

**2018**

Annual Report

# The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

A Summary of Activities Undertaken in 2018



March 2019





## **Council Member Agencies**

*California Environmental Protection Agency*

*California Natural Resources Agency*

*California Department of Food & Agriculture*

*California Health & Human Services Agency*

*Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency*

*California Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development*

*California State Transportation Agency*

*California Governor's Office of Emergency Services*

**Gavin Newsom**

*Governor*

**Jared Blumenfeld**

*Secretary for Environmental Protection*



*The California-Mexico Border Relations Council is the central organizational body that coordinates interagency projects, programs, initiatives, and partnerships along the California-Mexico border. It also serves as a representative body of the State of California whose goal is to continue to develop and enhance cross-border relations between California and Mexico.*

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# Welcome

## Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature:

I am pleased to present this annual report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 3021 (Statutes of 2006), the council acts as the State of California's central organizing body for coordination and collaboration on border issues. The council is also responsible for providing annual updates to the Legislature on California-Mexico border activities and programs.

This report comes at a critical time in California-Mexico relations. The State of California recognizes that cross-border issues can be solved through enhanced communication, cooperation and openness. The council is an important example of how we can come together to share our accomplishments and challenges, and identify joint solutions that can improve the lives of residents on both sides of the border.

Throughout 2018, councilmembers made progress in a number of areas. For example, work concluded under the "California-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment," which provided an effective framework for technical collaboration and will serve as a model for future cooperation. Binational efforts led Tijuana to become the first U.S.-Mexico border city to ban plastic bags. The State of California made significant progress on the expansion of the San Ysidro Port of Entry, allowing for a more efficient flow of people and goods across the border. Stemming from a new Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan, 25 air quality sensors were transferred to the City of Mexicali to support enforcement activities. In order to help migrants seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services immediately formed a Migrant Caravan Task Force that provided services to the migrants, including support for a family shelter and free legal representation for migrant families.

As this report illustrates, the council is committed to protecting the environment, improving infrastructure, and ensuring the health and safety of residents along both sides of the California-Mexico border. The council remains a crucial forum for addressing these matters.



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

Sincerely,  
Jared Blumenfeld  
Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Chair, California-Mexico Border Relations Council

# 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 operating across state agencies, with no organizing entity to coordinate interagency cooperation. The report was updated in 2017 and shows continued engagement with Mexico.

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. 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 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



## Chair

### Jared Blumenfeld

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



### Mark Ghilarducci

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



### Karen Ross

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

Secretary, California State Transportation Agency  
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### Wade Crowfoot

Secretary, Natural Resources Agency  
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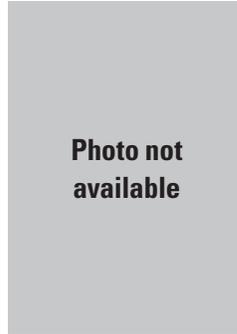


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### Mark Ghaly

Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency  
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### Lenny Mendonca

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



### Alexis Podesta

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

# Executive Summary

The California-Mexico Border Relations Council (council) serves as the central organizing body within California state government for California-Mexico border matters. Chaired by the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the council is comprised of eight state secretaries or directors of: the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA); the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS); the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA); the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA); the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA); the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES); the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH); the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz); and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), which is an ex-officio member. This annual report to the Legislature, which is required pursuant to Government Code Section 8713, includes a summary of their activities in 2018.

## Trade

Mexico remains one of California's top trading partners. In 2018, GO-Biz participated in various trade initiatives with Mexico, supporting in-bound trade missions and holding technical exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment. For example, in April 2018, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and the Sacramento Center for International Trade Development, GO-Biz led a delegation of 10 California small businesses that were eligible for the State Trade Expansion Program to Expo Seguridad Latin America, a safety and security solutions trade show in Mexico City.

## Business, Consumer Services and Housing

Several departments, boards, bureaus and offices overseen by BCSH conduct work relevant to the border and relations with Mexico. For example, in 2018 BCSH began implementing the Licensed Physicians and Dentists Mexico Pilot Program, which was created to allow up to 30 licensed physicians from Mexico specializing in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology to practice medicine in California for a period not to exceed three years. In 2018, the Medical Board of California received funding from philanthropic entities to begin this program. Additional departments, boards, bureaus and offices also conducted important border-related work in 2018.

## Environment

In the border region, multiple stakeholders work collaboratively to address challenging environmental issues, including air quality, climate change, waste and water matters. Milestone achievements in 2018 include the following:

- The conclusion of the work under the California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment and the publication of a summary report on the progress made under the agreement
- The development of design, engineering and environmental documentation for the New River Improvement Project
- The vote among municipal decision makers to ban plastic bags from the City of Tijuana, the first U.S.-Mexico border city to do so
- The mapping of areas in Imperial County with a high concentration of users of untreated canal water in Imperial County
- The creation of an Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Group that has already led to the donation of 25 low-cost air quality sensors to the City of Mexicali for enhanced enforcement activities

## **Energy**

In 2018, the California Energy Commission continued to collaborate with multiple California-Mexico border stakeholders on energy priorities, including the advancement of energy efficiency and clean tech development. Key areas of engagement included the review of proposals for joint research projects between California and Mexico on energy efficiency in buildings; the role of data and analytics in establishing and progressing toward energy efficiency targets; and the promotion of renewable energy policies and technical exchanges.

## **Agriculture**

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

## **Transportation**

The California-Mexico border is home to seven international border crossings, two of which are among the busiest of all U.S. crossings. The San Ysidro Port of Entry (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. In 2018, California's international border crossings processed nearly 17.7 million pedestrian crossings, 32 million personal vehicles, and over 1.1 million commercial trucks.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) are responsible for border mobility and

enforcement. Both departments are working on innovative solutions that expand opportunities to create a safe, integrated, efficient, and secure transportation system along the border. New projects like the flagship Otay Mesa East and the expansion of Calexico West International Land Port of Entry will reduce border crossing wait times and improve the flow of traffic between California and Mexico. Border community outreach efforts are carried out through the CHP El Protector Program. The focus of this program is to utilize a bilingual CHP officer of Hispanic ancestry to participate in community events, provide traffic safety education presentations, and serve as a Hispanic role model within the communities served.

## **Safety**

Cooperating on safety issues at the border continues to be a priority for CalSTA and Cal OES. Border safety issues continue to be addressed largely through the Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG); Operation Gridlock; the CHP Border Division and Mexico Liaison Unit; and the California Maritime Security Program. In 2018, the CHP Mexico Liaison Unit worked to recover 729 vehicles, conduct 20 arrests and prosecute 123 suspects in Mexico. The San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force freed 113 victims in 2018 - including 17 juveniles - and conducted 40 enforcement operations. In 2018, the Cal OES Maritime Security Program shared the California Bay Area Earthquake Plan and the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan with Mexico, including information on marine transportation and recovery. As a result, Mexico has developed their own Marine Transportation Recovery Plan.

## **Health**

Border health work is largely conducted through the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) and through CalEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). In 2018, CDPH's Community Education and Exposure Prevention (CEEPS) section, within the Environmental Health Investigations Branch, worked in Imperial and San Diego counties to deliver the Asthma

Management Academy. OEHHA helps coordinate efforts to maintain a healthy environment for people in the California-Mexico border region through their management of the environmental screening tool, CalEnviroScreen. OEHHA also oversees the California environmental contaminant biomonitoring program and issues fish consumption advisories in English and Spanish. By the end of 2018, 105 of the OEHHA's 108 fish advisories were available in Spanish.

### **Emergency Management**

In 2018, Cal OES, along with officials from federal, state, local, and tribal public safety agencies, continued to collaborate on emergency communication efforts towards terrorist threats, hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters, border violence, escapes, evasions, and medical emergencies. Cal OES also continued to work on earthquake preparedness and response.

In November 2018, a migrant caravan movement with thousands of migrants, originating mainly from Central America, arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, seeking asylum. Cal OES immediately formed a Migrant Caravan Task Force that coordinated with both U.S. and Mexico federal, state, and local governments to provide resource services and support to the migrants.



## 2018 Activities

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

Industrialization in Northern Baja California began with the “Maquiladora” program, which promoted export-oriented manufacturing and assembly plants. Industrialization further increased dramatically with the North American Free Trade Agreement. Regions such as Tijuana-San Diego and Mexicali-Calexico have fused across the border, forming dynamic trans-border metropolises that share both challenges and

opportunities. While rapid growth has created economic opportunities in the region, it has put a strain on communities on both sides of the border, particularly regarding environmental and human resources.

Public safety, health, environmental, and infrastructure issues affecting California are being addressed on the California side of the border by the member agencies of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council in close coordination with federal, state, tribal, local and Mexican governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and members of the public.

The following sections of the report describe the activities of the member agencies of the council in 2018. While most of the activities were conducted in the border region, many illustrate the broader cooperation that exists between the State of California and Mexico. Thus, the development of strong relationships between California and Mexico remains essential for continued growth and prosperity.



# Trade

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) serves as the State of California's leader for job growth and economic development efforts. GO-Biz offers a range of services to business owners including: attraction, retention and expansion services, site selection, permit assistance, regulation guidance, small business assistance, international trade development, assistance with state government, and more. Since 2014, GO-Biz has allocated \$829 million to 974 companies projected to create 95,139 new jobs and make \$17.9 billion in new investments. As Mexico remains one of California's top trading partners, GO-Biz continued to support in-bound and out-bound trade missions and held technical exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment in 2018.

In 2018, GO-Biz continued to expand trade and investment opportunities with Mexico under the 2014 California-Mexico Trade and Investment MOU. To facilitate these efforts, GO-Biz continued collaborating with ProMéxico, a subdivision of the Mexican Secretariat of Economy that promotes international trade and investment, and the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

GO-Biz also worked to incorporate information technology, cybersecurity, environmental protection, advanced manufacturing, and energy innovation businesses into the California State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) and the California Global Investment Gateway Program (CAL-GIG). The STEP is administered by GO-Biz, in partnership with CDFA, and is supported by a statewide network of STEP partners to implement export promotion programs serving multiple sectors. California STEP helps qualified small businesses export to new markets by

inviting them to participate in international trade shows and by conducting foreign business trade missions. CAL-GIG serves as a bridge between foreign investors and California's economic opportunity, attracting investment from institutional investors (such as sovereign wealth funds, pensions, and high net worth individuals) and larger private equity sources. One of the strategic objectives for the program is to help California attract investors from Mexico.

In 2018, GO-Biz continued its partnership with the Sacramento Center for International Trade to oversee and administer the reimbursement of export promotion costs to California small businesses through the STEP Individual Company Export Promotion (ICEP), a sub-program of California STEP. Stipends disbursed from the ICEP program supported export expansion and new-to-market penetration efforts to Mexico by supporting manufacturers of food, electronic and medical devices, and automotive parts. This foreign market expansion opportunity is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

In February 2018, GO-Biz, in partnership with Visit California and the Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento, organized a roundtable discussion in Sacramento welcoming a delegation of Mexican government officials led by the Mexican Secretary of Tourism. Both parties discussed California-Mexico tourism best practices and explored further cooperation between California and Mexico. Participating California state and local officials included representatives from the California Governor's Office, GO-Biz, Visit California, Cal OES, the Sacramento Vice Mayor, Visit Sacramento, the City of Sacramento, and the Sacramento County Airport System.

In April 2018, in partnership with the California Energy Commission, the Institute of the Americas and the State of Jalisco Energy Agency, GO-Biz co-chaired a workshop on renewable energy in the State of Jalisco, Mexico. Also in April 2018, GO-Biz, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and the Sacramento Center for International Trade Development, led a delegation of 10 STEP-eligible California small businesses to Expo Seguridad Latin America,

a safety and security solutions trade show in Mexico City. Participating California businesses exhibited at the trade show under the California/ U.S. Pavilion and met with foreign buyers, distributors, and procurers of their products. They also participated in networking sessions with key industry contacts, government officials, leading private sector experts, and like-minded U.S. businesses active in overseas markets. The California Pavilion featured a manufacturer of data elimination equipment, a manufacturer of transport cases, and a Virtual Online Security Officer. Products included a cloud-based video surveillance solution, physical security software systems, licensed cybersecurity software, first aid and emergency kits, specialized tablets utilized by law enforcement, surveillance and mobile face recognition, biometric data, and underlying software. California delegates were able to increase their visibility and brand awareness in Mexico and to Latin American buyers. Most participants are currently negotiating a number of sales contracts to be able to sell to federal, local, and municipal law enforcement agencies. To date, \$571,000 in export deals have been carried out, with an additional \$520,000 in pending sales. Approximately 132 jobs have been retained. This foreign market opportunity was made possible by the STEP program.

In June 2018, GO-Biz, in partnership with the statewide economic development network, led an investment mission and hosted the Second Annual Select California Investment Summit in Washington, D.C. as a part of the overarching U.S. Department of Commerce Select USA Summit. In partnership with ProMéxico, the summit delivered a robust business-to-business and government-to-business interaction between California and Mexico, advancing the economic relationship between two close-knit markets and catalyzing commercial transactions.



# Business, Consumer Services and Housing

The mission of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) is to oversee departments, boards, and commissions that:

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

The current entities under the BCSH include: Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board, California Horse Racing Board, California Housing Finance Agency, Cannabis Control Appeals Panel, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Department of Business Oversight, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Real Estate, Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, and the Seismic Safety Commission. Several of these entities conduct important work specific to border communities.

## **California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council**

The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) was established by Senate Bill 1380 (Statutes of 2017) to oversee implementation of Housing First, an evidence-based model that requires state programs serving people

experiencing homelessness to provide housing as a tool for recovery, connecting people to permanent housing as quickly as possible. On June 27, 2018, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Senate Bill 850 into law, which authorized the HCFC to develop and implement the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). This was a \$500 million one-time flexible block grant program designed to provide funding to cities, counties, and other regional or local planning bodies so that they may provide immediate emergency assistance to people experiencing or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.

To support cities, counties and Continuums of Care organizations in successfully applying for their HEAP allocations, HCFC staff participated in multiple workshops, including in border communities. Border community workshops were hosted by Imperial County, the City of San Diego, and the San Diego City and County of San Diego Continuums of Care, which included representatives from local homeless service providers and the city's chief executive office, city manager, councilmembers, as well as the County Department of Social Services and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The Imperial County Continuum of Care applied for its full \$4.8 million HEAP allocation and was awarded these funds on January 3, 2019. The City of San Diego and the San Diego City and County Continuum of Care also applied for and received their full HEAP allocations. The City of San Diego was awarded \$14.1 million on September 27, 2018, and the San Diego City and County Continuum of Care was awarded \$18.8 million on December 20, 2018. With over 10,300 people experiencing homelessness in the border region, this funding is critically needed in the area.

## **California Housing Finance Agency**

For more than 40 years, the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) has supported the needs of renters and homebuyers by providing financing and programs so more low- to moderate-income Californians have a place to call home. CalHFA's Single Family and Keep Your Home California (KYHC) programs, and partner agencies' representatives, conducted and/or participated in various homebuyer, lender and homeowner outreach events in

the border region. The events included Point Mortgage's down payment assistance Spanish homeownership fair in Chula Vista, the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals Expo 2018 in San Diego, the Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors Homebuyer Fair in Chula Vista, and the Urban League Homeownership Fair in San Diego.

The Keep Your Home California (KYHC) program is a free mortgage-assistance program. It had representatives from partner counseling agencies attend multiple events in the California-Mexico border region. Most were rapid response events that are held when companies undergo mass layoffs. Overall, KYHC representatives attended six Rapid Response events in San Diego, one Rapid Response event in Carlsbad, two Homebuyer Education Workshops in National City, and three Rapid Response events in El Cajon.

### **Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control**

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

The ABC San Diego District Office collaborates with its Mexican counterparts by having an agent as a member of the International Liaison Officers Association. The association is a group of law enforcement agencies from the U.S. and Mexico that meets to share information regarding crime trends and changes in laws. In addition, a representative from ABC serves as the Terrorist Liaison Officer (TLO) for San Diego and receives information from the San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center (SD-LECC) regarding border crimes and issues on both sides of the border. This enables ABC to stay aware of current issues and trends.

### **Department of Business Oversight**

The Department of Business Oversight (DBO) protects consumers and oversees financial service providers and products. Conducting periodic examinations of all licensees is a critical DBO activity. During 2018, within San Diego and Imperial counties, DBO examined 83 non-bank and payday lenders, and other licensees under the escrow, broker-dealer, investment advisor, and mortgage lender programs. In addition, the DBO completed seven comprehensive examinations of bank, credit union or money transmitter licensees with headquarters in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Conducting education and outreach is an integral part of consumer protection. During 2018, the DBO provided staff support – as it has for more than a decade – for Financial Literacy Week events sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento. The program was created by the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior, to promote financial services and education.

