

2019 Annual Draft Report

The California-Mexico Border Relations Council

A Summary of Activities Undertaken in 2019

CALEPA

To be Published in 2020



Council Member Agencies

The council is comprised of eight state secretaries or directors of: the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA); the California Health and Human Services Agency; the California Natural Resources Agency; the California State Transportation Agency; the California Department of Food and Agriculture; the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency; the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is an ex-officio member.

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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 Letter



Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature:

During these troubled times of 2020, we are reminded now more than ever of our common humanity. Nowhere is this more evident than in the cross-border region between California and Mexico, where environment, business, transportation, health, emergency response, agriculture, and community connect us in a way that is unbreakable.

Recognizing the importance of our alliance, in 2019, the Governors of California, Baja California and Baja California Sur signed the Commission of the Californias to enhance cooperation between our three states. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding signifies how important our relationship at the border and with Mexico is to our state, and to our state agencies. Looking back on 2019 border activities makes me proud, and I am pleased to present this annual report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, pursuant to Assembly Bill 3021 (Statutes of 2006). We made major strides in the border region this past year.

2019 milestones include:

- The aforementioned signing of the Commission of the Californias;
- The Department of Housing and Community Development (under the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, known as BCSH) distributing over \$68M to address and prevent homelessness in San Diego and Imperial Counties, including \$1.5M to communities within the border region known as *colonias*, providing housing, single- and multi-family rehabilitation, rental housing acquisition, homeownership assistance, and new housing construction;
- Collaboration between Mexico and California's Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to address pest infestations that threaten the production of food that is used to feed not only California but other parts of the country and world as well (for example, in 2019, CDFA sent thousands of biocontrol agents to release along the border in Mexico to fight a devastating citrus disease, HLB; and Mexico continues to supply CDFA with biocontrol agents to address a devastating infestation of the pest, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, in Southern California);
- Finalization of improvements at the Calexico West Land Port of Entry, improving traffic flow by expanding Cesar Chavez Boulevard to reach the border Port of Entry;
- The California Department of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Office of Binational Border Health promoting wellness and health equity by collaborating with local stakeholders and co-chairing the San Diego County Promotores Coalition, a coalition comprised of organizations and individual *Promotores de Salud* and Community Health Workers;
- Development of clean water regulations known as Total Maximum Daily Loads by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for trash and bacteria in the Tijuana River and its canyons, which will give the Board necessary additional authority to keep the water clean;
- The California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) partnering to implement the first habitat project under the Salton Sea Management Program to rehabilitate over 3,000 acres of exposed lakebed;

- Continued trade between California and Mexico supported by the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the Lieutenant Governor, who led a trade and investment mission to Mexico with 20 green-economy businesses; and
- Collaboration between the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Mexican Consulates throughout California to provide assistance to Mexican Nationals living in counties impacted by wildfires during the Public Safety Shutoffs that left more than 2.6 million Californians without power while the Kincade Fire burned in Sonoma County.

The council remains a crucial forum for addressing these matters. Looking ahead, we will continue to work diligently to accomplish so much more, together.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld

Secretary for Environmental Protection

Chair, California-Mexico Border Relations Council

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Council Background

The California-Mexico border region has long-standing interconnectedness and interdependency. Both the U.S. and Mexico face challenges at the border resulting from rapid population growth, urbanization, industrial expansion, and increasing flows of international trade. In order to begin addressing these issues, legislation enacted in 1982 established the Office of California-Mexico Affairs within the California Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency. However, Assembly Bill 1757 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 229, Statutes of 2003) ended the agency in 2003, and the duties of the agency were reassigned to other state entities. In 2004, the California Research Bureau released a report that listed more than 100 California-Mexico programs were operating across state agencies, with no organizing entity to coordinate interagency cooperation. The report was updated in 2017 and shows continued engagement with Mexico (the report can be found at <https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/crb/reports/ProgramsAndProjectsRelatedToMexico2017.pdf>).

In 2006, Assembly Bill 3021 (Núñez, Chapter 621, Statutes of 2006; Government Code Sections 8710-8713) was enacted to fill the need for statewide oversight and coordination of multi-agency involvement with Mexico. It created the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, which serves as the central organizing body that coordinates cross-border programs, initiatives, projects and partnerships.

The council is comprised of the leaders of eight state entities, with the United States Environmental Protection Agency serving in an ex-officio capacity. Collectively these entities are responsible for addressing a wide range of issues affecting the border relating to the environment, natural resources, transportation, human health, food and agriculture, emergency and consumer services, housing, and business and economic development. The council meets at least once a year to coordinate the activities of state agencies on California-Mexico border issues.

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

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

Jared Blumenfeld, CalEPA – Council Chair

Wade Crowfoot, CNRA

Karen Ross, CDFA

Mark Ghilarducci, Cal OES

David Kim, CalSTA

Mark Ghaly, CHHS

Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, BCSH

Chris Dombrowski (Acting Director), GO-Biz

John Busterud, US EPA Region 9, ex-officio member

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Executive Summary

2019 saw many milestones under the Border Relations Council agencies.

Mexico remains California's top export partner, and in 2019, the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, known as GO-Biz, participated in various trade initiatives with Mexico, including supporting out-bound trade missions and holding exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment. GO-Biz supported continued trade between California and Mexico with the Lieutenant Governor, who led a trade and investment mission to Mexico with 20 green-economy businesses.

In 2019, the Department of Housing and Community Development (under the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, known as BCSH) helped distribute over \$68M to address and prevent homelessness in San Diego and Imperial Counties, including awarding \$1.5M to communities within the border region known as colonias to provide housing, single- and multi-family rehabilitation, rental housing acquisition, homeownership assistance, and new housing construction.

2019 saw huge environmental milestones in the border region to improve air quality, water quality, and more. This includes development of clean water regulations known as Total Maximum Daily Loads by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for trash and bacteria in the Tijuana River and its canyons, which will give the Board necessary additional authority to keep the water clean, and the handoff of plans for the New River Improvement Project to the City of Calexico, setting the project up to receive full funding in 2020.

In 2019, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), continued to implement Phase I of the State's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) to protect air quality and ecosystem values at the Salton Sea. Phase I will develop nearly 30,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects on playa exposed by the receding Salton Sea.

In 2019, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) continued to nurture relationships made through previous engagement, including the partnership between the University of California, Davis, and the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG), in the state of Jalisco. Notably, the Commission of the Californias signed in 2019 enables the Energy Commission to actively work with the Mexican states of Baja and Baja Sur to implement the Commission's objectives.

Collaboration continued between Mexico and California's Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to address pest infestations that threaten the production of food that is used to feed not only our regions but other parts of the country and world as well. CDFA maintains participation in the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, an annual meeting of state agriculture departments from the United States, Canada and Mexico, in which a variety of cross-border issues are discussed including animal/plant health and regulatory harmonization. CDFA also maintains engagement with Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) and signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2019 addressing issues related to trade, climate and plant/animal health.

2019 saw the finalization of improvements at the Calexico West Land Port of Entry, improving traffic flow by expanding Cesar Chavez Boulevard to reach the border Port of Entry. 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.

Border safety issues continue to be addressed largely through the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG), Operation Gridlock, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Border Division, and the California Maritime Security Program. Border community outreach efforts are largely accomplished through CHP's El Protector Program. In 2019, the El Protector Officer facilitated six Spanish traffic safety presentations to approximately 400 people, and provided four DUI safety booths to approximately 150 people.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Binational Border Health (OBBH) continued promoting wellness and health equity by collaborating with local stakeholders and co-chairing the San Diego County Promotores Coalition, a coalition comprised of organizations and individual *Promotores de Salud* and Community Health Workers. OBBH also monitored all binational infectious disease cases throughout the State of California.

In August 2019, The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) invited representatives from the Northern Mexican Consulates, including San Jose, San Francisco, and Sacramento, and gave them subject matter briefings on disaster coordination and response, human trafficking, and victim advocate grant programs, as well as provided a tour of the State Operation Center. Collaboration notably continued between CalOES and the Mexican Consulates throughout California to provide assistance to Mexican Nationals living in counties impacted by wildfires during the Public Safety Shutoffs that left more than 2.6 million Californians without power while the Kincade Fire burned in Sonoma County.

Trade

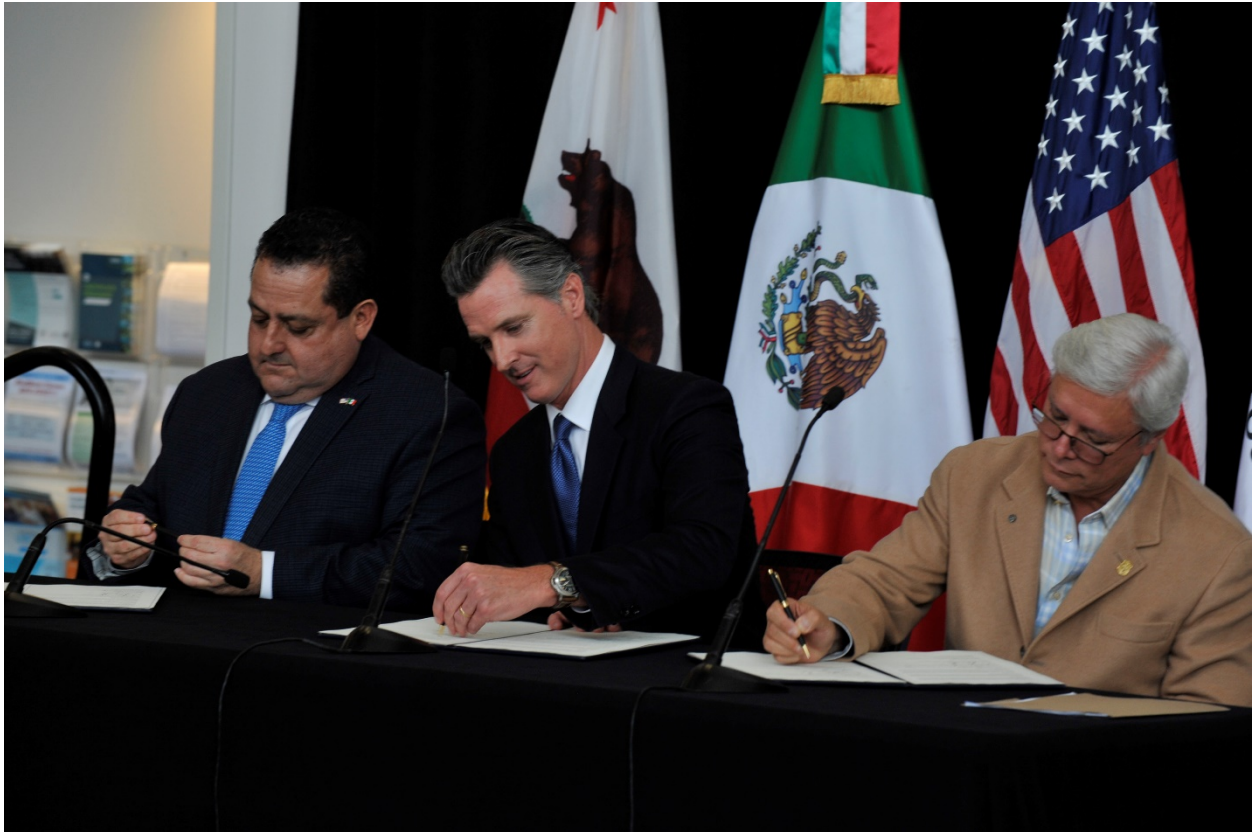


Photo Caption: Left to right: Governor Mendoza, Governor Newsom and Governor Bonilla sign the Commission of the Californias in 2019.

Mexico remains California's top export partner. In 2019, the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, known as GO-Biz, participated in various trade initiatives with Mexico, including supporting out-bound trade missions and holding exchanges to promote bilateral trade and investment. Most notably, in November 2019, GO-Biz and the Lieutenant Governor led a trade and investment mission to Mexico consisting of 20 green-economy businesses and supported Mexico-related initiatives, both within GO-Biz and at other agencies.

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 \$1 billion to 1,043 companies projected to create 108,511 new jobs and make \$21.0 billion in new investments. As Mexico remains one of California's top trading partners, GO-Biz has continued to engage with Mexico to promote bilateral trade and investment in 2019.

In 2019, 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 California State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Individual Company Export Promotion (ICEP). This

foreign market expansion opportunity is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

In June 2019, GO-Biz, in partnership with the statewide economic development network, led an investment mission to the U.S. Department of Commerce Select USA Summit. As part of the summit, GO-Biz hosted a Select California booth and worked in advance to set up California investment opportunities for foreign representatives. The summit delivered 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.

In July 2019, in partnership with the California Energy Commission, GO-Biz hosted representatives from Universidad de Guadalajara in the State of Jalisco to discuss their lighting center in coordination with UC Davis (the lighting center’s mission is to stimulate, facilitate, and accelerate the development and commercialization of energy-efficient lighting and daylighting technologies).

In August 2019, GO-Biz wrote a letter of support for a California business bidding on a contract with the State of Jalisco to conduct new government-mandated smog checks. The business was awarded the contract.

