

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

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

July 17, 2018 | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100

San Diego, California 92108-2700

**The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Matthew Rodriquez.**

#### **1. Roll call**

The following Council members were present:

- **Secretary Matthew Rodriquez**, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), Chair
- **Deputy Director Sid Voorakkara**, representing Director Panorea Avdis, California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
- **International Affairs Liaison Helen Lopez**, representing Director Mark Ghilarducci, California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
- **Deputy Secretary Marlon Fluornoy**, representing Secretary Brian Annis, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)
- **Undersecretary Deborah Hoffman**, representing Secretary Alexis Podesta, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
- **Secretary Karen Ross**, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
- **Deputy Secretary Keali'i Bright**, representing Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
- **Chief April Fernandez**, representing Secretary Diana Dooley, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS)
- **Jeff Scott**, Land Division Director, U.S. EPA, Region 9, United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

A quorum of the Council members was established.

#### **2. Welcome and Introductions**

Secretary Rodriquez provided opening remarks and welcomed the public, Mexico government officials, California Assembly Member representatives, and California State Senate representatives. Secretary Rodriquez provided an overview of the agenda, and noted that **action items include voting on approval of the July 31, 2017 Council meeting minutes and the California-Mexico Border Relations Council 2017 Annual Report.**

#### **3. Minutes**

**Action Item:** Draft meeting minutes from the July 31, 2017 Council meeting were reviewed by the Council.

**Action Taken:** A motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2017 Council meeting was made and seconded. All members in attendance were in favor with no nays and no abstentions. Minutes were therefore unanimously approved.

#### 4. **California Mexico Border Relations Council Annual Report**

**Action Item:** The California Environmental Protection Agency Border Affairs Program presented the 2017 Annual Report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council. The report is a collaborative effort between Council Member Agencies to summarize border-related activities conducted by Member Agencies during the prior calendar year of 2017. The program recommended the Council submit the 2017 Council report to the Legislature.

**Action Taken:** Chair Rodriguez recommended the Council send the report to the Legislature pursuant to Assembly Bill 3021, Statutes of 2006. Secretary Ross moved, Undersecretary Hoffman seconded, and with unanimous “ayes” from the Council, the report was approved to be sent to the Legislature.

#### 5. **Update on Food and Agriculture Work at the Border**

Informational Item: Councilmember Secretary Ross of the California Department of Food and Agriculture gave updates on food and agriculture programs in the border region and with Mexico. A strong trading relationship and friendship with Mexico was emphasized. Updates included information regarding: animal health disease prevention and mitigation and food safety programs; participation in the tri-national accord; a MOU between California and Mexico on climate-smart agriculture and a MOU with Baja California on food safety, animal health, food security, and invasive species. Regarding an outbreak of virulent Newcastle disease in 2017, CDFA conducted outreach and education for the poultry sector in southern California in backyard flocks, reaching 70,000 homeowners. Regarding a citrus pest disease that was found mostly in Los Angeles backyard trees, CDFA helped detect, diagnose and remove infected trees. Regarding a romaine lettuce E. coli outbreak that negatively impacted human health and agriculture markets, a working group is analyzing how this occurred and how to avoid it in the future.

#### 6. **Solid Waste Working Group Updates**

Informational Item: The Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias at San Diego State University presented a summary of a Baja California workshop on waste tire and solid waste management. A presentation was made on “The Flow of Used Tires from California to Mexico and Waste Tire Disposal Issues in Baja California and the Adjacent Area of Sonora,” which updates a similar 2009 report. The report can be found at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/border-affairs-program/border-affairs-program-publications/>

#### 7. **Update on Health in the Border Region**

Informational Item: The California Health and Human Services Agency’s Office of Binational Border Health gave an update on vector borne diseases at the border, as well as information from the 2016 Annual Border Health Status Report to the Legislature. Information was provided

about Zika public outreach. The California Department of Public Health Environmental Health Investigations Branch also gave updates on environmental health projects in the border region such as the Asthma Management Academy goals and prevention efforts regarding lead and mercury poisoning.

