

MEETING MINUTES

California-Mexico Border Relations Council
November 14, 2022, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Simultaneous interpretation was provided in Spanish and English.

The agenda for this meeting can be located on the BRC webpage:
<https://calepa.ca.gov/2022-california-mexico-border-relations-council-meeting/>

1. Welcome – Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians Chairman Bo Mazzetti

Host Welcome: Rincon Tribal Chair Bo Mazzetti gives his welcome, a brief history of his relationship with the Council, and appreciation for holding the Border Relations Council Meeting in Rincon's meeting space.

Chair Garcia thanks Chair Mazzetti.

2. Meeting Logistics and Interpretation Services Announcement – Chair Yana Garcia, CalEPA Secretary

Chair Garcia states a change in the public comment period. Public comment will be offered after the updates from each Councilmember.

Chair Garcia introduces her history with border work.

3. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of Quorum – Chair Garcia, CalEPA

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Yana Garcia. The meeting was held via Zoom and was also broadcast via live webcast.

At 1:05 p.m. roll call was taken, and all Council Members¹ and/or their alternates were present for the duration of the meeting as follows:

- i. **CalEPA:** BRC Chair and Secretary Yana Garcia, California Environmental Protection Agency
- ii. **CalOES:** Director Mark Ghilarducci, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- iii. **CalHHS:** Alternate of Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly - Chief April Fernandez, California Health and Human Services Agency

¹ Membership of the BRC is statutorily defined in Government Code section 99522.

- iv. **CNRA:** Alternate of Secretary Wade Crowfoot - Deputy Secretary Andrea Ambriz. Also, in attendance on behalf of CNRA was Deputy Secretary Geneva B. Thompson, California Natural Resources Agency.
- v. **CalSTA:** Alternate of Secretary Toks Omishakin - Senior Advisor Giles Giovinazzi, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA supersedes the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency)
- vi. **CDFA:** Alternate of Secretary Karen Ross - Undersecretary Christine Birdsong, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- vii. **GO-Biz:** Alternate for Director Dee Dee Myers - Deputy Director Emily Desai, California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz)
- viii. **BCSH:** Alternate for Secretary Lourdes B. Castro Ramirez - Deputy Secretary Erica Gonzalez, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH)
- ix. **U.S. EPA (Ex Officio, Nonvoting Member):** Appointee for Regional Administrator of the US EPA, Region 9 Martha Guzman Aceves - Deputy Director Bridget Coyl, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

4. Opening Remarks – Baja California Secretary for Environmental Protection and Sustainability Monica Vega, Tribal Affairs Secretary to Governor Gavin Newsom Christina Snider, and US EPA Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman

- Welcome/Introduction by Tribal Affairs Secretary Christina Snider-Ashtari
Tribal Affairs Secretary Christina Snider-Ashtari welcomed all the Members of the Council and the public. Homelands of the Rincon Band of Luceno Indians, largest federally recognized tribe in the state, diverse issues that native peoples in this area deal with. Native populations span the border, so inter-tribal and cultural exchange and a lot of business opportunity across the borders. Interested in hearing more about issues that touch on business opportunities, food and ag and worker population, health and human services and public safety.

Public comment: None.

Opening Remarks by Baja California Secretary Vega

Secretary Mónica Vega gives her thanks to the Border Relations Council for all the work that has been done. She shares that this Administration prioritizes environmental policy that contributes to a better environment for future generations and that binational cooperation is essential to reaching that goal. Secretary Vega reiterates Baja California's commitment to continued binational cooperation for responsible management of shared resources with special attention to public health.

Public comment: None.

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Opening Remarks by U.S. EPA, Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman

Administrator Guzman talked about the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes investments in clean water infrastructure. \$41.5 billion dollars were received by U.S. EPA to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some invested in existing programs. Awarded \$53.4 million to 132 air monitoring projects funded by IRA and American Rescue Plan. Six of those were in the border. Two of the six went to tribes and \$1.5 million went to Imperial Valley. Administrator Guzman lists the funding available. Collaboration with Profefra, Mexico's enforcement agency, on illegal trades on pesticides, vehicles, and engines at Ports in Arizona and California. Largest infrastructure investment under USMCA has been dedicated to the Tijuana River Watershed.

Public comment: None.