In fall of 2019, GO-Biz planned and executed a Lieutenant Governor led trade mission to Mexico City Delegation on “Economy, Environment and Equity – Building Sustainability & Resiliency in Mexico and California.” During the mission, GO-Biz announced the hiring of the Trade and Investment Representative for the Americas, who supports California businesses looking to export to Mexico and Mexican businesses looking to invest in California. Additionally, GO-Biz announced a Trade and Service Desk at Casa de California in Mexico City, which will serve as the home-base for the Trade and Investment Representative when they are working in Mexico. Other government representatives on the mission included the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the California Energy Commission, and members of the California State Senate and Assembly. GO-Biz also signed a renewal of the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of the Economy that focuses on trade and investment. To act on the terms outlined in the MOU, GO-Biz continued collaborating with the Mexican Secretariat of Economy and the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

In December 2019, GO-Biz led the effort to reestablish the Commission of the Californias (ComCal), a working group between the governors of California, Baja California and Baja California Sur to support, among other things, economic development and trade. The first meeting of the commission was in Tijuana in December 2019, with yearly meetings to follow.

Figure 1: Trade Statistics with Mexico¹

(\$ in billions of U.S. dollars)	2018	2019	% Change
U.S. Exports to Mexico	\$265.44	\$256.34	- 3.4%
CA Exports to Mexico	\$30.76	\$27.81	- 9.6%
U.S. Imports from Mexico	\$346.1	\$358.126	+ 3.5%
CA Imports from Mexico	\$44.01	\$46.71	+ 6.1%

¹ State Exports by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Commodities

Business, Consumer Services and Housing

The Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) mission is to oversee Departments, Boards, and Commissions that: protect consumers by licensing and regulating California professionals and businesses; preserve, expand and fund safe and affordable housing opportunities; investigate and research earthquake-related issues to advise on ways to reduce earthquake risk; and protect the civil rights of all Californians from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom called the homeless epidemic an “urgent moral issue” that must be addressed. In 2019, BCSH responded to that call and specifically prioritized addressing homelessness in the border region while many of the BCSH entities continued important work in the border region and in collaboration with the Mexican consulates throughout California.

Addressing Homelessness in the Border Region

In 2019, over 8,000 people experienced homelessness and/or lived in shelters in the County of San Diego.² In Imperial County in 2019, according to the 2019 Point-in-Time Count, over 1,400 people were experiencing homelessness.³ In 2019, many of BCSH’s entities worked tirelessly to address homelessness in the border region.

In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 101 into law, authorizing the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) to implement the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program. In 2019, the HCFC partnered with border region City and County Continuums of Care (CoC),⁴ local homeless service providers, and others, to provide workshops and webinars to share funding opportunities, available services and best practices to address homelessness.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) develops and rehabilitates rental and supportive housing, promotes home ownership, and assists in developing special needs housing for farm workers, the disabled, and people experiencing homelessness. **In 2019, San Diego and Imperial Counties received over \$68M to address and prevent homelessness:**

- In 2019, HCD awarded a total of \$1.5M to colonias, communities within the mainly rural border region with marginal housing and infrastructure, and \$3 million to Imperial County, through the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, Section 916.
- HCD awarded \$40.78M in 2019 to San Diego County through the No Place Like Home program, providing funds for the development of permanent supportive rental housing for people living with a serious mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless, or at-risk of chronic homelessness.
- HCD awarded \$453,822 to San Diego City and County CoC, and \$354,459 to Imperial County CoC, through the Emergency Solutions Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

²<https://www.10news.com/news/local-news/san-diego-homeless-count-2019-data-shows-over-8-000-living-on-county-streets-or-in-shelters>

³<http://nebula.wsimg.com/e5e651054f47cb0243eceb92acdee92?AccessKeyId=A2E92FEF4F74D8F6B622&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

⁴ Continuums of Care (CoC) are regional or local planning bodies that coordinate housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals.

- HCD awarded \$18.22M to San Diego County to assist with new construction of affordable homes and acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of permanent and transitional rental housing for lower-income households through the Multifamily Housing Program from the Proposition 1 Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018.
- HCD awarded \$500,000 to Imperial County through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to help cities, counties, developers, and nonprofit community housing development organizations create and retain affordable housing.
- HCD awarded \$2.5M to San Diego City and County, and \$1.05M to Imperial County through the California Emergency Solutions Housing (CESH) to assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Authorized by SB 850 (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018), the CESH program is administered by HCD with funding from the Building Homes and Jobs Act Trust Fund (SB 2, Chapter 364, Statutes of 2017) and all remaining California Emergency Solutions Grant funds.
- Additional planning grants to assist local governments in accelerating the production of housing were awarded to the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial, and San Diego.

Collaboration with Mexico

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) protects California communities through alcohol regulation and education, and has a San Diego District Office that collaborates with its Mexican counterparts. The Office has an Agent serve as a member of the International Liaison Officers Association to share information regarding crime trends and relevant changes in laws, ensuring cross-border collaboration. In addition, a representative from ABC serves as the Terrorist Liaison Officer for San Diego, coordinating with the San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center regarding border crimes/issues on both sides of the border.

On August 16, 2019, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), which serves Californians through effective regulation of automotive repair and smog checks, supported Worldwide Environmental Products' bid for a contract to help establish a vehicle verification program in the State of Jalisco, Mexico.⁵ Worldwide was awarded the contract in early September 2019 and BAR remains available as a resource. On August 8-9, 2019, BAR presented information on California's Smog Check program and provided a tour of a local Smog Check station in El Monte, California to delegates from California and Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

From August 26-30, 2019, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), which enforces civil rights laws, participated in the Labor Rights Week event at the Mexican Consulates in Sacramento and San Francisco. At each of these locations, DFEH shared information pertaining to civil rights in the workplace.

⁵ Additional letters of support were sent jointly from California State Senator Ben Hueso (40th district) and Assemblymember Jose Medina (61st district), and another from GO-Biz. Worldwide is one of several manufacturers of BAR-certified equipment in support of the California Smog Check Program.

Environment

Air Quality and Climate Change

With the support of technical assistance provided through on-going conversations with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Mexico adopted Emissions Trading System regulations in October 2019, with a pilot system launching in 2020.

Many efforts occurred in 2019 to increase education and awareness and improve air quality in the California-Mexico border region. These efforts are highlighted below and expanded upon in [Appendix A](#).

In 2019, CARB continued its support of the Imperial County and Mexicali air quality website (www.imperialvalleyair.org), which provides public access to local air quality data in real-time, as well as delivers air quality alerts and associated health information.⁶ The Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan group held five meetings in 2019 in Imperial County and Mexicali. These meetings discussed progress in implementing the actions identified in the Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan (Work Plan),⁷ which is a blueprint of priority actions recommended to improve air quality in the border region. The Work Plan's actions are highlighted below.

The Directorate of Environmental Protection for the City of Mexicali and CARB signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that expands the air monitoring network in Mexicali. CARB loaned the City of Mexicali 50 PurpleAir PM sensors to enhance their monitoring capability and to be used as a screening tool to assist with enforcement efforts. The data collected from these sensors are publicly available via the www.purpleair.com and the app.respira.org.mx websites and help provide a more complete picture of the air pollution sources and their impact throughout the City. The monitoring network in Mexicali will continue to grow as Redspira and the Imperial APCD received funding from U.S. EPA to add 30 Redspira low-cost sensors to the rural eastern side of Mexicali.

In May of 2019, the Comité Cívico Ambiental de Mexicali was formed, made of a group of organizations each with a common goal to design, promote and execute strategies focused on promoting health care and protecting the environment in Mexicali. The Comité started a school flag program in 2019 in Mexicali called the "Bandera Program." Over 60 schools now participate and the goal is to expand this program to 300 schools by the end of 2020. The "Bandera Program" relies on regulatory and low-cost sensor PM2.5 data around the City to determine the daily air quality and the appropriate colored flag to fly. Students are directly involved in the program and raise and lower the flags every day.

The City of Mexicali has increased its educational outreach to school-age children about air quality and pollution and U.S. EPA awarded funding to the City of Mexicali, Redspira, and the Imperial APCD for interactive educational games and kiosks to be used in schools and in the local community starting in 2020. In addition, U.S. EPA has continued funding for the air quality media campaign, the air quality

⁶ The website is available in Spanish and English and provides users with forecasts of ambient ozone levels during the ozone season of March 1 through October 15 and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) levels year-round.

⁷ The Work Plan, meeting minutes and presentations, and other border related information can be found here: <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/border/border.htm>.

index radio advertisements and marquee broadcasting, and the Imperial-Mexicali air quality alert and forecasting contract.

In 2019, the Imperial Air Pollution Control District amended their agricultural burn policy (Policy 34) to be more protective of public health, with revisions such as reducing the number of acres that can be burned per day from 2,000 to 1,600 acres. In addition, material (video clips, a poster, and a pamphlet) were put together by the City of Mexicali and the Imperial County APCD on agricultural burning and to educate the public in Mexicali to only burn under certain conditions to limit the amount of pollution produced.

With funding from U.S. EPA, a contract was completed in 2019 to improve the emissions inventory estimates for mobile, area, and point sources in northern Baja California, Mexico. The 2014 Mexico National Emissions Inventory (MNEI) was updated for point, area, on-road motor vehicles, and natural sources. Inventories were also developed for sources that were missing from the previous MNEI including agricultural windblown dust, agricultural burning, brick kilns, state point sources, and border crossings.⁸ CARB also funded a two-year study with San Diego State University to refine data for CalEnviroScreen by identifying and characterizing emissions sources on the Mexico side of the border and modeling the influence of pollutant emissions in Mexico on California border communities.⁹

Efforts to further monitor and reduce emissions from vehicles in the border region continued in 2019. The CARB Board approved funding for a project to use roadside devices to measure exhaust carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emission rates from light-duty vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles at eight California locations, including the border areas of San Ysidro and Calexico.

CARB and the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) have initiated discussions on converting the Change-of-Ownership designated areas of the State to a Basic Smog Check Program. BAR and CARB believe that converting all Change-of-Ownership areas into basic biennial areas would increase the emission benefits of the program, and would reduce instances of fraud based on the improper registration of vehicles to addresses in current change-of-ownership areas. CARB is also working to establish a contract to enable automated license plate reading of heavy-duty vehicles traveling north from Calexico.

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. As a result of AB 617, in September 2018, the CARB Governing Board selected the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor in Imperial County for development of a Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution in the community. Imperial APCD partnered with Comite Civico del Valle (CCV), Inc. as co-leads to convene a community steering committee and develop the CERP. Strategies outlined in the plan include parking lot paving, school bus replacement, installation of air filtrations systems at sensitive receptor locations, urban greening, and a commitment by the Imperial APCD to work with local transportation agencies to assess implementing measures that reduce the impact of transportation

⁸ The final report and inventory can be found here: https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/border/erg_final_report.pdf.

⁹ The final report can be found here: https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/border/ces_report.pdf.

activities at the border. The CARB Board approved the Plan at a special Board hearing held on January 15, 2020, in El Centro.¹⁰

Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is an office within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and a leader for the assessment of health risks posed by environmental contaminants. OEHHA helps coordinate efforts to maintain a healthy environment for people in the California-Mexico border region. This includes continued work on California Communities Environmental Health Screening (CalEnviroScreen), biomonitoring, and fish consumption advisories.

California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) includes Additional Border Data

CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool developed by OEHHA that scores California's 8000 census tracts based on 20 indicators of pollution burden and population vulnerability to pollution's health effects. 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. Researchers from San Diego State University, the Molina Center for Energy and the Environment, and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California produced a [report](#) in 2019 detailing ways to improve the quality of environmental pollution data from the Mexican side of the border. The researchers consulted with OEHHA to compile information that will be considered in updating CalEnviroScreen. Relevant results include verified location and emissions data from larger Mexican facilities releasing toxic air contaminants that may be transported across the border region, as well as solid and hazardous waste facilities in Mexico that may pose environmental concerns to California communities.

Water Quality Assessment for Rural Communities in Imperial County

OEHHA scientists have been leading a community-based participatory research study to gather water quality data on canal water provided to about 3,000 rural households in Imperial County for domestic uses such as showering, dishwashing and other domestic uses, but not for drinking or cooking.

¹⁰ The approved Plan can be found at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp_2018_ad_cerps.



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

OEHHA has been working closely with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and Comité Civico Del Valle Inc (CCV) in this effort. The primary purpose of the study is to identify and quantify contaminants in the canal water at connections to Imperial County households. A key secondary objective is to potentially produce water-quality data so that the Imperial County communities receiving canal water for non-potable residential use can be more accurately represented in OEHHA's CalEnviroScreen tool. Sampling of lateral canals that supply water for non-potable residential use is being conducted.¹¹

Through 2018 and 2019, OEHHA worked closely with its community partner, CCV, to conduct numerous community meetings and trainings for planning and analysis efforts. In 2019, OEHHA finalized a high impact area (HIA) analysis to assist in identifying sampling locations. The density of households that use canal water within census tracts that have a socioeconomic score in the 75th percentile or higher using CalEnviroScreen data was used to identify sampling spots in the HIA analysis. OEHHA conducted an analysis in 2019 to help prioritize which pesticides to sample for based on location, pesticide use, previous sampling results, and toxicity data. In 2019, OEHHA created an interactive map using data generated from the HIA analysis, pesticide analysis, and historical water quality data obtained from SWRCB to finalize sampling locations. OEHHA, along with the study partners, are currently working on finalizing the contaminant list in preparation for sampling.

Fish Consumption Advisories Provided for the Border Region

OEHHA evaluates the health risks from chemical contaminants in fish recreationally caught from California waters 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

¹¹ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Water Quality Assessment for Rural Communities in Imperial County. <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/water-quality-assessment-rural-communities-imperial-county>.

website and published in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Sport Fishing Regulations booklets under the “Public Health Advisory” section. In 2019, OEHHA released 11 new fish consumption advisories, including three advisories for water bodies in Imperial County: Squaw Lake, Ferguson Lake and Taylor Lake. A map of fish advisories can be found at <https://oehha.ca.gov/fish/ca-fishmap>.

