MEETING NOTICE
AND AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231

Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas
(619) 699-1972
hector.vanegas@sandag.org

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

• PROPOSED THEME AND DATE OF THE 2014 SANDAG ANNUAL BINATIONAL EVENT

• INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY

• ARQUINE’S “THRESHOLD OF THE AMERICAS” INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) will advise the Borders Committee of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) concerning both short- and long-term binational related activities, issues, and actions; provide input regarding binational border-related planning and development; and identify ways to assist and coordinate with existing efforts in the binational area. The COBRO will serve as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of the binational border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.
Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the COBRO on any item at the time that the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker’s Slip which is located in the rear of the room and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The COBRO may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at www.sandag.org under meetings on SANDAG’s website. Public comments regarding the agenda can be forwarded to SANDAG via the email comment form also available on the website. Email comments should be received no later than noon, two days prior to the COBRO meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SANDAG will accommodate persons who require assistance in order to participate in SANDAG meetings. If such assistance is required, please contact SANDAG at (619) 699-1900 in advance of the meeting. To request this document or related reports in an alternative format, please call (619) 699-1990, (619) 699-1904 (TTY), or fax (619) 699-1905.

SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit. Phone 511 or see www.511sd.com for route information.
ITEM # | RECOMMENDATION
---|---
1. | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
+2. | SUMMARY OF MEETING

Summary of the November 5, 2013, meeting.

3. | PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the COBRO on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Anyone desiring to speak shall reserve time by completing a “Request to Speak” form and giving it to the COBRO coordinator prior to speaking. Public speakers should notify the COBRO coordinator if they have a handout for distribution to COBRO members. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. COBRO members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.

CONSENT (4 and 5)

+4. | UPCOMING EVENTS


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded $461,368 in grants to fund seven environmental projects along the California and Arizona U.S.-Mexico border. The projects include restoration of the Upper Tijuana River Corridor, as well as an effort to estimate air pollution from idling vehicles at the Calexico West and East Ports of Entry.

REPORTS (6 through 9)

6. | REPORT FROM FUNDACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LA COMUNIDAD, A.C. (Cecilia Luken)

Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C. (FIC) has been an advisory member of COBRO since 2002. This presentation will provide a summary of FIC’s community and civil society development activities and programs in Baja California.
7. **PROPOSED THEME AND DATE OF THE 2014 SANDAG ANNUAL BINATIONAL EVENT** (Chair Paul Ganster)  
   
   Chair Paul Ganster will introduce this item and recommend that the 2014 annual binational event be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014. As in past years, members can choose to form a task force to discuss and recommend a theme for the binational event.

8. **INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY**  
   (Mario Orso, Caltrans District 11; and Christina Casgar, SANDAG)  
   
   SANDAG was awarded intelligent transportation system (ITS) funding to create a comprehensive ITS pre-deployment strategy for the State Route 11/ Otay Mesa East POE project. The pre-deployment strategy evaluates technologies to facilitate an ITS concept of operations that includes technology options to enable advanced traveler information, state-of-the-art toll collection, enhanced border operations, and institutional relationships to accelerate and optimize deployment.

+9. **ARQUINE’S “THRESHOLD OF THE AMERICAS” INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION** (Rodolfo Argote, IMPlan)  
   
   Arquine is a well-recognized Mexican architectural media company, which also has developed higher education programs. In addition, Arquine has organized an architecture competition since 1998 to promote the participation of architects in issues that are important to society. This year’s competition calls for designs of a center that would be located in Tijuana, and would offer assistance to migrants in the area. Entries must be submitted by February 21, 2014.

10. **NEXT MEETING DATE**  
   
   The seventh annual joint meeting of the Borders Committee, COBRO, and the Municipalities and State of Baja California is scheduled for Friday, March 28, 2014, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at SANDAG.

   The next regular meeting of the COBRO is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2014, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at SANDAG.
San Diego Association of Governments

COMMITTEE ON BINATIONAL REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

February 4, 2014

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

Action Requested: APPROVE

MEETING SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 5, 2013

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The November 5, 2013, Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) meeting, was called to order by Chair Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, San Diego State University (SDSU), at 3:00 p.m.