### **Department of Consumer Affairs**

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) consists of 42 licensing programs that issue approximately 3.5 million licenses, certificates, registrations and permits in more than 250 business and professional categories. DCA protects California consumers by investigating and prosecuting complaints against its licensees, as well as by helping consumers learn how to protect themselves from scams by unqualified individuals. Several DCA boards and bureaus participated in educational outreach throughout 2018.

In 2018, DCA and its multiple boards and bureaus participated in events with the Mexican consulates throughout California. DCA participated in an event at the Mexican Consulate in San Bernardino, providing attendees with information about DCA and its programs, including licensing and consumer protection through enforcement. On December 4, 2018, the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology participated in an outreach event with the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles to educate consumers on how to obtain a license with an Individual Taxpayer

Identification Number instead of a Social Security Number in accordance with Senate Bill 1159 (Statutes of 2014). The board provided information on licensing requirements an overview of the inspection process and answered attendees' questions regarding education and work experience.

On April 16, 2018, the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau was invited to participate in a financial education fair held at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento. The event was in support of consumers who do not have easy access to information about finance, health, and state and local resources. Consumers in attendance were provided information about the bureau and its creation to regulate and license individuals who apply to become professional fiduciaries. The bureau also shared information about the fiduciary profession and services fiduciaries provide consumers. Informational brochures were provided in English and Spanish.

On March 20, 2018, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) participated in an outreach event at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles to educate potential licensees about the application process and licensure requirements. During the last week of August, the CSLB participated in a weeklong resources fair sponsored by the Mexican Consulate in Santa Ana. Information was provided to consumers about steps they can take to protect themselves from unlicensed and unscrupulous contractors.

In response to a request received in 2018, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) continued to provide guidance in support of Baja California's vehicle emissions program and the identification of California vehicles imported into Mexico without valid smog certificates. BAR's website offers a vehicle test history webpage, which allows for the verification of Smog Check certificates issued to California vehicles.

In 2018, the Medical Board of California received funding from philanthropic entities to begin implementation of the Licensed Physicians and Dentists Mexico Pilot Program. The program was created by legislation in 2002 to allow up to thirty licensed physicians specializing in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics,

and obstetrics and gynecology from Mexico to practice medicine in California for a period not to exceed three years if certain requirements are met. These individuals are only authorized to work in specific clinics within California. The board and the program representative held meetings at BCSH in September and December 2018 to review the implementation timeline and licensing requirements for the physician program participants. The board anticipates receiving applications for the program by the end of April 2019, at which point it will begin issuing medical licenses to the physicians from Mexico. The Medical Board of California, in collaboration with DCA, also provided information on the licensing process for physicians and surgeons at the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles.

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

The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) is the largest state civil rights agency in the country. DFEH investigates, mediates and prosecutes complaints alleging employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination, and complaints alleging acts of hate violence. In 2018, DFEH participated in events in the border region to benefit border communities and with Mexican consulates.

On April 20, the Fair Employment and Housing Council convened a public hearing on civil rights in the Central Valley. Invited speakers gave public testimony on civil rights issues facing agricultural workers, workers without immigration status, and workers who do not speak English. Representatives of the Fresno Consulate of Mexico shared information regarding services offered by the Consulate.

On May 3, DFEH staff participated in a "Meet the Consul of Protection of the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno." A variety of local organizations were invited to meet the Consul of Protection and provide information regarding their organization so that the Consul is better informed about what others are doing and how the Consulate may be of assistance.

In August, DFEH attended and participated in the 2018 Labor Rights Week held at various Mexican consulates throughout the state, which

it has done for approximately seven years. This is a joint effort between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, which runs embassies and consulates, and the U.S. Department of Labor field offices to increase awareness and inform workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities under labor laws. DFEH answered questions about department services and shared educational materials and pamphlets pertaining to civil rights in the workplace and in housing. Additionally, DFEH participated in panel presentations and visits to agricultural workplaces to inform community members of civil rights protections and remedies for violations. DFEH participated in events held by the Mexican consulates in Fresno, San Francisco, Santa Ana, and Sacramento.

On October 9, 2018, DFEH presented on fair housing and civil rights in the San Diego County Welcome Newcomer Network event. The event provided resources to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers new to San Diego County.

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

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) administers state and federal housing and community development loan and grant programs.

The National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, Section 916, calls for border states to set aside a percentage of their annual state Community Development Block Grant allocations for use in “colonias.” A colonia refers to a community within the mainly rural border region with

marginal housing and infrastructure. These set-aside funds help meet the needs for potable water, adequate sewer systems, and decent, safe and sanitary housing for colonia residents. In 2018, HCD awarded Imperial County \$1.3 million for a project located within the Niland colonia. HCD also awarded \$2.4 million to the Continuum of Care in San Diego County and \$1 million to the Continuum of Care in Imperial County under the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program to assist persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness.



# Environment

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and their respective boards and departments, work together to restore, protect and enhance the environment in the California-Mexico border region. Substantial environmental efforts in 2018 focused on air quality, climate change, waste management and water pollution.

## California Environmental Protection Agency Border Affairs Program

The border region faces unique environmental challenges as two countries with different environmental laws meet and share common waterways and airsheds. CalEPA's Border Affairs Program (Border Affairs Program) promotes interagency cooperation on environmental programs between California and Mexico to cultivate a valued partnership to ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous border region. The program is a collaborative effort between CalEPA and its boards and departments to address environmental issues and coordinate efforts with other California state agencies, Baja

California, and the federal governments of the U.S., Mexico and Tribal Nations in the border region.

CalEPA's Border Affairs Program pursues policies and projects that improve the environment at the border. With the Secretary for Environmental Protection chairing the Border Relations Council, the Border Affairs Program coordinates and oversees council activities and projects, organizes meetings and compiles the annual council report submitted to the Legislature. The program works collaboratively toward implementation of strategic plans that target environmental improvements at the border, such as the "New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan" (published in 2011 and updated in 2016), the "Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy" (published in 2012 with plans to update in 2019), and the "Solid Waste and Waste Tire Strategic Plan" (published in 2016). The Border Affairs Program also oversees the implementation of the California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment.

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

In July 2014, California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., Undersecretary Rodolfo Lacy of Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), and General Director Jorge Rescala Pérez of Mexico's Natural Resources and its National Forestry Commission, Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR), signed the four-year "Memorandum of Understanding



to Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change and the Environment” (California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment). The MOU was a four-year effort with four priority action areas: climate change, air quality, clean vehicles, and wildfires. In 2018, a summary report of MOU activities and progress was published, and can be found at CalEPA’s Border Affairs Program website. Respective working group accomplishments can be found in ensuing thematic sections below.

### **CalEnviroScreen**

CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by OEHHA that scores all California census tracts based on 20 indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability. In January 2017, OEHHA released CalEnviroScreen 3.0. In this updated version of the online tool, OEHHA incorporated additional data to more accurately reflect the impacts of pollution originating in Mexico on communities in California located near the border. OEHHA conducted a review of pollution sources in Mexico and adjusted several pollution indicators—ozone and particulate matter concentrations, emissions of diesel particulates, toxic releases from facilities, traffic density – to account for pollution sources in Mexico.

OEHHA has continued to actively engage in efforts to collect and understand pollution data in the California-Mexico border region that can potentially inform future updates to CalEnviroScreen. OEHHA consulted with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on a research contract to improve the quality of environmental pollution data from the Mexican side of the border. The results of this research will improve the accuracy of data on Mexican facilities that report toxic releases, and potentially identify additional sources of pollution along the border that might impact California communities. The study is called “Improving the CalEnviroScreen Score at the U.S.-Mexico Border.” Additionally, future versions of CalEnviroScreen may utilize data from the San Ysidro air monitoring study and Imperial Valley water quality assessment.

### **Environmental Justice Imperial County Initiative**

In 2018, CalEPA’s Environmental Justice Task Force (EJ Task Force) selected Imperial County for a focused environmental enforcement and regulatory compliance initiative. The EJ Task Force worked with residents and a local environmental justice organization, the Comité Civico Del Valle, Inc. (CCV), and county regulatory agencies to learn more about local environmental problems and concerns along the border. Based on the input received from the community, the EJ Task Force conducted multi-agency inspections at various industrial, agricultural and other locations in Imperial County.

Businesses found to be in violation of environmental regulations were cited and ordered to remediate their violations, and are being monitored closely to ensure they come into compliance with regulatory requirements. During the Initiative, CalEPA enforcement staff also worked with local regulatory agencies to engage agricultural stakeholders on best practices, to support solid waste cleanup efforts, to reduce illegal off-road vehicle activities in restricted areas of the desert, and to provide safe pesticide use trainings to field workers and to day care providers who use pesticides at their day care locations.

## Border 2020

In 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)'s Pacific Southwest Office (Region 9) and CalEPA continued collaboration to address the environmental and public health challenges faced by communities in the California and Baja California border region. Multiple projects and efforts have focused on transboundary water and air quality issues, cleanups of solid and hazardous waste, and environmental asthma triggers impacting communities in Imperial County. This collaboration, via the Border 2020 Program, extends to several state partners such as the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, CARB, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), California Department of Public Health, and partner state agencies in Mexico. CalEPA is a key Border 2020 partner and serves as Co-Chair for the California-Baja California Regional Workgroup, which includes SEMARNAT, the U.S. EPA, and the Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Baja California, Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente de Baja California (SPA).

Below are key highlights accomplished through the Border 2020 Program in 2018:

- CARB completed the first phase of the PM2.5 monitoring in Mexicali funded by U.S. EPA. Next steps include speciation of the data, which will be helpful as the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) and CARB further develop actions to address PM2.5 pollution in Imperial County.
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography initiated a nearshore coastal model through a Border 2020 grant that will measure impacts of Tijuana's wastewater discharges into the Tijuana River and to the Tijuana coast on beaches in San Diego County. The study is projected to be completed in late 2019.
- The Southwest Wetlands Interpretative Association (SWIA) leveraged local ordinances in Tijuana to reduce plastic waste impacting the Tijuana River Estuary through a citywide campaign providing an initial donation of 5,000 reusable bags to convenience stores to promote awareness about the impacts of plastic through use of reusable bags through a Border 2020 grant.
- A grantee in Mexicali named Fundación Helice implemented an e-waste collection model, "Green Network," to collect an estimated 19 tons of e-waste and other recyclable materials in Mexicali, Baja California using a Border 2020 grant. Project leaders hosted a binational workshop and launched a public awareness campaign on safe e-waste management practices.
- Using a Border 2020 grant, SCS Engineers created a zero-waste plan for the Campo Band in early 2018 which lays the foundation for developing a full zero-waste program, setting a goal to significantly reduce waste and establish diversion practices to eventually eliminate waste sent to landfills. Campo Band is also exploring other materials management activities including short-term and long-term goals to develop a self-sustaining waste and recycling program, as well as a transfer station in 2019.
- The Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP) was initiated with a Border 2020 grant. In 2018, the El Centro Regional Medical Center expanded in-home visits with a Home Environment Observations evaluation to help educate families with asthmatic children on managing asthma triggers. Over the past year, the program has resulted in a 10 percent reduction of asthma-related emergency room visits and a 6 percent reduction of hospitalizations for children that participated in the IVCAP grant. The project has also extended outreach on asthma management at 10 events reaching nearly 650 community members in underserved regions in Imperial County.
- U.S. EPA, in partnership with state and local entities, supported ongoing training for hazardous materials teams in Tijuana and San Diego; reviewed the Tijuana-San Diego and Calexico-Mexicali Sister City Plans; began planning for a binational joint exercise at Otay Mesa between U.S. and Mexico first responders and custom officials to ensure cross-border emergency response capability; and discussed future emergency facility plan and local emergency plan tabletop exercises as well as first responder awareness and operations training.
- DTSC worked to strengthen compliance at two California-Mexico ports of entry as required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act under its hazardous waste import/export requirements. DTSC also co-hosted a workshop on import/export compliance assistance in Tijuana that was attended by 200 individuals, and gave a presentation on transboundary e-waste compliance at an electronics recovery workshop in Mexicali.

## Air Quality

Border communities are unique areas where residents share a common environment and have similar exposures to air pollutants. A number of air quality issues affect the California-Mexico border region. It is important to have focused monitoring, regulation, and emissions reduction programs to address these impacts. Many efforts were implemented in 2018 to increase education and awareness, and improve air quality in the border region. These efforts are described below.

### California-Mexico MOU Air Quality Working Group

The Air Quality Working Group of the California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment includes technical staff from CARB and SPA. Over the course of the MOU, the group worked together to strengthen the fine particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) air quality monitoring in Mexicali through air monitoring, audits and training supported by CARB. A two-year project, the “Mexicali PM2.5 Study,” was completed on April 20, 2018. Currently, CARB is analyzing the PM2.5 data to better understand the impacts of sources in Mexicali on PM2.5 pollution. CARB additionally received and analyzed ninety-six coarse dust particle (PM10) mass samples from Baja California, which generated more information about PM10 and how it travels across the border. Lastly, in 2018, Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), launched the Program to Improve Air Quality (ProAire) for the State of Baja California. ProAire includes six strategies, 20 measures and 100 actions, such as the regulation of state industries and the design of a sustainable mobility strategy.



Stations such as this Vehicle Emissions Verification Center in Mexico City are now conducting inspections under the new national standard published in 2017.

### California-Mexico MOU Clean Vehicles Working Group

The Clean Vehicles Working Group of the California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment includes technical staff from CARB and SEMARNAT. Over the course of the MOU, CARB provided extensive training to representatives from SEMARNAT and other agencies in Mexico on subjects related to reducing pollutant emissions from on-road motor vehicles, and shared information that helped inform new vehicle standards and programs in Mexico. In September 2017, SEMARNAT published new standards and test procedures for vehicle emission inspection programs that apply nationally, similar to how programs work within the U.S.

In September 2018, SEMARNAT published a draft standard for mandatory manufacturer fleet average limits on greenhouse gas emissions for new light-duty vehicles. Mexico is also developing revised standards for criteria pollutants, with the ultimate goal being the alignment of Mexico’s standards with those currently in place in the U.S. for light-duty vehicles. Lastly, revised standards for heavy-duty diesel vehicles were finalized by SEMARNAT in February 2018. These revisions effectively align Mexico’s standards with U.S. standards for 2010 and newer model year heavy-duty engines.

### Mexicali PM2.5 Study

A two-year PM2.5 study funded by the U.S. EPA for Mexicali concluded in April 2018. CARB staff analyzed data from this monitoring effort to gain a better understanding of the basic nature of PM2.5 at three sites (two in Mexicali and one in Calexico). More specifically, these data helped to determine the extent to which PM2.5 emissions from Mexicali affect air quality in Calexico.

Analysis of the data facilitated a better understanding on the seasonal variations in PM2.5 and speciation (individual PM2.5 components) concentrations, the meteorological conditions associated with elevated PM2.5 and breakdown of pollution, the transport of pollution from Mexicali to sites in Imperial County, and the possible sources that may be responsible for the high PM2.5 concentrations experienced in Mexicali and Calexico.

### **Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan**

Since Imperial County and Mexicali share a common airshed, a binational approach is needed to improve air quality in this region. In May 2018, CARB directed staff to develop a work plan in coordination with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and appropriate stakeholders in California and Mexico to explore additional measures that could be taken to improve air quality in the border region. A working group of members and agencies was established to draft a unified work plan and establish priorities. They held four workgroup meetings in 2018, which led to the development of the Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan, which is available on CARB's border webpage. The draft work plan provides an initial assessment of priority areas to focus on in both Imperial County and Mexicali to improve air quality in the border region. Priority areas include: increasing the education and awareness of particulate matter sources, air quality, and associated health impacts; improving regulatory authority, enforcement protocols, and rule stringency; enhancing air monitoring; and identifying funding mechanisms to achieve these goals. The work plan is a living document that will be used to gauge progress over time on implementing priority actions and recommendations as well as to determine where course corrections need to be made based on critical lessons learned.



CARB transfers 25 PurpleAir sensors to the City of Mexicali to be used as an enforcement tool.