5. Discussion on Border Region Efforts, Tribal Collaborations, and Relevant Grant Opportunities

A. Councilmember Updates

i. CalOES

Director Mark Ghilarducci (CalOES) gives his thanks to Chair Mazzetti for giving space for the Council meeting and states CalOES' long history of working with tribal communities along the border on various hazards and risks. Listos California is a key instrument in developing community preparedness throughout California, especially those underserved across the State. Provides grants to support CA communities, especially federally recognized tribes. Increase resilience to prepare for various kinds of emergencies and disasters. 2022 grant distributions to five different tribes throughout the state. Throughout the pandemic, CalOES distributed about 40 million pieces of personal protective equipment. Border collaboration: worked closely with the Cross Border Communication Working Group and CA-MX Border Relations Council to provide 3 million pieces of PPE to Baja CA. Meet with the new Governor of Baja to discuss areas of mutual interest and establishing a workgroup between the two organizations to increase situational awareness during emergencies and share resources across the border during disasters. Participated in the Commission of the California Working Group. Utilized this workgroup as a communication avenue when Hurricane Kay hit Baja California. Most importantly, work in southwest border with the Unified Border Coordination Group. It consists of Department of Social Services and Department of Public Health. The Testing Vaccination and Resource Centers provided all migrants crossing the border with access to COVID-19 medical services. These facilities were located in Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego County. They've served 236,603 migrants through the centers.

Deputy Helen Lopez (CalOES) added CalOES is hosting a Hazard Mitigation Conference to increase resiliency amongst communities. The Hoopa Tribe was invited. Participated in a binational tabletop exercise with U.S. and Mexican federal and local partners focused on the dam and Tijuana River Watershed to strengthen binational collaboration and communication along the border.

Public comment: The following public comment was received.

Shasta Gaughen, Environmental Director for Paula Band of Mission Indians: Thanks the Council for the report. CalOES has been helpful with COVID-19 efforts throughout the State, especially with tribes. CalOES has been helpful in alleviating the complexities of FEMA operations for tribes. From a border standpoint, do not forget the reservation borders. These are not just on the U.S. side, but also on the Mexico side. We are all on tribal lands. Paula Band of Mission Indians collaborated with Rincon to look at each other's disaster preparedness plans and see where there are overlaps.

ii. CDFA

Undersecretary Birdsong (CDFA): Thanked tribes for working with CDFA on a fruit fly project to reduce fruit fly populations without using pesticides. CDFA continues ongoing collaboration in the border region on agricultural activities. The majority focuses on plant and animal health issues, as well as engagement on international trade and policy issues related to climate and workforce development. 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. Animal Health and Food Safety Division continues to collaborate with 25 Mexico and U.S. States. In the upcoming year, hoping to collaborate on conference/symposiums focused on plant health, climate smart agricultural issues, and tribal engagement. CDFA has a racial equity action plan. One of the focuses is increasing engagement with all CA farmworkers and ranchers about the various CDFA grant programs and provide technical assistance for these programs. There are reserved funds for tribal governments. Cusp Drought Relief Program allows \$5,000-\$10,000 to go to producers to mitigate needs related to drought. New round of applications opens in December and January. Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation has a suite of grants available. Technical assistance is available during the application and implementation periods. Tribal governments are eligible for all the grants. Farm to School Program – tribal governments are eligible to apply for projects that include selling local produce to local schools. Grant funding will be open again in 2023. Health Refrigeration Program helps preserve produce in underserved communities. The newest program is the Beginning Farmer – Farmworker Training and Workforce Development Grant Program, which focuses on underserved farmworker training. Sixteen projects were recently funded. Three projects were awarded to tribes.

Public comment: None.

iii. CNRA:

Deputy Secretary Andrea Ambriz (CNRA): CNRA facilitates multiple programs and funding through its various agencies. This includes continued stewardship of Border Field State Park and numerous restoration projects. Ocean Protection Council made multiple investments of \$3.695 million in the border region and San Diego County. Wildlife Conservation Board provided \$895,000 to a wetland restoration project. They've also worked on restoration in Goat Canyon. CDFW has restoration grant funding under Proposition 1 around restoring cross border creeks and watersheds priority areas. Other border implementation projects include Finney Ramer Habitat Restoration Project, which awarded \$1.816 million to river partners for the ecological health of the Alamo River. State Coastal Conservancy has awarded many numerous grants, which include restoration programs around the Tijuana River Watershed.

