

Minutes of the Imperial Valley/Mexicali Air Quality Taskforce Meeting

UABC, Mexicali Campus

Sep 13, 2007, Mexicali, Baja California

Co-Chairs: Brad Poiriez and Daniel Delgadillo.

Attendance:

Brad Poiriez, Assistant APCO (Air Pollution Control Officer), Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; **José Landeros**, Institute of Engineering Masters Program; **Rafael Garcia**, UABC Mexicali Institute of Engineering; **Margarito Quintero**, UABC Mexicali Institute of Engineering; **Jesus Jimenez Payan**, PROFEPA assistant delegate for Baja California in charge of Industrial Inspection; **Lourdes Meza**, UABC Mexicali; **Elizabeth Casillas**, UABC Mexicali Institute of Engineering ; **Candido Zatarain**, Consultant; **Rebeca Morales Corella**, Imperial Valley Clean Air Initiative; **Guadalupe Faus** , Clean Air Initiative; **Richard Ryan**, Calexico SDSU Professor; **Marco Antonio Reyna**, UABC Mexicali Institute of Engineering; **Lourdes Sandoval**, Head of Environmental Health Department; **Veronica Garibai** , SEMARNAT National Ecology Institute; **Tania Lopez**, SEMARNAT National Ecology Institute; **Alvaro Osornio and Dr. Leonora Bracho**, UNAM Cancer Program in Mexico City; **Emmanuel Sanchez** , Taskforce Liaison, Imperial County Air pollution Control District; **Daniel Delgadillo**, Baja California Secretariat of Environmental Protection; **Israel Flores**, Baja California Secretariat of Environmental Protection; **Enrique Villegas**, Baja California Secretariat of Environmental Protection.

Commitments

❖ **Brad Poiriez** will contact ARB regarding a speaker for the next meeting.

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Brad Poiriez welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the co-chair for the taskforce, he pointed out to all the other members that there were English and Spanish handouts of the agenda, and additional information pamphlets, also mentioning that **Dave Fege**, **Dimitri Smith** and **Nina Hapner** would not be able to attend the meeting.

II. Self-Introductions

III. Review of Minutes from Last Meeting

Brad Poiriez thanked everyone and asked all members in attendance whether they had reviewed the Minutes, and for anyone who wished to make changes to express so at this time. There were no requests. He also mentioned his commitment on getting a speaker from ARB for the next meeting.

IV. Presentations Q & A

a) **Presentation and results of the toxicology evaluation of PM10 in the City of Mexicali**; **Dr. Leonora Bracho** and **Dr. Alvaro Osornio** , UNAM Oncology Institute.

Margarito Quintero Asked if the estimates were per year.

Veronica Garibai answered that yes they were per year up to the year 2004.

Brad Poiriez commented that these were very intriguing results and mentioned to everyone that they would receive a hardcopy of the presentation because; he asked if there were any questions.

Richard Ryan asked why the soil in the UABC area was toxic, and if there was an explanation for this.

Alvaro Osornio answered that the toxicity of both soils are comparative to previous studies that have indicated that they damage on a cellular level, these studies have also shown that this problem exists in San Diego and Ciudad Juarez indicating that the geological characteristics of the soil is indeed toxic. And that this is caused by the feldespatos that exists in the soil of these regions.

Jesus Jimenez Payan asked if there was any other study to verify if this is a natural occurrence or if it was an induced result.

Alvaro Osornio stated that this was only a superficial soil study and no drilling was made so this study can not determine the source of the toxics, and that there are some studies that could answer it.

Rebeca Morales Corella asked if this was the first time for this type of study to be done in Mexicali.

Alvaro Osornio commented that yes it was from the toxicity point of view.

Brad Poiriez said referring to **Jesus Jimenez Payan's** question that the Department of Resource has some information on soil characteristics for the U.S. side, and that it could be useful. He also commented to **Veronica Garibai** on the cost effectiveness of the estimates for the emissions control and that he would like to see the factors that were used to figure the dollar amounts. He also asked how it was determined.

Veronica Garibai answered that this was a supposition, because of the complexity of the factors it was determined that 20 % was a fair emission reduction plan.

Brad Poiriez also asked how the 7% Agricultural PM and PM 2.5 contribution to the inventory was determined.

Veronica Garibai stated that this information was calculated from Inventories and Monitoring Station logs from 1998.

Brad Poiriez asked if the Industrial Sector was considered in this study.