### **Enhanced Particulate Matter Monitoring in Mexicali**

In the context of the Imperial-Mexicali Work Plan, the Directorate of Environmental Protection for the City of Mexicali and CARB's Director signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that involves expanding the monitoring network in Mexicali. The current network is inadequate for the size and population of the city. Under the agreement, CARB will loan the City of Mexicali 50 PurpleAir brand air quality sensors to enhance their monitoring capability and to be used as an enforcement tool. The data collected from these sensors will be publicly available via PurpleAir website and will help to provide a more complete picture of the air pollution sources and their impact throughout the city. The City of Mexicali will share their findings of the quarterly inspection reports with CARB for three years. CARB is also working to reestablish regulatory PM2.5 monitoring at two sites in Mexicali, which will further the PM2.5 study mentioned above. The data from this study proved very useful in assessing PM2.5 levels and potential sources in Mexicali and Calexico. CARB staff believes it is important to continue collecting data in Mexicali to further understand air quality along the California-Mexico border. SPA has authorized CARB to continue PM2.5 monitoring at UABC and COBACH, two universities in Mexicali, and a new monitoring contract is scheduled to begin in early 2019.

### **Enhanced Awareness of Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality**

To increase awareness of air quality in Mexicali, with support from the U.S. EPA, the City of Mexicali was added to air quality alerts and forecasting that is already in place for Imperial County. Residents in Mexicali are now able to get air quality alerts and forecasts for PM2.5, PM10, and ozone via email, the Internet, and by mobile app. In addition, an updated winter media campaign was jointly developed by the air district and Mexicali to increase education and awareness of issues related to air quality, including the consequences of open burning and the fines associated with such burning in Mexicali. The inclusion of Mexicali in the air quality alerts and forecasts will also allow both agencies to make

more informed determinations when declaring burn and no-burn days by considering the air quality in the entire border region.

### **Baja California Emission Inventory Improvements**

To accurately reflect how emissions in Baja California, Mexico impact border communities in California, a more robust understanding of the sources and emissions is needed. With funding from U.S. EPA, a contract began in 2018 that will help to improve understanding of the emissions inventory estimates for mobile, area, and point sources in northern Baja California, Mexico. A more detailed inventory for this region will help CARB to better determine the impact of emissions from Baja California on the State Implementation Plan (SIP), and modeling for future air quality in California border regions. A contractor will use the information to update the 2014 Mexico National Emissions Inventory for point, area, on-road motor vehicles, and natural sources. The contractor will also provide an emissions inventory for agricultural windblown dust, agricultural burning, brick kilns, state point sources, and border crossings. The final report and inventory is planned to be released by the end of 2019.

### **Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Efforts**

In 2018, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District made significant efforts to engage the community via establishing a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The district worked in conjunction with CARB and U.S. EPA to develop State Implementation Plans (SIP) for the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 12 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and the 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standard of 150 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. These SIPs were approved by CARB and submitted to the U.S. EPA as a SIP revision. As part of its strategy to attain the PM<sub>10</sub> standard, the district plans to mitigate the exposed playa at the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea will continue to shrink, especially as drainage flows from local agricultural use continue to reduce. The district plans to stabilize parts of the playa to minimize dust emissions. The district is also implementing the state's Salton Sea Management Program and Phase I Plan, and Imperial Irrigation District's

Salton Sea Air Quality Management Program. The district also received funding from the Carl Moyer and Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) programs to replace older, off-road diesel engines with cleaner, more efficient diesel engines.

### **Port of Entry Diesel Fleet Inspections**

CARB has adopted a suite of diesel fleet regulations designed to protect public health from emissions of diesel particulate matter and provide NO<sub>x</sub> reductions necessary to attain federal air quality standards. CARB actively enforces these regulations at various locations throughout the state, including ports of entry along the California-Mexico border. Approximately 1,700 inspections are conducted on average per year at border locations, including at California Highway Patrol's commercial vehicle enforcement facilities and roadside locations in and around Calexico, Otay Mesa, and Tecate.

### **Community Air Protection and Environmental Justice in the Border Region**

Assembly Bill 617 (Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) requires new community-focused and community-driven action to reduce air pollution and improve public health in communities that experience disproportionate burdens from exposure to air pollutants. The bill directs CARB to develop a statewide strategy to reduce air pollution in these communities around the state. AB 617 also requires CARB to select communities heavily impacted by air pollution for additional focused actions, including setting up community air pollution monitoring systems, developing community clean air programs focused on cutting emissions from local pollution sources, or both.

At its September 2018 public hearing, CARB selected ten communities for these additional actions. This included the selection of the Calexico/El Centro/Heber community for the development of both a monitoring plan and community emissions reduction program, and the Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods in San Diego (Barrio Logan/West National City/Logan Heights/Sherman Heights) for the development of a monitoring plan, over the next year. In response to these selections,

and as part of the development process for these plans, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District both convened community steering committees. A majority of the steering committee membership consists of local residents and community-based organizations, such as Comité Civico del Valle, Inc. (based in Imperial County) and the Environmental Health Coalition (based in San Diego County).

In 2018, CARB also awarded \$10 million in Community Air Grants designed to help build the capacity of California communities to participate in the implementation of AB 617. Specifically, Comité Civico del Valle, Inc. was awarded a grant of \$500,000 to expand their existing monitoring network and to continue to educate residents on air pollution in Imperial Valley and Eastern Coachella Valley. Environmental Health Coalition was awarded a \$489,000 grant in support of their efforts to educate residents on air quality issues in their community and health risks of air pollution; to provide leadership development to residents; and to continue community based research on local air quality and the development of resident scientists in and around Barrio Logan. Additionally, Casa Familiar was awarded a grant of \$492,000 to provide residents in San Ysidro with the necessary data to better understand air quality impacts (see more information below).

In addition to AB 617, CARB's Environmental Justice team supported community capacity building efforts in the border region by facilitating and attending community-led meetings such as the 2018 Environmental Health Leadership Summit, the IVAN task force, and community bus tours.

### **San Ysidro Community-Based Air Monitoring Study**

This pioneering study of air pollution in the San Ysidro community of San Diego is now in its third year, making it one of the longest-running community-engaged air monitoring projects in California. Originally funded by OEHHA and conceived as a two-year study, a grant from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) has extended the project. Additionally,

the project also obtained funding as a CalEPA Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), and has received a new Community Air Grant under the CARB's Community Air Protection Program. This new support will cover the continued operation of 12 air monitors throughout the community, along with the introduction of newer ultra-low-cost air monitoring technologies and community training.

OEHHA funded the first two years of this project, with additional support from academia and government. The study is a collaboration between the San Ysidro community and government and academic researchers, who are collecting air quality data from a network of monitors to understand air pollution at a neighborhood scale. This in turn is producing air pollution data on the border region.

Overall, the goals of the study include:

- Provide data to inform future efforts to reduce air-pollution impacts in this region
- Develop capacity to continue data collection
- Assess community needs and concerns
- Support ongoing improvements in public health
- Provide data to improve air quality characterization for CalEnviroScreen

In the study's initial stages, community residents participated in extensive mapping exercises, questionnaires, and meetings to inform the selection of air monitoring locations. The selection of the study's current 12 air monitoring sites were based on community resident input and results of previous research. A website providing real-time air quality data was launched in June 2017.

Major findings of the study to date are:

- Results for PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in the San Ysidro census tract were found to be 12 percent higher than at the Otay Mesa (Donovan County) regulatory air monitoring site.
- There were clear border and roadway traffic-related impacts on the San Ysidro community. Border wait times were observed to be significantly and positively associated with poorer air quality as measured by the air quality sensors in San Ysidro.
- Statistical models of the relationships

between border wait times or freeway traffic and air quality indicate the importance of port of entry operations. In many of these models, factors such as time of day, day of week, and U.S. or Mexican holidays all had important influences on wait times and traffic patterns, which appear to relate to 96 poor air quality episodes in San Ysidro.

The ongoing collection of data in these communities will be valuable to the understanding of localized impacts from cross-border air pollution. The next steps for the San Ysidro air study include evaluating the data in the study for potential inclusion or adjustment of CalEnviroScreen indicators, further analysis and publications.

### **Imperial County Air Study**

The San Ysidro air study was modeled after another community air study in Imperial County. The Imperial County air study is an ongoing four-year, community-based air monitoring research project funded by the National Institutes of Health. That project consists of 40 air monitors located throughout Imperial County with measurements displayed on the IVAN website. The project is a collaboration between the California Environmental Health Tracking Program, the University of Washington, and Comité Cívico Del Valle, Inc.

## **Climate Change**

### **California-Mexico MOU Climate Change Working Group**

The Climate Change Working Group of the California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment includes technical staff from CARB and SEMARNAT. Over the course of the MOU, the Climate Change Working Group pursued developing a rigorous monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework to support emissions trading system (ETS) design and shared experiences in developing climate change programs that also enable economic growth. This information sharing helped inform Mexico's 2017 pilot ETS simulation and later the design of a national mandatory program. In April 2018, the General Law on Climate Change (GLCC) was amended by the Mexican



As part of the MOU, the Climate Change Working Group participants visited a Mayan community where local leaders shared their experiences.

Congress to align the legal framework with the country's Nationally Determined Contribution and establish the legal basis for a mandatory national ETS, starting with a three-year pilot phase set to begin in 2019.

### **Under2 Coalition**

During 2018, three more Mexican states – Baja California Sur, Oaxaca, and Sonora – joined the Under2 Coalition. The Under2 Coalition is a diverse group of governments around the world that set ambitious targets to combat climate change. The Under2 Coalition is comprised of more than 220 governments, representing over 1.3 billion people and 43 percent of the global economy. The signatories of the Under2 MOU are committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to between 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, or limit to two annual metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per capita, by 2050.

### **California Climate Investments**

California Climate Investments is a statewide initiative that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Funding is allocated to eighteen state agencies to support a wide range of programs across multiple sectors including transportation and sustainable communities, clean energy and energy efficiency, and natural resources and waste diversion sectors.

In 2018, CARB oversaw general outreach to raise awareness for all California Climate Investment programs at four cultural and community events

in San Diego. In addition to this broad outreach, individual administering agencies conducted or participated in another 10 outreach and public engagement events in the border region including program workshops on Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities, Transformative Climate Communities, Healthy Soils, and agricultural water efficiency and equipment replacement measures; a technical assistance workshop for Urban Greening funding; and attending local events like the One-Stop Diesel Truck event, the community transportation forum, and an environmental health summit.

From a funding standpoint, the two California counties at the border, San Diego and Imperial, have received over \$160 million from California Climate Investments since the program's inception. Of this total, CARB has invested approximately \$40 million for over 13,000 clean cars, trucks, and buses. Other state agencies are also making significant investments, including funding weatherization and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for low-income households, urban greening and urban forestry, transit, water and energy conservation on farms, healthy soils on farms, food waste prevention and rescue, and affordable housing in the region. This is just a snapshot of funding flowing to the border region. As agencies continue to implement current and future funding rounds, additional investments will continue to be made throughout these two counties. More information on California Climate Investments can be found on the California Climate Investments website.

## **Waste**

### **Solid Waste Working Group**

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

the California-Mexico border region. These issues degrade valuable estuarine and riparian habitats and threaten water quality and public health.

The Solid Waste Working Group includes members from CalRecycle, CalEPA, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks), and the San Diego and Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Accomplishments of the group include publication of the "Solid Waste and Waste Tire Strategic Plan," the conclusion of two waste tire pilot projects where over 33,000 waste tires were removed from the border, and a workshop on waste and waste tire management held in Mexico.

At the CalRecycle 2018 California Tire Conference, CalEPA moderated a discussion about waste tires in the border region where San Diego State University presented on "The Flow of Used Tires from California to Mexico and Waste Tire Disposal Issues in Baja California and the Adjacent Area of Sonora." Much of the presentation detailed a 2017 report commissioned by the Solid Waste Working Group: "The Flow of Used and Waste Tires in the California-Mexico Border Region." The report noted improvements since 2009, including dedicated centers for waste tire collection and transfer, as well as increased municipal involvement in Mexico. Presentation recommendations included exploring potential applications of Rubberized Asphalt Concrete and Tire Derived Aggregate in Baja California by building on California's experience.

### **Waste in the Tijuana River Valley**

In 2018, the Coastal Training Program supported the University of California, San Diego's Cross-Border Initiative summer field internships by leading a group of students at the Cross-Border Community Station, based in Los Laureles Canyon and the Tijuana River Estuary. Surveys were delivered to the residents of the Divina Providencia (a community in Los Laureles) to gather information about perceptions of solid waste in their community and solutions. Additional data collection will occur to improve the management of solid waste through training and by informing local decision makers about collaborative interventions.

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## BINATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND IMPACTS ON THE OCEAN

FREE EVENT

The purpose of this seminar is to exchange experiences and identify areas of opportunity, as well as joint projects, through which the issues of solid waste management can be addressed in this Tijuana-San Diego border region.

**MARCH 21 & 22, 2018**

MARCH 21 IN TIJUANA, B.C. 8:45 am – 2:00 pm 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	CANACO TIJUANA-conferencias WASTE CONFINEMENT AREA TOUR (ECOWASTE)	MARCH 22 IN SAN DIEGO, CA 8:45 am – 11:00 am 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	SEDIMENT BASINS MIRAMAR LANDFILL
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**baja sustentable**

## MANEJO BINACIONAL DE RESIDUOS SÓLIDOS Y SU IMPACTO EN EL OCÉANO

SIN COSTO

El objetivo de este seminario es la generación de espacios de diálogo y la identificación de áreas de oportunidad, así como de proyectos conjuntos, a través de los cuales se pueda hacer frente al tema del manejo de residuos sólidos en ésta franja fronteriza Tijuana-San Diego.

**21 Y 22 DE MARZO DE 2018**

21 DE MARZO EN TIJUANA, B.C. 8:45 am – 2:00 pm 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	CANACO TIJUANA-conferencias CENTRO PARA EL MANEJO INTEGRAL DE RME (ECOWASTE)	22 DE MARZO EN SAN DIEGO, CA 8:45 am – 11:00 am 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	BORDER FIELD STATE PARK RELLENO SANITARIO MIRAMAR
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**RSVP REQUIRED TO ATTEND**  
correo electrónico: [aeguiarte@trnerr.org](mailto:aeguiarte@trnerr.org)

**SE REQUIERE CONFIRMAR ASISTENCIA**  
correo electrónico: [aeguiarte@trnerr.org](mailto:aeguiarte@trnerr.org)

Posters produced by the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve for the Binational Solid Waste Management Workshop.

In 2018, the California State Parks Solid Waste Working Group representative attended a workshop on “Binational Solid Waste Management and its Impacts on the Ocean.” This workshop brought together decision makers from both sides of the border and included two in-the-field experiences to waste management facilities in Tijuana and San Diego, giving participants an opportunity to identify emerging technologies and areas for collaboration that may benefit both countries in addressing solid waste impacts in the border region.

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (the Reserve) was awarded \$91,000 in April 2018 from the Border 2020 Program for a project aimed at encouraging consumers to reduce their use of plastic bags. The project, named

“Reduction of pollution generated by disposable plastic bags” included a public awareness campaign known as #DESEMBOLSATEBC, translated literally as “Baja California - Get Rid of Your Bags.”

The Coastal Training Program provided training



A public awareness campaign known as #DESEMBOLSATEBC translates literally as “Baja California - Get Rid of Your Bags.”



Members of the public and business owners attend a workshop regarding methods to reduce plastic bag use.

and technical assistance to decision makers in Tijuana on the social ecological impacts of marine debris and plastic pollution, and its threats to people and the environment. These efforts led the City of Tijuana to become the first Mexican city on the border to ban plastic bags. Furthermore, a partnership between the Reserve and the City of Tijuana was developed and memorialized on September 28, 2018, with the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association and the Ayuntamiento de Tijuana as signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding to decrease plastic pollution in the watershed.

Building on this success, the Coastal Training Program continues its work on the issue by developing a pilot project in convenience stores to train employees and obtain data related to the number of bags that customers use. Efforts are also underway to work with partners to replicate the project in other cities, such as Tecate, as well as provide training and technical assistance to their government officials.

### **Cross-Border Hazardous Waste**

CalePA's DTSC is responsible for tracking imported and exported hazardous waste through its California-Mexico Border Program. DTSC is an active participant in the Border 2020 binational meetings and the local San Diego County Hazardous Waste Task Force meetings. In 2018, DTSC participated in a binational meeting in the Imperial County border region, which included the California Border Environmental Task Force meeting.