Members present were: Chair Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias at SDSU; Juan Carlos Rivas, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego; Sharyn Fitzgerald, Consulate General of the United States of America in Tijuana; Carolina Chávez and Jahzeel Villalpando, City of Tijuana Binational Affairs Office; Mario Orso, Caltrans; Mario Lopez, City of San Diego; Miguel Tapia, City of Chula Vista; Andy Hall, City of Imperial Beach; Tito Alegria, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF); Nathan Owens, San Diego Dialogue; Rodolfo Argote, Instituto Metropolitano de Planeación de Tijuana (IMPLAN); Rafael Ibarra Calderón, Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana, A.C. (DEITAC); Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce; Cecilia Luken, Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C.; and Jim Burritt, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

SANDAG staff members present were: Héctor Vanegas, Tayah Waterhouse, and Elías Sanz.

+2. SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

Upon a motion by Miguel Tapia, City of Chula Vista, and a second by Juan Carlos Rivas, Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego, COBRO unanimously approved the summaries of the May 7, 2013, and September 3, 2013, meetings.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Paul Ganster invited the members and the public to share any comments or upcoming events to announce.

Mario Lopez, City of San Diego, announced that he would be making a presentation the following day at City Hall to the City Council’s Rules and Economic Development Committee on the activities of the Office of Binational Affairs. Mr. Lopez stated that the City Council wants to see how it can support existing binational affairs efforts for the City of San Diego. Accordingly, the presentation will focus on the importance of binational affairs and what the City could be doing more of if staff
and budget allocations allow. Mr. Lopez encouraged members to attend the briefing, which is open to the public, or to send a letter with recommendations for binational activities and projects they would like to see implemented. Letters can be addressed to Sherri Lightner, Chair of the Rules and Economic Development Committee. Chair Paul Ganster thanked Mr. Lopez and made a few remarks regarding the history, role, and importance of COBRO. Chair Paul Ganster then invited Tayah Waterhouse, SANDAG, to introduce new members and alternates.

Ms. Waterhouse introduced the following new members and alternates, and welcomed them to the group: Andy Hall, City of Imperial Beach (Member); Jim Burritt, Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce (Alternate); Sharyn Fitzgerald, Consulate General of the United States of America in Tijuana (Alternate); and Rafael Ibarra Calderón, DEITAC (Alternate).

Ms. Waterhouse then shared the results of a brief survey that was administered to COBRO members regarding meeting attendance and what, if anything, SANDAG can do to encourage more consistent attendance. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Waterhouse how many members responded to the survey, and she replied that 14 out of 37 members completed it.

Chair Paul Ganster thanked Ms. Waterhouse, and shared that he had recently attended the third annual award event organized by El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), Arizona State University, and the Wilson Center which gives awards to organizations involved in innovative transborder cooperation. Chair Ganster stated that this year there were ten finalists, five of which were selected, and that he was impressed by the work these groups were doing, despite the inconveniences they face and the lack of funding. He noted that three of the finalists were from the San Diego – Tijuana region, and gave a brief outline of the projects spearheaded by those finalists.

**CONSENT ITEMS (4)**

+4. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chair Ganster invited attendees to review upcoming events that were included in the agenda packet.

**Action:** This item was presented for information. No action was taken on this item.

**REPORT ITEMS (5 through 7)**

+5. **2013 BINATIONAL SEMINAR “MOVING THE BORDER FORWARD: COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY” RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW UP (Héctor Vanegas, SANDAG)**

Chair Ganster explained that the recommendations from the 2013 Binational Seminar were presented to the SANDAG Borders Committee on October 25, 2013, and invited Héctor Vanegas, SANDAG, to inform the members about the process.

Mr. Vanegas thanked the Committee for its support with the annual binational event and its efforts to take action on the ideas from each seminar.
Mr. Vanegas reminded the members that the 2013 seminar focused on competitiveness and environmental sustainability and that a task force was convened to formulate specific recommendations based on the seminar discussions. These recommendations were presented to COBRO in September, then to the Borders Committee in October, and will be presented to the SANDAG Board of Directors in December. Mr. Vanegas then presented a PowerPoint presentation with a summary of the three recommendations. Mr. Vanegas also directed the group to look at the report item attachment, which corresponds to recommendation #3 and is a summary of the existing binational collaboration efforts for natural disaster and emergency preparedness and response, and invited members to share their comments on the report before the end of the year.

In regards to recommendation #3 concerning natural disaster and emergency preparedness and response, Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, commented that Tony Young of the Red Cross has listed binational emergency preparedness along the border as a priority for this year, and that he may be a good person to invite to the next meeting to discuss this shared priority. Mr. Vanegas thanked Mr. Wells for the suggestions and informed the group that the report Item No. 5 attachment summarizing binational efforts in emergency and disaster preparedness and response in the border region included input from Dave Fege, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Border Liaison Office, (U.S. EPA), and Michael Vizzier, Chief of the Hazardous Materials Division for the County of San Diego.

