



San Diego/Tijuana Air Quality Task Force

Border 2012: U. S.-Mexico Environmental Program

The San Diego/Tijuana Air Quality Task Force was created under the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Environmental Program to assist in the implementation of bi-national environmental projects that are aligned with the Border 2012 program's mission: "To protect the environment and public health in the U.S. Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development".

One of the goals of Border 2012 is to reduce air pollution in the border region by identifying the major sources of air pollution and define strategies to reduce emissions and human exposure to those emissions. To meet this goal, the task force has identified three top priority areas for projects for the San Diego-Tijuana region: (1) projects that reduce air pollution, (2)

projects that enhance the science of air pollution, and (3) projects that promote outreach and public involvement in air quality issues.

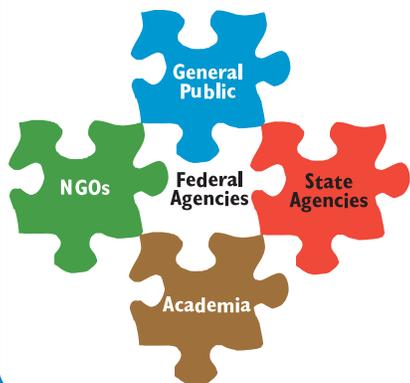
In collaboration with local stake-holders, the task force identifies and prioritizes air quality issues that affect communities in the San Diego/Tijuana border region.

The Task Force serves as a public forum for the discussion of binational air quality issues in the San Diego/Tijuana border region and to provide input to the agencies responsible for public health and air quality. To learn more about Border 2012, please visit the website, <http://www.epa.gov/border2012>.

Our Mission

To promote the sharing of information by task force participants on issues and priorities concerning bi-national air quality in the San Diego/Tijuana air shed and provide input to federal, tribal, state and local authorities regarding projects that address these issues.

Stakeholders



BINATIONAL MEETINGS

The San Diego/Tijuana Air Quality Task Force holds quarterly meetings, usually on the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October. The meeting location alternates each time between San Diego and Tijuana and meeting announcements are posted 45 days in advance through the BECCNet and the Task Force's mailing list, composed of previous meeting attendees. (Please subscribe to the BECCNet to automatically receive announcements at <http://udallcenter.arizona.edu/programs/usmex/beccnet/index.html>.)

The meetings are open to the public and simultaneous translation (English/Spanish) is always provided. Typically the meetings are attended by federal and state agencies, tribes, NGOs, academia and the general public. The meetings consist of informative presentations on binational air quality topics by local experts and guests, meeting announcements, updates on local and national air quality projects and a public comment period.

CO-CHAIRS

Co-chairs are selected, generally by consensus, by the task force participants. The task force currently has three co-chairs, as listed below.

United States

Fernando Amador
California Air Resources Board
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Mexico

Israel Flores
Secretaría de Protección Ambiental
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U.S. Tribes

Paula Stigler
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BORDER PROJECTS

The task force is charged with relevant air quality projects related to the San Diego-Tijuana border region. Some of the projects currently in progress are listed below. Projects to date have been funded by the states of Baja California and California and the two federal governments. The task force also plays a role in identifying high priority projects for future funding.

Projects	Objectives	Results
San Diego/Tijuana Clean Diesel Demonstration Project	To demonstrate the viability of diesel emission control retrofits on heavy-duty diesel trucks operating in the San Diego/Tijuana border region.	To retrofit at least 50 Mexico-based, transborder heavy-duty diesel trucks with Diesel Oxidation Catalysts and Crankcase Filtration Systems (To be completed by September 30, 2007).
Baja California Real-Time Air Quality Website	To maintain the operation of the Baja California Air Quality webpage on the SPA website and provide air quality data to the public in real-time.	The Baja Air Quality webpage has been in operation since October 2005. SPA has the responsibility to maintain the quality of the information on the webpage, which is located at http://aire.bajacalifornia.gob.mx
Environmental Brick Kiln Project	To characterize and reduce air emissions from brick kilns in the rural communities of Baja California and provide training for kiln operators.	To replace four operating brick kilns in Baja California with four <i>environmental</i> brick kilns, which are designed to be more efficient than traditional kilns in reducing air emissions, in order to improve public health in the rural communities of Baja California.
Air Monitoring Network Transfer to Baja California	To transfer the Air Monitoring Network located in the cities of Mexicali, Tijuana, Tecate and Rosarito to the State of Baja California. This network was funded by EPA and operated by CARB since 1995.	The network was transferred to the State of Baja California by agreements between SEMARNAT, INE, SPA, EPA and Cal-EPA on March 15, 2007.
Baja Air Quality Monitoring Network	To operate and maintain the air quality monitoring network in northern Baja California.	Provide daily air quality data information in order to make sound decisions about air quality strategies.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/border2012>

Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

<http://www.semarnat.gob.mx>

California Air Resources Board

<http://www.arb.ca.gov>

Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente—B.C.

<http://www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/ecologia/>

San Diego Air Quality

<http://www.sdapcd.org/air/maps/today.html>

Tijuana Air Quality

<http://aire.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/index.cfm>

Native American Environmental Protection Coalition

<http://www.naepc.com>

