

California-Mexico Border Relations Council

Solid Waste Working Group Update
February 1, 2016

Solid Waste Working Group Update

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Background: Border Region Solid Waste Working Group

- ▶ Authorized via the 2015 Budget Act's accompanying trailer bill, the Border Region Solid Waste Working Group was tasked by the Border Relations Council in July 2015 to:
 1. Develop a Waste Tire Strategic Plan -which includes specific direction relative to updating CalRecycle's Tire Flow and Tire Management Plan studies.
 2. Develop spending recommendations for the \$300,000 appropriation to CalEPA for support of the Border Relations Council.

Strategic Plan Update

► Strategic Plan Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Cross-border benefits to facilitate cross-border collaboration.
- ❖ The inclusion of local and regional government in California and Mexico, ensuring they have a role in the Plan's goals.
- ❖ Environmental justice.
- ❖ A consideration of natural ecosystems restoration.
- ❖ Awareness of market failures driving solid waste and waste tire issues at the border.

Tire Flow Study Update

- ▶ The Tire Flow Study will update CalRecycle's 2009 Tire Flow and 2012 Tire Management Plan Studies.
- ▶ Contract with San Diego State University executed December 2015; the associated work plan is under development.
- ▶ Study tasks will include:
 - ❖ Determining the ultimate disposition of used tires transported from California into Baja.
 - ❖ Estimating the flow and number of used and waste tires transported into the border area since 2009.

Tire Flow Study Update, continued

▶ Additional tasks:

- ❖ Updating the 2009 and 2012 reports regarding used and waste tire management regulatory framework changes at the Mexican, federal, and state levels.
- ❖ Reviewing prior reports' recommendations and evaluating their implementation and effectiveness to date.
- ❖ Providing new recommendations on the use of tire fee funds to address persistent used tire and solid waste challenges.

Tire Flow Study Update, concluded

- ▶ A draft report will be submitted to the Council by June 30, 2017.
- ▶ SDSU also will conduct two workshops with CalRecycle and Baja California agency staff.
- ▶ The study's research lead, Dr. Richard Ganster, will attend the Council's July 2016 meeting and provide a project update.

Working Group Project Proposals

- ▶ CalRecycle: Project manager or consultant to assess tire and solid waste management needs and conduct long term planning on the California/Mexico Border.
- ▶ San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board: Project to assess feasibility and identify effective locations for tire and trash capture/interception devices (including booms) in Smugglers Gulch and the main channel of the Tijuana River (U.S. side), including an evaluation of the two trash booms in the Goat Canyon sediment basins.

Working Group Project Proposals, continued

- ▶ US EPA: Pilot Construction and Demolition Material Reuse Center in Baja. The project would provide technical expertise from CalRecycle to assist Baja in developing the scope for a construction and demolition (C&D) program.
- ▶ US EPA: Technical assistance (e.g., assessing scrap tire market conditions) to Baja's Secretary for Environmental Protection on the most viable reuse markets for scrap tires in Baja, especially in Mexicali and Tijuana.

Working Group Project Proposals, concluded

- ▶ WILDCOAST: Demonstration project to recover and recycle waste tires in the California-Mexico border region of the Tijuana River.
- ▶ Sonoran Institute: Demonstration project to implement an ecological sanitation model in the Calexico-Mexicali region that would include a needs assessment, drain sanitation, environmental education, and communication strategies.

Project Evaluation

- ▶ Does the proposed project provide cross-border implementation strategies or otherwise consider cross-border benefits?
- ▶ What are each project's short-term and long-term impacts?
- ▶ Does a project complement, and not duplicate, work underway or planned?
- ▶ Who are the project partners and do these partnerships reflect regional collaboration.

Project Evaluation, continued

- ▶ Each proposed project demonstrated potential merit and benefits, including cross-border benefits, and each project's budget was at or below the \$300,000 funding level.
- ▶ Some projects demonstrated long-term and short-term benefit, and addressed opportunities in the New River region.
- ▶ However, WILDCOAST and the Sonoran Institute demonstrate both short-term and long-term benefits, regional cross-border collaboration, and an opportunity to address both the Tijuana River and the New River regions.

Project Summary: WILDCOAST

- ▶ A one-year demonstration pilot project to clean up tires in close proximity to the border and adjacent tributaries of the Tijuana River in order to:
 - ❖ Demonstrate the financial effectiveness of investing resources in the region.
 - ❖ Prevent tires from crossing the border and impacting the sensitive riparian and estuarine habitat of the Tijuana River Watershed.
 - ❖ Project timeline: May 2016 to May 2017.

Project Summary: WILDCOAST, continued

- ▶ Recover up to 100,000 tires.
- ▶ Promotora Ambiental De La Laguna, S.A. de C.V. (PASA), waste services provider to Tijuana and 74 cities in Mexico, will haul waste tires from the sites.
- ▶ Collected waste tires will be shredded and sold to companies that can use them for tire-derived products such as asphalt, light bricks, and other options.
- ▶ Increase public awareness about the effects of pollution for those living close to the sites: e.g., educational signs and training permanent staff to guard and maintain the sites.

Project Summary: WILDCOAST, concluded

- ▶ WILDCOAST will provide regular updates and an end-of-project report to help inform the Border Region Solid Waste Working Group's *Waste Tire Strategic Plan* goals.
- ▶ This report will include specific information collected through the project including data related to financial outputs from tire shredding and recycling in Mexico, and the effectiveness of cross-border partnerships.

Project Summary: The Sonoran Institute

- ▶ The Sonoran Institute will conduct a one-year a pilot project to reduce the illegal disposal of solid waste in drains that contribute to the pollution of the New River.
- ▶ The project's intent is to:
 - ❖ Eliminate public health risks.
 - ❖ Improve the urban landscape.
 - ❖ Improve water quality of the New River as it flows into California.
 - ❖ Provide a project report that will inform the Border Region Solid Waste Working Group's *Waste Tire Strategic Plan* goals.

Project Summary: The Sonoran Institute, continued.

- ▶ The project encompasses four tasks:
 - ❖ Preparing a Needs Assessment and Action Plan that would, among other things, compile information on solid waste issues and potential El Niño impacts.
 - ❖ Cleanup activities to address drain sanitation.
 - ❖ Delivering environmental education to selected schools in the Mexicali region.
 - ❖ Communicating and disseminating project information and objectives to regional communities.

Project Summary: The Sonoran Institute, concluded

- ▶ The Sonoran Institute will provide regular updates and an end-of-project report to help inform the Border Region Solid Waste Working Group's *Waste Tire Strategic Plan* goals.

Next Steps

- ▶ Should the Council support these recommended projects, CalRecycle will work with Agency staff and the grantees to execute the grants no later than March 1, 2016.
- ▶ The Border Region Solid Waste Working Group will provide project updates at the Council meeting schedule for July 2016.

Questions?

- ▶ Ken DaRosa, Chief Deputy Director
CalRecycle
 - ▶ Contact information:
916.341.6544
ken.darosa@calrecycle.ca.gov