Assistant Secretary Geneva Thompson (CNRA): CNRA recently appropriated \$70 million for the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program and currently in early consultation. Goal is to have draft grant guidelines finalized by early next year.

Deputy Public Advisor and Tribal Liaison Katrina Leni-Konig (California Energy Commission (CEC)): August 2020 experienced multi-day extreme heat days, which resulted in outages in CAISO territory. Estimates did not account for impacts of climate change. CEC has been prioritizing partnerships with tribes that enhance energy resilience and reliability. This includes tribal-set-asides and tribal-specific funding opportunities. Funded 8 tribal microgrid projects to date. Pursuing federal funding for grid reliability opportunities. Working on the deployment of EV charging infrastructure on tribal lands through California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP) in CEC's Clean Transportation Program (CTP). CTP has over \$9 million proposed for infrastructure. Working with OPR to fund tribally-led climate research grant, EPIC research and development grant program, and many more investment opportunities.

Public Comment: The following public comment and exchange with council members occurred.

Lillian Garcia, with United for Justice and the Salton Sea Coalition, asked why there isn't as much funding going to the New River compared to the Tijuana River Watershed. She suggests and recommends reinserting the disinfection facility into the New River Improvement Strategic Plan. Back in 2019, the 9 cities of Coachella Valley passed resolutions to support water importation. There is a cancer cluster in the area. Lillian urges CNRA to put in the work for the community and non-citizens.

Chair Garcia: We have \$35 million in first time funding towards the New River. The project is currently out for bid.

Francisco Zamora, Senior Director of Programs with the Sonoran Institute, asked whether any of the grants mentioned are available for projects on the Mexican side, particularly on the New River side of Mexicali.

Chair Garcia: We do have challenges in funding work across the border. We are looking for ways to support funding with our colleagues at Mexico.

Deputy Secretary Ambriz: Echo Chair Garcia's statements on efforts in both regions. CNRA is open to conversation on the region's issues and ideas on how CNRA can improve.

Name unknown said NOAA providing Mexico with first-time funding. The project is focused on stopping solid waste coming into the Tijuana River into the Pacific Ocean and hopeful for more similar projects.

David Perez provided comments about the Salton Sea, Lithium Valley, and the New River and that California should prioritize collaboration across the borders.

David Gibson, Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, provided updates. Working with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance to encumber funds for projects identified in the State Board Resolution in July for \$4 million main channel trash boom, \$4 million project in Smuggler's Gulch for sediment and trash, and a \$1.8 million for Brown property hydrology and habitation restoration. He was also asked by the Minute 320 Core Group to share they will meet again in February. California Legislature identified funding for the New River Watershed and Tijuana River Watershed. Additional funding that hasn't been allocated that the Regional Water Board have recommended funding for, include SB170 \$20 million and proceed to the rest.

Miguel Hernandez CNRA Public Affairs Officer: The State has commitments to cover about 30,000 acres of restoration projects around the Salton Sea by 2028. First, the species conservation habitat project by the mouth of the New River is being worked on. It is a \$260 million project and is about 60% completed. It is slated to be completed by the end of 2023. The New River Diversion Structure is intended to bring water from the New River and Salton Sea, mix, and improve water levels. The water will be diverted to habitat ponds that has multiple nesting islands. Three project sites by the Salton Sea for vegetation and enhancement (two on the West and one in the East by Bombay Beach). The team is working in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement 1,700 acres of enhancement and dust suppression for the adjacent communities. S&P Team working on Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project. Collaborating with Imperial County, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Salton Sea Authority to deliver on this 30-acre project near the community of Desert Shores. The project will suppress dust. \$1.25 million has been allocated to fund this project. Proposition 68 funding agreement with Salton Sea Authority and County of Riverside to construct the North Lake pilot Project. It will construct about 155-acre lake that will provide shallow and deeper water habitat for the residents near the project. The Audubon Bombay Beach Wetland Project is about 800 acres and aims to stabilize and preserve the existing wetland. CNRA is wrapping up the development of the draft long range plan. The first draft will be available mid-December.