California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program

Biomonitoring is the measurement of environmental chemicals in a person’s body tissues or fluids, such as blood or urine. It can help tell us the levels of toxic chemicals in people originating from air, soil, water, dust, consumer products and food. Because of this, biomonitoring is a good way to measure how much exposure a person has had to toxic chemicals. OEHHA collaborates with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in implementing the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California.

A main accomplishment of 2019 is the publication of the [California Regional Exposure \(CARE\) Study](#), led by CDPH, which measures and compares environmental chemicals in people across the state. In 2019, the Program completed collection and analysis of samples from CARE Study participants in Imperial County and other inland counties in southern California. The Program also began outreach activities to potential participants in San Diego and Orange Counties in 2019.¹²

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 made notable progress in 2019. CalEPA submitted a white paper to Congress detailing the challenges and potential solutions needed in the Tijuana River Valley, helping inform negotiations of the U.S. Canada Mexico Trade Agreement (USCMA). These negotiations resulted in directing up to \$300 million to the Tijuana River Valley to address cross-border trash, sediment and sewage. The San Diego Water Board issued Investigative Order R9-2020-0030 to the International Boundary and water Commission to require water quality monitoring of cross border flows in the Tijuana River Valley and continued 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 water board also continued to lead the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team, and continued in litigation against the U.S. Section of the United States Water and Boundary Commission (IBWC). Importantly, the County of San Diego worked to complete their SB 507 Assessment, identifying 27 California-side solutions to trash, sediment and sewage in the valley. The Colorado River Basin Water Board gave final design and engineering plans for the New River Improvement Project to the City of Calexico, signaling a definitive move towards the construction of infrastructure desperately needed for decades by the residents of Calexico.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (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

¹² The chemicals being measured in the CARE Study include metals (antimony, arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, thallium, and uranium), and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs).

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.

In 2019, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), continued to implement Phase I of the State's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) to protect air quality and ecosystem values at the Salton Sea. Phase I will develop nearly 30,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects on playa exposed by the receding Salton Sea.

In 2019, two border region projects applied for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Funding. The applications were submitted in 2019, and two border-region grant winners were announced in 2020. \$321,332 was awarded to the Alamo and New Rivers Riparian Restoration Planning and Permitting Project to River Partners, and \$520,168 was awarded to the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Plan to the County of San Diego.

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 2019 was cross-border sewage and the institutional response to a large-scale cross-border raw sewage releases.

For additional information on 2019 border-region water quality accomplishments, please visit [Appendix B](#).

U.S. EPA

Border 2020

In 2019, the US Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Pacific Southwest Office (Region 9) and CalEPA continued their collaboration under Border 2020, the Mexico Border Program, to address public health and environmental transboundary issues in the California and Baja California border region.¹³ The collaboration under Border 2020 engages multiple state partners including CARB, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and California Department of Public Health, partner agencies in Mexico, and includes the binational North American Development Bank (NADB).

CalEPA is a key Border 2020 partner, serving as Co-Chair of the California Regional Workgroup, which includes Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the U.S. EPA, and the Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Baja California (SPA).

In July 22, 2019, the U.S. EPA and NADB announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for \$700,000 in funding to address public health and environmental priorities in Region 9's Mexico Border Program. The RFP closed September 17, 2019 with three projects selected in the California-Baja California border region.¹⁴

¹³ <https://www.epa.gov/border2020>

¹⁴ The U.S. EPA and NADB are working with the prospective grantees to complete project workplans and complete the new grant awards. Thereafter, the U.S. EPA in conjunction with NADB, will announce the grant awards on the Border 2020 website and other outreach venues.

The Mexico Border Program implemented Border 2020's California-Baja California Action Plan for 2017-18. The Action Plan reflects funded projects and efforts including four projects selected and funded in 2017 as part of NADB's request for proposals under its partnership with the U.S. EPA.¹⁵

Air

The San Ysidro Port of Entry Community Air Study, funded through a NADB Border 2020 grant, made significant progress in data collection and calibration efforts. In September 2019, the joint research team, including scientists from the University of Washington, San Diego State University, and community partners, presented preliminary findings at the San Diego-Tijuana Air Quality Task Force Meeting. The San Diego-Tijuana Air Quality Task Force met once in 2019 and the Imperial-Mexicali Air Quality Task Force met four times in 2019.¹⁶ Through Clean Air Act grants, the U.S. EPA funded ongoing border air quality monitoring in both San Diego-Tijuana and Imperial-Mexicali airsheds, including purchase of equipment, and operational and maintenance expenses. In the Imperial-Mexicali area these grants also funded community education and awareness campaigns, including media outreach to educate community members on air pollution prevention strategies and how to obtain information on air pollution in their communities.

Water

- Mexicali's Binational Technical Committee (BTC) met in May, July, and September 2019. The recurring stakeholder meetings are held to discuss current and upcoming infrastructure projects in the border region near and around the New River. Other participants at the meetings include the U.S. IBWC their Mexican counterpart CILA, the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board, CONAGUA, Mexicali's water utility (CESPM), and SPA, Baja California's environmental state agency.
- 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 on-going and will be completed in 2020.
- Tijuana's Colector Poniente Rehabilitation project completed construction of 14,773 feet of drainage pipes between March and May of 2019 to eliminate exposure to untreated wastewater discharges which can impact the United States. Concurrently in July 2019, construction began to rehabilitate approximately 6,100 feet of drainage pipes of Segment 1A. Colector Poniente had exceeded its useful life and deterioration led to leaks, collapses, and sewage spills, representing an environmental and public health risk to the community. Overall the project will improve 23,506 feet of existing wastewater connections.
- In 2019, the U.S. EPA organized three border stakeholder meetings with federal, state, local, and non-governmental organizations to discuss transboundary pollution affecting San Diego County

¹⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/border2020/region-9-action-plansplanes-de-accion-de-region-9>

¹⁶ The binational task forces are co-chaired by local government officials from Mexico and the United States, and include participants from government, business and community group leaders, and members of the public.

beaches and the feasibility of available solutions to these concerns. These meetings have facilitated raising awareness and input for solutions to this border issue.

Waste

- Southwest Wetlands Interpretative Association (SWIA), a nongovernmental organization (NGO), concluded its NADB Border 2020 grant to restrict use of single use plastic bags in Tijuana. SWIA's successful outreach campaign led to landmark legal reforms in Tijuana and technical support for other border cities, including Tecate and Mexicali to follow. SWIA's collaboration with multiple stakeholders, included 12 non-governmental organizations and over 300 university students, served as a catalyst for action across other border cities and small to large Mexican convenience store chains to begin their transition in advance of the pending legislation.
- Fundación Hélice concluded its final phase of the NADB Border 2020 grant with the Binational Forum on Nov 29, 2018 in Mexicali, Baja California on "Electronics Discards," focused both on regulatory and voluntary best management practices and pilot program experiences. The forum had broad representation from DTSC, SPA, the United Nations Environment Program in Mexico City, and academic and NGO experts from Mexico, Colombia and Chile.
- DTSC and Mexico's federal ministry for the environment, SEMARNAT, completed the exchange of information for 2019 under the Consultative Mechanism, reporting on the status of permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities along the border, including spent lead-acid battery and electronic recycling facilities in California and Baja California border.

Enforcement and Compliance Updates

DTSC and its local partner, San Diego County, worked collaboratively to enforce the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's (RCRA) hazardous waste import/export requirements, and California's hazardous waste management requirements at the California port of entry. They conducted 3,346 north-bound port of entry inspections at Otay Mesa and Calexico (on Fridays) in collaboration with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). DTSC, CBP and California Highway Patrol also conducted unannounced south-bound inspections, resulting in two enforcement actions on scrap vehicle transport and used oil releases.

Successor Mexico Border Program - Border 2025

On November 5-6, 2019, the U.S. EPA and SEMARNAT held a Mexico Border Program leadership meeting to review the achievements made to date and progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Program. During the meeting, the U.S. EPA and SEMARNAT announced the development of a new border environmental program, the five-year binational Border 2025 Program.

The Border 2025 Program will take effect in September 2020 with broad stakeholder engagement and a public comment period included in the development of the new program.

Environmental and Public Health Outreach

The U.S. EPA conducted educational outreach on the environment and public health issues in the border region. Select events are highlighted below:

- On May 4th the U.S. EPA staffed an outreach booth during Campo Tribe’s Environmental Fair. The U.S. EPA shared information on a variety of topics such as the Border 2020 Program, Healthy Homes, Safer Choice, children’s health and integrated pest management.
- On September 12, 2019 the U.S. EPA participated in a meeting for Border Tribes organized by the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition with about 25 attendees. The U.S. EPA’s Indoor Environments Team provided a presentation on Border 2020 and incorporating environmental health into tribal grants, covering items such as asthma triggers. Tribes were able to share environmental concerns with the U.S. EPA and other government representative such as CalEPA, US Customs and Border Protection, San Diego Regional Planning Agency (SANDAG) and CARB.
- On December 6, 2019 the U.S. EPA joined the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation in Calexico, CA for the 40th annual farmworker appreciation breakfast organized by the California Employment Development Department (EDD), which had over 2,000 participants. The U.S. EPA provided information on the Worker Protection Standard and general pesticide safety.

Environmental Justice Program - The Climate-Ready Healthy Homes Campaign

In November 2019, the Environmental Justice Program awarded a grant to Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek to engage low-income youth in the Encanto community, located in southeast San Diego, to understand and improve residential indoor air quality. Groundwork will partner with the Millennial Tech Middle School to integrate air quality into the school’s science curriculum and enlist 20 students as Healthy Home Ambassadors to do outreach on indoor air quality to fellow students, families and the community at large. The project will educate and empower the Encanto community to improve indoor air quality for themselves and others.

Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) - Annual Report

On December 27, 2019, the GNEB’s 19th report *“Energy Production, Transportation, and Demand in the Transborder Region: Opportunities and Impacts”* was submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality and President. The GNEB annually engages diverse stakeholders to address environmental and infrastructure needs along the border.¹⁷

¹⁷ To review this report and past reports see the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/faca/gneb>

Energy

Collaboration with Mexico

In light of a changeover in administrations on both sides of the border, the Energy Commission conducted targeted engagement with Mexican counterparts in 2019. At the onset of the year, the Energy Commission partnered with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), to host a high-level delegation from the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara (UAG).¹⁸ During the visit, delegates met with Energy Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister to share updates on the lighting research center at UAG. The goal of the lighting research center at UAG is to effect a long-lasting transformation in energy efficient lighting in Mexico that will save Mexican consumers money.

Throughout 2019, the Energy Commission continued to strategically engage with Mexican counterparts. In October, Energy Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister joined the aforementioned California delegation to Mexico City. During that visit, led by Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, the Energy Commission and CalEPA committed to work cooperatively with Mexico City over the next few years to exchange information and technical expertise related to energy, climate change, and environmental protection. Upon returning to California, the Energy Commission began to develop a work plan with sister agencies for engagement that will span the next few years.

Collaboration at the Border

More specifically related to the border region, the Energy Commission was a member of the 2019 Good Neighbor Environmental Board, a federal advisory board that advises the U.S. President and Congress on good neighbor practices along the U.S. border with Mexico. Development of the report is a yearlong cooperative process. The final report was officially completed in December 2019, and is [available online](#). The 2019 report was dedicated to identifying the energy landscape along the border region, the links between California and Mexico, and the opportunities for further integration of energy systems on both sides of the border.

Close collaboration with Baja California on energy issues is essential as California and Baja California share energy resources, including a gas and electrical grid. The Energy Commission continues to collaborate with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) in its work with the National Center for Energy Control, *Centro Nacional de Control de Energía* (CENACE) and the State of Baja California to maximize economic operation of our shared electric grid, and opportunities for renewable development, through the potential inclusion of Baja California in CAISO's energy markets.

¹⁸ This visit built on the existing partnership between UC Davis and UAG made possible under the Energy Commission's MOU with the Mexican Ministry of Energy, which expired in June 2019. The meeting was held at the Energy Commission headquarters and was attended by leadership from the UC Davis Energy Efficiency Institute, the Mexico Initiative at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, officials from the State of California and the Jalisco Energy Agency, members of the environmental community, and a representative from the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento. The Energy Commission views this as an example of successful and replicable collaboration that may help to accelerate the adoption of energy efficient policies, practices, and technologies in Mexico.

Agriculture

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is committed to engagement and collaboration with border state counterparts on a wide variety of agricultural issues. CDFA maintains participation in the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, an annual meeting of state agriculture departments from the United States, Canada and Mexico, in which a variety of cross-border issues are discussed including animal/plant health and regulatory harmonization. CDFA also maintains engagement with Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) and signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 2019 addressing issues related to trade, climate and plant/animal health. In 2020, CDFA looks forward to a variety of activities and engagement with national and border state agricultural leaders.

Addressing Pests and Disease of Mutual Concern Across the Border

CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division continues to work with border state counterparts in addressing plant pests of mutual concern. Collaboration includes the California-Baja California Integration Group, which includes representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the agricultural commissioners' offices of Imperial and San Diego counties, and representatives from Mexico's local, state and national governments. In order to enhance pest prevention and plant health, Mexico continues to supply CDFA with biological control parasitoids (organisms to suppress pest species) for addressing an infestation of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug in Southern California. This effort allows for the continued commercial viability of several specialty crops in California.

