practices to stay healthy. Through collaboration with Listos California, Cal OES provided the 10 Mexican Consulates over 16,000 printed materials that included the Disaster Ready Guide, Preparing for Public Health Emergency Guide, CENSUS Guide, COVID-19 Guidance for Immigrant Californians, and Disaster Guide for Farmworkers.

In addition, Cal OES and the Sacramento Mexican Consulate visited a migrant camp and distributed the printed materials, shared the steps to stay healthy and slow the spread of COVID-19, as well as how to be prepared for any type of disaster. Moreover, Cal OES and the Mexican Consulates of Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles collaborated utilizing social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram Live, to reach Mexican Nationals to share best practices during the global pandemic and how to prepare for any type of disaster.

Public Safety Communications with Mexico

Cal OES collaborates with public safety agencies in the state to provide California citizens and visitors the best emergency services available. Cal OES Public Safety Communications 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Branch assists local public safety answering points (PSAP) with administration and funding. This allows PSAPs to provide effective telephone access to emergency

services for all 9-1-1 calls and operation of the 9-1-1 system.

Cal OES works closely with four PSAPs in San Diego and Imperial Counties, which interact daily with Mexico to assist with the 9-1-1 calls originating within Mexico or from Mexican citizens that reside and/or work in bordering cities and towns within California. The administrative and funding support of this Cal OES-PSAP partnership allows Cal OES to continue supporting and promoting these collaboration efforts with Mexico.

Southwest Border Communications Working Group

Cal OES, along with officials from federal, state, local, and tribal public safety agencies, continues to participate in the Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) to discuss emergency communication regarding terrorist threats, hazmat incidents, natural disasters, border violence, escapes and evasions, medical emergencies, and cross-border interference. Due to the global pandemic, SWBCWG began holding quarterly virtual meetings to discuss interoperability communications issues along the southwest border. The Shared Communications System and Infrastructure (SCSI) Focus Group developed a report for decision makers, which outlined the governance, policy, resource sharing, and security considerations for implementing a project to connect radio systems along the southwest border region. This report was presented at the January 2020 meeting and pilot projects are now being considered.

The SWBCWG discusses ongoing emergency communication efforts and

identifies communications gaps along the border, with the goal of providing justification for establishing federal funding to help fill those gaps. The plan to invite Mexican counterparts to participate in quarterly meetings stands. However, this was put on hold due to global pandemic impacts on travel restrictions.

Tijuana River Spill Notification Protocols
Cal OES continues to monitor and collaborate with the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) on reporting raw sewage spill discharging into the Tijuana River, which has the potential to arrive at the International Boundary or any other location along the international border. The IBWC requires their Mexican Counterpart, Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas, Sección Mexicana, and the Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT) to immediately report any sewage spill that has a potential cross-border impact along the Tijuana River.

In 2020, the Cal OES State Warning Center received fourteen spill incident notifications from the IBWC regarding the Tijuana River and followed notification protocols by notifying all U.S. stakeholders. The Cal OES Warning Center also incorporated “international spill reporting” into their written operational procedures.

Commission for the Californias

On Dec. 4, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom joined Baja California Norte Governor Jaime Bonilla Valdez and Baja California Sur Governor Carlos Mendoza Davis to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reestablishing the Commission of the Californias, referred to as the Commission. The Commission is a

forum to share information concerning common challenges, and to discuss the development of collective solutions to those common challenges within the three states.

In January 2020, binational working groups were implemented to accomplish the goals of the Commission of the Californias. One workgroup, for example, met to discuss emergency preparedness, response, and public health. In coordination with the Cal OES, CDPH, and Mexican counterparts, that group included the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California, as well as public health departments in northern and southern Baja California. However, due to COVID-19 the workgroup meetings were put on hold as other meetings took place throughout the year to focus on the global pandemic response.

Cal OES – Mexico Memorandum of Understanding

Cal OES continues to collaborate with the Mexican Consulate on the development of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Governance of the United Mexican States through the Civil National Coordination of Civil Protection (CNCP) on cooperation in risk prevention and disaster management. Due to COVID-19, the MOU was placed on hold with plans to finalize in 2021.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the following executives, staff and their teams for their contribution to the 2020 report:

Business, Consumer Services and Housing

Melinda Grant

California Air Resources Board

Ryan Atencio
Celeste Espinoza
Margaret Sanchez

**California State Transportation Agency,
California Department of Transportation**

Jose Marquez-Chavez
Mario Orso

California Energy Commission

Bryan Early
Alana Sanchez

California Environmental Protection Agency

Erin Curtis
Elizabeth King
Emily Lennon
Hien Pham
Sheryl Watson

**California Department of
Food and Agriculture**

Josh Eddy

**California Department of
Pesticide Regulation**

Martha Sanchez
Paul Verke

**California Department of Public Health,
Office of Binational Border Health**

Olivia Arizmendi
April Fernandez
Esmeralda Iniguez-Stevens

**California Governor's Office of
Emergency Services**

Helen Lopez
Karen Navarro

**Colorado River Basin Regional
Water Quality Control Board**

Adriana Godinez
Paula Rasmussen

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Alfredo Rios
Carlo Rodriguez
Roger Vintze