Lillian Garcia gives history of her and her organization's work in the Salton Sea. Requested air emissions monitor, hydrogen sulfide, epidemiological studies. Agencies have authority to do more monitoring. Communities have suffered for way too long. She urges agency staff to go to Calexico and the border region.

Sam Jenniches, State Coastal Conservancy provides opportunities for tribal partnerships and funding. The Wildfire Resilience Program supports wildfire resilience with tribes in San Diego County. Explore the Coast Program funds programs that get Californians and members of tribes to experience the coast. The next round will be announced at the end of the year. Coastal Stories Grant are directed towards more inclusive coastal stories for educational purposes. It can be new stories or correcting colonial stories.

iv. GO-Biz:

Deputy Director Emily Desai (GO-Biz): Deputy Director on GO-Biz international affairs and trade team and recent work with Mexico. GO-biz is the state's leader for job creation and economic development. USMCA further enhanced trade relationships. GO-Biz facilitated many trade initiatives with Mexico, including a virtual mission with Baja California and various supports for California small businesses looking to enter the Mexican market. GO-Biz International attended the Mexico Infrastructure Conference and Business Forum to gain information and access to the latest developments on Mexico's leading infrastructure projects, procurement needs, and a chance to meet with local stakeholders and decisionmakers. As part of this visit, GO-Biz International also met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss their current and ongoing efforts targeted at California and Mexico relations with an emphasis on trade, immigration, and border issues. Modernization efforts of the Calexico Port of Entry on the Mexico side will include cargo lanes and water sanitation and drought mitigation programs. GO-Biz met with UC Alianza to discuss research on transportation, water, and food insecurity. Reinvigorated Com-Cal, a forum between Baja California, Baja California Sur, and California, convened at UC San Diego and resulted in a working paper focused on zero emission vehicles deployment. GO-Biz worked with San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce for a successful trade mission. As part of the trade mission, SANDAG and CalTrans District 11 joined US Ambassador Ken Salazar to Mexico, the Lieutenant Governor, and dignitaries. SANDAG signed a binational toll revenue sharing agreement with Mexico that is associated with the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. GO-Biz International Team is starting and implementing an Immigrant Integration Grant Program for cities and counties across California to help them seed and deploy immigrant integration efforts.

Public comment: The following public comment was received.

Richard Swanson, with the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, supports border relations, trade, and investments with our border partners.

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v. BCSH:

Deputy Secretary Erica Gonzalez: AB1010 was passed in 2019 to streamline access for tribes to access state funding for housing. It allowed for waivers for HCD programs, which were traditionally made with municipalities in mind, not tribal governments. It created the California Indian Assistance Program, which is comprehensive technical assistance for both tribes and tribally designated housing entities throughout the funding process. California Interagency Council on Homelessness released a notice of \$40 million funding available for Tribal Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program. It can include, but not limited to, strengthening crisis response systems, permanent housing and innovative solutions, landlord incentives, and strengthening partnerships between systems. BCSH allocated \$174 million of grants in both Imperial and San Diego County this year. BCSH funding programs include: 1) AHSC grant provides funding for housing, transportation, and land preservation projects that support infill; 2) Housing Navigators Program provides funding to counties to support housing for young adults; 3) Transitional Housing Program funds adults 18-24 to secure housing with priority given to those in foster care or probation systems; and 3) California Housing Accelerator Grant funds shovel-ready housing projects. Through the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Medical Board of California, there is licensed physicians and dentists pilot program with Mexico. We have awarded up to 18 out of 30 licensed physicians to specialize in family practice to practice in California.

Public Comments: The following public comment and exchange with council members occurred.

Shasta has a question about funding for tribal housing coming from the State because of the unique relationship of the trust status of tribal lands as federal land, so wants Deputy Secretary Gonzalez to expand on that.

Deputy Secretary Gonzalez: The primary resource for tribal housing is through the federal grant. State HCD has state grants that allow for different uses of tribal construction. BCHS is currently building that program out to include tribes, since they were not the original intended applicants.

Christina Torres asked what kind of waivers BCSH is issuing.

Deputy Secretary Gonzalez: Within HCD through AB1010, BCHS has ability to issue the waiver depending on the grant program and the tribe. It can depend on the governance structure, so it is varied.