CDFA'S Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division continues to work with border state counterparts in addressing Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and the disease that it vectors, Huanglongbing (HLB), a devastating disease that threatens citrus trees and citrus fruit production. In February 2019, CDFA participated in a US/Mexico Binational 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 August of 2019, in response to an HLB detection in Tijuana, Mexico, the CDFA began sending 9,000 *Tamarixia radiata* (biocontrol agents) per week to USDA International Services (IS) for release along the border in Mexico. This is a biological control effort to limit the spread of HLB along the border region. USDA IS has requested an extension of the agreement that was originally scheduled to end in December 2019.

CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Division focuses, in collaboration with the U.S. and Mexican border states, on animal health issues. CDFA's and Baja California's state animal health officials maintain a collaborative and close working relationship in protecting animal health along the border. This is achieved through outreach, communication and ongoing professional contacts and meetings. In advancing the effort to protect animal health along the border through collaboration in 2019, CDFA participated in bilateral working groups, on Bovine Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Cattle Fever Ticks, held in May 2019 in Oaxaca, Mexico. CDFA participated in a site visit and review of the Bovine Tuberculosis eradication program in the state of Sinaloa and met with Mexican national and state animal health officials. In addition, CDFA conducted over a dozen outreach events at the Mexican Consulate in San

Bernardino to educate about poultry health and Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND), a serious, highly contagious viral disease of poultry and other birds which is of mutual concern to California and Mexico. Also, CDFA published an informational article on VND in a Mexican magazine and began writing an article for the Mexican veterinary journal of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). These activities complement the ongoing collaboration and communication between state animal health officials along the border region.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) conducted important pesticide worker safety and outreach events throughout 2019, working closely with promotores, Mexican consulates throughout California, and in local communities. For more information, please visit [Appendix C](#).

Pesticide Monitoring

The DPR Air Program issued its final report in 2019 for air monitoring results at five Imperial County communities. At DPR's request, CARB had collected air samples four times per week for 10 weeks. Samples were analyzed for the presence of seven organophosphates (OPs) during the region's highest periods of OP use (January through March of 2018). Two hundred and eighty four (284) field samples including three (3) trip spikes, eight (8) field spikes, ten (10) field blanks, and fourteen (14) collocated samples were collected over the ten week study period. Six primary samplers were set up around Imperial County, in the cities of Seeley, Westmorland, Brawley, Imperial, and Heber. An additional sampler for QC samples was set up in Seeley due to it being the expected high-use site (based on historical high-use data). Samples were collected on sorbent tubes with an air sampling flow rate of one standard liter per minute (SLPM). Many of the OP samples collected were below the method detection limit or were present only at trace levels. Therefore, the OP concentrations of most samples could not be calculated with certainty. Of 2,333 total valid analyses, 26 had quantifiable OP concentrations, 38 had trace levels, and 2,269 had non-detectable levels.¹⁹

On May 8th, DPR staff attended the Imperial Community Steering Committee at the request of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and the Air Resources Board. DPR presented an overview of pesticide regulation and air monitoring activities in the Imperial area.

¹⁹ https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/airinit/imperial_county_final_report_2019.pdf



Photo Caption: DPR Environmental Scientist Anson Main and Scientific Aide Mason Zoerner collecting water and sediment samples at Rice Drain 3, Imperial. DPR analyzes the water samples for pesticides. Photo Credit: Xin Deng.

DPR Surface Water Protection Program collected surface water samples at six sites in Imperial County as part of the Southern California agricultural monitoring study (Study 321). In 2019, surface water monitoring was conducted during two times periods – early April and again in October. This included both edge of field monitoring sites (e.g., agricultural drainage ditches) as well as main river locations (New River, Alamo River).²⁰

Urban Monitoring

As part of Study 320, DPR routinely monitors pesticide residue at three sites within San Diego County: two within the San Diego River watershed and one within the Chollas Creek watershed. Water sampling is conducted during two dry-season events (June, August) and two-storm sampling events (November, and again in the following early spring).

Pesticide Exposure Reporting

²⁰ <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/surfwtr/index.htm>

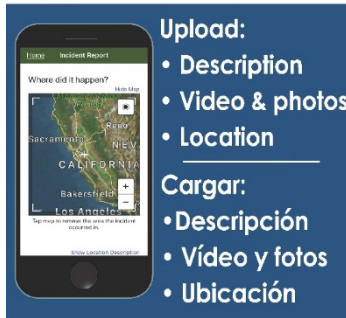


Photo Caption: CASPIR Mobile App: Launched in 2019, this bilingual mobile app allows for 24-7 reporting of pesticide incidents.

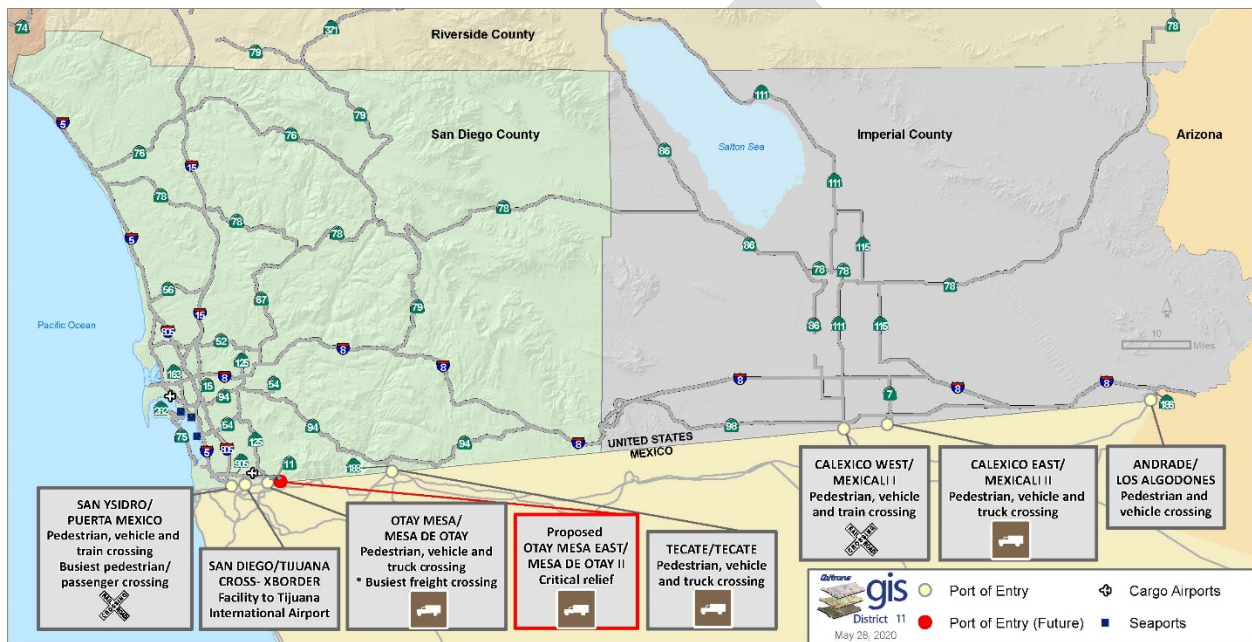
The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has developed a free mobile app designed to help people report pesticide incidents and concerns quickly. The app is compatible with smart phones and tablets. The app, called [CASPIR](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/quicklinks/caspir.html) (California's System for Pesticide Incident Reporting), is aimed at anyone who might report a pesticide matter, including farmworkers, restaurant workers, custodians and communities. This is an app available to all agricultural workers including cross-border workers that come into Imperial County. Users can remain anonymous, if preferred and can use the app in English and Spanish. It can also help pinpoint the user's location via a GPS system. CASPIR was developed with funding from the U.S. EPA and the input and assistance of local county agricultural commissioners and environmental justice groups.²¹

²¹ The free app is available at <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/quicklinks/caspir.html> and can also be downloaded from Google Play and the Apple iTunes store.

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 2019, California’s international border crossings processed nearly 21.8 million pedestrian crossings, 31 million personal vehicles, and over 1.4 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.



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 delays 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. Caltrans is working in close partnership with SANDAG and the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) on the study, entitled, “The California-Baja California Binational Region - A Fresh Look at Impacts of Border Delays Study.” The study also examines practices to improve border wait-time data collection and reliability. The report is expected to be finalized in 2020.

San Ysidro Port of Entry Expansion

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. 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 \$15.3 billion in exports and \$21.3 billion in imports in 2019. Additionally, the Otay Mesa POE processes more than 3.5 million pedestrians and 6.5 million vehicles annually. The US Congress has authorized, but not yet appropriated, funding for the U.S. 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 opened 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.

Unified Cargo Processing Pilot Program

In 2019, 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.²² Under the Unified Cargo Processing

²² The Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program is a commercial clearance program for known low-risk shipments entering the United States from Canada and Mexico. Initiated after 9/11, this innovative trusted traveler/trusted shipper program allows expedited processing for commercial carriers who have completed background checks and fulfill certain eligibility requirements.

pilot, CBP and SAT conduct joint cargo inspections at the POE - 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 a toll road approaching the border crossing that will allow travelers to pay a fee to get to the border more quickly. The project's goal is to achieve a 20-minute average wait time using a variable tolling system that serves as both a revenue collection tool and a transportation demand management tool. Once completed, it will be California's first toll road that leads to a POE. Construction of the project is taking place in multiple segments. The estimated cost of all improvements is expected to be between \$750-\$850 million. The project is being completed using a Presidential Permit issued in 2018, which must be obtained for construction and maintenance at the borders of the United States.

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 to be completed by 2021. The remainder of the roadway segments are currently being designed and should be constructed by 2023. Caltrans has possession of all the right of way for the project.

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 in the process of conducting an Innovation Analysis (with an expected release in 2020) 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 optimization of the POE.

In May 2018, Caltrans received Senate Bill 1 (Statutes of 2017) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funds for a suite of border projects. In 2019, Caltrans initiated the design and construction of the Siempre Viva Interchange, which will complete the final piece of State Route 11 roadway; the design of the site preparation for the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility; the design of the site preparation for the Otay Mesa East POE; and the southbound SR-125 to westbound SR-905 connector. The total amount of funding awarded under TCEP for the Otay Mesa East project totaled \$82.5 million.

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.²³ Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s 2016 Sustainable Freight Action Plan identifies the importance of using such systems in 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 in May 2018 to fully fund this project. As part of this project, the Advance Technology Corridor Border concept started construction for passenger vehicles at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry in the Summer of 2019. The project technology system design was developed in 2019 for the rest of the POEs. The project construction bid is expected by the end of 2020.

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. 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 working to install 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.

²³ Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improve transportation safety and mobility and enhances productivity through the integration of advanced communications technologies into the transportation infrastructure and in vehicles. ITS encompass a broad range of wireless and wire line communications-based information and electronics technologies.

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 was completed in summer 2019, at which time all northbound and southbound traffic will be using the newly expanded Cesar Chavez Boulevard to reach the POE.

Calexico East Expansion Project

The Calexico East expansion project proposes to widen the off-system bridge over the All- American Canal at the U.S.-Mexico border approximately 0.7 miles south of State Route 7 (SR-7). The concept includes widening the existing structure by adding two lanes, providing an eight-foot outside shoulder on both the east and west sides of the bridge, providing new barriers, and installing 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 \$200 million in funding towards the bridge expansion. The engineering project report with 30 percent design and the project environmental document in the winter of 2019.

Safety

Border safety issues continue to be addressed largely through the Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG), Operation Gridlock, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Border Division, and the California Maritime Security Program (for statistics, please visit [Appendix D](#)). CHP also coordinates and/or participates in a number of investigative task forces, community outreach programs and a grant-funded regional enforcement operation. Border community outreach efforts are largely accomplished through CHP's El Protector Program.

Operation Stonegarden Program

The Operation Stonegarden Grant Program (OPSG) supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. In 2019, Cal OES awarded a total of \$12 million of OPSG funds, specifically \$9.2 million to San Diego County Sheriff's Department and \$2.8 million to Imperial County Sheriff's Department, to support joint efforts to secure the United States' borders along routes of ingress from international borders, including travel corridors in states bordering Mexico and Canada, as well as states and territories with international water borders.

In the San Diego Sector, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department has administrative oversight over the OPSG and has 23 participating agencies. These agencies are all responsible for providing law enforcement presence along the maritime border, beginning from the United States/Mexico international border to the northern California County of San Mateo. Together, the agencies provide increased law enforcement presence in their designated areas of jurisdiction in support of the CBP's efforts to reduce border-related crimes and improve border security.

In addition, San Diego County took part of the Operation Gridlock VII (GLVII) on November 19 and 20, 2019, a collaboration to gather intelligence and intercept drug courier groups transporting narcotics into and throughout the United States. Within San Diego County, GLVII simultaneously targeted Interstate 5, Interstate 8 and Interstate 15 and adjacent state routes, as well as the maritime operations along Southern California coastal waterways.

In Imperial County, the Stonegarden grant (OPSG) is administered by the Imperial County Sheriff's Office with El Centro Sector (ELC) having operational oversight, which includes a total of 16 participating agencies. With these funds, Imperial County law enforcement agencies acquired a regional automated license plate reader system that strengthens officer's capability to interdict stolen vehicles or compromised license plates. In addition, these funds supported the Operation Valley Grinch, which was a collaborative effort with various federal and local law enforcement agencies targeting known criminals in the Imperial Valley. The operation supported border security efforts.

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 United States Coast Guard (USCG) who collaborate with all state security programs, as well as the United States Navy. They are permanent members of the USCG Interagency Operations Centers (IOC), as well as staff members of the USCG Headquarters' External Affairs Unit.

