

SD/TJ AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE MEETING  
HELD ON JULY 16, 2008 IN TIJUANA, MEXICO

Attendees:

Paula Stigler	Pala Band of Indians
Domingo Vigil	SDAPCD
David Fege	US EPA (San Diego Border Office)
Guadalupe Lujan	Colectivo Chilpancingo
Yesenia Palomares	Colectivo Chilpancingo
Adela Martinez	Colectivo Chilpancingo
Sonia Perez	Colectivo Chilpancingo
Lourdes Lujan	Colectivo Chilpancingo/Environmental Health Coalition
Evangelina Langarica	Colectivo Chilpancingo
Michelle Vazquez	Colectivo Chilpancingo/Environmental Health Coalition
Lourdes Ortega	Colegio de Auditores Ambientales de BC
Paulina Bueno	CETYS University
Guillermo Rodriguez	UABC
Dmitri Smith	California Air Resources Board
Juan Temores	UABC
Maura Mack	Environmental Health Coalition/California Office of Binational Border Health
Monica Tamayo	Department of Environmental Protection, Tijuana, BC, Mexico
Victor Borboa	Department of Environmental Protection, Tijuana, BC, Mexico
Lizzeth Mejia	Department of Environmental Protection, Tijuana, BC, Mexico
Efrain Nieblas	Department of Environmental Protection, Mexicali, BC Mexico

**Welcome remarks and introductions**

Paula welcomed all to the meeting.

**Minute approval and announcements**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

- Paula announced the annual Air Policy Forum to be held on July 29 and 30, 2008, at the Hilton Mission Valley in San Diego, which is open to the public.
- Domingo announced that the CARB would be holding a workshop on the new regulation in California for heavy cargo trucks regarding green house gas emissions, it will be held at the Comfort Suites in Otay Mesa on July 29, 2008.
- Victor reported that on June 20, 2008 there was a Forum on Energy Efficiency where almost 1200 businesses participated. Presentations on waste management, treatment plants, photovoltaic cells and carbon bonds were given at this Forum, also, businesses that reduced their pollution received awards. The Department of Environmental Protection certified about 30 businesses. He also announced that there will be an event highlighting the benefits of the kiln project. Victor also suggested that perhaps the next

Energy Efficiency Forum could be binational given the success of the first Forum.

- Monica informed that the Annual Emissions Report for 2007 was published on the website, it indicates the non-attainment days for carbon monoxide and PM10 in Mexicali, PM 10 in Tijuana and PM10 in Tecate. The web address for the report is: [www.bajacalifornia/ecologia/reporteannual2007](http://www.bajacalifornia/ecologia/reporteannual2007)
- Dmitri announced that CARB was working with the NASA to examine the atmosphere over the State to better understand the chemical dynamics of smog and greenhouse gases. The study will focus on the impact of air pollution on the arctic's atmospheric chemistry and changing climate. He will give an announcement when the results are ready. CARB has also been working on the draft of a scoping plan to reduce California's GGE to 1990 levels by 2020 (known as AB 32 – Global Warming Solutions Act). Some of the key elements of the recommendations include expansion and strengthening of existing energy efficiency programs, expansion of renewable portfolio to 33%, development of a cap and trade program that links the Western Initiative Partner Programs to create a regional market system.

### **Proposal Submittal to the BECC**

Dmitri reported on the proposals submitted to the BECC. The co-Chairs evaluated the project proposals submitted. One project was selected to be proposed to the BECC for EPA funding. This project was consistent with the criteria of the RFP and addressed the priorities identified by the Task Force. The most important criterion was that the project must reduce emissions and/or exposure to air pollution. The project selected was the one proposed by the Environmental Health Coalition. This project will reduce levels of PM 2.5 in the vicinity of elementary and kindergarden schools of Tijuana caused by large truck traffic near these schools. The goal is to reduce pollution by forcing the trucks to use alternative routes. The proposal has a component of environmental policy and hopefully this will become a law. A pilot project is already in progress and there is opportunity for collaboration among UABC, the Environmental Health Task Force and SDSU. Dmitri encouraged all to continue developing ideas for the upcoming funding cycle.