DTSC also has direct communication with Mexico's Federal Environmental Enforcement

Agency, Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) and Mexico's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental, Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), to request information on facilities operating south of the border that are importing hazardous waste and electronic waste from California. This open communication is essential for investigations and enforcement activities.

DTSC provides classes on the requirements of importing and exporting hazardous waste. Classes are specifically customized for representatives from maquiladoras (export-oriented manufacturing and assembly plants), Mexican government officials, industry, and nongovernmental agencies. DTSC also provides support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on special projects related to imports and exports of hazardous waste materials.

In 2018, emphasis was placed on tracking imported and exported wastes. The DTSC Port of Entry database shows that during 2018, DTSC received one import notification and 26 export notifications. Import notices were reviewed and the receiving California facilities were checked to assure that they were permitted to accept the wastes in question. Information identifying the types and volumes of wastes imported and exported, and the companies that import and export hazardous wastes, were retained.

DTSC's San Diego Border Office conducts coordinated inspections with CBP at the Otay Mesa and Calexico East Ports of Entry. All trucks importing hazardous waste and/or hazardous materials are inspected, and the office notifies PROFEPA of any rejected hazardous waste shipments. During this reporting period, there were more than 3,085 trucks inspected, with five Summaries of Violations issued to importers of record and/or transporters.

In 2018, DTSC also conducted southbound truck stop inspections at the CBP Calexico East Port of Entry (POE) and the Otay Mesa POE. A limited number of these coordinated inspections were conducted, as they required the assistance from CBP officers, California Highway Patrol and the U.S. Department of Transportation. In

2018, southbound truck stop inspections were conducted in March and June. In all, 190 trucks were inspected for compliance with federal and state environmental laws and regulations. Of those, 17 violations were issued with one resulting in an enforcement referral to U.S. EPA.

## **Water**

At the state level, water quality in California along the California-Mexico border is under the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Basin Water Board) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board). Both regions face environmental challenges, but made notable progress in 2018. The San Diego Water Board began the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads for trash and bacterial indicators for the Tijuana River – a regulatory fix that comes on the heels of years of voluntary efforts to address these issues. The Colorado River Basin Water Board led the development of design and engineering plans for the New River Improvement Project, signaling a definitive move towards the construction of infrastructure desperately needed for decades by the residents of Calexico.

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

At the federal level, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) is headed by commissioners from the U.S. and Mexico to provide binational solutions to issues that arise during the application of U.S.-Mexico treaties regarding boundary demarcation, national ownership of waters, sanitation, water quality, and flood control in the border region. A key issue in 2018 was cross-border sewage and the institutional response to a large-scale cross-border raw sewage release that took place in February 2017.

## **Tijuana River Valley**

### **Cross-Border Sewage Challenges**

The San Diego Water Board regulates the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in its operation of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) through a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In an average month, the SBIWTP treats approximately 25 million gallons of sewage a day, sewage that originates in Tijuana, Baja California. Under the NPDES permit, the USIBWC also operates five canyon collectors to intercept and divert illicit non-storm water discharges into the SBIWTP to protect downstream communities and ecosystems. The NPDES permit also requires the USIBWC to address sewage infrastructure problems in Tijuana, Baja California, and cross-border flows of wastewater into the U.S.

The USIBWC is required to convene Binational Technical Committee (BTC) meetings, at least twice per year, to discuss transboundary flow issues with agencies in Mexico. The BTC also addresses pretreatment issues that affect the SBIWTP. These meetings help agencies from both sides of the border understand the issues and the steps needed to address water pollution along the border.

The NPDES permit also requires extensive monitoring of receiving waters to evaluate the impact of discharges from the South Bay Ocean Outfall, which discharges the effluent from the SBIWTP approximately three miles offshore. The South Bay Ocean Outfall is shared with the City of San Diego, which performs the monitoring for both agencies under separate NPDES permits.

In May 2018, following extensive engagement with the USIBWC, the U.S. Department of Justice, and agencies and organizations of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team), the San Diego Water Board issued a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue under the Citizen Suit Provisions of the Clean Water Act. On September 4, 2018, the San Diego Water Board filed a citizen suit complaint against the USIBWC alleging ongoing violations of the Clean Water Act and the NPDES permit for the SBIWTP. The

complaint outlines two separate causes of action against the USIBWC consistent with the San Diego Water Board's May 14, 2018 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue: 1) discharges from USIBWC's canyon collectors on at least 11 separate occasions caused by inadequate operations and/or maintenance of those collectors constitute violations of section 301 of the Clean Water Act; and 2) discharges from the USIBWC's canyon collectors on at least 11 separate occasions, one discharge from the Goat Canyon pump station, and numerous other monitoring, reporting, and Spill Prevention and Response Plan violations are violations of the USIBWC's NPDES permit, constituting violations of section 402 of the Clean Water Act. Trial is currently scheduled for April 13, 2020. Furthermore, the San Diego Water Board has developed and will soon issue a California Water Code section 13267 Technical Report Investigative Order to the USIBWC. The Investigative Order requires the USIBWC to conduct 18 months of comprehensive water and sediment quality monitoring and analysis of samples collected at locations through the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary with rigorous quality assurance/quality control measures.

CBP has been an active and cooperative member of the Recovery Team since its inception in 2008. Noxious cross-border wastes have posed a direct threat to onsite CBP agents for many years. To increase data gathering and sampling, CBP developed a six-month water quality monitoring program that began on January 24, 2018. The data will help them improve their characterization of the potential risk to agents' exposed to the cross-border flows of waste in the Tijuana River Valley. Once CBP identifies the specific pollutants in the waste that their agents are exposed to, U.S. federal agencies will be better positioned to assess risks to human health and identify data-driven root-cause solutions to be implemented in coordination with the Mexican government.

### **Total Maximum Daily Loads**

To address the most important environmental justice issue in the region, the San Diego Water Board proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for trash and bacterial indicators/pathogens for the Tijuana River as the top project of the 2018 Triennial Review of the Water

Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region Basin (Basin Plan). On October 10, 2018, the San Diego Water Board adopted a resolution for the 2018 Triennial Review and immediately started work on an aggressive 18-month schedule to complete and adopt amendments to add the TMDLs to the Basin Plan. The proposed TMDLs will calculate and apply Waste Load Allocations for the main channel and tributary canyons for trash and bacterial indicators/pathogens from Mexico, which will be issued to the USIBWC for compliance.

The San Diego Water Board continues to conduct and participate in outreach meetings, community forums and tours for agency staff, attorneys and elected officials. At these meetings, participants share information and identify areas of action needed to protect the communities and ecosystems impacted by transboundary flows of wastes from Mexico.

## Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) is a collaboration of more than 30 government agencies, property owners, academic and research institutions, and non-profit organizations from California and Baja California. The Recovery Team was established in 2008 and released a strategic plan in 2012. In 2015, it issued a five-year action plan that identified priority projects. In 2018, the San Diego Water Board reconvened the team and shifted it from a collaborative, roundtable organization to a stakeholder advisory forum led by the San Diego Water Board to support the development of TMDLs, advise the member agencies and organizations of the steps being taken to restore and protect water quality and beneficial uses, and to continue to coordinate local efforts and projects to improve conditions in the Tijuana River Valley. The San Diego Water Board has updated the Recovery Team's Steering Committee Charter and its meeting schedule. It is supporting the development of a comprehensive needs and opportunities analysis by the County of San Diego (see below). In 2018, the team continued to coordinate multiple projects, and members of the Recovery Team had several project updates in 2018 described below.

### Recovery Team Actions

The City of San Diego and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed Phase 1 of a jointly coordinated hydraulics and hydrology study of the Tijuana River Valley. The completed work focused on existing conditions in the Tijuana River Valley. Phase

2 will integrate data provided by Mexican agencies so that the study assessment reflects conditions in Mexico as well. Ultimately, the study findings may inform a sediment management plan for the Tijuana River Valley, which is a priority project in the Recovery Team's Five-Year Action Plan. A sediment management plan will inform regulatory requirements (such as waivers and waste discharge requirements) for the Tijuana River Valley. The Brown Property sits in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park and restoring this site to its original hydrologic purpose action is needed to enable rehabilitation of the River Valley. The County of San Diego is currently working on designs, environmental review and permitting for future fill removal and restoration at the Brown Property. Restoration of the floodplain capacity will disperse flows and reduce flood risk and erosion.

The development of a Tijuana River Integrated Water Management Program is supported by the Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation, an organization that funds a variety of water quality, health, and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs in Mexico. The foundation has designated the Tijuana River watershed as a priority watershed. University and non-profit partners in Tijuana are developing a program with funding from the foundation that is expected to support a series of projects planned on behalf of the different sectors that address pollution and other water-related issues upstream in the watershed, closer to and at the sources in Mexico. The program partners have reached out to the San Diego Water Board, agencies on the Recovery Team, and agencies and organizations in Mexico to compile information about their projects in order to make the most of the foundation's anticipated investments. The 1,000-page draft Tijuana River Integrated Water Management Program Report is





completed and being reviewed internally and by agencies and organizations in Mexico before public release in 2019.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program Solicitation for 2018-2019 included the Protect and Restore Cross-Border Urban Creeks and Watersheds' priority. This is the second grant cycle to include the cross-border priority. CDFW is currently reviewing proposals and will announce awards in the April 2019 timeframe. Two cross-border projects were awarded in December 2017, following the first inclusion of the cross-border priority.

A grant agreement was executed in June 2018 between the County of San Diego and CDFW to implement the Brown Fill Restoration Project. This grant is anticipated to be complete by April 30, 2021. As of September 2018, the County of San Diego had hired environmental subcontracts and initiated management of the project. Secondly, \$1.8 million was awarded to the Trust for Public Land to acquire the 2,160-acre Star Ranch Property, located just 1.4 miles from the California-Mexico border, and protect it in perpetuity. The protection, coupled with the immediate passive restoration and future active restoration opportunities, will ensure the protection and enhancement of the cross-border Tijuana River watershed.

The Tijuana River Action Network consists of grassroots community groups and nongovernmental organizations from the U.S. and Mexico. The Tijuana River Action Network is committed to cross-border collaboration to address conservation and restoration in the Tijuana River watershed by engaging in outreach and education, and advocating for natural resources. Tijuana River Action Month (TRAM) is a series of annual educational and stewardship events held during September and October to benefit the Tijuana River

watershed and inspire stewardship in community volunteers. Because of the continuing transboundary flows of sanitary and industrial wastes and the documented injuries and illnesses to volunteers and CBP, TRAM 2018 focused on limited beach clean-up education and advocacy about the substantial wastes in the Tijuana River Valley. Renewed and sustained community involvement to clean up trash and tires in future TRAM events is contingent upon effective source reduction, as well as interception and diversion of sewage and other contaminated flows to reduce the risk of illness and injury to participating members of the public.

In 2018, the County of San Diego began preparing a Comprehensive Needs and Opportunities Analysis Report for publication in December 2019 pursuant to Senate Bill 507 (Statutes of 2017), which provided \$500,000 to California State Parks and the County of San Diego to update the "Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water" to include wastewater and runoff, and to conduct a study focused on the improvement and protection of the natural lands, including the main river channel, in the Tijuana River Valley. Citing the serious impacts of sewage pollution from multiple large wastewater releases from Tijuana in 2017, the statute provides funding to identify critical project to restore and protect water quality, habitat quality and the health of downstream communities.

4Walls International launched their Border Impact Bond (BIB) in November 2018. This public-private partnership plans to invest private capital in green infrastructure projects upstream in the Tijuana River watershed to incentivize solid waste collection while protecting beaches and waterways downstream.



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

### Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) is the state partner of NOAA in management of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (the Reserve). Many efforts focused in the border region are accomplished in the context of the Reserve partnership with the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Activities conducted through Reserve programs include tracking “vital signs” of ecosystems through long-term research and monitoring, “K-gray” education, training and technical assistance for decision-makers on topics including binational climate resilience and land stewardship.



Monument Road flooded.  
Courtesy of Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Within the Reserve, Monument Road extends roughly 1.5 miles, connecting the entrance to Border Field State Park with the Reserve’s day-use facility atop Monument Mesa in the southwest corner of the U.S. The facility offers stunning

views of the Reserve, Mexico, downtown San Diego and the surrounding mountain ranges. It is also the location of Friendship Park, an area long cherished by the local community as a gathering place for people in the U.S. and Mexico to come together and meet at the International Border Fence. Aside from the Department of Homeland Security access road (typically not available to the public), Monument Road is the only vehicle-based access to this location. However, due to sedimentation and flooding, the road is heavily damaged and remains flooded for up to seven months of the year, significantly affecting public access to the Reserve and inhibiting effective Reserve operations. A sustainable fix to Monument Road has long been a priority of the Reserve.

During the 2018 calendar year, California State Parks continued efforts to repair Monument Road. During this preliminary planning process, California State Parks worked with consultants and the California Coastal Commission to advance several design options including infrastructure elements such as bridges, arching culverts, causeway structures, and fill-on-grade alternatives. In addition, California State Parks staff advanced concepts for the Border Educational Plaza - an interpretive facility linked to the Monument road repair project, and planned for the southwest corner of the U.S. The project will educate the public and decision makers about the U.S.-Mexico border.

In 2018, California State Parks allocated \$1.47 million for excavation of 15,000 cubic yards and haul-off of 35,000 cubic yards of sediment and trash from the two Goat Canyon Sediment Basins. California State Parks maintains trash capture infrastructure in Goat Canyon, consisting of two lines of floating booms deployed across the creek channel.

The Reserve was awarded \$101,553 in fall 2018 from NOAA’s Marine Debris Program’s Community-Based Cleanup Grant Initiative. This grant funds a range of clean-up and education and outreach efforts focused on resolving land-based sources of marine debris, such as the trash flows in the Tijuana River Valley. The project builds upon the success of the 2014 and 2016 award and includes a focus on tracking the quantity of debris captured



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



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

and the co-benefits of reducing marine debris while reducing flood hazards in Los Laureles Canyon, a sub-watershed in Tijuana, Baja California. In 2018, the Reserve's Coastal Training Program worked with decision makers on both sides of the border to identify areas of opportunity to implement joint efforts to reduce solid waste and its transboundary impact.

As a result of this engagement and as an outcome of the Marine Debris project, a "Binational Solid Waste Management and its Impacts on the Ocean" workshop was delivered in March 2018. This workshop brought together decision makers from both sides of the border. Participants presented their projects and other information of interest to both countries. To supplement the workshop, the Reserve organized two field experiences to waste management facilities in Tijuana and San Diego, giving participants an opportunity to identify emerging technologies and areas for collaboration that may benefit both countries in addressing solid waste impacts in

the border region. In 2019, the grant will support upgrades to the Goat Canyon Sediment Basin trash booms, coordination and implementation of Tijuana River Action Month along with the Tijuana River Action Network partners, and additional training and technical assistance through the Coastal Training Program.

The Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program (Tidal Program) focuses on long-term protection and restoration of the Tijuana Estuary. Initiated in the 1980s, this program has provided important guidance and vision for all major projects and programs focused on conservation and restoration of the Tijuana Estuary. The Tidal Program is being carried out as adaptive restoration, where research and monitoring are embedded into management efforts, so that lessons can be learned to iteratively improve the ability to enhance wetland habitats and their functioning. The current focus of this program is to utilize the "2008 Tidal Program Feasibility Study" for the 250-acre salt marsh restoration project for implementation, focusing on an 80-acre section in the northern portion of the project site. This effort will involve development of final engineering designs and environmental review, funded by the California Wildlife Conservation Board.

The Reserve's Coastal Training Program strategic plan identifies current and anticipated training partnerships and decision-maker training audiences that the program has reached through its training and technical assistance offerings. The program evaluated which audiences could be better supported in Tijuana and the Mexico portion of the watershed. The Coastal Training Program needs assessment was delivered in 2018 to 45 participants from the five municipalities of the State of Baja California: Tijuana, Playas de Rosarito, Ensenada, Tecate, and Mexicali. Respondents included local government agencies, state government agencies, non-profits, private sector businesses, citizens, and academia. Participants indicated their interest in training in the following specific climate change-related subjects. Notably, the majority of respondents reported great interest in receiving training in areas (and corresponding specific offerings under each topic area) of

climate change science, communication, vulnerability assessments, planning for climate change, adaptation strategies, and implementation of those strategies.