GO-Biz

Emily Desai
Maria Onorato

**Office of Environmental
Health Hazard Assessment**

Laura August
Francisco Moran
Walker Wieland

**San Diego Regional Water
Quality Control Board**

Emma Blankenship
Melissa Corona
David W. Gibson
Cynthia Gorham
Keith Yaeger

U.S. EPA

Melissa Dimas
Jessica Helgesen
Lorena Lopez-Powers
Emily Pimentel

Appendix A: Air Quality Advancements in 2020

In January 2020, CARB approved the Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) for Calexico, Heber, El Centro Corridor in Imperial County. CARB, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, and the AB 617 community steering committee (CSC) continued to work together to implement the strategies identified in the program. This CERP addresses key community concerns including border-related traffic, agricultural activities, windblown dust and exposure to sensitive receptors. Since approval of this CERP, several projects have been completed, including the following:

- Parking lot paving projects for the reduction of windblown dust emissions.
- Replacement of a diesel school bus with an electric bus.
- School air filtration projects (four completed and four in progress).
- An air district policy revision to agricultural burning procedures reducing emissions from daily burn acreage.

Throughout 2020, CARB continued to support the San Diego Air Pollution Control District and the AB 617 community steering committee as they developed the CERP for the Portside Communities in San Diego. SDCAPCD staff gave an update to their board in November 2020 on the status of their AB 617 efforts. The SDCAPCD Board acted on the measures

listed below to improve air quality and community engagement in the Portside area:

- Develop a plan to quantify the cumulative health risks posed by air pollution in the Portside community.
- Develop and implement a program to provide residential air purifiers and monitors for up to 1,000 residences in the Portside community.
- Identify the types of air quality projects in the Portside community that will receive priority for State incentive funding and work with CARB to provide funding for those projects.
- Develop a plan to quantify the cumulative health risks posed by air pollution in the Portside community.
- Develop and implement a program to provide residential air purifiers and monitors for up to 1,000 residences in the Portside community.
- Identify the types of air quality projects in the Portside community that will receive priority for State incentive funding and work with CARB to provide funding for those projects.
- Develop and implement a Public Participation Plan to enhance community outreach and engagement activities.
- Develop and implement an Incident Response Plan that defines the district's protocols and procedures to respond to emergencies with air quality impacts.
- The full CERP is expected to be presented to the SDCAPCD Board in 2021.

In addition to San Diego and Imperial, CARB has supported AB 617 efforts in the Eastern Coachella Valley by working with the South Coast Air Management

District (SCAQMD) and the valley's AB 617 community steering committee. Air quality concerns impacting the community include fugitive dust, agricultural activities/pesticides, truck traffic, open burning/illegal dumping, a power plant and the receding Salton Sea.

- In December 2020, the SCAQMD adopted the CERP, and committed to amend the program to provide additional details on monitoring objectives, collaborations with other entities on additional emissions reduction strategies, and incentive strategies.
- These amendments to the CERP were considered by the SCAQMD in 2021.

AB 617 includes a provision for grants to community-based organizations and tribes to support their efforts in identifying, evaluating, and ultimately reducing the sources air pollution in their own communities. CARB administers these air grants. In 2020, CARB supported the eight air grant projects in the border zone. As part of this program, in 2020 there were over 40 community air monitors deployed and in operation in the border zone, including in the San Diego community of San Ysidro, and two cities in Imperial County: El Centro, and Calexico.

CARB continued investments in cleaner equipment in 2020. For example, CARB utilized its Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program to provide funding through local air districts for agricultural harvesting, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors, and other equipment used in agricultural operations. Since its inception, through Sept. 30, 2020, the FARMER program has funded 103 projects, totaling \$5.35M, in the border region.

Additionally, as part of a CARB funded zero and near zero emissions program, three Class 8 Drayage trucks were built and deployed in 2020. They are currently operating in San Diego. These trucks are being used by Pasha Distribution located at the Port of San Diego, BAE systems in Barrio Logan, and Four Seasons out of their facility in National City.

In further efforts to reduce exposure to harmful emissions in 2020, the CARB Supplemental Environmental Projects program invested approximately \$2.34 million in school air filtration and mitigation projects in the border zone, including four projects in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys.

In October 2020, CARB began a two-year study of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in the city of Mexicali of Baja California. Data from this study will be used to help identify sources of PM2.5 and the extent of particulate matter pollution transport in the Imperial County-Mexicali border region. With funding provided by the U.S. EPA, CARB continues to manage the Imperial County air quality website and mobile application that provides the public with access to real-time local air quality data, air alerts, air quality forecasting, and health impact information. Information on the website and mobile application is provided in English and Spanish. The website includes information from regulatory air quality monitoring stations in Imperial County and Mexicali.