The Cal OES Maritime Security Program collaborates with USCG, US Navy, and local marine law enforcement, including San Diego County, Orange County, Los Angeles County, and Bay Area in joint operational efforts. The Cal OES Maritime Security Program participates as subject matter experts and observers, and in full coordination with the USCG in marine training, meetings, and in some rare cases, in real world operations with Mexico. Cal OES also shares best practices, lessons learned, and catastrophic plans with the Mexican Marine operators as they are part of the West Coast Sea Board.

The joint operational efforts also focus on monitoring, responding and securing waters off shore of Western Mexico, the State of California and beyond. They provide classified training to Mexican units on special tactics, such as marine night infiltration operations. In 2019, Cal OES participated in three training exercises in the San Diego Area, including training at the border, and offered military and maritime expertise as advisors to the Mexican units.

Finally, a collaborative effort exists between the USCG, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), Cal OES, and the Mexican Government for oil spill response. When a spill occurs, the USCG and the DFW, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) activate and establish the Unified Command in response to an oil spill. The Cal OES Maritime program's role is to coordinate stakeholders for the Liaison Unit, including representatives from the Mexican Government and coordinates with the leader of the Unified Command (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.

In 2019, there were no real-world oil spills that required joint California and Mexico Response. However, Cal OES, DFW, and the USCG invited Mexico to participate in four oil spill response drills, and Mexico sent four liaisons to observe the drills. In 2020, Cal OES will be assisting in the creation of injects with the Mexican Liaisons for more involved participation.

El Protector

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 2019, the El Protector Officer facilitated six Spanish traffic safety presentations to approximately 400 people, provided four DUI safety booths to approximately 150 people, and gave five Spanish Smart Start presentations to approximately 50 attendees.

Health

California Department of Public Health Office of Binational Border Health

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

Monitoring and Surveillance

OBBH focuses on enhancing the detection and response capabilities to infectious disease incidents and threats in the border region. During 2019, OBBH continued to monitor and investigate binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks. OBBH worked collaboratively with state, local, and federal partners to develop routine and emergency binational communication protocols, facilitate cross-border information exchange, investigate binational infectious disease cases and outbreaks, and facilitate communication between public health officials in California and Baja California on infectious disease matters of binational interest.

OBBH continued to manage and coordinate the California Border Infectious Disease Program (CA-BIDS), a collaboration between CDPH, 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 include enhancing surveillance, laboratory testing, and reporting of urgent and routine infectious diseases in the border region.

OBBH monitored all binational infectious diseases cases throughout the State of 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. This system contains a module specifically designed to track cases of binational nature, and the system is programmed to alert OBBH every time a new binational case is identified.

In 2019, OBBH convened quarterly binational epidemiology meetings to enhance situational awareness as it relates to infectious disease matters in California and Baja California. Participants included key local and state public health officials from both states. These meetings brought together epidemiologists and subject matter experts on key topics of interest such as influenza, severe acute respiratory infections, antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis, and E-Cigarette and Vaping Associated Lung Injury (EVALI).

Border Health Status Report

CDPH-OBBH produces the Border Health Status Report to the Legislature that provides the health status of the border region using national, state and local community health indicators, based on the Healthy People 2020 priorities and other health issues of importance to California. The 2017-2018 report summarizes demographic information and health indicators including obesity, diabetes, mental health,

tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV and vaccine-preventable diseases in the California border region. This [report](#) can be found on the CDPH website.

Border and Binational Collaboration

In 2019, OBBH programs focused on border and binational communities throughout California and Baja California by sustaining partnerships and enhancing communications between state and federal officials in California and Mexico. One of these efforts is a partnership with the Public Health Services of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, to convene the San Diego Border Health Collaborative (SDBHC). 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.

In collaboration with the Epidemiology State Department of the Health Services Institute of Baja California (ISESALUD) and the Healthcare-Associated Infections Program (HAI), Center for Health Care Quality, OBBH convened two binational events on the topics of antibiotic resistance and stewardship. A practical exercise was held with Baja California's hospital directors, unit chiefs, nurse managers, senior medical staff, and hospital epidemiologists to discuss the core actions to address antibiotic resistance as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and concepts of antibiotic stewardship. A symposium was held with an audience of binational medical providers; nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry; and medical students; with topics such as antibiotic stewardship in resource limited settings, antibiograms and surveillance, prophylaxis, and dose optimization. Binational collaboration was highlighted at both events as one of the main ways public health and health care providers could address emerging antibiotic resistance among our border and binational communities.

Promotores de Salud/Community Health Workers

OBBH focused on promoting health and wellness and increasing health equity by collaborating with local stakeholders and co-chairing the San Diego County Promotores Coalition (SDCPC), a coalition comprised of organizations and individual Promotores de Salud and Community Health Workers (P/CHWs). The SDCPC's mission is to promote, value and recognize the work of Promotores de Salud and support agencies who work with them to increase access and services to the residents of San Diego County. Their goals include building capacity and infrastructure for integrating P/CHWs into healthcare teams and community programs, and providing resources and capacity-building for agencies.

A premiere activity of the SDCPC is the *Adelante Promotores* Conference, which provides professional and personal development for P/CHWs, education of various health related topics relevant to San Diego County, and recognition of two P/CHWs for their efforts in their community. As part of the SDCPC, OBBH participated in the planning, coordination, and execution of the 2019 conference, in partnership with the National Rural Health Association, CDPH-Environmental Health Investigations Branch/Breathing California, California Community Colleges/Health Workforce Initiative, Blue Shield/Promise Health Plan, and the National Latino Research Center. The conference theme, "Celebrating Health for All," focused on the importance of all communities to be healthy and celebrate the work of P/CHWs. More than 250 P/CHWs from across San Diego County, Baja California, Arizona, and other regions of California attended the one-day conference. The conference offered 18 workshops to attend throughout the day. Topics included community mobilization, emotional intelligence, adverse childhood events, and mercury found in face creams.

As part of the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health (NLAPH) Center, OBBH collaborated with Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, Heluna Health Inc., and Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center, to train and provide technical support to Community Health Workers (CHWs), coordinating outreach in the communities of San Diego County, Imperial County and Baja California. This collaborative effort developed a manual and educational flipchart based on CDC's "Be Antibiotics Aware" campaign to inform the public about the proper use of antibiotics and promote infection prevention practices in their communities. The workshops highlighted the harms of antibiotic misuse and overuse, discussed the issue of antimicrobial resistance, and offered opportunities for behavioral change among community members. As a result, over 40 CHWs were trained to provide culturally appropriate workshops in their communities. CHWs were able to reach over 550 community members with the aim of improving community awareness on antibiotic resistance.

Advisory Group

OBBH convenes a voluntary, statewide, community advisory group twice a year to develop a strategic plan (with goals for implementation), and to advise CDPH and the California members of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. The group of 12 members includes representatives from Los Angeles, San Diego, and Imperial Counties' health departments, an association of local health officers, local government, hospitals, health plans, community-based organizations, and universities. In 2019, the OBBH Advisory Group on Strategic Planning held two public meetings for 2019-2021. Advisory group members also discussed topics such as substance abuse and addiction, vaping in Los Angeles County, migrant health, and healthy living for children and mothers.

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

Emergency Management

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), a leader in emergency management and homeland security, builds towards a safer, more resilient California, including the California Mexico-border region by leveraging effective partnerships with federal, state, local, non-governmental organizations, including our Mexican counterparts. Together, these entities collaborate on initiatives and share best practices in preparing for, protecting against, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating the impacts of all hazards. Through these partnerships, Cal OES supports many key initiatives that directly benefit California's relationship with Mexico. Below are Cal OES programs that collaborate and support California- Mexico initiatives.

Migrant Caravan

In 2019, Cal OES continued to collaborate with state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to assess the migrant caravan and provide resource services to migrants. In addition, Cal OES exchanged information with Baja California regarding the arrival of the migrant caravan and their needs. Cal OES also participated in Migrant Family Arrivals updates, from which an Arrival Report was distributed monthly.

9-1-1 Emergency Communications Branch, Public Safety Answering Point Interaction with Mexico

Cal OES collaborates with public safety agencies in the state to provide California citizens and visitors the best emergency services available. Cal OES Public Safety Communications 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Branch assists local public safety answering points (PSAP) with the administration and funding to provide effective emergency services for all 9-1-1 calls. Cal OES works closely with four PSAP in San Diego and Imperial Counties, which interact daily with Mexico to assist with the 9-1-1 calls originating within Mexico or from Mexican citizens that reside and/or work in bordering cities and towns within California. Through this partnership with the PSAP and administration of funding, Cal OES continues to support and promote collaboration efforts with Mexico.

Southwest Border Communications Working Group

Cal OES, along with officials from federal, state, local, and tribal public safety agencies continue to participate in the Southwest Border Communications Working Group (SWBCWG) to discuss emergency communication efforts with regard towards terrorist threats, hazmat incidents, natural disasters, border violence, escapes and evasions, medical emergencies and cross-border interference. In 2019, SWBCWG held their quarterly meetings in California, Arizona, and Texas to discuss interoperability communications issues along the Southwest Border. The Shared Communications System and Infrastructure Focus Group developed a report for decision makers outlining the governance, policy, resource sharing, and security considerations for implementing a project to connect radio systems along the southwest border region. This report was completed in December 2019.

The SWBCWG quarterly meetings continue the discussion of ongoing efforts and identifying communications gaps along the border, with the goal of providing justification for establishing federal funding to fill those gaps. Cal OES will host the next quarterly meeting in San Diego, CA on January 28 – 29, 2020 and will have a panel to discuss the impacts of Mexico's system roll-outs to U.S. Regional Communications systems. In the future, the SWBCWG plans on inviting their Mexican counterparts to quarterly meetings.

Cal OES Collaboration with Mexican Consulates

Cal OES continues to have a strong and lasting partnership with Mexico in collaboration with the ten Mexican Consulates. During times of emergencies and disasters, Cal OES and Mexico stand together in solidarity and offer assistance, as well as share disaster information to support the survivors.

Throughout October and November 2019, this partnership was evident during the Public Safety Power Shutoffs that left more than 2.6 million Californians without power while simultaneously the Kincade Fire burned over 77 thousand acres in Sonoma County. Cal OES collaborated with the Mexican Consulates, including: Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oxnard, Ventura, and San Diego, to reach out to the Mexican Nationals living in the counties impacted by the 2019 wildfires. Through this collaboration, Cal OES shared disaster assistance information with the Consulates to disseminate to constituents. The Consulates also participated at the Local Assistance Centers to assist the Spanish-speaking survivors by relaying information, processing vital records, and encouraging them to register for assistance through the available organizations present.

In August 2019, Cal OES invited representatives from the Northern Mexican Consulates, including San Jose, San Francisco, and Sacramento, and gave them subject matter briefings on disaster coordination and response, human trafficking, victim advocate grant programs, as well as provided a tour of the State Operation Center.

The Mexican Consulate continues to be a key collaborator on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Cal OES and Ministry of the Governance of the United Mexican States through the Civil National Coordination of Civil Protection (CNCP) on cooperation in risk prevention and disaster management.

Delegation to Mexico City

Director Mark Ghilarducci participated in the aforementioned delegation led by the Lieutenant Governor to Mexico City. The Director engaged in high level meetings and signed binational agreements with Mexico in various areas including emergency management. During this delegation, Director Ghilarducci collaborated with Mexico's National Coordination of Civil Protection (CNCP) on emergency management and collaborative efforts between California and Mexico. This includes improving efficiencies and capabilities within emergency management, sharing best practices, technology, research and training, as well as enhancing the overall safety and emergency preparedness in Mexico and California. These discussions are in anticipation of a forthcoming MOU between CalOES and CNCP. In addition, the Director participated on panel discussions at the *Mexico and California: Building Environmental Resilience Together Conference* on the challenges faced by both countries in the areas of climate change and the impact it is having on migration, health, and labor, as well as presented on California's Wildfires, including lesson learned, GAPs, and shared best practices.

Cal OES Collaboration at the Border Legislative Conference

Director Mark Ghilarducci attended the XXXII Border Legislative Conference (BLC) on September 2019 in Mexico City, Mexico to participate in a panel with a representative from Mexico's National Coordinator of Civil Protection to present on emergency management and public safety. The BLC brought together

over 35 legislatures from both the U.S.-Mexico Border, including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas to discuss policy on public safety, emergency management, ports of entry and wait times, early learning, migration, and trade.

During the BLC both Director Ghilarducci and the National Coordinator representative presented on disaster coordination best practices, lessons learned, and gaps from some of their recent disasters, such as wildfires and earthquakes. Director Ghilarducci further discussed the catastrophic California wildfires and the unified coordination and response effort with governmental organizations, public utilities and the private sector.

Through this collaboration, California and Mexico continue to improve efficiencies and capabilities within emergency management and enhance the overall safety and emergency preparedness in Mexico and California, including climate policy and adaptation strategies, training, and mutual aid assistance enhancing California's response operations.

Cross-Border Communication Workgroup

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 drill in September 2019. 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.

On September 17, 2019, a Cross-Border Communication drill took place to test ConOP procedures. The purpose of the drill was to test the communications systems, protocols and procedures outlined in the ConOP for larger disaster events that impact both sides of the U.S. and Mexico international border. Communication systems utilized included Cal OES's conference line, satellite phone, GETs Cards, WebEOC, and amateur radio operators (winlink). Cal OES participated in the communication drill via social media responses, cell phone texting, and utilizing the San Diego County Web EOC. This drill was a binational success, which further allowed the opportunity to update the ConOP based on the drill results and participant agency feedback, as well as update the California/Baja Contact list for all participating agencies.