The two winning images from the 2018 Baja King Tides exhibition



The Coastal Training Program continues to grow the Baja King Tides Initiative in the border region by reaching out to the cities of Tijuana, Ensenada and Playas de Rosarito to collect real-time data on inundation, flooding, erosion and other coastal changes. King tides are the highest naturally occurring, predictable tides that manifest in the local rise and fall of sea levels. Images of king tides help people visualize future sea levels by observing the highest high tides of today. Images of king tides will help coastal decision makers validate sea level rise projections being considered among local adaptation planning efforts, and increase understanding of impacts to coastal ecosystems. During the 2018 Baja King Tides exhibition, awards were presented for photos demonstrating the effects of King Tides on coastal infrastructure, habitats, and communities in Baja California, Mexico. By

interacting with researchers from the Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education at Ensenada, Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and decision makers such as SPA, this event raises awareness of urban and coastal flooding, sea level rise, and climate change. The Reserve, working with stakeholders from both countries, believes initiatives like these will inform future planning efforts. In parallel, the Reserve continues to pursue climate change studies, planning and evaluation through the Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley project. Climate scenarios for the Tijuana River Valley can be found online: <http://trnerr.org/currv/>.

During rain events, trash compromises flood conveyance channels and exacerbates flood hazards, resulting in marine debris and other environmental consequences in the Tijuana Estuary. Addressing these challenges must be multifaceted by capturing and cleaning up debris in the Tijuana River Valley and also by raising awareness about the issue and preventing debris at the source. To address this issue, the Coastal Training Program has partnered with non-profit organizations, academia, flood risk managers, and emergency managers to explore training and technical assistance opportunities to address trash conditions while concurrently reducing flood risk and other human health impacts. An early-identified project is to develop a module for a flood risk training delivered by municipal government that is focused on solid waste reduction.

Knowledge about the flood conditions in the Tijuana River Valley and Los Laureles Canyon have been informed by the Flood Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Environments (FloodRISE) project. The FloodRise Project (funded by the National Science Foundation and administered by the University of California-Irvine in partnership with the Reserve) developed flood hazard viewers for the Tijuana River Valley and Los Laureles Canyon through engagement with stakeholders in the Tijuana River Valley and Tijuana.

As an extension of the FloodRISE work, NOAA's Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise (EESLR) program is funded by the University of California-

Irvine. The EESLR program models efforts in the Tijuana River Valley to understand and address natural and nature-based approaches to sediment management in southern California. SedRISE brings together an interdisciplinary team of researchers in climate, hydrology, hydraulics, ecology, planning, policy and political science to partner with a Management Transition Advisory Group made of up personnel working on the front lines of coastal management in California. The goal of this work is to co-produce actionable knowledge about managing sediment as a resource, including the identification of promising interventions and optimal timescales of implementation.

California State Parks, in connection with the Reserve, received grant funding (\$890,000 from the California Department of Water Resources/ San Diego County Water Authority and \$250,000 from the State Coastal Conservancy) for completion of final design and environmental review for a restoration project at the former Nelson Sloan Quarry, an abandoned sand and gravel quarry in the Tijuana River Valley. This is scheduled to begin in January 2019. Work includes community outreach and the development of a multi-jurisdictional operations agreement for long-term management of the project. The Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration Project offers an opportunity for development of Reserve partnerships, as it will allow for a cost effective location for the placement of sediment dredged from flood control channels, retention basins, and restoration projects in the Tijuana River Valley.

## Imperial Valley

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

CalEPA and its Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and State Water Resources Control Board have partnered with Comité Civico Del Valle, Inc., and the University of Washington to study untreated canal water that is supplied to more than 2,700 households in the Imperial Valley for some domestic uses.

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) operates more than 3,000 miles of canals that convey water from the Colorado River to the Imperial Valley

for municipal uses, agriculture and industrial activities. In 2016, 2,758 households relied on untreated canal water to shower, wash food and dishes, and other domestic uses. Because the water is untreated, domestic users are not allowed to drink or cook with the water and households served by canals must demonstrate proof of an alternate water supply that meets the state's drinking water standards. Houses are not considered "service connections" as defined by state law, and IID is exempt from public water system permitting requirements. Nevertheless, canals serving communities may run through agricultural and industrial areas and the potential presence of pesticides, fertilizers, and other contaminants is a concern. Residents have commented that the water has a foul odor, stains clothing, and has caused rashes on infants.

The assessment is intended to answer the following questions:

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

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

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



Unlined, open canals provide water for domestic use to rural homes in Imperial County

The data generated from this study may also be helpful in characterizing the pollution burden of this area for OEHHA's CalEnviroScreen tool.

The study's first community steering committee meeting was held in November 2017, where 11 community members learned about water quality, shared their insights and expressed their concerns. The study partners convened a week of workshops in August 2018 to discuss the needs assessment with community members. Researchers completed an analysis to help identify where canal water users are concentrated in Imperial County.

### **New River**

The New River is a cross-border, transboundary river that flows from Mexicali, Baja California, into the city of Calexico and on to the Salton Sea. According to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (the Regional Water Board), the New River is the most severely polluted river of its size in the U.S. and receives discharges of waste from domestic, agricultural and industrial sources in Mexico. This decades-old problem has for too long threatened public health and hindered economic development in Imperial County.

In 2009, the California State Assembly directed the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to create a strategic plan for the New River that would protect human health. In 2011, the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan was completed, but lacked any funding to implement the recommendations. For years, the policy recommendations contained in the plan were driven forward by local and regional stakeholders, but no resources were available to build the infrastructure components contemplated in the plan. In 2016, the Regional Water Board presented an updated plan with an approach that reduced the cost of the project from approximately \$80 million to an estimated \$20 million by removing the planned disinfection facility. The update was presented to the council and sent to the California Legislature.

Senate Bill 859 (Statutes of 2016) then appropriated \$1.4 million of funding from the Waste Discharge Permit Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board in furtherance of

projects for eliminating public health and safety risks from wastewater, and agricultural and other drainage of urbanized areas for tributaries to the Salton Sea. In 2018, using those resources, CalEPA, the Regional Water Board, the City of Calexico and other stakeholders worked together with Michael Baker International to prepare the engineering and design plans for the infrastructure to be built to finally fix the problem as faced by the community of Calexico. The infrastructure components include 1) installing a trash screen just downstream from the Mexico border; 2) piping polluted water away from Calexico to wetlands and aeration structures for remediation; and 3) replacing polluted water in the river channel with treated wastewater from the city's treatment plant. Throughout the contract, stakeholder meetings were held to review partial and later full submittal of New River Improvement Project plans. Representatives included the Regional Water Board, U.S. Border Patrol, Department of Homeland Security, Imperial Irrigation District, staff of California State Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, Imperial County, City of Calexico, and CalEPA. The contract for the design and engineering plans was completed on October 31, 2018. The City of Calexico is expected to launch the environmental permitting process for the planned infrastructure in early 2019.

Meetings and workshops were held throughout the year to keep the public apprised of progress. In May, a New River workshop was held and included a tour of the New River and key locations for the project. In July, the City of Calexico and the Regional Water Board convened a community meeting in Calexico to provide an update on project milestones. At the IBWC Citizen's Forum in October, updates on the New River Improvement Project and River Parkway Project were provided. That same month, at the Binational Technical Committee meeting, the Regional Water Board presented an overview and update on the status of the New River Improvement Project. A community meeting is expected in 2019 when the city begins the environmental permitting process. In 2018, California voters passed Proposition 68, which dedicated \$10 million for implementing the New

River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program.

### **Cross-Border Sewage Challenges - Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board**

In 2018, the Regional Water Board continued to work cooperatively with U.S. EPA, the IBWC, and Mexico to address New River pollution originating from Mexicali. This was done largely through the Binational Technical Committee (BTC). Big spill events for 2018 included a raw sewage discharge into the New River that occurred at the Madero Lift Station, Mexicali, Baja California in August due to pump failure. The discharge volume was 47,550 gallons over three hours and 20 minutes.

To address aging sewage infrastructure in Mexicali, bypass equipment (such as hoses, connections, and inflatable plugs with accessories) was delivered to Mexicali in May 2018. It purchased with \$330,000 in funds from the U.S. EPA and the North American Development Bank (NADBank). An ensuing BTC meeting and New River tour were held later that month by the Baja California Commission of Public Works in Mexicali, Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali (CESPM), with representatives of the the Regional Water Board, CESPM, Mexico's National Water Commission, Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA), the Mexico branch of IBWC, Comisión Internacional de Límites del Agua (CILA), USIBWC, and NADBank. They visited the Tula West Drain, a tributary to the New River well known for its heavy loads of trash, pumping plants 1, 2, and 5, Zaragoza Lagoons, which treat the areas

known as Mexicali I and III, and the Sempra Power Plant point of discharge. After the tour, representatives discussed the progress of the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali and the future implementation of reporting protocols for bypass incidents.

In July, the BTC convened again in Mexicali. Representatives included the Regional Water Board, CONAGUA, CILA, USIBWC, and CEA. They conducted site visits to Las Arenitas WWTP, where desilting was taking place, and Pumping Plants 2 and 5, which were in the final stages of rehabilitation. After the tour, all representatives met to discuss the actions implemented by CESPM to improve infrastructure, the status on the equipment received by CESPM to help prevent sewage bypasses, the notification protocol for bypasses, and water quality data for the New River.

In October, the Regional Water Board attended the bimonthly New River tour of the key sewage infrastructure in Mexicali being rehabilitated. CESPM conducted a demonstration using the bypass equipment that was provided by NADBank's and U.S. EPA's funds.

The Regional Water Board also worked to implement its regulatory programs to address New River pollution from sources in the Imperial Valley. Throughout 2018, 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 progress of river cleanup, compliance with California water quality standards, as well as emerging pollutants of concern.



# Energy

Since its inception, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) has actively promoted energy efficiency, renewables, clean energy research, and alternative fuels. The Energy Commission engages with the international community to share knowledge and technology related to decarbonizing the energy sector and achieving our shared greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Mexico has been an important focus of this work, given its shared border and strong historic, cultural, ethnic, and economic ties with California. The Energy Commission has been working with the federal Mexican government and individual Mexican states to achieve these objectives. This work has been focused around the signing and implementation of memoranda of understanding between the Energy Commission, the federal government of Mexico, and the governments of Mexican states.

The Energy Commission signed an Energy MOU with Mexico in 2014, with the Mexican State of Jalisco in 2016 and the Mexican State of Aguascalientes in 2017. The MOUs are focused on collaborating on clean energy policies and programs of mutual interest including, but not limited to, areas such as energy efficiency, clean energy technology, demand-side management, low and zero-emission vehicles, integrated resource planning, and aiding renewables integration, grid regionalization and the entrance of Baja into the California Independent System Operator's (CAISO) Energy Imbalance Market (EIM). The following paragraphs summarize the Energy Commission's activities in implementing its energy MOUs with Mexico in 2018 and outline the Commission's implementation plan for 2019.

The Energy Commission had dynamic and effective engagement with Mexico in 2018 on

clean energy. Given changing political dynamics in Mexico, much of the Energy Commission's work that year in 2018 was focused on establishing and strengthening institutional clean energy ties between Mexico and California, particularly among research institutions.

Building on the previous years' work, the Energy Commission continued to build strong communication and collaboration with the State of Jalisco. Working with existing longtime partners at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Energy and Efficiency Institute and counterparts at the Jalisco Energy Agency, the Energy Commission has been involved in planning for the official ribbon cutting of Jalisco's Lighting Applications Research Center, currently scheduled for spring of 2019. Funded by Mexico's Ministry of Energy, Secretaría de Energía (SENER), and the National Council of Science and Technology, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT), the Lighting Applications Research Center is a joint project between the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara (UAG) and the UC Davis Energy and Efficiency Institute. The goal of the research center is to effect a long-lasting transformation in energy efficient lighting in Mexico that will save Mexican consumers money with reduced utility bills, reduced demand on the electrical grid, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The State of Baja California's electrical grid is connected to California's electrical grid and is isolated from the rest of Mexico. In 2018, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) held two workshops with its Mexican counterpart, the National Center for Energy Control, Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE): one in February focusing on ISO market quality and renewable integration; and one in October focusing on market processes. The participation of CENACE in the CAISO Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) in Baja California is pending work at CENACE. EIM is a real-time bulk power trading market, the first of its kind in the western U.S. EIM's advanced market systems automatically find the lowest-cost energy to serve real-time customer demand across a wide geographic area. Utilities maintain control over their assets and remain

responsible for balancing requirements while sharing in the cost benefits the market produces for participants. Since launching in 2014, the western EIM has enhanced grid reliability and generated cost savings in the millions for its participants. Besides its economic advantages, the EIM improves the integration of renewable energy, which leads to a cleaner, greener grid. CAISO expects CENACE to be part of the CAISO EIM in the coming years.

On April 26, 2018, the Energy Commission welcomed a visit from CRE. The visit, organized by Eisenhower Fellowships, was designed to give CRE insight into California's policies on energy storage, in anticipation of a potential CRE rulemaking on storage.

Since 2010, the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento has organized a California-Mexico promotion day. In 2018, the Energy Commission hosted a consulate delegation for a large meeting at the California Energy Commission. The Mexican Consul General and the Energy Commission as well as academics from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and SENER's representative in California, discussed institutionalizing California and Mexico's clean energy collaboration.

On June 1, 2018, the Energy Commission partnered with Mexico's National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy and LBNL's Mexico Initiative to host a joint webinar to discuss recent updates and future collaborations on energy efficiency policy, with a special emphasis on data. Presentations placed an emphasis on the ability of data to inform energy efficiency policy making. A discussion ensued about the need to increase efficiency in air conditioning in Mexico, given the anticipated large increase in cooling load in Northern Mexico over the coming decades as higher temperatures and wealth will increase demand for cooling. More than 150 people joined the webinar, which has been saved to the California Energy Commission's International Activities webpage.

A large delegation from Mexico participated in the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS), held in September 2018 in San Francisco. The Minister of Urban Development and Environment of the

State of Yucatan was present and committed Yucatan to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, a challenge that the Energy Commission was involved in establishing.

In October 2018, the Energy Commission sent two technical experts to Mexico City at the request of SENER to participate in workshops on energy efficiency sponsored by the Germany International Development Agency. The Commissions' Efficiency Division gave a presentation on the Energy Commission's plans for implementing the Governor Brown's energy efficiency goals at a workshop focused on White Certificates, or energy savings certificates, are energy efficiency market compliance instruments.

For a second year, in 2018, the Energy Commission partnered with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to establish the California portion of NREL's Distributed Energy Generation Tour. This year's tour brought together energy experts from throughout Latin America. The campaign, "Accelerating the Adoption of Distributed Generation in Strategic Regions" is organized in partnership with the 21st Century Partnership, a CEM initiative with a focus on the proactive planning of the energy transition based on clean energy, with a target on electrical systems. In California, the NREL delegation visited the CPUC, SMUD, PG&E, and the CAISO. Attendees included representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Ecuador, as well as officials from NREL and Germany.

On November 13, 2018, the Energy Commission met with Stanford University, officials from the Baja Energy Commission, and representatives of Baja merchants on expanding clean energy collaboration between the State of California and the State of Baja California. The meeting was hosted by the Institute of the Americas. Officials from the Baja Energy Commission expressed a desire to sign a new energy MOU with the Energy Commission in 2019.

In December 2018, the Energy Commission had a representative named as a member of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), an independent federal advisory committee that

advises the U.S. President and Congress on good neighbor practices along the U.S. border with Mexico. The 2018 GNEB report will discuss the energy links between California and Mexico, as well as the opportunities for further integration.

With new administrations in both California and Mexico in 2019, the Energy Commission is planning to reconnect and strengthen ties with Mexico and Mexican states. This reconnection may take the form of new clean energy MOUs. Aiding in the establishment of the UCD/UAG Lighting Center will be a priority in 2019. The Energy Commission is working with UC Davis, UAG, and the State of Jalisco to hold a series of meetings in early 2019 in Guadalajara aimed at sharing knowledge of how the UC-Davis Lighting Center was able to establish itself after its initial grants and sharing information about the importance of participation from Mexican industry. The Energy Commission is also

working with Stanford University, the Institute of the Americas, and officials from Baja on an event designed to both strengthen ties between Baja and California and engage the new federal administration in Mexico on clean energy.



# Agriculture

Agriculture is a key economic driver in both California and Mexico. Mexico is California's fifth largest agricultural export destination, valued at more than \$1 billion. Additionally, approximately 30 percent of California's overall dairy exports are destined for the market. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) collaborates with partners in the state and at the federal level on a variety of agricultural issues, including trade and agricultural workforce and climate smart agriculture. Coordination within California mainly centers on animal health, food safety, pest prevention, and plant health. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has also continued working on critical border-related agriculture issues between California and Mexico.