In terms of air quality standards, in November 2020, CARB approved the San Diego County Air Quality Management Plan for attaining the federal 8-hour, 75 parts-per-billion, and 70 ppb ozone standards. CARB and the district have collaborated on the joint State Implementation Plan for the past two years. The SIP projects attainment for the standards by 2026 and 2032, respectively.

Appendix B: Water Advancements in 2020

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board 2020 Regulatory Actions in the Tijuana River Valley

In 2021, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board took three actions to restore and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Tijuana River, Estuary, and Pacific Ocean:

- Adopted an updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP).
- Adopted an enforcement Order for effluent violations at the SBIWTP.
- Drafting the Total Maximum Daily Loads for Solid Waste and Bacterial Indicators and Pathogens for the Tijuana River.

Regulatory Actions in the Tijuana River Watershed

In February 2020, the San Diego Water Board issued Investigative Order R9-2020-0030 to the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) to require monitoring of locations in the Tijuana River Valley impacted by transboundary flows of sewage, industrial wastes, solid wastes, sediment, and heavily polluted storm water. The monitoring requirements for 12 locations between the U.S international border and Pacific

Ocean included comprehensive water and sediment chemistry, bacteriology, toxicity, and solid waste assessments. The U.S. IBWC did not comply with the Order but did discuss a compromise monitoring and reporting approach with the San Diego Water Board that was incorporated into the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) NPDES Permit update in May 2021.

In addition, the San Diego Water Board updated and reissued the NPDES Permit for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) and revised receiving waters monitoring and reporting requirements that address the goals of the Investigative Order and to address climate change and plume tracking offshore.

In 2020 and 2021, the SBIWTP exceeded effluent limitations due to excessive flows of sewage received from CESPT's Pump Station 1B, deferred maintenance, and equipment failures. The San Diego Water Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2021-0107 for the SBIWTP to bring the facility back into compliance with effluent limitations.

Total Maximum Daily Loads

The San Diego Water Board has completed the technical reports and supporting documents for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS) for solid waste and bacterial indicators and pathogens. The TMDLS calculate waste load reductions necessary to achieve water quality objectives downstream of the flood control channel and canyons, which were identified in the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy as areas to be actively managed to reduce transboundary flows of wastes. The TMDLS will include enforceable standards and an implementation plan to achieve reductions in waste loads causing impairment. The draft TMDL Technical

Reports will be peer reviewed and open for public comment in early 2022 with adoption tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2022.

The draft TMDLs assign waste load reductions to the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission, which owns the flood control channel and canyon collectors where waste load reductions must be met to protect downstream waters, habitats, and communities.

2020 Integrated Report

The draft Clean Water Act section 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report includes new listings of the Tijuana River in the 303(d) Impaired Water Bodies List. The additional constituents proposed for impairment listing in the Tijuana River include ammonia (Unionized), turbidity, color, and dichlorvos. In addition, several data sets of pesticide analyses are being evaluated and may result in additional impairment listings.

Litigation Stay

The litigation filed by the San Diego Water Board, City of San Diego, State Lands Commission, the City of Imperial Beach, City of Chula Vista, Port of San Diego and Foundation was stayed for a year in July 2020 to allow the parties to focus on the development of project proposals by U.S. EPA for border pollution control funded through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The Court issued a second Stipulated Stay Order at the request of the parties that expires in February 2022.

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT) Projects and Initiatives

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team is coordinating local agency efforts on several projects including the reclamation of the Nelson Sloan Quarry, drafting of a valley wide Sediment Management Plan, development of a proposal to design and construct and operate a sediment and trash control basin in Smuggler's Gulch, maintenance of the Goat Canyon sediment and trash basins, coordination of monitoring and local agency engagement and feedback regarding the Minute 320 work groups and the USMCA Border Pollution projects.

Border Pollution Control Projects

USMCA Process

The San Diego Water Board is participating in the U.S. EPA Eligible Public Agency Coordination Group meetings and has advocated for U.S. side border pollution control infrastructure, including a 163 million gallons per day river diversion and treatment system to reduce transboundary flow days from over 100 days per year to approximately 12 days per year.

Smugglers Gulch

The San Diego Water Board, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego met in 2021 to discuss developing a project proposal for addressing solid waste and sediment in Smuggler's Gulch. The conceptual project consists of two projects (Projects 10 and 11) studied in the "SB 507 Needs and Opportunities Assessment Report" prepared by the County of San Diego. The county assumed the role of lead agency for the Proposition 68 grant

application and CEQA compliance with support from the regional water board and City of San Diego. A critical requirement for long term success of the Smuggler’s Gulch project will be an operations and maintenance plan and funding strategy. If the grant proposal is funded by the California Coastal Conservancy, the basin and trash boom will be constructed and operational in 2024. The County of San Diego and supporting agencies will implement operations and maintenance, but the San Diego Water Board will seek a federal fair share contribution or ownership of the facility once constructed to achieve compliance with the waste load reductions calculated in the draft TMDL for solid waste in Smuggler’s Gulch.