Chair Ganster commented that when he was with the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, the formal administrative structure was still based on a 1980 agreement between the United States and Mexico. This agreement was later updated by forming a committee on either side of the border, but then essentially became defunct, leaving no agile mechanism for addressing these issues at a federal level, especially when immediate response is required. Chair Ganster therefore suggested that a potential idea for the next binational seminar would be to encourage the respective foreign relations departments in the United States and Mexico to move that process forward in terms of natural disaster cooperation between the two countries, and specifically in the border region.

Mr. Vanegas stated that if the Board of Directors approves the recommendations, the next step will be to present a report to the Borders Committee pursuant to recommendation #3, on identifying and supporting existing binational efforts for natural disaster and emergency preparedness and response.

+6. COLEF “FRONTERAS DEL MUNDO” SEMINAR (Maria del Rocío Barajas Escamilla, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte [COLEF])

Chair Ganster introduced Maria del Rocío Barajas Escamilla, COLEF. Dr. Barajas Escamilla informed the group that the Fronteras Del Mundo seminar took place on October 24 – 25, 2013, and that the main goal of the seminar was to open a debate among scholars and local stakeholders regarding the problems and opportunities that various crossborder regions confront and to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of organizations dealing with transborder issues in the regions. Other issues discussed included different experiences with crossborder cooperation, conflict resolution, and mechanisms of crossborder governance.
Dr. Barajas Escamilla explained that there were participants from Mexico, Italy, the United States, Luxembourg, Spain, Argentina, and Central America and that there were three round table discussions. Among the main points discussed during the event regarding the process of building cross border communities, Dr. Barajas Escamilla highlighted the following conclusions and ideas: Crossborder integration is a multidimensional process based on formal and functional organization; The central government actors have to limit their participation in the processes of building crossborder regions so that the process is in the hands of the local actors; crossborder regions and local actors should be seen as resources instead of problems; it is necessary to create a unique regional identity in order to implement crossborder integration; crossborder integration occurs at both the functional and formal levels; though there is insufficient formal cooperation, experience shows that informal mechanisms often lead to more formal ones; the challenge for crossborder regions is for the more developed state or nation in the region to support the side that is less developed; in addition to focusing on security, crossborder regions have the opportunity to achieve progress in development, reduce asymmetries and improve food security; crossborder integration must be part of the Latin American agenda; and, it is important to create common goals.

Mario Lopez, City of San Diego, added that one of the most important points made during the seminar was that informal mechanisms often fill the gap of formal institutional ones in terms of making progress addressing binational regional issues. Jason M-B Wells, San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, added that another related key factor that was discussed in terms of integrating crossborder regions is how informal relationships and local stakeholder participation can maintain continuity in institutional memory despite turnover in government agencies.

Chair Ganster emphasized the importance of this type of event, which provides a larger context with which to view the microcosm of the San Diego–Baja California border region, and underlined the need identified in the seminar to change the image of the U.S. – Mexican border in the respective federal governments.

Andy Hall, City of Imperial Beach, stated that the main topic discussed in his group during the seminar was wait times at the border, and how the delays hamper economic activity in the region. He highlighted the need to elevate the issue in Washington D.C. and Mexico City in order to improve the situation.

Héctor Vanegas, SANDAG, pointed out the similarity in the conclusions from SANDAG’s binational seminar and COLEF’s Fronteras Del Mundo seminar, and expressed his interest in SANDAG and COLEF continuing to collaborate on these issues.

Bob Morris, Tijuana Innovadora, commented that he was in Washington D.C. for the Chamber of Commerce trip advocating for the border. He noted that although the top priority for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is to improve the border crossing at San Ysidro and reduce wait times, there are conservative members of Congress who are blocking the funding to make this happen and that those are the people with whom we need to talk, and who need to be approached by local business interests.
Tito Alegría, COLEF, stated that if we measure crossborder integration by levels of interaction, we can measure interaction by counting the number of people crossing our border. Dr. Alegría continued that according to the border crossing statistics presented at the last COBRO meeting, the number of people crossing the border at San Ysidro is falling, meaning that San Diego and Tijuana are disintegrated, or are moving away from each other. He noted that the falling number of border crossers can be attributed in part to the border wait times, but also to the fear that people feel in regards to visiting Tijuana. In terms of ways in which this level of interaction can be increased, Dr. Alegría said that in his opinion, the best way to encourage interaction is for young people who are of a reproductive age to create crossborder families.