Name unknown asked if BCSH works with tribes to submit applications.

Deputy Secretary Gonzalez: BCSH provides technical assistance to tribes for grant applications.

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vi. CalSTA:

Special Advisor Giovinazzi: CalSTA has been making progress with Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project (SR11). California and Mexico signed a binational toll revenue sharing agreement. It advances key projects and initiatives along the border. \$150 million federal infrastructure investment jobs grant was awarded to the project. Mexican and California state and regional officials joined CalTrans to break ground on the Clean California Calexico International Gateway Project. It is a \$101.3 million beautification project. CalTrans has a Native American Liaison Branch within the Planning Division. They track various grant opportunities to tribes – Sustainable Communities Planning Grants, Clean California Local Grant Program, Active Transportation Planning Grant, and more. Recently, \$1.3 million was made available to the Yurok tribe for bus facilities and charging infrastructure. CalTrans is coordinating the environmental document for SR186 bridge over the All-American Canal and will be coordinating with the Quechan Tribe.

Public comments: None.

vii. CalHHS:

Chief Fernandez: Office of Binational Border Health is in San Diego and CHHS works with health officials in California and Baja California on monitoring on public health issues and mutual interests. CHHS continues to monitor national cases and outbreaks of infectious diseases. Continue to conduct sentinel surveillance for influenza and COVID-like illnesses. CHHS is open to opening sentinel sites in tribal communities as well. COVID and Monkeypox have been high priority for monitoring. Continuing to wear masks, sanitizing hands, getting boosters, and social distancing are some of the best ways to avoid getting sick. COVID-19 Border Survey Project helped understand cross border mobility during the pandemic and factors that may drive transmission in border communities. 5,900 surveys were collected at the six ports of entry and currently analyzing data for phase two. CHHS has been conducting many surveys and providing COVID tests at multiple sites in the border region. The Border Infectious Disease Surveillance Project provides vaccines, staffing, and wrap-around services for Imperial and San Diego CBOs, targeting farmworker, migrant, and border populations. The state has conducted over ten vaccination events with partners. Tuberculosis program's goal is to facilitate surveillance and promote preventative treatment for binational cases. This is a priority because the border region has a higher case rate compared to state and national rates.

Public comments: None.

viii. U.S. EPA Region 9:

Deputy Director Bridget Coyl: Deputy Director Coyl hands over the updates to Director of the San Diego Border Branch Jeremy Bauer and Border Water Division Doug Liden. Jeremy and Doug are in-person.

Jeremy Bauer, Deputy Director, Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy Division: Border 2025 is integral with the ten border states and 26 tribes. They will be hosting a regional coordinator's meeting between California and Baja California in 2023, focusing on air quality, water quality, sustainable materials management, and emergency preparedness. In May, Border 2025 facilitated participation of six indigenous members at the Climate Science Alliance event. U.S. EPA Region 9 prioritizes environmental equity. \$50 million of Inflation Reduction Act dedicated to border region, includes partnering with community-based non-profit organizations and tribes. Projects include community-led air and other pollution monitoring, investment in low and emission resilient technologies mitigation, climate and health risks from extreme heat and wildfires, climate resiliency and adaptation, reducing indoor toxics and air pollution, or engagement with disadvantaged communities.

Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, US EPA: U.S. EPA has \$300 million and are working to invest in projects with binational support and bring Mexico to the table. There is a historic binational agreement that will bring close to half a billion dollars to address the region's Tijuana wastewater projects. U.S. EPA is working regularly with Mexico to assure money goes towards projects to address the issues. The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be published, and public comment period will be open. The EPA grant helped install monitors at the IBWC flow gate that will help notify the amount of sewage is in the water. They will be installing flow monitors in the future to better estimate flows in the future.

Public comment: The following public comment and exchange with council members occurred.

Unknown name asked whether U.S. EPA can install similar monitoring equipment in the New River.

Doug Liden said it is possible to look into installing it in the New River.

Unknown name made a comment about assuring California Border Patrol will raise these fences going into the Tijuana River during times of high flow.

Unknown name asked what EPA's vision is for a long-term solution.

Doug Liden said EPA plans on using the \$300 million to expand the international treatment plant. Water reuse is also an extremely beneficial long-term solution. Doug Liden promotes providing public comment to the EIS.