International Boundary Water Commission – Tijuana River Spill Notification Protocols

Cal OES continues to monitor and collaborate with the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) on reporting raw sewage spill discharging into the Tijuana River, which has the potential to arrive at the international boundary or any other location along the international border. The IBWC requires their Mexican Counterparts Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas, Sección Mexicana, and the Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT) to immediately report any sewage spill that has a potential cross-border impact along the Tijuana River.

In 2020, the Cal OES State Warning Center received fourteen spill incident notifications from the IBWC regarding the Tijuana River and followed notification protocols by notifying all U.S. stakeholders. The Cal OES Warning Center

also incorporated “international spill reporting” into their written operational procedures.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Water Board) is engaged in multiple activities at the California-Mexico border. The board continued to work cooperatively with U.S. EPA, the International Boundary and Water Commission (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.

In January, June, September, and November 2020, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Binational Technical Committee (BTC) meetings held in Mexicali. As part of the January meeting, staff participated in tours of the sewage infrastructure that is being rehabilitated. The June, September, and November meetings were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives included the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board, the Comisión Nacional Del Agua (CONAGUA), Comisión Internacional de Límites del Agua (CILA; Mexican IBWC), U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (US IBWC), and Comisión Estatal del Agua (CEA). Representatives of the BTC discussed the actions implemented by Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali (CESPM) to improve infrastructure, the usage of the equipment received by CESPM to help

prevent sewage bypasses, the notification protocol for bypasses, and water quality data for the New River.

In March 2020, regional board staff attended a Joint Board Meeting of the Colorado River Basin and San Diego Water Board Quality Control Boards in Temecula and gave an informational presentation on water quality at the United States/Mexico International Border in Calexico. The presentation included historical border pollution problems, water quality impacts, and an update on the status of the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan.

A raw sewage discharge into the New River occurred in Mexicali, Baja California in June 2020, due to repair work from excavations falling into the pipeline near Pumping Plant Number One. The discharge volume was 190,204 gallons over a period of approximately 2 hours.

In September 2020, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board management attended a New River Improvement Project stakeholder meeting. Representatives included the City of Calexico, Assembly member Eduardo Garcia's Office, Senator Benjamin Hueso's Office, and the CalEPA. A New River Improvement Project update was provided, and state budget allocation was discussed.

A raw sewage discharge into the New River occurred in Mexicali, Baja California in September 2020, due to rehabilitation and maintenance work being done on Pumping Plant Number Two. The discharge volume was 1,091,295 gallons over a period of approximately four hours.

In December 2020, regional board representatives attended the California-Mexico Border Relations Council meeting.

The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board regulates and monitors discharges

into the New River by controlling pollution from nonpoint sources, mainly agriculture, by implementing total maximum daily loads and programs for agricultural runoff (Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program) and from point sources, mainly wastewater treatment plants (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program). It also monitors the water quality monthly.

(1) In December 2020, the Colorado River Regional Water Board adopted an additional short-term renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharges Requirements for agricultural activities in the Imperial Valley (until January 2022). The conditional waiver is necessary to meet the requirements of the state's non-point source policy. Extending the conditional waiver ensures that agricultural dischargers continue to implement management practices to protect water quality and perform necessary monitoring.

(2) In 2020, the regional board renewed two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits within the border area: the City of Calipatria Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station. Both facilities discharge to the cross-border Alamo River.

In 2020, no enforcement actions with monetary penalties for NPDES facilities with major effluent violations in the border area were resolved. However, a Time Schedule Order was issued to the Imperial Irrigation District El Centro Generating Station to allow sufficient time to bring the facility into compliance with the more stringent effluent limitations for the following constituents: lead, thallium, copper, selenium, and zinc.

(3) Throughout 2020, the regional water 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.

The New River Improvement Project

In 2018, the design contract for Phase 1 of the New River Improvement Project (NRIP) was awarded to a consultant. The key agencies cooperating on this project are the City of Calexico, Imperial County, and Imperial Irrigation District. Phase 1 of the NRIP is the design of three elements: a trash screen, a bypass encasement, and a pump back system. The trash screen would remove trash, which is a carrier for pathogens and other compounds that pose a health threat. The bypass encasement would divert the New River to bypass the city of Calexico, minimizing human contact with the severely polluted river. The pump back system would pump back secondary treated wastewater into the existing riverbed to replenish the flow and create wetlands in the community.

The design and engineering plans (Phase 1) of the New River Improvement Project were finalized on Oct. 31, 2018. The City of Calexico, Imperial County, and Imperial Irrigation District have each agreed to pay up to \$50,000 annually for the operation and maintenance of the completed project. The California Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in conjunction with funding from Proposition 68, includes a total investment of \$28 million for the NRIP. This allocation provides the funding required for construction of the project (Phase 2).

The City of Calexico, as lead agency of the NRIP, proceeded with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, which included the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) by the city council (June 2020), the filing of the Notice of Determination with the county clerk and State Clearinghouse (June 2020), and the public appeal period concluding with no appeals received (July 2020).