Matadero Canyon Incident

In December 2019, the Cross-Border Communications Workgroup activated to produce notifications and situational awareness on the massive water clog of the Matadero Canyon due to heavy rainfall in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. In 2020, the Cross-Border Communication Workgroup continues to monitor, assess, and share information on this incident, demonstrating successful binational communication and collaboration efforts.

U.S. EPA Emergency Response Updates

The U.S. EPA, in partnership with state and local entities, supported ongoing training for hazardous materials teams in Tijuana and San Diego; implemented joint notification procedures as specified in the Sister City plan; evaluated binational joint exercise opportunities 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.

In addition, U.S. EPA also coordinated with US Coast Guard to make sure that coastal efforts under the Mexico-U.S. Joint Contingency Plan (MEXUS) dovetails with the inland Border 2020 efforts. MEXUS covers various components of a cross-border response, such as coordination and levels of command roles and responsibilities; planning and preparedness; meetings and exercises; operational elements such as mechanical recovery and dispersant usage; trans-boundary movement of response resources; public information; and funding.

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Appendix A: Air Quality Advancements in 2019

Air Quality

Border communities are unique areas where residents on both sides of the border share a common environment and have similar exposures to pollutants. A number of air quality issues affect the California-Mexico border region. Many efforts occurred in 2019 to increase education and awareness and improve air quality in the California-Mexico border region. These efforts are highlighted below.

Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Alert and Forecast Website and Mobile App

In 2019, CARB continued its support of the Imperial County and Mexicali air quality website (www.imperialvalleyair.org), which provides public access to local air quality data in real-time as well as delivers air quality alerts and associated health information. The website is available in Spanish and English and provides users with forecasts of ambient ozone levels during the ozone season of March 1 through October 15 and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) levels year-round. The public may register to receive notifications via email or text when the air quality is expected to reach unhealthy levels. The “Imperial Valley Air Quality” phone app increases the public’s access to air quality information in the Imperial-Mexicali border region. This free app provides daily air quality information and alerts sent to subscribers’ mobile phones. Moving forward, CARB will continue to coordinate with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (Imperial APCD) and the website developer to evaluate accessibility and air quality forecasts in Imperial County and Mexicali to ensure that timely air quality information is provided to the public. Future efforts will include adding more regulatory sites in Mexicali to the website and the production of an annual air quality report for Imperial County and Mexicali.

Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan

In 2019, five work group meetings were held in Imperial County and Mexicali to discuss progress in implementing the actions identified in the Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality Work Plan (Work Plan). The Work Plan, which was developed in 2018, is a blueprint of priority actions recommended to improve air quality in the border region. The Work Plan was a collaborative effort developed by the workgroup members that focuses on 10 priority areas (40 individual actions) for improving air quality in the Imperial-Mexicali border region:

1. Education/Outreach,
2. Monitoring,
3. Unpaved Roads,
4. Off-Highway Vehicle Rules,
5. Regulating Mexicali Sources,
6. Agricultural Burning,
7. Waste Burning,
8. Collaboration,
9. Vehicle Emissions and Border Traffic, and
10. Enforcement.

These priority areas and individual actions were identified by group consensus, and depend upon the workgroup members for effective implementation. The workgroup has steadily grown in size and now includes more than 60 attendees, representing government agencies, the local community, and academia. Air quality presentations consisting of updates on the work plan actions and air quality trends are presented at each work group meeting. Some of the actions accomplished from the Work Plan are discussed below.²⁴

Enhanced PM Monitoring in Mexicali

The Directorate of Environmental Protection for the City of Mexicali and CARB signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that expands the air monitoring network in Mexicali since the existing network was inadequate for the size and population of the city. CARB loaned the City of Mexicali 50 PurpleAir PM sensors to enhance their monitoring capability and to be used as a screening tool to assist with enforcement efforts. The data collected from these sensors are publicly available via the www.purpleair.com and the app.respira.org.mx websites and help provide a more complete picture of the air pollution sources and their impact throughout the City. The monitoring network in Mexicali will continue to grow as Redspira and the Imperial APCD received funding from U.S. EPA to add 30 Redspira low-cost sensors to the rural eastern side of Mexicali. In addition, the PM2.5 regulatory monitoring contract that provided PM2.5 speciation data at two sites in Mexicali is being reinstated and monitoring efforts with these regulatory monitors are expected to begin again in 2020 for another two years.

Enhanced Education and Awareness of Imperial County-Mexicali Air Quality

Many advances to increase public education and awareness of air quality in Imperial County and Mexicali were accomplished in 2019. The number of low-cost PM2.5 sensors increased substantially in 2019 and this network has allowed members of the public to become more aware of the pollution and sources that affect the air quality on a day-to-day basis. Social media has provided a way to reach more people in Imperial County and Mexicali about air quality related issues. Daily air quality and precautions, videos and photographs of sources of pollution, new programs being implemented by government and non-governmental organizations, as well as upcoming meetings are just a few of the things that the public are made aware of via various social media platforms. In May of 2019, the Comité Cívico Ambiental de Mexicali was formed which is made up of a group of organizations each with a common goal to design, promote and execute strategies focused on promoting health care and the environment in Mexicali.

The Comité started a school flag program in 2019 in Mexicali called the “Bandera Program”. Over 60 schools now participate and the goal is to expand this program to 300 schools by the end of 2020. The “Bandera Program” relies on regulatory and low-cost sensor PM2.5 data around the City to determine the daily air quality and the appropriate colored flag to fly. Students are directly involved in the program and raise and lower the flags every day.

The City of Mexicali has increased its educational outreach to school-age children about air quality and pollution and U.S. EPA awarded funding to the City of Mexicali, Redspira, and the Imperial APCD for interactive educational games and kiosks to be used in schools and in the community starting in 2020. In

²⁴ The Work Plan, meeting minutes and presentations, and other border related information can be found here: <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/border/border.htm>.

addition, U.S. EPA has continued funding for the air quality media campaign, the air quality index radio advertisements and marquee broadcasting, and the Imperial-Mexicali air quality alert and forecasting contract.

Agricultural Burning

In 2019, the Imperial APCD amended their agricultural burn policy (Policy 34) to be more protective of public health. The revisions include:

1. Reducing the number of acres that can be burned per day from 2,000 to 1,600 acres;
2. Prioritizing approval of smaller acreage burns to reduce smoke impact by larger burns
3. Increasing the “special burn” buffer zone from 1.5 to 2 miles for burns near residential areas, rural schools, or adjacent to heavily traveled roads (fields will require an inspector to be present and give approval before the burn may be started), and
4. Minimizing burning within 2 miles of a school to the fullest extent possible on days when school is in session. Burns within 2 miles of a school will be prioritized for weekends, holidays or school closures, i.e., summer break, winter break, spring break. On days when schools are closed, the Imperial APCD will attempt to prioritize the burning of those fields within 2 miles of a school when allocating burn acreage.

In addition, material (video clips, a poster, and a pamphlet) were put together by the City of Mexicali and the Imperial County APCD on agricultural burning and to educate the public in Mexicali to only burn under certain conditions to limit the amount of pollution produced.

Enforcement Efforts

The CARB Enforcement Division has been working closely with the Imperial APCD on evaluating their enforcement program and policies. A report on this review of the Imperial APCD’s enforcement program will be included in CARB’s annual update to its Board in the summer of 2020 on Imperial County air quality and progress in implementing the Work Plan. In Mexicali, the new administration is working with tightened resource and funding allocations but within those constraints has committed to increase their enforcement and permitting of commerce and businesses south of the border. Currently, only slightly more than 10 percent of the 30,000 businesses in Mexicali are licensed so the City of Mexicali has made it a priority to increase the number of businesses that have the appropriate controls in place to obtain a license to operate.

Baja California, Mexico Emission Inventory Improvements

With funding from U.S. EPA, a contract was completed in 2019 to improve the emissions inventory estimates for mobile, area, and point sources in northern Baja California, Mexico. This inventory 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. Development and adoption of the SIP is needed to comply with federal Clean Air Act requirements. The 2014 Mexico National Emissions Inventory (MNEI) was updated for point, area, on-road motor vehicles, and natural sources. Inventories were also developed for sources that were missing from the previous MNEI

including agricultural windblown dust, agricultural burning, brick kilns, state point sources, and border crossings.²⁵

CARB also funded a two-year study with San Diego State University to refine data for CalEnviroScreen by identifying and characterizing emissions sources on the Mexico side of the border and modeling the influence of pollutant emissions in Mexico on California border communities.²⁶

Vehicle Emissions and Border Traffic

Efforts to further monitor and reduce emissions from vehicles in the border region continued in 2019. The CARB Board approved funding for a project to use roadside devices to measure exhaust carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emission rates from light-duty vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles at eight California locations, including the border areas of San Ysidro and Calexico. The data will be useful to:

- evaluate vehicle emission disparities between socioeconomically disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged communities across the State,
- continue tracking long-term fleet emission trends,
- evaluate U.S.-Mexico border-crossing vehicles' air pollution impact on border communities,
- gauge electric vehicle penetration in disadvantaged communities, and
- evaluate air pollution impact of low-performing Smog Check stations.

CARB and the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) have initiated discussions on converting the Change-of-Ownership designated areas of the State to a Basic Smog Check Program. BAR and CARB believe that converting all Change-of-Ownership areas into basic biennial areas would increase the emission benefits of the program, and would reduce instances of fraud based on the improper registration of vehicles to addresses in current change-of-ownership areas. Further discussions will need to take place between CARB, BAR, and other offices since a change to the Smog Check Program would require a change in legislation. To gain a better understanding of the heavy-duty vehicle emissions at the Calexico-East Port of Entry, discussions to collect emissions data at the Port of Entry have occurred with CARB and the General Services Administration and will continue into 2020. CARB is also working to establish a contract to enable automated license plate reading of heavy-duty vehicles traveling north from Calexico.

<i>Funding Received for 2020</i>
U.S. EPA approved grants proposed by CARB and the Imperial APCD for the following border air quality projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual support for the air quality awareness media campaign and a survey.• The Air Quality Task Force.• Air Quality Index radio advertisements and marquee broadcasting.• Air quality alert and forecasting contract for Imperial and Mexicali.

²⁵ The final report and inventory can be found here: https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/border/erg_final_report.pdf.

²⁶ The final report can be found here: (https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/planning/border/ces_report.pdf).

- Improve on-road emission inventory estimates in Baja California.
- New supplies, spare parts, updated monitoring software and instruments for the State of Baja California, Mexico.
- Funding for two (2) staff from the City of Mexicali to attend the 2020 Air Sensors International Conference.
- Interactive educational game for use in Mexicali schools.
- Education/Awareness kiosks for ICAPCD to educate the community and schools about air quality and pollution.
- Expansion of Redspira sensors (30) to the west side of Mexicali and additional funding for 30 more schools to participate in the school flag program.

El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor Community Emissions Reduction Program

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. As a result of AB 617, in September 2018, the CARB Governing Board selected the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor in Imperial County for development of a Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollution in the community.

Imperial APCD partnered with Comite Civico del Valle (CCV), Inc. as co-leads to convene a community steering committee and develop the CERP. The community steering committee, consisting of 15 members, held 16 public meetings during 2019. In addition, the Imperial APCD and CCV co-hosted two workshops in June 2019 to publicly discuss plan development. On October 8, 2019, the Imperial APCD Board of Supervisors adopted the *Imperial County Year 1 Community Emissions Reduction Program Plan for the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor* (Plan) and, per the requirements of AB 617, submitted it to CARB for approval. The Plan includes actions focused on reducing exposure to PM2.5 and toxic air contaminants from sources in the community including truck operations at the border, windblown dust, and agricultural activities. Strategies outlined in the plan include parking lot paving, school bus replacement, installation of air filtrations systems at sensitive receptor locations, urban greening, and a commitment by the Imperial APCD to work with local transportation agencies to assess implementing measures that reduce the impact of transportation activities at the border. The CARB Board approved the Plan at a special Board hearing held on January 15, 2020, in El Centro.²⁷

²⁷ The approved Plan can be found at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp_2018_ad_cerps.

Appendix B: Water Quality Accomplishments in 2019

<p>San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board</p> <p>2019 Regulatory Actions in the Tijuana River Valley</p>
<p>South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit</p>
<p>The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (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 (NPDES Permit No. CA0108928). The SBIWTP treats approximately 25 million gallons per day (monthly average) of sewage originating in Tijuana, Mexico. Under the NPDES permit, the USIBWC also operates five canyon collectors (Stewarts Drain, Canyon de Silva, Canyon Del Sol, Smugglers Gulch, and Goat Canyon) to intercept and divert non-storm water illicit discharges into the SBIWTP to protect downstream communities and ecosystems. The NPDES permit also requires the USIBWC to address sewage infrastructure problems in Tijuana, Mexico and cross-border flows of wastewater into the U.S. The USIBWC is required to convene Binational Technical Committee (BTC) Meetings at least biannually (twice a year) to discuss transboundary flow issues with agencies in Mexico. The BTC also addresses pretreatment issues that affect the SBIWTP. These meetings are intended to 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 and frequent receiving waters monitoring 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.</p>
<p>Total Maximum Daily Loads</p>
<p>The San Diego Water Board has identified human health and ecosystem impacts in the Tijuana River Valley as regional priorities for many years and is currently developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for trash and bacterial indicators/pathogens in the main channel of the river and six tributary canyons. The TMDL development process includes timely communication with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT), selecting numeric targets, identifying pollutant load reductions, and evaluating potential management actions. Although the Tijuana River is on the 2014/2016 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for impairments due to a total of 20 pollutants, control of the anthropogenic sources of indicator bacteria and trash is likely to result in a significant reduction of the remaining pollutants. Following an external scientific peer review and a public review period, the TMDLs are expected to be presented for adoption at a San Diego Water Board hearing in spring 2021.</p>
<p>California Water Code Section 13267 Technical Report Investigative Order</p>
<p>In response to public outcry and health risks faced by the general public and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, the San Diego Water Board has developed and will issue a California Water Code section 13267 Technical Report Investigative Order to the USIBWC in 2020. The Investigative Order requires the USIBWC to conduct 18 months of comprehensive water and sediment quality monitoring</p>

and analysis of samples collected at locations through the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary with rigorous quality assurance/quality control measures.