## **8. Water Issues at the Border**

Informational Item:

- The Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Board provided an update on water issues in the Colorado River Basin region, including the status of sewage infrastructure needs in Mexicali, update on the New River Parkway Project, and the Revised New River Strategic Plan.
- The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board provided an update related to the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team efforts and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board regulatory approaches of proposed TMDLs for solid waste and pathogen/bacterial indicators. Update given regarding Notice of Intent issued to IBWC.
- The International Boundary and Water Commission US Section (IBWC) reported on work regarding transboundary flows. Minute 320 created a framework for addressing sediment, solid waste and water quality – meetings were held for these working groups. U.S. and Mexico are doing an infrastructure assessment to develop a diagnostic view of infrastructure needs in Tijuana to be completed by the end of this year. IBWC shared spill protocol measures. CILA recently installed four variable-speed pumps at Pump Station CILA, with control panels; three temporary berms were installed, at head of intake of Pump Station CILA, one at the border, and one at the end of the concrete channel. They are also removing sediment in the concrete channel. They are doing a sediment feasibility study in the Tijuana River to help the estuary. They are considering a trash boom in the Tijuana River.
- The California Department of Parks and Recreation provided an update related to Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve projects. Updates given regarding the Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration Project and beneficial re-use of sediment in the Tijuana River Valley.
- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife provided an update regarding the Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grants “cross-border” criteria, including two grant winners from the border region for an overall \$3.2 million awarded to border area projects.

## **9. Air Quality at the Border**

Informational Item:

- The California Air Resources Board presented results on a two-year PM2.5 Air Quality Monitoring Effort in Mexicali and gave an update on the upcoming Draft Work Plan to Improve Air Quality in the Border Region. The PM2.5 Air Quality Monitoring Effort in Mexicali showed PM2.5 levels on average are consistently higher (40-70%) in Mexicali when compared to Calexico annually. Information was provided on Imperial County’s 2018 Annual PM2.5 State Implementation Plan (Annual PM2.5 SIP) for the 12 ug/m3 PM2.5 standard

which demonstrated that the Calexico monitor would be in attainment of the annual PM2.5 standard “but for” emissions impacting the site from Mexicali. Although CARB approved the Annual PM2.5 SIP for Imperial County, the Board also acknowledged that there are major air quality concerns in the border region and more needs to be done to improve air quality to protect the health of residents on both sides of the border. The CARB Board directed staff to develop a work plan in coordination with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) and appropriate stakeholders in California and Mexico to explore additional measures that could be taken to improve air quality in the border region.

- The California Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment gave updates on the San Ysidro Community Air Monitoring Project and a drinking water study in Imperial County. The San Ysidro project air monitoring assessment was presented, and next steps include expanding community input, building technical capacity, and identifying additional sources of funding. Lateral Canal study updates were presented. Findings show many people use canal water for domestic use, and that these communities are more vulnerable to the effects of environmental contamination. Next steps include conducting water sampling and holding community needs assessment workshops.

#### **10. Business and Economic Development at the Border**

Informational Item: The Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development provided an update on cross-border business and economic development as Mexico remains one of California’s top trading partners. Updates included supporting trade missions, delegations and exchanges, and work on a Trade MOU with Mexico. GO-Biz also continues to work closely with the Mexican Consulate.

*Commenters: Senator Denise Ducheny*

#### **11. Binational Energy Collaboration**

Informational Item: The California Energy Commission provided updates on energy cooperation and on clean energy MOUs with Jalisco and Aguascalientes and the federal government of Mexico. Update on Joint Academic Research Centers for energy efficiency, particularly related to building energy efficiency – five partnerships came about. A Joint Lighting Center was established. CEC also worked with Mexico on data sharing and had several visits and meetings regarding clean energy and energy exchange.

#### **12. Federal Government Border Program Updates**

Informational Item: The United States Environmental Protection Agency provided updates on their Border 2020 program.

SEMARNAT provided updates on the federal government transition in Mexico and offered to be of assistance to California during the transition.

**13. Baja California Environmental Updates**

Informational Item: The Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Baja California/SPA Council presented updates regarding environmental initiatives in Baja California.

**14. Future meeting and agenda items**

- The Council Chair mentioned the next Council meeting date and possible agenda items would be determined by the new administration in 2019.

**15. Public comment on matters not on the agenda**

Time was provided for members to discuss items not on the agenda.

**16. Adjournment at 4:27 p.m.**

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