Key achievement

The City of Calexico has completed the CEQA process and is currently working with the different permitting agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights, and the Colorado River Regional Water Board, to move the New River Improvement Project forward. The City of Calexico has hired a contractor to oversee the construction project. Regional water board permits that will be needed include a 401 water quality certification, construction dewatering waste discharge requirements, general stormwater construction, and a modification to the NPDES permit for the City of Calexico's Wastewater Treatment Plant to change the location of the discharge.

Salton Sea

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) continued to deliver projects identified in the *Salton Sea Management Program* (SSMP) Phase 1: 10-Year Plan to protect air quality and ecosystem values at the Salton Sea and in border communities. In 2020, the SSMP completed approximately 755 acres of dust suppression work to protect public health in border communities and began construction work on the first habitat project under the SSMP to restore

approximately 4,100 acres of exposed lakebed. More information can be found in Appendix C.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Border Region Projects

CDFW's next solicitation under its Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs is scheduled for early January 2021. Draft 2021 Solicitation is currently out for public comment. Solicitation again includes priority to protect and restore cross-border urban creeks and watersheds. \$33 million is available and awards are planned for early Summer 2021. CDFW consulted and coordinated with the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to first develop its cross-border priority and conducted stakeholder outreach in San Diego and Calexico in 2017. The main focus is the Tijuana and New River watersheds. Assembly Bill 965 (Garcia, 2015) added language to CDFW section of Prop 1 "...to address the unique ecological, flood control, water quality, and hydrological conditions associated with urban creeks and watersheds on the California-Mexico border, the department shall consult with the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to establish criteria to fund projects that improve conditions for cross-border urban creeks and watersheds." Since 2017, CDFW has received 17 proposals (including three awarded) for cross-border watershed projects totaling approximately \$12 million.

CDFW has awarded a total of approximately \$2.2 million for three planning projects under its cross-border priority. In 2017, CDFW awarded funds towards planning fill removal and restoration within Tijuana River Valley (Grantee: San Diego County). The Restoration Plan is near completion.

Two grants were recently awarded in spring 2020. Grant agreements are in place and projects are in initial phases:

- Tijuana River Valley Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Plan (Grantee: San Diego County Parks and Rec). First deliverable expected in early 2021: draft habitat restoration plan.
- Alamo and New Rivers Riparian Habitat Restoration – Grantee is River Partners. Work began September 2020.

COVID-19 has caused delays for some grantees, but CDFW is committed to supporting grantees and projects with no delays.

Appendix C: CNRA Border Region and Salton Sea Update

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) appreciates the opportunity to provide an update on progress made in 2020 to implement projects in the California-Mexico border region as part of the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP). CNRA, in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), continued its work to deliver projects identified in the SSMP Phase 1: 10-Year Plan to protect air quality and ecosystem values at the Salton Sea and in border communities. The plan identifies nearly 30,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects on lakebed exposed by the receding Salton Sea.

In 2020, the SSMP completed approximately 755 acres of dust suppression work to protect public health in border communities and began construction work on the first habitat project under the SSMP to restore approximately 4,100 acres of exposed lakebed.

At the highest level, the CNRA remains focused on and committed to the following goals:

1. Making significant, visible progress in implementing the Phase 1: 10-Year Plan.
2. Establishing a long-term pathway for the Salton Sea beyond the Phase 1: 10-Year Plan.

3. Building the capacity of SSMP team to significantly improve the State's ability to deliver projects.
4. Strengthening partnerships with local leaders and communities to facilitate timely project implementation and institutionalize community engagement within and across SSMP projects.

Project Implementation

The Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project is the first habitat project under the SSMP. The SCH project area encompasses approximately 4,100 acres of exposed lakebed at the southern end of the Salton Sea, and spans part of the New River, which flows north from Mexico to California. It is located about 30 miles north of the border in Imperial County. The project is aimed at preventing further degradation of air quality and habitat and will anchor Phase I of the SSMP.

In August 2020, DWR selected Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. for the SCH project design-build contract. Kiewit and DWR finalized the contract in September 2020. Following initial on site work in fall 2020, Kiewit began construction in January 2021, marking a notable milestone for the SSMP. The project will suppress dust while creating a network of ponds with islands and areas of varying water depths to serve as fish and bird habitat, protecting nearby border communities. The state has committed \$206.5 million for SCH construction and expects to complete the project by the end of 2023.

The SSMP Team completed approximately 755 acres of dust suppression projects in 2020. These projects used surface roughening, an erosion control practice, to create furrows that will slow wind down as it sweeps over exposed lakebed and physically trap soil particles entering the

roughened area from upwind sources. This total includes the 112-acre Bruchard Road project, completed in January 2020, and the New River East and New River West Projects, completed in November and December 2020.