Mr. Hall commented that border crossing levels are currently below the levels from ten years ago, despite population growth. Mr. Vanegas added that the number of people crossing the border has been decreasing since the economic crisis and also the perception regarding security; however, trucks and goods movement have been steadily increasing.

Chair Ganster noted that many times we do not cross the border because of the inconvenience, and that has had a great impact. He added that one indicator that is moving in the opposite direction is the number of binational families, which is increasing, though they are separated because they can't get across the border.

Mr. Lopez agreed with Dr. Alegría that less border crossings signify less integration. On the other hand, Mr. Lopez pointed out two trends that suggest increased informal integration: 1) There is a younger generation of people who identify themselves as binational residents and who are less concerned with issues of national sovereignty; and 2) Binational interaction via bilingual, bicultural social media is increasing rapidly and is creating new crossborder communities.

Dr. Barajas Escamilla commented that the crossborder region is a social construction that needs to be built by meeting and discussing how to increase linkages between the two communities, whether they are economic, cultural, or social. She added that implementing new, more efficient technology is the key to reduce border crossing wait times.

Mario Orso, Caltrans, commented that we cannot improve border crossing wait times without being able to measure the actual wait times. He stated that developing a border wait time system that is uniform across the region would be a good starting point so that we can have an educated discussion on how to improve border wait times. Mr. Orso added that Caltrans is working on developing a study measuring southbound border crossing wait times into Mexico, and the study will be presented once it is completed.

Kirk Lanz, The Border Trade Alliance (BTA), commented that BTA continues to work with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on its findings from the Southern Border visit. Therefore, if BTA has access to border wait times studies, it can leverage that data in its discussions with the GAO. He added that it may be advantageous to collaborate with Maria Luisa Boyce, who now heads CBP's Office of Trade Relations in Washington, D.C. Mr. Lanz expressed that Ms. Boyce could potentially help align COBRO's priorities with funding opportunities, and could also put the Committee in touch with potential allies and agencies with whom it could collaborate. Mr. Lanz suggested inviting Ms. Boyce to attend a COBRO meeting in 2014.

Chair Ganster thanked Dr. Barajas Escamilla and directed the group to Item No. 7 of the agenda.
Chair Paul Ganster introduced Jaime González Luna, Tijuana Innovadora, who stated that Tijuana Innovadora is a community organization consisting of citizens who want to change their reality and their community. The organization was spurred by difficulties the city was experiencing starting in 2008. Crime, violence, insecurity, declining tourism, and failing businesses resulted in tough times in Tijuana. A group of people, along with Mr. José Galicot, founded Tijuana Innovadora in order to create a different atmosphere in the city, connect industry with workers and with the community, and raise the self-esteem of the city’s residents. In pursuit of these goals, the organization held its first event in 2010 with special guests such as Carlos Slim, Larry King, and Al Gore. The event also featured 42 interactive exhibits, five gala dinners, 200 media reporters and was attended by approximately 700,000 attendees.

The next event took place in 2012, and was aimed at promoting innovative career options and encouraging “greatness” as a new way of thinking. The event also featured 74 workshops, 57 exhibits, and special guests such as Paola Antonelli, Senior Curator at the MoMA, Richard Florida, a well-renowned urbanist, and Blake Mycoskie, Founder of Tom’s shoe company. Over 900,000 people attended the event.

For the next event, Mr. González Luna stated that the organization is focusing on the Mexican Diaspora and strengthening the partnership of San Diego and Tijuana as border communities. Laura Araujo, Tijuana Innovadora, reaffirmed that there is a need to showcase San Diego and Tijuana’s combined strengths and create a community that is working together toward these goals, beyond the events that are hosted. In 2012, the organization created a Binational Committee to expand contact with San Diegans and get their feedback on past events and potential attendance for future events. The Binational Committee’s goals are to integrate San Diego and Tijuana and showcase the strengths of the region as a whole. Ms. Araujo stated that the vision for the 2014 event is to have a much broader participation from San Diego. Tijuana Innovadora also hopes to be a part of the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial Celebration event in San Diego, and hopes to host a fully binational event in 2016 in which events take place on both sides of the border. Ms. Araujo then explained the organizational structure of the Binational Committee and how it plans to move forward in preparation for a binational event.