## California Department of Food and Agriculture

In October 2018, Baja California joined the Global Soil Health Challenge that was announced by California and France at the Global Climate Action Summit in September 2018. The Global Soil Health Challenge calls on governments across the world – both national and subnational – to include programs that restore soil health under their national plan to meet targets under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Commitments under the challenge include measures to not only address climate change, but also to increase biodiversity and food safety.

In October, CDFA participated in the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, which brings together state and national agricultural representatives from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to discuss current issues and further ongoing relationships. October's meeting was held in the Mexican State

of Nuevo Leon and provided opportunities for California and Baja to further collaborate on agricultural priorities in the coming year. In 2016, CDFA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat of Agricultural Development of Baja California, Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario (formerly SEFOA, now SEDAGRO), and the CDFA continues to collaborate under the MOU's framework.

CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division continues to work with border state counterparts in addressing plant pests of mutual concern. Most recent efforts have focused on monitoring and treatment along the border for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). This pest acts as a carrier/vector spreading Huanglongbing (HLB), a devastating disease of citrus trees. Other collaboration includes the California-Baja California Integration Group, which included 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 February 2018, CDFA participated in a Citrus Summit with federal plant health officials from the U.S. and Mexico in San Diego. This meeting included representatives from Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas. Participants reaffirmed their ongoing commitment to cooperation and collaboration in addressing citrus issues. In order to enhance pest prevention and plant health, Mexico continues to supply CDFA with biological control parasitoids for addressing an infestation of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug in the Coachella Valley.

CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Division focuses on 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, communication and ongoing professional contacts and meetings. In advancing the effort to protect animal health along the border through collaboration in 2018,

CDFA participated in bilateral working groups on Bovine Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Cattle Fever Ticks. CDFA also conducted outreach at the Agro Baja Fair in Mexicali, and participated in border site inspections for animal importation from Sonora and Baja California. These activities complement the ongoing collaboration and communication between state animal health officials along the border region.

### **California Department of Pesticide Regulation**

On March 16, 2018, DPR assisted at a fieldworker pesticide safety training session sponsored by the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner. The training was provided as part of the outreach efforts related to the Farm Worker Health Initiative, which includes members from industry, farm worker advocacy groups, health providers and other county, state and U.S. EPA representatives to improve the health and safety for fieldworkers.

On April 16, 2018, DPR attended a Promotores Conference in Oakland. The objective of the conference was to relate the work of community health workers, also known as Promotores de Salud, in the U.S. with those in Mexico (Iniciativa Binacional Zacatecana de Salud) to improve the health of migrants as well as develop a binational model of promotores. This event was sponsored by the Health Initiative of the Americas from UC Berkeley.

On July 20, 2018, DPR staff participated in the “2018 Adelante Promotores Conference” in San Diego. This annual conference aims to increase the professional and interpersonal capabilities of Promotores by providing information about various health related topics affecting the community.

On April 20, 2018, DPR shared pesticide safety information at the Mixteco Indigenous Community Organization Project (MICOP) Indigenous Knowledge conference. The Ventura Mexican Consulate gave the welcoming remarks and participated at the conference. This event brought community leaders and local and state representatives to learn about the indigenous culture and how the state can better serve the Mixteco community. There are approximately

20,000 indigenous immigrants living and working in Ventura County, many of whom are farmworkers.

In May 2018, the Sacramento General Consulate of Mexico reached out to agencies representing the agricultural workforce in Northern California to participate in Sacramento General Consulate Roundtable Meetings, with the focus on the protection and defense of labor rights. These quarterly meetings include representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, UC Davis, the California Employment Development Department, the California Department of Fair Employment & Housing and DPR. Participants discussed recent and ongoing projects focused on labor rights in order to identify overlapping interests and potential areas for collaboration between agencies.

DPR presented information on pesticide safety during the General Mexican Consulates Labor Rights Week organized by the 10 General Mexican Consulates’ of California. This annual event was held on August 27-31, 2018. DPR participated at the Mexican consulates in San Jose, Sacramento, and Oxnard.

October 18-19, 2018, DPR attended the 9th Annual Environmental Health Leadership Summit in Heber (Imperial County). The organizer was Comite Cívico del Valle, Inc., the founder of the Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN) networks. The summit ensured that Imperial Valley residents have the venue and resources to network and promote civic engagement. This summit included plenary presentations on topics such as: climate change equity, air monitoring, fieldworker safety and the environmental justice movement in California.

On December 7, 2018, DPR attended the 39th Annual Farmworker Appreciation Breakfast in Calexico. DPR staff, U.S. EPA Region 9 staff and the Imperial County Agriculture Commissioner served breakfast and provided pesticide safety information to farmworkers from Mexicali, Baja California, coming to work in the Imperial Valley. This early morning event was sponsored by the California Employment Development Department in partnership with the Farmworker Services Coalition of Imperial County.

On December 8, 2018, DPR attended the Sacramento Mexican Consulate Women's Leadership Conference. As the region's premier Spanish-language conference for women. The event equips women with relevant and timely information on health issues such as diabetes, mental health and worker safety, as well as other important legal and educational topics affecting the Latino immigrant community.

In 2018, DPR statistics showed that approximately 7,200 viewers watched 19,000 minutes of Spanish language pesticide safety videos. Approximately 3,000 of these viewers live in Mexico. The top viewed videos were on integrated pest management in schools, signs and symptoms of pesticide poisoning, and how to get rid of mice and rats at your day care center.



DPR hopes to utilize technology to share pesticide safety information and increase pesticide incident reporting.

### **Fieldworker Mobile App**

DPR is aware of public concern that some pesticide incidents, including injuries and illnesses, may not be reported for a variety of reasons. To address these concerns and to provide another method to report issues, DPR has created a mobile app to report a pesticide illness, incident or concern, quickly and easily. It takes advantage of the expanding use of mobile technology in the urban and agricultural sectors. DPR contracted with CaliCo Solutions to develop a mobile app for reporting pesticide incidents and concerns. Through this app, DPR hopes to make it easier for anyone, including farmworkers, growers and others to make timely reports of pesticide issues to the appropriate pesticide regulatory authority. DPR also expects the app to be another important tool in enhancing the

processing, tracking, and timeliness of initiating responses to pesticide incidents as appropriate, as well as evaluating DPR's regulatory programs.

On December 6th, DPR staff met with staff from Telemundo 20 in San Diego to find effective ways to disseminate DPR's new Fieldworker Mobil Report App, once it becomes available. Features of the mobile app will include the ability to attach photographs and videos, capture GPS coordinates, allow incident status tracking, and report anonymously anytime. The app will instantly route incoming reports of pesticide incidents to DPR's Enforcement Branch and the appropriate county agricultural commissioner. DPR and CaliCo solicited input in December 2018 and plan to have a revised app in January 2019, with an expectation to launch the app in spring 2019. The app will be available on DPR's website. The app will be available for download from the DPR web page and through app stores.

# Transportation

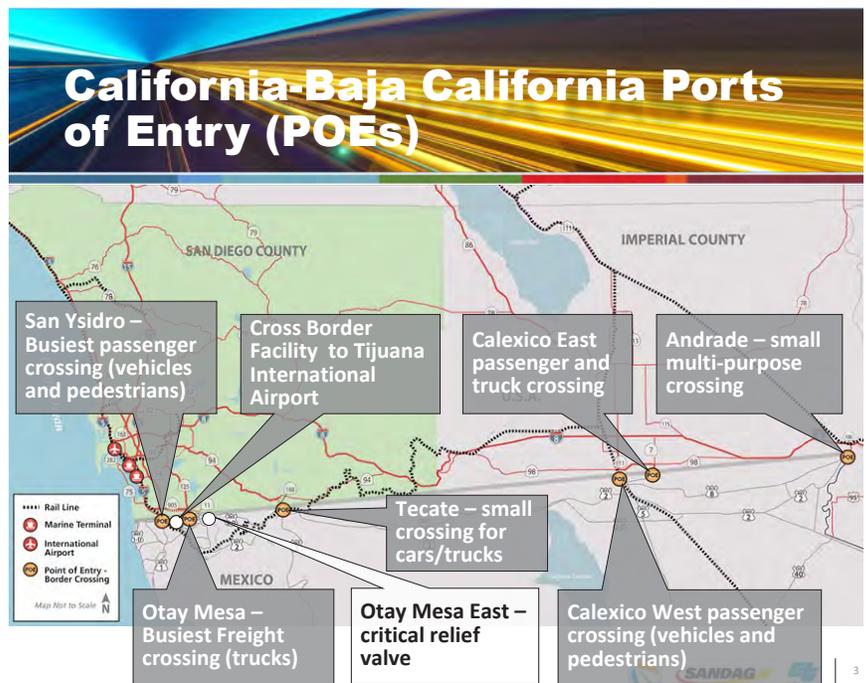
The California-Mexico border is home to seven international border crossings, two of which are among the busiest of all U.S. crossings. In 2018, California’s international border crossings processed nearly 17.7 million pedestrian crossings, 32 million personal vehicles, and over 1.1 million commercial 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 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. A healthy border region is vital to achieving the region’s economic, public health, air quality, and mobility objectives. New projects like the flagship Otay Mesa East International Land Port of Entry (POE) will reduce border crossing wait times, improve flow of traffic between California and Mexico, and bring California closer to meeting these objectives. Together these efforts explore innovative approaches for binational transportation planning, border infrastructure project funding, and opportunities for Caltrans and its partners to improve the California-Mexico border.

Tens of thousands of personal and

commercial vehicles travel between San Diego, California and Tijuana, Baja California every day. These travelers are plagued by unpredictable border-crossing traffic congestion and delays. Wait times routinely exceed two hours at the seven existing ports of entry. 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. A 2006 study funded by Caltrans and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) found that more than eight million trips in the region were lost per year as drivers chose to avoid battling the expected congestion. The study equated impacts of border delay to an economic loss of nearly \$1.3 billion in potential yearly revenues.

To update the 2006 study, another study is underway that assesses how cross-border delays impact economic activity, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions: “The California-Baja California Binational Region - A Fresh Look at Impacts of Border Delays Study.” Caltrans is working in close partnership with SANDAG and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC). The study also examines practices to improve border wait-time data collection and reliability. In 2018, Caltrans reviewed the draft report, which is expected to be finalized in the fall of 2019.



### **San Ysidro Port of Entry**

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 is working closely with the federal government on the planning and construction of the POE's expansion, which is being led by the U.S. General Services Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Caltrans has 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 existing Otay Mesa POE is the busiest commercial port in California. It processed more than \$15.4 billion in exports and \$27.4 billion in imports in 2017. Additionally, the Otay Mesa POE processes more than 3.3 million pedestrians and 8.3 million vehicles annually. The US Congress has authorized, but not yet appropriated funding for the US General Services Administration to begin construction of this expansion. During this time, Caltrans is working with the federal government on the planning of the POE's expansion. In January 2019, the new Otay Mesa Transit Center will open along with a new South Bay Rapid Transit Line, providing transit service between the Otay Mesa POE and Chula Vista, as well as downtown San Diego. Construction on the center began in summer 2017.

### **Unified Cargo Processing Pilot Program**

In 2018, the CBP and Mexico's federal tax administration service, Servicio de Administración Tributaria (SAT), continued operating the Unified Cargo Processing Program launched in late 2017 at the Otay Mesa Cargo Facility for Free and Secure Trade (FAST) participants. Under the Unified Cargo Processing pilot, CBP and SAT conduct joint cargo inspections at the Port of Entry - eliminating separate inspections and subsequently reducing wait times at the border. The program aids in the reduction of wait times and creates more efficient inspections that lower the cost of doing

business in the region. It also enhances national security for both countries. The program is now in place at the Otay Mesa, Calexico East, and Tecate commercial ports of entry.

### **Otay Mesa East Port of Entry**

A new port of entry, the Otay Mesa East POE, and improvements to State Route 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 improvements to State Route 11 (SR-11), which calls for toll roads approaching the border crossing both north and south of the border that will allow travelers to pay a fee to get to the border more quickly. The project's goal is 20-minute average wait times using a variable tolling system that serves as both a revenue collection tool and a transportation demand management tool. Once completed, they will be California's first toll roads that lead to a POE. Construction of the project is taking place in multiple segments. The estimated cost of all improvements is expected to be between \$750-\$850 million.

Segment 1 of SR-11 was completed and opened to traffic in spring 2016 and the northbound connectors between State Route 905 (SR-905), State Route 125 (SR-125), and SR-11 were opened to traffic in fall 2016. Construction of Segment 4, the southbound connectors between SR-125 and SR-905 and SR-11 and Segment 2A are scheduled for construction in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Caltrans has obtained a possession and use agreement with major parcel owners that secures the right-of-way for the POE and the roadway. Caltrans is also proceeding with acquiring the remaining right-of-way for the project. Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration completed a Cost Estimate Review (CER) for the project. This risk-based estimate review is required for all high-profile projects with a total cost of \$500 million or higher. The CER exercise verified that project estimates are within an acceptable range of risk.

The Otay Mesa East POE project team continues

to advance discussions with federal partners on how to fund the operations and maintenance of the new crossing on the U.S. side. SANDAG and Caltrans are also in the process of conducting an Innovation Analysis to determine the best and most efficient facility size and layout for the new POE. This analysis will include updating the “Traffic and Revenue Study” to evaluate impacts of the project based on current and projected trade levels, crossing demand, traffic volumes, and optimizing the POE. The data from the Innovation Analysis is expected to be completed in 2019.

In May 2018, Caltrans received Senate Bill 1 (Statutes of 2017) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funds for a suite of border projects. These include: design and construction of the Siempre Viva Interchange, which will complete the final piece of State Route 11 roadway as part of Segment 2; site preparation for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility as part of Segment 2; and, site preparation for the Otay Mesa East POE as part of Segment 3. The total amount of funding awarded under TCEP for the Otay Mesa East project totaled \$82.5 million.

The Presidential Permit for the Otay Mesa East POE project was first issued in 2008. This permit was the first issued by the U.S. Department of State with a ten-year expiration date. It was set to expire on November 20, 2018, but CalTrans and SANDAG obtained a new Presidential permit the day before which provides for another 10 years.

### **Advanced Technology Corridors Border Pilot Project**

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

implement information management systems, innovative operation techniques, and enhanced traffic management technology.

The Advanced Technology Corridors Border pilot project will use a range of advanced technologies to improve safety and mobility, while reducing the environmental impact of transportation across the border. In 2017, Caltrans completed a work plan for this pilot project, which has the goal of providing cross-border travelers with better information to aid them in travel decisions on when and how to travel across the border in the least amount of time. Moreover, the pilot project aims to disseminate accurate wait time information to assist local, state and federal agencies in border operations and traffic management. Contingent on federal and local support, the pilot project may incorporate a component on mobility incentives for zero and near-zero emission vehicles crossing the border. The border region partners and agencies were awarded \$11.9 million dollars in TCEP funding at the May 2018 CTC meeting for construction and plans, specification and estimates.

### **Pilot Border Wait Time System**

Currently, a pilot Border Wait Time System for southbound traffic into Mexico is in operation at the San Ysidro POE and the data is available on Caltrans’ QuickMap website and mobile app at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>. Caltrans is working to expand this to other ports of entry with Trade Corridor Enhancement Program funds, authorized by Senate Bill 1 (Statutes of 2017), and is assisting Mexico with a similar system for northbound traffic into the U.S. to provide advance notice to travelers.

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

The Calexico West Land Port of Entry Modernization and Expansion project (Calexico West) has renovated and expanded 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 1 million people. To increase capacity, the federal General Services Administration (GSA) has proposed improvements for privately-owned vehicle (POV)

inspection facilities and administrative space.

Phase 1 of the project was completed in September 2018. Phase 2 is estimated at \$275 million and includes additional site work, demolition of the existing port building, a new pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, five southbound POV inspection lanes, and six additional northbound POV inspection lanes.

Complementing the Calexico West expansion project, Caltrans authorized a special planning grant in 2017 for the “Calexico West Port of Entry Traffic Management Study,” which has analyzed and implemented traffic management strategies that assists traffic flow into the expanded POE. Caltrans, ICTC, and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) are leading the study in partnership with the City of Calexico, GSA, and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This study has resulted in coordination with agencies and led to traffic improvements during the various phases of construction. The final traffic shifts and improvements will be complete in summer 2019, at which time all northbound and southbound traffic will be using the newly expanded Cesar Chavez Boulevard to reach the POE.