The SSMP team released the Dust Suppression Action Plan (DSAP) in July 2020 as a guidance document and to share its near-term plans for implementing dust suppression projects. The DSAP outlines 9,800 acres of project planning areas on exposed lakebed around the Salton Sea, identifies potential dust suppression concepts and describes the steps needed to transition from concept to on-the-ground implementation over 2020-2022. The approximately 755 acres of projects completed in 2020 are part of this plan. Additional projects, to be constructed in strategic locations along the perimeter of the Salton Sea, will target areas with the highest emissivity potential. These will help control dust from exposed lakebed areas and limit sea-related impacts on air quality for communities such as Salton City, Bombay Beach, and North Shore. This area of the border suffers from high rates of asthma, and these projects will protect air quality and public health.

The SSMP Team is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Phase 1: 10-Year Plan by the fall of 2021. The draft project description was released for public comment in August 2020 and three virtual public meetings were held during September 2020 in to receive feedback. Upon completion, this NEPA process will enable permitting for the full 30,000 acres of projects identified in the Phase 1: 10-Year Plan.

The NEPA evaluation will include the approximately 160-acre North Lake

Demonstration Project that will be located at the northern end of the Salton Sea, near the community of North Shore in Riverside County. This project will be jointly developed by the SSMP Team, the Salton Sea Authority, and Riverside County. The Proposition 68 funding allocation for the North Lake Demonstration Project (\$19.25 million) was approved in the state's 2020-2021 budget.

Additional collaborative projects moving forward include:

- North Shore Harbor Revitalization Project (approximately 20 acres) - The Salton Sea Authority is leading a project that will rehabilitate the North Shore Beach and Yacht Club Harbor and restore access to the Salton Sea.
- Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project (approximately 30 acres) - The SSMP Team is collaborating with Imperial County and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District on the Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project that aims to refill dewatered channels by mixing fresh and salt water to create habitat.
- Audubon Bombay Beach Wetland Restoration Project (approximately 750 acres) - The SSMP is partnering with Audubon to advance the Bombay Beach Wetland Project which aims to stabilize, preserve, and enhance an existing emergent wetland. The project site is located on the southeastern shore of the Salton Sea, about three miles east of the community of Bombay Beach.

Long-term Pathway

While the SSMP Team is executing the 10-Year Plan, it is simultaneously developing a path forward for long-term restoration and management of the Salton Sea beyond the first decade. The SSMP is developing a long-term plan to be completed by 2022. The state is working to secure an independent reviewer panel to conduct a feasibility study of water importation proposals. The results of the independent review study will inform restoration options for the long-term plan. The plan will establish a strategy for long-term restoration, and options evaluated to inform this plan will include project build-out based on projected future water inflows within the Salton Sea watershed and water importation for a whole-sea alternative, if importation is found to be feasible.

Building Capacity

In a demonstration of continued commitment to Salton Sea restoration, the Governor and Legislature last year approved the addition of 10 new staff positions dedicated full time to implementing the SSMP. Eight of these staff members are proposed to be based near the Salton Sea, with a new SSMP office in Imperial County hosting at least six SSMP team members. Of the 10 new positions, three positions have been filled, three positions have been advertised and hiring is in process, and vacancy announcements for the four remaining positions will be posted. In addition, four previously vacant staff positions were filled in 2020.

Strengthening Partnerships

The SSMP Team continues to build on its partnerships and collaboration with local, state, tribal, and federal entities to

pursue available funding sources, develop projects, share data, improve outreach and engagement, and streamline planning and approval processes. Key activities include ongoing engagement with the Salton Sea Authority, Imperial Irrigation District, Riverside County, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and Imperial County to develop projects to complement or include in the SSMP. Examples include a project in cooperation with the Salton Sea Authority to rehabilitate and restore boat access to enable continued scientific monitoring and data collection at the Salton Sea.

The SSMP Team is working with partners to pursue available federal funding sources, including work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). In addition, the team is collaborating with partners to develop templates for land access, water availability, and public access opportunities and other elements key to the success of the SSMP. Other areas of focus include addressing scientific data gaps and identifying priorities for a monitoring plan for SSMP implementation.

In 2020, the SSMP Team continued to place a strong focus on community engagement. The Engagement Committee, consisting of representatives from stakeholder groups, local leaders, governmental agencies, and tribal governments, held meetings throughout 2020. The SSMP Team hosted six public workshops, accepted written comments and posted all written and verbal comments received online.

The SSMP Team launched a comprehensive [website](#) in February 2020 to provide a single, one-stop-shop site where the public can find information on SSMP projects and opportunities to

provide input. In addition, the SSMP Team continues to share news and updates via an e-newsletter that debuted in November 2019. The “Salton Sea Management Program Update” provides information on project delivery, upcoming meetings, opportunities to provide input, and other relevant information and is distributed through the California Natural Resources Agency Salton Sea Listserv.

The SSMP Team is proud of progress made in 2020 and appreciates the strong coordination with local, state and federal partners, including the Salton Sea Authority, Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial County, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There is much more work ahead and the team looks forward to continuing the momentum in 2021 to deliver projects on the ground that improve conditions at the Salton Sea for residents as well as for wildlife.