Veronica Garibai answered that no it was not considered due to the fact that it was of little contribution because the main cause of this study was the mobile emissions, soil study, etc.

Brad Poiriez commented that this should be explored further due to the high toxics that might contain the Industrial Sector's emissions.

Marco Antonio Reyna asked if a new study was to be made in order to compare the results to the different climate seasons such as summer or would the present study which was done in winter will represent the whole year.

Alvaro Osornio answered that this is considered in the study, and are awaiting new results to be able to compare the whole year.

Enrique Villegas asked Veronica Garibai about the mortality rate number on her presentation if it had a reduction factor to see if this was a feasible project.

Veronica Garibai stated that in reality it is a very complex project and it is very difficult to estimate the exact number of the Mexicali mortality rate, so a cost- benefit estimate must be done in order to have effective results to be able to make decisions.

Marco Antonio Reyna stated that the reason for this project is to make a base model to see what are the contaminants which are causing so many deaths in the Mexicali area.

b) Recent Research of PM10 Levels in Mexicali. Jesus Jimenez Payan, PROFEPA

Brad Poiriez thanked Jesus Jimenez Payan and asked if there were any questions.

Cándido Zatarain asked what is done with the converters, if they were destroyed.

Jesus Jimenez Payan answered that they are not destroyed but taken outside the state.

Marco Antonio Reyna mentioned that he frequently sees on Sundays the burning of parcels and garbage.

Jesus Jimenez Payan stated that the burning of parcels is a way of eliminating any existing plague.

V. Updates

Israel Flores stated that for the Brick Kiln project they currently have 3 ecological ovens already constructed and by the end of the month of September a notice will be distributed to announce when these will be in use.

Emmanuel Sanchez commented that they have contacted many companies from CANACAR and is in process of making the contract for installing the equipment on the trucks of the participating companies. This will probably take place by the end of October or the start of November. The other project is the parking lots that are not paved, 28 or 29 lots have been identified and are being researched on the many points that need to be addressed by giving them a questionnaire. And this way it can determine how much

PM10 are being generated from these parking lots. A result is expected in a few months time.

Brad Poiriez commented that on August 8th there was the first meeting for the different taskforce co-chairs for Border 2012 to discuss possible sharing of resources for mutual studies or projects. And there is a possible meeting for November. As for the Air District there is a new District Rule 10 for Residential and Commercial Development which will provide funds for projects to reduce PM10, ozone, etc. This rule would be established by November. Also the Air District will be the lead agency for the monitoring system for the Salton Sea restoration program for the State, and be responsible for any planning efforts, operation and maintenance of any air monitoring stations. Regarding the North Baja Pipe Line has been approved by the California State land Commission with the condition that Trans Canada meets with the four local air districts that could be affected by delivering LNG Gas, and makes four individual studies.

Daniel Delgadillo stated that the Emissions Inventory is ready and its base year will be 2005. And that hopefully it will be able to start in October. EPA has approved a Mexicali based pilot project for Brick Kiln by 2008. Air monitoring equipment has been purchased by the Baja California State, to start the air monitoring system here in Mexico.

Marco Antonio Reyna mentioned that there was a problem with the importation of calibration gasses; that is used in the air monitor stations, and asked if this has been settled.

Israel Flores answered that there is in fact a problem with customs regarding these gasses, that they can not be imported and the purchase of these are very expensive in Mexico, but that hopefully by next month this will be resolved.

Marco Antonio Reyna commented on how the information of the station transfer might be obtained.

Israel Flores stated that he will be sending that information to him.

Margarito Quintero stated that on Oct. 6th at 11:00 a.m. Al Gore will be attending UABC Campus Tijuana.

Guadalupe Faus commented that the Health Department will be attending all Air Quality meetings in an effort to obtain better results on all projects.

Veronica Garibai mentioned that INE will be working on studies for Mexicali and Tijuana on emissions of vehicles that are currently in transit. She also commented that INE had brought along some information for everyone.

Rebeca Corella said that they are working on a project for Taco stands, and that they are still working on the Project for Lakes and Rivers, also in Animal Control there has been approximately 12,000 sacrificed dogs in the year.

VI. - Wrap-Up / Date of Next meeting.

Brad Poiriez thanked everyone and stated that the next meeting may be on the 8th or 15th of November at SDSU. Taskforce members will be informed of the exact date of the next meeting via e-mail.

Session Adjourned.