Mr. González Luna encouraged the members to see how they can get involved in the organization to contribute to the region’s progress. Ms. Araujo stated that Tijuana Innovadora is looking for community members who can join the organization and lead efforts in the following subjects: Government; Economic Development; Commerce, Arts, and Culture; Media and Communications; and Education. Mr. González Luna explained that the development of the 2014 event program is based on three “axes”: 1) Innovation and Creativity, 2) Binational and Diaspora, and 3) Entrepreneurs and Leaders. Ms. Araujo added that workshops based on these three themes will take place over the next year so that presentations with their results can be presented at the 2014 event.

Chair Ganster thanked Mr. González Luna and Ms. Araujo and praised the organization’s vision for the next few years.
+8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Chair Ganster informed the group that the next meeting would take place on February 4, 2014, at SANDAG, and reminded the members to please contact Héctor Vanegas or Tayah Waterhouse with agenda item suggestions.
### UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>WHAT: Multi-Sector Trade Mission to Mexico</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Center for International Trade Development in Sacramento</strong></td>
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<td>WHEN: February 10-11, 2014, Chihuahua City</td>
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<td>WHEN: February 13-14, 2014, Mexico City</td>
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<th>WHAT: Mixer Empresarial DEITAC</th>
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<td><strong>Desarrollo Económico e Industrial de Tijuana</strong></td>
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<td>WHEN: February 13, 2014</td>
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<td><strong>Urban Land Institute</strong></td>
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<td>WHEN: February 20, 2014</td>
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<td>WHERE: Westin Bonaventure. Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<th>WHAT: Mexicali Supply Expo 2014</th>
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<td><strong>Comisión de Desarrollo Industrial de Mexicali</strong></td>
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<td>WHEN: February 27, 2014</td>
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<td>WHERE: Palaco Industrial Park</td>
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<th>WHAT: NAFTA at Twenty: Trade, Transformation and the China Factor</th>
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<td><strong>Institute of the Americas</strong></td>
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<td>WHEN: March 5, 2014</td>
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<td>WHERE: University of Southern California, School of International Relations</td>
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<td>MORE INFO: Lynne Walker at (858) 453-556, Ext.128 or <a href="https://www.iaregions.org/en/events">https://www.iaregions.org/en/events</a></td>
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WHAT: Mexico Moving Forward: 20 Years of NAFTA & Beyond  
Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies  
WHEN: March 6, 2014  
WHERE: Sanford Consortium Auditorium, La Jolla  
MORE INFO: http://usmex.ucsd.edu/events/  

Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies  
WHEN: March 12, 2014  
WHERE: Deutz Conference Room, Institute of the Americas, La Jolla  
MORE INFO: http://usmex.ucsd.edu/events/  

WHAT: The Innovation Hub: A Training Workshop  
Institute of the Americas  
WHEN: March 31-April 3, 2014  
WHERE: Robinson Complex, UCSD  
MORE INFO: Sherry White at (858) 453-5560, Ext. 114 or https://www.iameicas.org/en/events  

WHAT: MEXPORT  
Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
WHEN: May 15, 2014  
WHERE: Otay Mesa  
MORE INFO: Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce at (619) 661-6111 or www.otaymesa.org  

Key Staff Contact: Hector Vanegas, (619) 699-1972, hector.vanegas@sandag.org
News Release: EPA Awards more than $460,000 for environmental Projects along the U.S.-Mexico Border

01/14/2014

For Immediate Release: January 14, 2014
Media Contact: Nahal Mogharabi, mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov, 213-244-1815

EPA Awards more than $460,000 for environmental Projects along the U.S.-Mexico Border

Funds will be used towards reducing trash in the Tijuana River, vehicle emissions reduction strategies, recycling materials, and developing educational projects

LOS ANGELES— The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded $461,368 in grants to fund seven environmental projects along the California and Arizona U.S-Mexico border. The projects include restoration of an important estuary, expansion of a municipal oil recycling program and several efforts to track air pollution in the region.

“These grants will help improve air quality, create a healthier river, and reduce the waste going into local landfills.” said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “Communities on both sides of the border will receive benefits as their environment and public health are better protected.”

The funds were awarded in partnership with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, under the bi-national U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program: Border 2020. The projects selected address the public health and environmental protection goals of the Border 2020 Program and are part of the overall environmental funding available for the California/Baja California and Arizona/Sonora regions. The funds will be matched by an additional $354,746 in funding from the recipient organizations.