Appendix D: California Energy Commission Collaboration with Mexico

Natural Gas

Mexico is reliant on natural gas – mostly from Texas – to *fuel nearly 60% of its power generation*. An uncharacteristically cold, winter storm left more than 3 million Texans without power in the cold and dark. As a result, Texas Governor Greg Abbott decided to curtail natural gas exports outside of the state on Feb. 17, 2021 – as a measure to help cope with the historic energy shortage. That night, Consul General Ambassador Ferrer called contacts at the California Energy Commission (CEC) to meet the following day. On Feb. 18, 2021, technical and policy experts from the CEC joined Commissioner McAllister for a virtual meeting with the Mexican Consul General to Sacramento, Ambassador Liliana Ferrer and Mexico’s Acting Undersecretary for North American Affairs, Roberto Velazco to establish situational awareness. The natural gas shortage resulted in impacts to both residential and industrial consumers in Mexico.

Mexico City

In 2020, California’s engagement with Mexico City slowed a bit from the previous year, due to the pandemic.

The previous year, on Oct. 2, 2019, a California delegation signed a MOU there on energy and environmental policies and practices. The delegation was led by Lieutenant Governor Ambassador Kounalakis, CalEPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld and CEC Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister. They signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the Environment of Mexico City of the United Mexican States (SEDEMA) on energy and environmental policies and practices.

Although engagement slowed, the California international energy and environmental team worked with Mexico City remotely. They successfully executed a workplan in the spring of 2020 and held two interactive webinars in November of that year. The first webinar was on Building Codes and Standards specifically related to energy efficiency. Presentations were made by staff from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the City of San Francisco, and the CEC. The second webinar was on waste management and landfill diversion. Presentations were made by representatives of Mexico City; the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle); and the City of San Francisco. These were the first webinars between California and Mexico City teams.

The teams met again in February 2021 and reevaluated the workplan’s priorities. At Mexico City’s suggestion, and after much discussion, both governments agreed to broaden the scope of the agreement to include a greater focus on air quality and to extend the MOU for an additional two years.

A date for a formal signing has not yet been set. California expects accelerated progress on workplan implementation in the second half of 2021.

State of Guanajuato

In August 2020, the CEC participated in a process to aid the State of Guanajuato in designing its 10-year energy efficiency plan, which included the development of a state-level energy agency. The CEC participated in a series of technical workshops, hosted by Deloitte Consulting, with a group of high-level, government leaders in Guanajuato. CEC staff focused on several areas including energy efficiency, the decarbonization of energy systems and the development of renewable energy. Additional U.S. participation included the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Similar to California, the State of Guanajuato is a member of the Under2 Coalition.

State of Jalisco

The CEC has continued to stay active with contacts in the State of Jalisco throughout 2020. Many of the CEC's existing contacts are a result of a former engagement with the State of Jalisco, under a prior MOU that proved successful in forging partnerships and collaboration. One example of successful partnership includes the collaboration between UC Davis and the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG) in Jalisco, Mexico, on the development of a clean tech lighting center.

Funding for this joint project was made possible through a Request for Proposal for joint California-Mexico research projects on efficiency in buildings issued by the CONACYT-SENER Energy Sustainability Fund (ESF). *In November 2017, five projects were awarded*, including

the Lighting Application Research Center for the Development of Demonstrative Projects of New Lighting Systems to Improve Energy Efficiency. On the California side, this partnership project is being led by *UC Davis Professor Michael Siminovitch, Director of the UC Davis California Lighting Technology Center (CTLC)*.

UC Davis and UAG are currently in the process of planning a high-level, two-day program in early December 2021 to bring together stakeholders, including academics, researchers, industry representatives, and government leaders to discuss further engagement, explore energy efficient policies and technologies, and celebrate the official opening the Lighting Center.

Additionally, in recent discussions with contacts in Jalisco, the CEC's international team has learned that the State of Jalisco may be interested in joining forces once again to expand collaboration and information sharing to accelerate clean energy and low-carbon, energy development within their state. Topics of interest may include increased energy efficiency for buildings and appliances, energy storage technologies, and renewable energy development. The CEC will work with the California's international leadership and interagency partners to help develop an agreement that suits California's interests and helps advance the shared energy and climate goals of both California and Jalisco.

Appendix E: California Department of Pesticide Regulation

Radio Indígena

On July 21, 2020, department staff participated in a Facebook Live Question and Answer (Q&A) session with Radio Indígena, a Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) sponsored radio station that provides a platform for reaching the non-English/Spanish speaking farm worker community in the Ventura County area. Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) farm worker outreach staff have worked with this station in the past, promoting DPR's CASPIR mobile pesticide incident reporting app, Spanish safety guides, Spanish video content on YouTube, and updates on how local County Agricultural Commissioner Offices are distributing protective masks (for COVID-19 protection) to farm workers.

Labor Rights Week

Between Aug. 31 and Sept. 4, 2020, DPR staff participated in the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Labor Rights Week, which aims to aid collaboration between federal and state authorities, community-based organizations, labor unions, employers, and community members to educate and inform Mexican workers in the U.S. about their rights and the available means to enforce and exercise them.