The Calexico West 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, and new barriers and the installation of a security fence in each direction.

The bridge expansion project was also awarded \$3 million for project approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED), through the SB 1 TCEP program in January 2018. Caltrans District 11 is leading the design of the bridge expansion by working cooperatively with all involved stakeholders at the local, state and federal levels. In the summer 2018, ICTC in partnership with Caltrans and CBP, submitted a grant application for the Calexico East POE bridge expansion under the BUILD Transportation Grant Program for \$25 million. That December,

the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded ICTC and its partners \$20 million in funding towards the bridge expansion.

### **El Protector Program**

One full-time CHP officer is assigned to the Border Division El Protector Program. The focus of this program is to utilize a bilingual CHP of Hispanic ancestry to participate in community events, provide traffic safety education presentations, and serve as a Hispanic role model within the communities served. Additionally, the officer interacts with multiple radio, television and newspaper outlets giving interviews and participating in question-and-answer sessions to disseminate important information to the Hispanic community. In 2018, the El Protector Officer facilitated eight events resulting from Assembly Bill 60 (Statutes of 2013) regarding drivers licenses for undocumented workers. These presentations have seen a significant increase in attendance, now totaling approximately 320 civilians. The event curriculum, conducted in Spanish, includes law enforcement procedures, general driving strategies, traffic regulations and familiarization with the California Driver’s License examination workbook. Additionally, in 2018, the El Protector Officer conducted six Start Smart presentations in Spanish, targeting teen drivers, with approximately 60 attendees. They also conducted approximately ten DUI classes with approximately 200 attendees.

# Safety

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

## **Operation Stonegarden Grant Program**

OPSG provides funding to support joint efforts to secure the U.S. borders along routes of ingress, specifically travel corridors in states bordering Mexico and Canada, as well as states and territories with international water borders. The OPSG for the San Diego Sector is awarded to and administered by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The program, which now has 22 participating agencies, includes most city police departments in San Diego County (cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Escondido, La Mesa, National City, Oceanside and San Diego), the San Diego Harbor Police, sheriff's departments from San Diego, Orange,

Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Mateo counties, and state enforcement agencies, including the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Parks and Recreation and the University of San Diego Police Department.

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

Historically, San Diego County has been a highly favored operational area for illegal immigration and drug smuggling organizations. San Diego is a consistent target, given its close proximity to Tijuana, Mexico and its population density, significant coastline, and extensive transportation networks leading to the interior immediately north of the border. With the increase of maritime smuggling threats, these organizations have been taking more extreme measures by going farther out to sea and further up the California coast, as demonstrated by boat (panga) landings being discovered more than 400 miles north in San Mateo County. Border-related crime represents an all-threat environment in that the primary criminal activity (drug/human smuggling) may result in cross-border criminal organizations and individuals undertaking secondary and sometimes, tertiary criminal activities that involve a wider range of crimes (kidnappings, assaults, murders, money laundering, cross-border weapons trafficking, etc.). These criminal activities, when undertaken in the U.S., constitute a threat to domestic security, subsequently triggering involvement by state and local law enforcement. Statistics from 2018 are described below.

Over the past few years, the San Diego County Operation Stonegarden Grant Program's award has increased very little, despite the number of agencies and increased administrative costs. The outlook for OPSG in the coming year is

optimistic. At this time, discussions are taking place regarding the grant increasing nationwide. Should this happen, San Diego County is hopeful that there will be an increase in the award to this region. An increase in funding will allow San Diego County OPSG to expand its layered enforcement approach.

### Enforcement Results of the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program:

San Diego Sector (includes 22 participating agencies, most city police departments in San Diego County, the San Diego Harbor Police, sheriff's departments from San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Mateo counties, and state law enforcement agencies):

- 15,357 vehicle stops
- 178 pedestrian stops
- 458 vessel stops
- 3,340 citations issued
- 5,773 field interviews of suspicious subjects conducted
- 663 misdemeanor arrests
- 275 felony arrests
- 278 narcotics seizures
- 162 non-drug seizures, which includes weapons and currency

Imperial Valley Sector (only CHP):

- 771 total arrests, resulting in 57 drug-related misdemeanors and 9 felony arrests

### Operation Gridlock VI

An example of the cooperation and collaboration between agencies can be demonstrated by Operation Gridlock VI (GLVI), which took place on November 27-28, 2018. The goal of the operation was to gather intelligence and intercept drug courier groups transporting narcotics into and throughout the U.S. GLVI simultaneously conducted narcotic interdiction operations in four separate time zones across the country. Modeled after the previous Operation Gridlocks, GLVI was a multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction, narcotics interdiction operation. Within San Diego County, GLVI simultaneously targeted Interstate 5, Interstate 8 and Interstate 15 and adjacent state routes. GLVI also included maritime operations along Southern California coastal waterways.

### Operation Gridlock VI Statistics

STATS	San Diego County	Nation-wide	Total
Vehicle Stops	717	40	757
Citations	52	6	58
Misdemeanor Arrests	21	0	21
Felony Arrests	4	2	6
Field Interviews	209	18	227
Pursuits	0	0	0
Narcotic Seizures	4	1	5
Non-Drug Seizures	3	1	4
Warrants Cleared	4	0	4
Methamphetamine (Pounds)	16.76	1.3125	18.0725
Fentanyl (Pounds)	0	0	0
Marijuana (Pounds)	8.46	80	88.46
U.S. Currency Seized	0	0	0
Pharmaceuticals Pills	0	0	0
Cocaine (Pounds)	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0

### California Highway Patrol Border Division

The California Highway Patrol Border Division (Border Division) covers a diverse region of California encompassing four counties: San Diego, Imperial, Orange and Riverside. Given the high population density and the amount of visitors to this border area, safety remains an important priority. The Border Division coordinates and/or participates in a number of investigative task forces, community outreach programs and a grant funded regional enforcement operation. These include the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force, the Mexico Liaison Unit, U.S. Marshall Fugitive

Task Force, North San Diego County and East San Diego County Gang Enforcement Teams, the Canine Unit, a joint-agency San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force, and a Human Trafficking Task Force in Orange County. One full-time CHP investigator is assigned to the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force housed at the Anaheim Police Department. One full time CHP investigator is assigned to the San Diego County Joint-Agency Human Trafficking Task Force, housed at a Department of Justice facility. The Border Division also participates in OPSG.

One of the lesser known operations of the California Highway Patrol is the Border Division's Mexico Liaison Unit. Since the CHP has no jurisdiction in Mexico, officers from this San Diego-based unit work closely with Mexican authorities in the recovery of stolen vehicles and other law enforcement issues. The unit is comprised of one sergeant and six officers, all of whom are fluent in Spanish.

The goals of the unit are to develop and maintain positive working relationships with Mexican authorities in order to:

- Locate and identify stolen U.S. vehicles taken to Mexico
- Identify vehicle thieves and ensure their prosecution, either in Mexico or in California
- Provide assistance to Mexican and U.S. authorities

The Mexico Liaison Unit was originally created in 1958 and consisted of one officer. It was discontinued in the mid-1970's, and reestablished in 1980 to provide a formal line of communication with Mexican officials. Maintaining these lines of communication and cooperation are essential to the CHP in performance of its role as statewide vehicle theft coordinator, because it has the primary responsibility to assist in the recovery of vehicles stolen from California and taken into Mexico.

When a stolen vehicle is located in Mexico, an investigator with the liaison unit notifies the owner and the law enforcement agency that filed the original stolen vehicle report. The unit then informs all parties of the steps needed to recover the vehicle, including necessary documentation,

securing Consular approval and making arrangements to return the vehicle to the U.S. border. For many years, the CHP was the only American agency that performed these duties, but recently the Arizona Department of Public Safety established a similar program modeled after the CHP's, and other agencies in Texas have established less formal arrangements with Mexican authorities.

With the assistance of Mexican officials, the Mexico Liaison Unit's investigators travel inside Mexico to act on tips from informants, private investigators, insurance agents and other sources. When an investigator finds a suspected "American stolen," the Border Division is contacted for confirmation, and then Mexican authorities are asked to hold the vehicle until arrangements can be made for its return. During an average year, approximately 2,000 stolen vehicles are located in Mexico.

The CHP's excellent working relationship with Mexican officials has led to cooperation in other enforcement areas as well, including murders, bank robberies, kidnappings, insurance fraud and locating fugitives. Although most of the Liaison Unit's activities have been conducted in the Mexican State of Baja California, occasionally investigators have assisted with operations in other states of Mexico and in Central American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Investigators in the Mexico Liaison Unit have also provided stolen vehicle identification training courses to federal prosecutors and federal agents in Mexico. The training sessions generated much interest from the agents who traditionally focus only on drug interdiction and weapons violations. Although good working relations have always existed between the Mexican Federal Prosecutor's Office, Procuraduría General de la República, and the CHP, the recent training sessions have reinforced this working relationship.

## 2018 Inspection Facility, Task Force, Unit & Grant Operation Statistics

### **Otay Mesa Inspection Facility:**

- 904,634 truck crossings
- 26,393 vehicles inspected
- 7,305 citations issued
- 4,001 verbal warnings issued

### **Calexico Inspection Facility:**

- 168,469 truck crossings
- 19,848 vehicles inspected
- 6,137 citations issued
- 101 verbal warnings issued

### **Tecate Platform Scale Facility:**

- 55,255 truck crossings
- 2,467 vehicles inspected
- 245 citations issued
- 217 verbal warnings

### **SD Regional Auto Theft Task Force:**

- 199 vehicles recovered, valued at approximately \$2.7 million dollars total
- 91 arrests
- Identified the most sought after or frequently stolen vehicles: 2000 Honda Civic, 1998 Honda Civic, 1997 Nissan Pickups, 2001 Honda CRV's, 2016 Yamaha MC

### **CHP Canine Unit:**

- 84 seizures, which resulted in seizing: 3.38 million grams of marijuana, 281,920 grams of methamphetamine, 80,821 grams of cocaine, and 53,265 grams of heroin
- \$2,631,788 U.S. currency seized
- 7 illegal firearms
- 5,423 enforcement contacts
- 248 arrests, resulting in 195 felonies
- 1,168 citations issued
- 119 canine demonstrations
- 110 canine deployments

### **CHP Mexico Liaison Unit:**

- 729 vehicles recovered, valued at approximately \$7,801,840
- 1 commercial vehicle recovered, valued at approximately \$22,900
- 17,897 investigation assists
- 20 arrests
- 123 suspects prosecuted in Mexico

### **Human Trafficking Task Force Participation:**

#### **Orange County:**

- 44 arrests
- 71 victims identified/located
- 20 juveniles freed
- 60 enforcement operations conducted

#### **San Diego County:**

- 87 investigations
- 325 leads opened
- 10 federal prosecution arrests
- 34 felony arrests and 67 misdemeanor arrests
- 113 victims freed, 17 of which were juveniles
- 40 enforcement operations conducted targeting human traffickers and sex buyers

### **California Maritime Security Program**

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

The Cal OES Maritime Security Program collaborates in joint operational efforts with USCG, U.S. Navy, and local marine law enforcement offices, including those in San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles County, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Cal OES Maritime Security Program provides subject matter experts and observers in full coordination with the USCG in marine training, meetings, and in some rare cases, in real world operations with Mexico. In addition, as part of the West Coast, they share best practices, lessons learned, and catastrophic plans with the Mexican Marine operators. In 2018, Cal OES Maritime Security Program shared the "California Bay Area Earthquake Plan" and the "Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan" with Mexico, specifically regarding marine transportation and recovery. Since then, Mexico has developed the Marine Transportation Recovery Plan, which is currently under review. Cal OES is available to provide further assistance, guidance, or training if the Mexican marine operators request it.

The joint operational efforts also focus on monitoring, responding and securing waters offshore of Western Mexico, the state of California and beyond. They also provide classified training to Mexican units on special tactics, such as

marine night infiltration operations. Cal OES participates in these trainings and offers military and maritime expertise strictly as advisors or observers to the Mexican units.

Finally, a strong collaboration effort exists between the USCG, CDFW, Cal OES, and the Mexican Government for oil spill response. When an oil spill occurs, the USCG, CDFW, and CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) activate and establish the Unified Command in response. The Cal OES Maritime Program's role is to coordinate stakeholders for the Liaison Unit, including representatives from the Mexican government. Cal OES works with the leader of the Unified Command, which is the USCG, 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.

# Health

Border health is largely addressed by the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) Office of Binational Border Health and through CalEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). Key initiatives in 2018 included CalEnviroScreen, environmental contaminant biomonitoring, and fish consumption advisories.

## **Office of Binational Border Health**

CDPH's Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) is responsible for maintaining communication and collaboration with health officials in Baja California, Mexico.

The OBBH focuses on enhancing the detection and response capabilities to infectious disease incidents and threats in the border region. During 2018, OBBH monitored and investigated binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks in the border region. OBBH worked collaboratively with state, local, and federal partners focused on surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases to develop routine and emergency binational communication protocols, facilitate the cross-border exchange of information, investigate binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks, and facilitate communications between public health officials in California and Baja California on infectious disease matters of binational interest.

OBBH continues to manage and coordinate the California Border Infectious Disease Program (CA-BIDS), a collaboration between CDPH, the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

OBBH monitored all binational infectious diseases cases throughout California via a computer application known as the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE) system at CDPH. The purpose of CalREDIE is to improve the efficiency of surveillance activities and the early detection of public health events through the collection of more complete and timely surveillance information on a statewide basis.

In 2018, OBBH convened quarterly binational epidemiology meetings to enhance situational awareness of infectious disease matters in California and Baja California. Participants included key local and state public health officials from both states. During one of the meetings, representatives from the CDPH's Health Care Associated Infections (HAI) program, the Immunizations Branch and the Tuberculosis Control Branch held discussions on acute diarrheal diseases, measles, pertussis, sexually transmitted infections, influenza, antimicrobial resistance (AR), tuberculosis as well as binational communication using web-based systems for reporting diseases. Several potential action items were identified throughout the course of this meeting that may be considered: (1) compare prevention measures, guidelines, and/or regulations to prevent and control healthcare associated infections (HAIs) in U.S. and Mexico to become more familiarized with each other's respective protocols, (2) create of a binational workgroup focusing on antimicrobial resistance, (3) use an existing network of clinicians/medical facilities that provides services to binational patients to assess number of HAIs related to cross-border health care, (4) gather data regarding transnational health care and medical tourism, as it relates to spread of HAIs, and (5) collect specimens from HAI patients and have antimicrobiogram testing performed (binational project).

In 2018, OBBH programs focused on border and binational communities throughout California and Baja California by sustaining partnerships and enhancing communications between state and federal officials in California and

Mexico. Specifically, OBBH convenes the San Diego Border Health Collaborative (SDBHC) in partnership with the Public Health Services Department of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. The mission of the SDBHC is to enhance communication, collaboration and coordination among public, private and academic institutions in order to protect and improve the health of individuals, families and communities along the California-Baja California border in San Diego County. Some of the topics of discussion during the 2018 meetings included Population Health & Social Determinants in Rural Border Communities, the Love Your Heart Initiative, and the California Healthy Places Index.

As part of the San Diego County Promotores Coalition (SDCPC), OBBH participated in the planning, coordination, and execution of the 2018 Adelante Promotores conference, in partnership with the National Rural Health Association, Be There San Diego, CDPH- Environmental Health Investigations Branch/Breathing California and Blue Shield/Care 1st. The conference theme, “Celebrating Health for All”, focused on the importance of all communities being healthy and celebrating the work of Promotores.

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

From January to June 2018, the COO carried out its Community-based Healthy Border Initiatives (CbHBIs), with a focus on improving access, referral and awareness of health and human services among low-income, indigent and

migrant/immigrant populations and providing capacity-building and enhance cultural and linguistically appropriate services to improve health care quality in serving San Diego and Imperial counties’ diverse communities. The CbHBIs also included the continuation of the Border Health Consortium of the Californias (BHCC) to strengthen collaboration, improve communication, streamline coordination, share knowledge and best practices, and disseminate information amongst groups, organizations and individuals working in public health in the California - Baja California border region. The Consortium has developed small work groups to address specific health issues including obesity, tuberculosis (TB), mental health, and HIV/AIDS); and holds two binational meetings each year to report out and focus on specific binational health issues. Federal funds for the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission activities were discontinued effective June 30, 2018.