Lawsuit Against U.S. IBWC

Since filing its citizen suit against USIBWC on September 4, 2018, the San Diego Water Board spent much of 2019 exchanging documents with U.S. IBWC as part of the discovery process in litigation and engaging in settlement discussions with the Cities of Imperial Beach, Chula Vista, San Diego, the Unified Port of San Diego, California State Lands Commission, Surfrider (collectively “Plaintiffs”), U.S. IBWC, and the United States Department of Justice before Magistrate Judge Linda Lopez. In this context, the Plaintiffs have been diligently working with their experts and experts for the County of San Diego responsible for the Senate Bill (SB) 507 Needs and Opportunities Assessment (SB 507 NOA) to identify technical solutions to address transboundary flows of waste giving rise to the three ongoing cases against the USIBWC. The Plaintiffs have coalesced around project alternatives identified in the SB 507 NOA, specifically a 163 MGD diversion and treatment facility and an 82 million-gallon storage basin on USIBWC property and a number of canyon collector projects. On December 11, 2019, the San Diego Water Board approved Resolution No. R9-2019-0246, a joint resolution between the Plaintiffs and other non-litigant stakeholders in the Tijuana River Valley endorsing these project alternatives in the SB 507 NOA and calling upon the federal government to act to address this environmental crisis. Trial is currently scheduled for March 21, 2021.

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT) - Projects and Initiatives

In 2009, the San Diego Water Board organized and started to lead the TRVRT, a binational stakeholder group, so that agencies and other organizations active in the watershed, especially in the Tijuana River Valley, may collaborate to advance projects that require creative and unconventional approaches due to the challenges associated with a binational watershed. The TRVRT consists of the San Diego Water Board, U.S. IBWC and more than 30 other public agencies (federal, State, and local) in addition to other interested parties from both sides of the border.

In June 2017, the San Diego Water Board evaluated the progress of the TRVRT’s efforts and determined that although some of its projects have substantial momentum and promise, water quality is still significantly compromised in the Tijuana River Valley. The San Diego Water Board reconvened the TRVRT in October 2018 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.

Below are summaries of projects and initiatives led by TRVRT member agencies and organizations to protect the Tijuana River Watershed/Valley.

Tijuana River Watershed Hydraulics and Hydrology Studies

The City of San Diego and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed Phase 1 of a jointly coordinated hydraulics and hydrology (H&H) study of the Tijuana River Valley. The completed work focused on existing conditions in the Tijuana River Valley. Phase 2 will integrate data provided by Mexican agencies

so that the H&H assessment reflects conditions in Mexico as well. Ultimately, the H&H study findings will inform other projects in the region and may inform a federal 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 (waivers, waste discharge requirements, etc.) for the Tijuana River Valley.

Tijuana River Integrated Water Management Program

The development of a Tijuana River Integrated Water Management Program is supported by the Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation, which funds water, health, and substance abuse programs in Mexico. The foundation has designated the Tijuana River watershed as a priority watershed. University and NGO partners in Tijuana have completed the first phase of the program with funding from the foundation that supported 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. The program partners have reached out to the San Diego Water Board, agencies in the Recovery Team, federal agencies and organizations in Mexico to compile information about their projects in order to have an assessment of the region. The Program Report of the first phase is complete and the second phase has been initiated in conjunction with Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (MX IBWC).

Brown Property Restoration

The *Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water* (Recovery Strategy) identified the 25-year storm event as the most feasible and protective flood event to plan for in the Tijuana River Valley. The Recovery Team's Five-Year Action Plan included restoration of historic floodplain capacity on land in the center of the Tijuana River Valley, the Brown Property, as a potential project for restoring and managing flows across a 25-year storm event. In December 2018, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced its selection of projects to receive funding from the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) Restoration Grant Programs, which included \$1.328 million awarded to the County of San Diego for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Brown Fill Restoration Project. The County of San Diego has also initiated an H&H analysis for the property that incorporates the findings of the valley-wide Army Corps of Engineers H&H study.

Comprehensive Needs and Opportunities Report

The County of San Diego NOA provides a comprehensive review and assessment of management strategies needed to address transboundary flows of sewage, trash and sediment within the Tijuana River Valley located within the United States. The NOA effort is intended to function as an update to the Recovery Strategy to help guide decisions on the future implementation of projects to reduce impacts from the transboundary flows on the Tijuana River and Estuary. The NOA report will summarize existing transboundary flow water quality conditions and management practices, a needs assessment and data gap analysis, proposed potential projects, and an evaluation of proposed project alternative benefits and costs, along with recommendations for the next steps to address the technical feasibility of projects to restore and protect water and habitat quality and downstream communities. The County of San Diego is in the process of preparing the Comprehensive NOA Report for publication in March 2020.

Border Impact Bond

4Walls International built real momentum behind their Border Impact Bond (BIB) in 2019, focusing on specific science, policy, finance and community goals.

Working with the University of California Irvine (UCI) SedRise program, they helped co-author a white paper, currently submitted for publishing, that establishes a framework to quantify risk of failure for the BIB, as well as an appropriate interest rate when upstream interventions are designed and costs quantified. Working with their partners, they also identified three locations in Los Laureles (tributary canyon) that are estimated to contribute 60% of trash and sediment loading and are prime targets for intervention. Then, working with simple intervention scenarios, 4Walls and UCI learned that higher investment in diverse targeted interventions would practically eliminate risk of failure. The team has recently been awarded a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Border 2020 program to develop their monitoring tool – a low cost framework that will allow third party entities to measure the success of upstream interventions using aerial drones and cameras.

With support from the Ocean Conservancy, 4Walls conducted a legal and technical assessment that identified an innovative legal structure involving that would allow the California Natural Resources Agency to enter into a pay-for-performance contract and reimburse successful work in Mexico that saves the State money in environmental mitigation. This structure has been vetted by California Senate lawyers.

On the financial front, 4Walls received multiple local investment offers for the BIB. They also had a chance to welcome the Trash Free Seas Alliance (TFSA), along with their partners at the Ocean Conservancy, to the Tijuana River Valley and present the BIB to TFSA members and sustainability directors of Coca-Cola Company, Pepsi-Co, Dow Chemical, American Chemistry Council, and more. They are currently working with impact bond financial experts from Circulate Capital to begin creating the pay-for-performance structure.

4Walls looks to leverage their deep relationships, formed over the last decade, in 2020. They are seasoned community organizers and, along with developing their measurement tool, they will lead an implementation design process to achieve real cost estimates for interventions.

International Boundary Water Commission – Tijuana River Spill Notification Protocols

Cal OES continues to monitor and collaborate with the IBWC on reporting 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 IBWC requires their Mexican Counterpart, MX IBWC, and the *Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana* (CESPT), to immediately report any sewage spill that has potential impact for cross border into the Tijuana River.

In 2019, the Cal OES State Warning Center received fifteen spill incident notifications from the IBWC regarding the Tijuana River and followed notification protocols by notifying all US stakeholders. The Cal OES Warning Center also incorporated “international spill reporting” into their written operational procedures.

In August 2019, four Cal OES representatives met with the IBWC to obtain a tour of the Tijuana River and a brief on sewage spills, including notification triggers, flows, and protocols. Cal OES continues to attend the IBWC Public Forums on the Tijuana River Spill and monitors the progress of the communication protocols between the governing agencies.

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

In January, Regional Water Board staff participated with an organization dedicated to watershed restoration, River Partners, in a tour of potential wetland sites identified in the New River Strategic Plan. Attendees included CalEPA staff, Regional Water Board staff, and Imperial Irrigation District staff. Wetlands are one way to naturally remediate water.

In March, Regional Water Board staff attended a State Water Board workshop in North Shore, and gave an informational presentation on water quality at the United States/Mexico International Border in Calexico. The presentation included historical problems, efforts to address pollution problems, water quality impacts, and current activities at the border.

A California-Mexico Border Relations Council meeting was held at the San Diego Regional Water Board in March. Representatives included Regional Water Board, CalEPA, CA Department of Food and Agriculture, San Diego State University, Office of Binational Border Health, CA Department of Public Health Environmental Health Investigations Branch, U.S. IBWC, CA Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CARB, OEHHA, GO-Biz, the Energy Commission, U.S. EPA, SEMARNAT, and Secretariat for Environmental Protection of Baja California (SPA). Regional Water Board staff gave an informational presentation on water issues at the Border. The update focused on border pollution, water quality, and the status of the New River Strategic Plan. In November 2019, Regional Water Board representatives attended a second California-Mexico Border Relations Council Meeting.

A Tijuana River and New River Transboundary Sewage Stakeholder Meeting was held in June, where staff provided a presentation on the water quality at the United States/Mexico border and provided an update on the status of the New River Strategic Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to review efforts to address transboundary sewage flows in the Tijuana and New Rivers and identify technical and financial solution.

The New River

In 2018, the design contract for Phase 1 of the New River Improvement Project (NRIP) was awarded to a consultant. The key agencies cooperating on this project are the City of Calexico, Imperial County, and Imperial Irrigation District. Phase 1 of the NRIP is the design of three elements: a trash screen, a bypass encasement, and a pump back system. The trash screen would remove trash, which is a carrier for pathogens and other compounds that pose a health threat. The bypass encasement would divert the New River to bypass the city of Calexico, minimizing human contact with the severely polluted river. The pump back system would pump back secondary treated wastewater into the existing riverbed to replenish the flow and create wetlands in the community. The contract for the design was completed on October 31, 2018. Phase 2, construction, is the next phase and is dependent on securing funding of \$27.6M. 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. The remaining \$17.6 million continued to be sought in 2019 and was proposed in Governor Newsom’s 2020 Budget.

A Community Meeting in Calexico was held in July 2019 for the New River Improvement Project Handoff. Regional Water Board staff presented an update of the New River Improvement Project and handed off the project to the Lead Agency, the City of Calexico. The City of Calexico will continue with the next steps, which include noticing the project to the public and following through with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

In July, September, and November 2019, Regional Water Board staff participated in the Binational Technical Committee (BTC) meetings held in Mexicali. As part of the meeting, staff participated in tours of the sewage infrastructure that are being rehabilitated. Representatives included the Regional Water Board, the Comision Nacional Del Agua (CONAGUA), Comision Internacional de Limites del Agua (MX IBWC), US International Boundary and Water Commission (U.S. IBWC), and Comision Estatal del Agua (CEA). Representatives of the BTC discussed the actions implemented by CESPM to improve infrastructure, the usage of the equipment received by CESPM to help prevent sewage bypasses, the notification protocol for bypasses, and water quality data for the New River.

A raw sewage discharge into the New River occurred at a sewage collector on the Quintana Roo bridge, Mexicali, Baja California during July through August 2019, due to the collector gate being opened and compromised. The discharge volume was 19,085,524 gallons over a period of approximately 19 days.

In October 2019, Regional Water Board staff gave a New River Tour highlighting the locations of the main elements of the New River Improvement Project. The tour was followed by the IBWC Citizen's Forum Meeting.

Regional Water Board representatives participated in a Bi-national Roundtable Discussion on Air Quality and the New River in October 2019. This forum was hosted by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and included elected officials, regulatory agencies and stakeholders from California and Mexico. Regional Water Board staff provided a presentation on the water quality issues associated with the New River.

In November 2019, a tour of the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali was held for CalEPA and other stakeholders, including the Regional Water Board and Imperial County Public Health Department Division of Environmental Health.

In November 2019, a raw sewage discharge into the New River occurred at Pumping Plant Number 2, Mexicali, Baja California due to mechanical failures. The discharge volume was 142,653 gallons over a period of approximately 7 hours and 30 minutes.

The Regional Water Board regulates discharges into the New River by controlling pollution from:

1. nonpoint sources, mainly agriculture, by implementing total maximum daily loads and programs for agricultural runoff (Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program),
2. point sources, mainly wastewater treatment plants (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program), and
3. conducting monthly water quality monitoring.

In November 2019, the Regional Water Board adopted a short-term renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharges Requirements for agricultural activities in the Imperial Valley. The Conditional Waiver is necessary to meet the requirements of the state's non-point source policy. Extending the

Conditional Waiver ensures that agricultural dischargers continue to implement management practices to protect water quality and perform necessary monitoring.

In 2019, the Regional Water Board renewed four National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits within the border area. Two of these NPDES facilities discharge to the New River; the City of Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Centinela State Prison WWTP. The other two facilities, the City of El Centro WWTP and the Niland WWTP, discharge to the Alamo River and Salton Sea, respectively.

Two enforcement actions to resolve the NPDES facilities with major effluent violations in the border area were resolved. These resulted in settlement amounts of \$297,000 for the Seeley WWTP, which discharges to the New River, and \$78,000 for the City of Imperial WWTP, which discharges to the Alamo River.

Throughout 2019, the Regional Water Board continued to implement its monthly water quality monitoring program for the New River at the international border with Mexico to track the river's cleanup progress, track compliance with California water quality standards, and track emerging pollutants of concern.

Salton Sea

In 2019, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), continued to implement Phase I of the State's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) to protect air quality and ecosystem values at the Salton Sea. Phase I will develop nearly 30,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects on playa exposed by the receding Salton Sea.