DPR Labor Rights Week participation included:

- Oxnard/Ventura Labor Rights Week. On Aug. 31, staff participated in a Facebook Live Q&A stream with representatives from MICOP's Radio Indígena, 94.1 FM, and representatives from the Mexican Consulate in the Oxnard/Ventura areas. Staff answered questions regarding pesticide safety for farm workers, methods for reporting on pesticide safety issues, and farm worker rights.
- San Jose Labor Rights Week. On Sept. 3, 2020, staff participated on a panel talk with union leaders and other experts in San Jose to share resources regarding pesticide safety for farm workers, methods for reporting on pesticide safety issues, and farm worker rights.
- Sacramento and Fresno Labor Rights Week. During the week of Aug. 31-Sept. 4, DPR staff presented pesticide safety information during webinars hosted by the Sacramento and Fresno Mexican Consulates of California. The presentations focused on farm workers in the Sacramento and Fresno areas and included training topics found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Section 6764.
- Fieldworker Training. Training webinars – recorded via Zoom – were sent to both Mexican consulates for them to share at their locations and on their social media sites.

Adelante Promotores 2020

On Dec. 3 and 4, DPR staff attended the 2020 Adelante Promotores Conference. This conference was held virtually from a location in San Diego. Topics at this conference focused on new ways of communicating with the communities served by promotores (community health workers) in the Adelante network.

Spanish Radio/Television Pesticide Safety Public Service Announcement (PSA) Project

In late 2019, DPR's Worker Health and Safety Branch received a multi-purpose grant from U.S. EPA's Region IX to produce Spanish language PSAs on pesticide safety related issues, including promoting DPR's pesticide incident reporting app CASPIR. The first phase of the PSA project aired from March through June 2020 on more than 11 Spanish radio stations and one Spanish television station, covering more than 19 counties in the Central Valley, Coachella Valley, and Imperial County Regions of California. In Imperial County alone, a total of 180 PSA's were broadcasted between the end of March and through May 2020, reaching Imperial County farm workers and migrant farm workers residing in Mexicali.

Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN) meetings

DPR participated in monthly Imperial County Task Force - Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhood (IVAN) meetings, held virtually. The Imperial County IVAN is one of seven in the state that act as a network for reporting and resolving environmental issues in economically disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected by environmental hazards.

Meeting topics in 2020 included construction of the border wall, environmental justice issues on both sides of the border, farmworker safety and updates from state and federal agency representatives.

Appendix F: Safety Statistics for Calendar Year 2020

San Diego County Operation Stonegarden 2020 Results

Category	2020 Results
Vehicle Stops	7,352
Pedestrian Stops	69
Vessel Stops	2396
Citations Issued	495
Field Interviews of Suspicious Subjects Conducted	4,236
Misdemeanor Arrests	542
Felony Arrests	348
Narcotics Seizures	346
Non-drug Seizures (weapons and currency)	132

Imperial County Operation Stonegarden 2020 Results

Category	2020 Results
Mileage	216,396
Vehicle Stops	6,628
Prosecution Cases	114
Significant Seizures	13
Narcotic Cases	60
Marijuana (kg)	6
Cocaine (kg)	17
Methamphetamines (kg)	272
Heroin (kg)	0.66
Fentanyl	2,372 pills
Other Narcotics (kg)	1
Currency Seized	34,878
Firearms Seized	13
Vehicles Seized	3

San Diego County Operation Gridlock 2020 Results

Category	2020 Results
Vehicle Stops	622
Citations Issues	62
Misdemeanor Arrests	30
Felony Arrests	25
Field Interviews (FI)	144
Crime Reports	3
Non-Drug Seizures	13
Gang FI (Documented & Assoc)	7
Gang Arrests (Documented)	3
Felony Arrests	12
Warrants	4
Narcotics Seizures	18
US Currency Seized	\$5,000
Methamphetamine	13,963.93 grams
Heroin	1,004.36 grams
Fentanyl	1.50 grams
Xanax	7.00 doses
Cocaine	4.00 grams
M30	6,725.00 doses
Ecstasy	100.00 doses
Meth pipe	7
Handgun	6

Automated License Plate Reader Program (ALPR) Stats 2020

Total License Plate Reads	11,636,916
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	24
Stolen License Plates Recovered	4
PC Arrests	26

Operation Bravo Sweep Stats 2020

Agencies Participated	12
Felony and Misdemeanor Arrests	10
State Parole Violations	1
New Case Leads Generated	4
Impounded Vehicles	3
Methamphetamine Seized	.54 lbs.

Operation Barrett Stats 2020

Agencies Participated	3
Felony Arrests	2
Weapons Recovered (Including .50 BMG X 2)	13
Unclaimed Cash	\$13,000.00

The logo consists of a vertical teal bar on the left and a dark green horizontal bar on the right, forming an L-shape.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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