OBBH also 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 2018, two public meetings were held by the OBBH Advisory Group, which discussed TB patients with co-morbidity mental health conditions at high risk; mental illness in TB patients; mental illness/TB common risk factors; and reviewed the Office’s 3-year strategic plan.

In 2018, CDPH’s Community Education and Exposure Prevention (CEEPS) section, within the Environmental Health Investigations Branch, worked in Imperial and San Diego counties to deliver the Asthma Management Academy. Launched in 2017, the Academy is a professional development series that prepares community health workers (CHWs) to provide national asthma guidelines and self-management education to families living with uncontrolled



In 2018, CDPH implemented the Asthma Management Academy to help families living with uncontrolled asthma.

asthma. Asthma self-management education and home environmental asthma-trigger assessment are evidence-based strategies that can lead to significant cost savings, increased medication adherence, and reduced Emergency Department (ED) visits and hospitalizations. The Academy consists of five, 2.5-hour modules that include: the scope of asthma, asthma trigger identification, asthma medications, medication delivery devices, and monitoring and assessing asthma. CDPH recruits participants from federally qualified health centers and other organizations in communities in the top quartile for asthma-related ED visits. CHWs who attended the Academy learned guidelines-based care in a rigorous, encouraging, and skill-building environment. Participants received ongoing technical assistance and professional development, networking opportunities, an asthma education toolkit, and a certificate of completion from CDPH and the Association of Asthma Educators. CDPH will continue to focus on border and binational communities through the efforts of its border health programs.

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

CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by OEHHA that scores all California census tracts based on 20 indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability. In January 2017, OEHHA released CalEnviroScreen 3.0, which incorporated additional data to more accurately reflect the impacts of pollution originating in Mexico on California communities located

near the border. OEHHA conducted a review of pollution sources in Mexico and adjusted several pollution indicators -- ozone and particulate matter concentrations, emissions of diesel particulates, toxic releases from facilities, traffic density – to account for pollution sources in Mexico.

OEHHA has continued to actively engage in efforts to collect and understand pollution data in the California-Mexico border region that can potentially inform future updates to CalEnviroScreen. OEHHA consulted with CARB on a research contract to improve the quality of environmental pollution data from the Mexican side of the border. The results of this research will improve the accuracy of data on Mexican facilities that report toxic releases, and potentially identify additional sources of pollution along the border that might impact Californian communities. Additionally, future versions of CalEnviroScreen may utilize data from two OEHHA studies in the border region that are described in this report – the San Ysidro air monitoring study and Imperial Valley water quality assessment.

### **Fish Consumption Advisories for Spanish Speakers**

OEHHA evaluates the health risks from chemical contamination of sport fish and advises the public on which fish are safe to eat, those that should not be eaten and those that should be consumed only in limited amounts. The fish advisories are posted on OEHHA’s website and published in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing Regulations booklets under the “Public Health Advisory on Fish.”

In 2018, OEHHA released 12 new fish consumption advisories, including for the All-American Canal in Imperial County, which runs parallel to the California-Mexico border. Two advisories were also updated, including the San Diego Bay advisory. By the end of 2018, 105 of the OEHHA’s 108 fish advisories were available in Spanish.

## California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program

Biomonitoring is the measurement of chemicals in a person's body tissues or fluids, such as blood or urine. It identifies the amount of chemicals that enters the human body from sources such as air, soil, water, dust, consumer products, and food, combined. Because of this, biomonitoring is a good way to measure how much exposure a person has had to toxic chemicals.

OEHHA collaborates with the California Department of Public Health and DTSC in implementing the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California. In 2018, Biomonitoring California launched the "California Regional Exposure Study" to measure and compare environmental chemicals in people across the state. The study is being conducted region by region and will cover the entire state in about eight years. The Program completed recruitment and collection of blood and urine samples from study participants in Los Angeles County (Region 1), and is beginning work in Imperial County and other inland counties in southern California (Region 2). The chemicals being measured include metals (antimony, arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, thallium, and uranium), and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). In Region 2, pesticides are being evaluated for possible measurement and 1-nitropyrene is being measured in subsets of participants as an indicator of exposure to diesel exhaust.

OEHHA, on behalf of Biomonitoring California, is leading the East Bay Diesel Exposure Project to assess diesel exhaust exposure using 1-nitropyrene as an indicator. Recruitment for the study was completed in 2018. The project design will allow OEHHA to compare 1-nitropyrene results within a household, across age, between communities, and over time. This data will also provide a point of comparison for diesel exhaust exposure measurements in Imperial County and other locations in southeastern California.

Biomonitoring California has recently completed an environmental justice consultation project, with the final report describing the findings is expected in 2019. The program reached out through a survey of community organizations and in-person meetings with representatives of those organizations across the state, including the border region, to learn more about their concerns regarding chemical exposures in their communities. The goal was to identify concerns that could be addressed through biomonitoring, and build relationships for possible future studies (pending funding).



# Emergency Management

Cal OES, in concert with all public safety agencies in the state, is dedicated to providing California residents and its visitors with the best emergency services possible. Cal OES has a Public Safety Communications Division with a 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Branch (CA 9-1-1 Branch). It works with and enables various local public safety answering points (PSAPs) to provide expedient telephone access to emergency services for all 9-1-1 emergency callers by assisting PSAPs in the administration and funding of this lifesaving resource in their communities. The CA 9-1-1 Branch reimburses PSAP's statewide for costs necessary for the delivery and answering of 9-1-1 calls and operation of the 9-1-1 system. These funds are made available through the State Emergency Telephone Number Account as set forth in the Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Act (RTC 41001-41176), which is administered by the CA 9-1-1 Branch.

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

support and promote collaboration with Mexico.

Cal OES also continues to have a strong and lasting partnership with Mexico in collaboration with the 10 Mexican consulates in California. 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. In 2018, this partnership was evident during California's 2018 wildfire season, which was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season on record in California, with a total of 8,527 fires burning an area of 1,893,913 acres - the largest amount of burned acreage recorded in a fire season.

Through the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento, Mexico expressed their solidarity with California. In addition, Cal OES collaborated with the Mexican consulates, including those in Sacramento, Oxnard, and San Diego to reach out to the Mexican nationals living in the counties impacted by the wildfires who lost their homes and jobs. Through this collaboration, Cal OES shared disaster assistance information with the consulates and participated in events held for the Spanish-speaking community. The consulates also participated at the Local Disaster Recovery Centers to assist the Spanish-speaking survivors by relaying information in Spanish, processing vital records, and encouraging them to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Assistance Program.

In December 2018, Cal OES worked with the Mexican Consulate to develop a MOU on cooperation in risk prevention and disaster management between Cal OES and the Ministry of the Governance of the United Mexican States through the National Coordination of Civil Protection, Coordinación Nacional de Protección Civil (CNPC). The MOU promotes the development of initiatives on emergency management and risk reduction. The cooperation between Cal OES and CNPC plays a fundamental role in strengthening solidarity among people and in joining forces with the public and private sectors to save lives and property during emergencies. The signing of the MOU will be pursued in 2019.

Cal OES continues to collaborate and strengthen its relationship with Baja California, as well

as share best practices on emergency disaster information. In November 2018, Cal OES and the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California renewed their existing MOU on risk prevention and emergency response. The focus of the MOU is on mutual training and sharing of information and experience on the issues of emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

The director of Cal OES meets with the director of the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California at least once a year to discuss possible existing and future collaborations efforts. In May 2018, when two American nationals went missing in the Baja California desert, Cal OES contacted the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California for support. Without hesitation, the Mexican agency deployed all necessary resources and continuously kept Cal OES informed with updates on the search and rescue mission. The successful rescue of the two missing American men is a testament of the partnership between Cal OES and the civil protection agency.

In November 2018, thousands of migrants, originating mainly from Central America, arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, seeking asylum. Cal OES immediately formed a Migrant Caravan Task Force that coordinated with both U.S. and Mexico federal, state, and local governments. The coordination was successful in identifying key factors, such as the number of migrants crossing the border daily, the anticipated future numbers, available shelters and the migrants' health conditions. At its inception, it was estimated that an estimated 12,000 migrants were bound for the border.

The collaboration between Cal OES and the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California proved instrumental during the movement of the migrant caravan. Cal OES and the civil protection agency successfully exchanged information on daily migrant updates, including social services, healthcare and the total number of migrants anticipated. During the peak of the movement, approximately 12,000 migrants were reported. The State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California provided the latest news on Mexican efforts and coordination of the migrant caravan. Through this collaboration,

Cal OES supported and coordinated assistance from nonprofit organizations for the migrant caravan population including, shelter, food, health care screening, and travel arrangements.

To provide resources and services to the migrants, Cal OES collaborated with California state agencies, including CHHS and two of its departments: the California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Public Health. They also collaborated with various non-governmental organizations. The San Diego Rapid Response Network was formed to respond to this current concern. The group is comprised of more than two-dozen nonprofit organizations that provide temporary shelter to asylum seekers, ensure families have access to food, medical care and legal services, and provide travel assistance for asylum seekers to help them reach their final destination. The San Diego Rapid Response Network created a GoFundMe Campaign, which has raised \$174,000 of a \$250,000 goal from the general public. The group, with support from Cal OES, has also accepted donations of goods and volunteers from many additional southern California non-profits. Cal OES also supported their efforts with philanthropic organizations by helping secure approximately \$500,000 for their work. These funds have supported a migrant family shelter and free legal representation for migrant families. California remains committed to provide relief and humanitarian aid to asylum seekers fleeing violence in their home countries.

### **Cross-Border Communication Efforts**

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

In 2018, SWBCWG held three meetings in the U.S. border states including, Tucson, Arizona, Weslaco, Texas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico to discuss interoperability communications issues along the southwest border. The working group continues to serve as a forum to share information

on common emergency communications issues, collaborate on existing and planned activities, and facilitate federal involvement in multi-agency projects within the southwest border region. The region includes Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. The SWBCWG facilitates relationships among federal, state, local and tribal agencies to better support enhanced safety of border area public safety personnel using cross-border interoperable communications and enhanced coordination with Mexico.

The SWBCWG also continues to build partnerships among emergency communications practitioners in the southwest border region, identify best practices and lessons learned for border area communications, and share information regarding key regulatory issues that impact emergency communications in the border region. The SWBCWG's efforts help to ensure success in meeting end users' communications needs while improving coordination between U.S. departments and agencies at all levels of government.

The SWBCWG quarterly meetings continue the discussion of ongoing efforts to identify communications gaps along the border with the goal of providing justification for establishing federal funding to help fill those gaps. The SWBCG plans to invite representatives from the State Coordination of Civil Protection of Baja California to a SWBCWG quarterly meeting for a discussion and briefing on Mexico's interoperability communication issues.

Also in 2018, the Cal OES Southern Region and International Affairs Office provided support to the Cross- Border Communication Workgroup by attending quarterly meetings, assisted with development of the Cross-Border Communication Concept of Operations (ConOp), and participated on the Cross-Border Communication Ham Radio Drill in June 2018. The workgroup 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.

The Cross-Border Communication Ham Radio Drill between locally-stationed government agencies was conducted to test ham radio communications procedures between the County

of San Diego's Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) and the ham radio club of Baja California, Club de Radio Experimentadores de Baja California (CREBC), under the 2018 Cross-Border Communication ConOp. The drill was based on a proposed earthquake scenario scheduled in conjunction with the California's statewide "Great Shake-Out" exercise.

During the drill, participants tested communication systems reserved for emergency incidents. They determined that participating agencies could establish ham radio communications on cross-border common frequencies to communicate Flash Situational Reports and could do so while utilizing the ham radio Winlink System. In addition, another component of the drill was to test whether the Flash Situational Reports were understood correctly as intended by the originating agency. Since Cal OES representatives participated on the drill they further reported the incident to the Cal OES Warning Center and International Affairs Office as required by Cal OES notification protocols and response.

The Cross-Border Communication Drill between locally stationed government agencies from the U.S. and Baja California was a success. The Cross-Border Communication ConOp identified common frequencies and Flash Situational Reports were successfully sent between ACS and CREBC and among the Mexican government agencies.

### **The International Boundary and Water Commission**

In the first week of February 2017, the aforementioned Tijuana River sewage spill occurred and prompted public outcry as the inadequate notification compounded the risk to public and ecological health. In response, the USIBWC and their Mexican counterpart, Comisión Internacional de Límites del Agua (CILA), developed international notification protocols to report spills that have potential impact for cross-border communities.

Under the new protocols, whenever there is a raw sewage spill discharging into the Tijuana River with the potential to arrive at the International Boundary or any other

location along the international border, the Baja California Commission of Public Works in Tijuana, Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), shall notify CILA within the hour. In turn, CILA will notify the USIBWC. The USIBWC is required to immediately notify Cal OES, then the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and other U.S. stakeholders. Once informed by USIBWC of a spill, Cal OES is required to notify California state agencies for appropriate action and response.

In 2018, the Cal OES State Warning Center received thirteen spill incident notifications from the USIBWC regarding the Tijuana River. Two notifications were received the same day of the incident while the others were reported two or three days after the spill occurred. Cal OES continues to attend the USIBWC Public Forums on the Tijuana River Spill and monitors the progress of the communication protocols among the governing agencies.

### **California-Mexico MOU Wildfires Working Group**

Cal OES participated in the California-Mexico MOU on Climate Change and the Environment, leading the working group on wildfires with the Mexico National Forestry Commission, Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR), and the California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection (CAL FIRE). Over the course of the MOU, which concluded in 2018, the Wildfire Working Group's main accomplishments included exchanging information and coordinating training opportunities between Mexican and Californian counterparts. One such area of

collaboration was the exchange of knowledge and informational material on fire management in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), a zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. California provided a translated version of the Wildland Urban Interface Operating Principles (WUI Principles) that better prepares fire professionals for the challenging task of fighting fire in the WUI. The information contained in this volume can save property, but more importantly, lives. Wildfire trainings were held in both California and Mexico over the course of the MOU. For example, training regarding wildfire suppression took place in Tecate, Baja California, which provided Mexican firefighters with entry-level wildland firefighting training, as well as an introduction to wildland fire behavior and personal safety.



# Acronyms

ABC	Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
ACS	County of San Diego's Auxiliary Communications Service
BAR	Bureau of Automotive Repair
BCSH	Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
CA-BIDS	California Border Infectious Disease Surveillance Program
CalEnviroScreen	California Environmental Screening methodology, used to identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CalHFA	California Housing Finance Agency
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
CalREDIE	California Reportable Disease Information Exchange System
CalSTA	California State Transportation Agency
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEEPS	Community Education and Exposure Prevention section within the Environmental Health Investigations Branch
CESPM	Baja California Commission of Public Works in Mexicali - Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali
CESPT	Baja California Commission of Public Works in Tijuana - Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CHHS	California Health and Human Services Agency
CNPC	Mexico's National Coordination of Civil Protection, Coordinación Nacional de Protección Civil

CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
CONACYT	Mexico's National Council of Science and Technology - Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología
CONAFOR	Mexico National Forestry Commission - Comisión Nacional Forestal
ConOP	Concept of Operations
CRE	Mexico Energy Regulatory Commission - Comisión Reguladora de Energía
CREBC	Ham Radio Club of Baja California, Club de Radio Experimentadores de Baja California
DBO	Department of Business Oversight
DCA	Department of Consumer Affairs
DFEH	Department of Fair Employment and Housing
DPR	Department of Pesticide Regulation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
GO-Biz	California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
HCD	Department of Housing and Community Development
HCFC	California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IBWC	International Boundary and Water Commission
ICEP	Individual Company Export Promotion
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
KYHC	Keep Your Home California program
LBNL	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
LEV	Low Emission Vehicle
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
OBBH	Office of Binational Border Health
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OPSG	Operation Stonegarden Grant Program
PM	Particulate Matter
PM2.5	Particulate Matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter
PM10	Particulate Matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter
POE	Port of Entry
PROFEPA	Mexico's Federal Environmental Enforcement Agency - Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente

PSAP	Public Safety Answering Points
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SB	Senate Bill
SD-LECC	San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center
SEDAGRO	Mexico Secretariat of Agricultural Development – Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario
SENER	Mexico Secretariat of Energy – Secretaría de Energia
SEMARNAT	Mexico Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources – Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
SPA	Secretariat for the Environment of Baja California, Mexico – Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente
STEP	State Trade Expansion Program
SWBCWG	Southwest Border Communications Working Group
SWIA	Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association
TB	Tuberculosis
TRAM	Tijuana River Action Month
UC	University of California
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface





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