The grants were announced during the opening ceremony of the “Border Gateway to Nature” at the Border Field State Park. The bi-national project was funded by the San Diego Foundation and EPA’s Border 2020 through a grant to 4walls International. 4walls constructed bi-national park space using trash pulled from the Tijuana River Valley and tributary canyons. The re-purposed trash might have otherwise entered the Tijuana River, harming the fragile ecosystem of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve in San Diego. Mexico’s Environment Ministry (SEMARNAT) is also contributing significant resources to the beautification of Los Sauces Park in Tijuana.
Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the 30th anniversary of the La Paz Agreement. Through these agreements, EPA has made significant investments that have resulted in major environmental benefits including more than 570 tons of e-waste properly disposed or recycled, the removal of more than 12 Million scrap tires from dump sites border wide, and the connection of households to drinking water and wastewater services benefitting the more than 8.5 Million border residents.

The following organizations received grants:

**Imperial County Air Pollution Control District**  
*Idling Impacts at the Calexico West and East Ports of Entry*  
Calexico, Calif.  
Grant Amount: $98,800  
The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District will estimate particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from northbound idling vehicles waiting at the Calexico West and East ports of entry. The project will also identify short and long term vehicle emissions reductions strategies in the Calexico/Mexicali area.

**Pronatura-Noroeste A.C.**  
*Restoration of the Upper Tijuana River Corridor*  
Ensenada, Baja Calif.  
Grant Amount: $98,500  
Pronatura-Noroeste A.C., a non-profit, conservation organization, will restore the upper reach of the Tijuana River, restoring the flood plain in this part of the river which is a source of trash and sediment entering the Tijuana River Estuary in San Diego. The organization will conduct trash cleanup and sediment removal, re-vegetate the estuary with native plants and incorporate a new wastewater reuse system to irrigate vegetation.

**Tijuana Calidad de Vida**  
*Air Emissions Inventory for Nogales, Sonora*  
Nogales, Sonora  
Grant Amount: $53,610  
Tijuana Calidad de Vida, a non-profit organization, in partnership with air emissions experts and the University of Sonora, will develop an air emissions inventory for the city of Nogales, Sonora that will identify air emissions sources and quantify their emissions.

**Arizona State University**  
*Mariposa Port of Entry Wait Time Emissions Study*  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Grant Amount: $67,314  
ASU will estimate particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from northbound idling vehicles waiting at the Mariposa port of entry in Nogales and use the information to identify emissions reductions strategies.

**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality**  
*Tools to Help Border Communities Reclaim Resources*  
Phoenix, Arizona
Grant Amount: $63,621
ADEQ will develop a web-based toolkit designed to provide educational resources and best practices on electronic waste and cleanup events. The project will pilot use of the e-waste toolkit using collection events in border cites designed to divert approximately 100,000 lbs. of reusable and recycling electronics from ending up in landfills.

Asociación de Protección y Seguridad Ambiental (APSA)
*Training on Handling of Wastewater Containing Metals and Cyanide*
Nogales, Sonora
Grant Amount: $63,015
ASPA, a non-profit association of environmental protection, health, and safety experts, will develop a 16-hour seminar for metal plating shops and the metals manufacturing industry on ways to handle and reduce metals and cyanide discharges affecting the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

City of Nogales, Sonora
*Used Oil Collection and Management in Nogales*
Nogales, Sonora
Grant Amount: $16,508
The city of Nogales will expand its used oil recycling program by establishing new collection points and trainings on used oil collection and management for small businesses in Nogales. The city will also partner with oil recyclers to collect used oil free of charge.

The Border 2020 Program is a bi-national collaborative effort with a mission is to protect human health and the environment in the U.S.-Mexico border region. BECC is an international organization established for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the environment in the U.S. – Mexico border region.

For More information on the Border 2020 Program, please visit: [www.epa.gov/border2020](http://www.epa.gov/border2020).

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Arquine Convoca./
Competition No.16
Threshold of the Americas

Registration from October 2013 to February 2014

More than 15,000 USD in prices
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With 1,5 million of people and with an extension of 880m2, Tijuana is the most populated city of Baja California, Mexico. It is considered the most occidentalized city of Latin America. Each year, more than 18 million cars cross the Tijuana/San Ysidro check point – twice the number of cars in Sao Paulo and four times the cars in Mexico City – plus the 9 million people that cross the border by foot.

Arquine is calling a competition of ideas with an architectural intervention in this emblematic point of the continent, by designing a center with the purpose of providing support and assistance to emigrants and immigrants, a place understood as a landmark and a bridge that contributes to the urban recovery of the zone and becomes an attraction and reference point of the busiest border in the world.