Projects

The Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project will serve as the first habitat project under the SSMP. The SCH project area encompasses 3,770 acres of exposed lakebed at the southern end of the Salton Sea, and spans part of the New River. It is located about eight miles northeast of the town of Westmorland in Imperial County. The project is aimed at preventing further degradation of air quality and habitat and will anchor Phase I of the SSMP.

In 2019, DWR entered land access and water use agreements with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) allowing construction of the SCH on IID-owned lands and providing a stable water supply to the SCH. Further, DWR and CDFW executed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding future operation and maintenance of the project. DWR issued a Request For Proposals for the SCH in October 2019. The state expects to award a design-build contract in late summer 2020. Project construction will begin as soon as possible after the contract is awarded. The state has committed up to \$206 million for the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

The State Team also worked closely to plan the Bruchard Road Dust Suppression Project. This project will suppress dust on up to 140 acres of exposed, dry lakebed at the southern end of the Salton Sea, with the goal of developing a permitting approach that can be implemented at other sites around the sea. DWR entered a contract for implementation of the project with IID in late 2019 and expects the project to be completed in the first quarter of 2020.

Partnerships

DWR requested \$7 million in financial assistance for the SCH from the federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Fiscal Year 2019 Announcement for Program Funding. The RCPP helps fund projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to natural resource challenges. DWR’s proposal seeks to expand cooperation with the federal government through development of a partnership agreement for the SCH project. The State Team intends to continue pursuing federal funding and partnership opportunities to assist with implementation of the SSMP.

Engagement and Outreach

In addition to launching an e-newsletter and beginning work on a comprehensive state website to provide a single site for the public to find information on SSMP projects, CNRA and DWR held multiple meetings around the Salton Sea in 2019, collaborating with local leaders and community members to develop and implement a robust engagement plan. This plan will provide a long-term, respectful approach to engage with Salton Sea community members, listen to their ideas and concerns and incorporate local input into the state’s process and decisions. The plan is anticipated to be completed in early 2020.

Planning

CNRA is working to develop a Dust Suppression Action Plan to identify approximately 9,000 acres of dust suppression projects at locations around the Salton Sea determined by soil emissivity, prevailing wind patterns, and threat to populated areas. In addition to partnering with IID to benefit from ongoing data collection and dust control measure development, the state is coordinating with governmental agencies, stakeholders, and the public prior to finalizing the Dust Suppression Action Plan. CNRA and DWR held two public workshops in 2019 and will hold additional public workshops in 2020 to seek public input on the plan, which will be finalized in Spring 2020.

In late 2019, CNRA provided a letter of intent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process for the SSMP. The USACE and DWR entered a Water Resources Development Act funding agreement to facilitate funding of the NEPA process as well as permitting for individual SSMP projects. The State Team will continue to hold regular meetings with USACE with the goal of completing the NEPA process in 2021.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Border Region Projects

In 2019, two border region projects applied for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Funding. The applications were submitted in 2019, and grant winners were announced in 2020 (see table).

<p>California Department of Fish and Wildlife Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Funding <i>Applications Submitted in 2019, Grantees Announced in 2020</i></p>
<p>Border Region Grant Recipients:</p>
<p>The Alamo and New Rivers Riparian Habitat Restoration Planning and Permitting Project, River Partners - \$321,332</p>

The Alamo and New Rivers Riparian Habitat Restoration Planning and Permitting Project will:

1.) Develop a habitat restoration plan for up to 1,498 acres within the Imperial Wildlife Area's Finney-Ramer Unit on the Alamo River and complete CEQA documents needed to secure implementation funds, (Phase 2) of the Project,

2.) Develop a conceptual habitat restoration design for up to 1,234 acres on the New River on lands owned by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and

3.) Identify additional suitable riparian habitat restoration sites along the New and Alamo Rivers.

This is a multi-benefit Project designed to create habitat for endangered, threatened, and rare species including Gila woodpecker, Yuma Ridgeway's rail, Western yellow-billed cuckoo, elf owl, willow flycatcher, gilded flicker, Arizona Bell's vireo and California black rail, while reducing downstream flood risk, sequestering carbon, improving water quality, creating job opportunities and protecting pollinators.

Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Plan, County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation - \$520,168

The Tijuana River watershed is a bi-national watershed that consists of tributaries originating in San Diego County and Baja California that combine to form a primary river channel in Tijuana, Mexico. The Tijuana River Valley encompasses the lower 6 miles of the river that lie in the U.S which includes the County of San Diego's Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP). The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) recently completed a Baseline Biodiversity Report which revealed several areas within the TRVRP that have been taken over by invasive plant species. The intent of this project is to complete planning steps for the implementation of a large-scale restoration effort throughout the TRVRP to address the invasive plant populations and subsequent environmental issues created as a result. The goals of the project are to develop a Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP/Plan), obtain necessary regulatory permits, and obtain environmental clearance pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Upon completion of the project, this large-scale restoration effort would be ready for implementation as part of a future phase.

Appendix C: Department of Pesticide Regulation Outreach in 2019

Collaboration with Promotores
<p>On March 12, DPR attended the Binational Promotores Conference in Oakland. This annual conference is organized by the Health Initiative of the Americas, UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, and is organized for Community Health Workers (CHWs), community leaders, coordinators and people working to improve migrant's health conditions and well-being. A group of delegates from the state of Zacatecas (México) attended and shared barriers they face when providing health information to the community. DPR staff attended the Adelante Promotores Conference in San Diego on August 23 to network with other Promotores and promote pesticide safety outreach opportunities with them. The conference focused on the unification of Promotores and Community Health Workers (CHWs) in creating and maintaining healthy communities in San Diego County.</p>
<p>DPR and the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner's (CAC) Office attended the Binational Health and Resource Fair in San Diego in October. Cecilia Guzman, San Diego's Mexican Consulate Health Promotora, hosted the Health and Resource Fair to promote health services to the community of San Diego. DPR staff shared valuable pesticide safety information with attendees and networked with other Promotores assisting the Mexican Consulate during the fair. DPR staff and San Diego CAC's inspectors had the opportunity to talk to the new General Consul of San Diego, Consul Carlos González Gutierrez.</p>

DPR Working with the Community

DPR leadership participated in this daylong tour of Imperial County hosted by Comité Civico Del Valle on June 13. An overview of environmental issues affecting Imperial County such as water contamination, toxics, pesticides, air pollution, and illegal dumping was provided.

There are approximately 20,000 indigenous immigrants from Mexico living and working in Ventura County, many of whom are farm workers. DPR participated in a Radio Indígena Interview on August 16 in Oxnard to talk about pesticide safety in general and the new California System for Pesticide Incident Reporting ([CASPIR](#)) bilingual mobile app. The CASPIR app, also launched in 2019, provides a 24-7 method to report pesticide incidents, using real photographs and video if necessary. While it can be used anywhere a pesticide incident may occur, the mobile app should prove especially useful for farmworkers and their families. The radio show was called, "Empoderando a La Comunidad" (Empowering the Community), and was associated with Radio Indígena, 94.1 FM, run by The Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP).



Photo Caption: DPR's Alex Cadenas on-air with Consul of Protection, Oscar Sánchez, recording a community affairs show which aired during Labor Rights Week.

Other community outreach included:

- 10th Annual Environmental Health Leadership Summit, Nov. 1-2 (Imperial County): This summit aims to help Mexicali and Imperial Valley residents, non-profits, scientists and academia cultivate leadership in civic engagement. This summit included plenary presentations on: AB 617, climate change equity, air monitoring, fieldworker safety and the environmental justice movement in California.
- California-Mexico Border Relations Council Meeting, Nov. 19 (Calexico): DPR distributed bilingual pesticide safety outreach materials to attendees from Mexicali and Imperial County at this meeting.
- 40th Annual Farmworker Appreciation Breakfast, Dec. 6 (Calexico): This annual breakfast is sponsored by the Center for Employment Training, the City of Calexico, the Calexico Chamber of Commerce, the Mexican Consulate in Calexico and the farmworker services Coalition of Imperial County. The event is also sponsored by the local agricultural industry, farmers, and labor contractors, as well as by local businesses, agencies and community-based organizations. DPR and the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's staff distributed pesticide safety outreach materials to the farmworkers from Mexicali who daily cross the border to work in the farms in Imperial County.
- Leadership Conference for Women in Northern California, Dec. 7 (Sacramento): The Health Education Council and the Sacramento Mexican Consulate co-presented the 9th Women's Leadership Conference/Conferencia De Liderazgo para Mujeres en el Norte de California. As the region's premier Spanish-language conference for women, the event equips women with relevant and timely information on health issues, like diabetes and mental health as well as other important legal and education topics affecting the Latino immigrant community.



Photo Caption: Farmworker Breakfast, Calexico: DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioner handed out pesticide safety information at this annual event that happens before daylight breaks.



Photo Caption: DPR's Martha Sanchez (left) EDD former director Patrick Henning (center) and DPR Director Val Dolcini (right) at the Farmworker Breakfast, Calexico.

Collaboration with Mexican Consulates

DPR attended a roundtable session at Sacramento’s Mexican Consulate on February 13 and gave a presentation on the Department’s mission and the Worker Health and Safety Branch’s Outreach Program.

DPR staff participated in the Agricultural Worker Appreciation Day on September 8 in French Camp. The event was hosted for the first time by the Mexican Consulate of Sacramento to celebrate farm workers and their families from the counties which the Mexican Consulate of Sacramento serves. DPR staff provided safety information to farm workers and their families and participated as part of the organizing committee for this event.

In August, DPR staff participated in Labor Rights Week events in San Jose, Fresno, Sacramento, Oxnard, and San Diego. Labor Rights Week is an initiative sponsored by the Mexican Consulate that takes place around Labor Day in the United States. This statewide event aims to empower Mexican community members through greater knowledge of their labor rights, as well as publicizing the mechanisms available to file complaints about unacceptable working conditions. DPR staff visited Mexican Consulates in the cities listed above to promote pesticide safety awareness within these communities.

DPR attended the welcoming reception of the honorable Consul Euclides Del Moral Arbona on November 15 at the Oxnard Mexican Consulate. Mexican dignitaries and community leaders attended the ceremony.



Photo Caption: Alex Cadenas presenting at the Mexican Consulate in Oxnard during Labor Rights Week.

Appendix D: Safety Statistics for Calendar Year 2019

San Diego County Operation Stonegarden 2019 Results:	
Vehicle Stops	11,688
Field Interviews	6,028
Narcotics Seizures	344
Pedestrian Stops	329
Vessel Stops	409
Misdemeanor Arrests	773
Non-drug Seizures (weapons and currency)	195
Citations Issued	1,829
Felony Arrests	292

San Diego County Operation Gridlock 2019 Results:	
Traffic Stops	477
Field Interview (FI)	138
Misdemeanor Arrests	15
Felony Arrests	8
Citations	57
Crime Reports	3
Non Drug Seizure	5
Gang FI	10
Gang Associates Arrested	1
Felony Warrants	1
Parole Violations	1
Narcotics Seizures	6
US Currency Seized	\$39,800
Methamphetamine	15.02 grams
Marijuana	10.807 pounds

2019 Inspection Facility, Task Force, Unit and Grant Operation Statistics

Inspection Facilities:²⁸

Calexico Inspection Facility

- 353,175 truck crossings
- 19,451 vehicles inspected
- 6,675 citations issued
- 112 verbal warnings issued

Tecate Platform Scale Facility

- 55,498 truck crossings
- 2,025 vehicles inspected
- 317 citations issued
- 210 verbal warnings issued

Otay Mesa Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility

- 1,164,566 truck crossings
- 22,895 vehicles inspected
- 7,405 citations issued
- 2,763 verbal warnings issued

San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force:

- 236 vehicles recovered, valued at approximately \$3.81M
- 103 arrests
- Identified as the most sought after or frequently stolen vehicles:
 - 2000 Honda Civic: 199 thefts, 149 recovered
 - 1998 Honda Civic: 136 thefts, 113 recovered
 - 1997 Honda Civic: 118 thefts, 101 recovered
 - 1999 Honda Civic: 98 thefts, 85 recovered
 - 1996 Honda Accord: 86 thefts, 77 recovered

CHP Canine Unit:

- 92 seizures, which resulted in seizing:
 - 829,697 grams of marijuana
 - 1.43 million grams of methamphetamine
 - 58,035 grams of cocaine

²⁸ Commercial vehicle traffic entering the United States from Mexico along the southwest border region undergoes multiple rigorous inspections, first from the United States Customs and Border Protection for compliance with import/export regulations, then through a mechanical inspection by the California Highway Patrol where the serviceability, registration requirements, vehicle weight, and mechanical violations of commercial vehicles are identified.

- 583,894 grams of heroin
- \$1,212,069 U.S. currency seized
- 10 illegal firearms seized
- 4,833 enforcement contacts
- 278 arrests, resulting in 122 felonies
- 1,002 citations issued
- 96 canine demonstrations
- 114 canine deployments

CHP Mexico Liaison Unit:

- 705 vehicles recovered, valued at approximately \$9.9M
- 1 commercial vehicle recovered, valued at approximately with approximately \$45,000
- 21,063 investigation assists
- 68 felony arrests
- 173 arrest assists

Human Trafficking Task Force Participation:

Orange County

- 35 arrests
- 32 victims identified/located
- 10 juveniles freed

San Diego County

- 79 investigations
- 194 leads opened
- 13 federal prosecution arrests
- 55 felony arrests and 18 misdemeanor arrests
- 121 victims freed, 31 of which were juveniles

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