Chair Garcia: CalEPA convenes a seven-member Tribal Advisory Committee. The TAC is currently looking for new committee members, whether federally recognized or non-federally recognized tribes. The TAC provides ongoing input on CalEPA's strategic

direction. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is releasing the updated Scoping Plan. The Scoping Plan is a robust economy-and-sector-wide study into how California will reach its carbon neutrality goals. Funding opportunities at CARB include the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program and AB617 Air Grants Program. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has funding available for projects that are drought related or addressing drinking water resiliency needs. There is an online application for urgent drinking water needs. They are also developing a document that lays out the steps to protect water quality for tribal, cultural, traditional, and subsistence purposes. Adriana Renteria is the tribal liaison. Chair Garcia recommended including solid waste challenges along the border in the next Border Relations Council Meeting.

B. Open Dialogue Session for Tribal Nations to Share Feedback

This agenda item was not addressed at this meeting and/or cancelled.

6. Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to Approve the 2021 California-Mexico Border Relations Council Draft Annual Report to the Legislature

Presentation and Discussion: The Council reviewed the 2021 Annual Report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council Report.

Motion: Undersecretary Birdsong, Alternate of CDFA Secretary Ross moved as follows:

“Motion to approve the 2021 Annual Report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council Report, with a minor name spelling correction for Erica Gonzalez in the Report.”

Second: Deputy Secretary Gonzalez, Alternate for BCSH Secretary Castro Ramirez seconded the motion.

Public comment: None

Roll call vote:

- Aye: (1) CalEPA: Garcia, (2) CalHHS: Fernandez, (3) CNRA: Ambriz, (4) CalSTA: Giovinazzi, (5) CDFA: Birdsong, (6) CalOES: Ghilarducci, (7) BCSH: Gonzalez, and (8) GO-Biz: Desai.
- Nay: None
- Abstain: None

Motion carries to approve the 2021 Annual Report of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council Report, with a minor name spelling correction for Erica Gonzalez in the Report. US EPA appointee Coyl voiced her agreement with the motion.

7. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Draft Minutes for the Previous Meeting on December 13, 2021

The Council reviewed the 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Gonzalez, Alternate for BCSH Secretary Castro Ramirez moved as follows:

“Motion to approve the draft meeting minutes for the previous BRC meeting on December 13, 2021.”

Second: Undersecretary Birdsong, Alternate of CDFA Secretary Ross, seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None.

Roll call vote:

- Aye: (1) CalEPA: Garcia, (2) CalHHS: Fernandez, (3) CNRA: Ambriz, (4) CalSTA: Giovinazzi, (5) CDFA: Birdsong, (6) CalOES: Ghilarducci, (7) BCSH: Gonzalez, (8) GO-Biz: Desai
- Nay: None
- Abstain: None

US EPA appointee Coyl voiced her agreement with the motion.

8. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Unknown name shared circular economy and recycling has been a priority topic with Secretary Vega. The recent trash collection efforts have provided job opportunities for the community. The closest recycling facility is in Mexico City, so they need to figure out more effective recycling opportunities and processes for the border region.

Shasta appreciates that many state leaders mentioned tribal partnerships and opportunities. She recommends there to be tribal leadership in the border region represented on the Border Relations Council. She was surprised not to hear much from the Mexican counterparts and would like to hear more in the future. CBP does not have to do NEPA, and it is problematic that they can build over tribal lands. Tribes are sovereign nations and should be treated as so. Thirty-day comment periods may be statutorily bound but should be different for tribes. We need to hear from tribes across the border as well.

In Spanish, Secretary Vega says things are indeed different in Baja California. Baja California and California have a mutual concern on and want to address air quality issues. The recent Otay Port expansion will help with some air quality issues. Transportation is a sustainable development issue. Baja California received two air quality monitoring stations in Mexicali and Tijuana. Another topic of discussion is of waste tires being imported to Baja California, which end up being burned in illegal

disposal sites and cause additional pollution issues. Secretary Vega has had conversations with Chair Garcia about this issue. The Governor of Baja California made commitments to have Baja California's Environmental Attorney work on a fund.

9. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

Chair Garcia said she would like to have the next meeting be before June 2023.

10. Adjournment

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.