Baja California submitted proposals that didn't go through the Task Force. Victor reported that they proposed a mobile monitoring station for air quality purposes and others having to do with soil and waste.

### **2050 Study on Climate Change and Green House Gasses Issues in the San Diego Region**

Paula gave a presentation on the Climate 2050 Report for San Diego. The study is led by Dr. Lisa Schaeffer from the Environmental Sustainability Initiative Program at UCSD. More than 40 scientists and technical experts from different universities, public agencies and private research institutes participate in the study. The study has calculated the carbon footprint for San Diego county and determined that on-road transportation accounts for 50% of GGE in the county, 51% of passenger vehicles and light duty trucks account for 80% of on-road emissions; the use of electricity and natural gas accounts for

36% of total regional GGE. About 60% of regional emissions are associated to activities by individuals, such as residential electricity use, natural gas use, passenger car use and light duty truck use. Industrial emissions are low compared to other parts of California and only represent 5% of the regional GGEs. Emissions from the waste sector account for only 2% and can be reduced. Wildfires emit a significant amount of carbon dioxide. The two wildfires of 2003 and 2007 emitted 12 MMT of carbon dioxide. A lot of emissions come from the private sector. One of the goals is to predict environmental conditions if there are no changes. These conditions would be: hotter summers, a three fold increase in heat waves (start earlier, be more intense and last longer), a rise in sea level of 12 to 15 inches, demand for fresh water will be greater than supply capacity, more frequent and more intense wildfires affecting public health. The final report will be ready in the fall.

### **Estudio 2050 sobre Cambios Climatológicos y Gases de Efecto Invernadero en la Región de San Diego**

Efrain Nieblas gave a presentation on the study on GGE in Baja California, prepared by the Mario Molina Center. Because of Mexico's geographic location, and socio-economic and environmental conditions, it is vulnerable to climate change, therefore, Mexico has established its National Climate Change Strategy. The period that was studied was 2005, the methodology used is the one proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The sectors that were studied were: energy, industry, agriculture, changes in land use and waste. The energy sector is responsible for about 80% of GGE, in second place is waste, which contributes 13%, then comes agriculture and changes in land use, and in last place is the industry sector. Fuel use for transportation accounts for 50% of GGE, then 34% comes from energy production and use, 12% is from residential and services use. Mexico emits 643 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually and the State of Baja California contributes almost 18 million tons. Each person in the State is responsible for 6.22 tons, annually. In comparing the State of Baja California to the whole country, the industry sector in BC is responsible for 70-80% of GGE, while at a national level, this sector is responsible for 61%. As to per capita amounts, in Baja California it is 4.92 tons of carbon dioxide and at a national level it is 3.86 tons. This may be due to the high levels of electricity consumed during the summer months in Mexicali. These are the main results. The entire study is available on the Web. The State of Baja California prepared a Climate Action Plan for Baja California based on this study, which considers the impact Climate Change will have on the different sectors of the economy and health, and the type of infrastructure that will be needed to be more efficient in the use of resources, as well as strategies to reduce GGE. Baja California has conformed a group of specialists from CISESE, UABC, COLEF and the professionals at the Department of Environmental Protection to study the aforementioned aspects. The group of specialists will divide into smaller groups to tackle different topics, for example, the climatology group will study climate from 200 years back and do projections into the future to 2020, 2050 and 2100. These scenarios will be used by the other subgroups to study the impacts of climate change on health, agriculture, etc. All the State Environmental and Energy plans are linked to one another to allow the State to reduce emissions and their effects as well as be more energy efficient. The State will be looking to participate in the carbon bond exchange program. There already are alternative energy

plans in use, such as a wind power project, a hydroelectric power project and a solar power project. Nuevo Leon, Mexico City, and Veracruz have all prepared their own Climate Action Plans so Baja California would be the fourth state to have this kind of plan in Mexico. The web address to view the entire study is: [www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/ecologia/portal.htm](http://www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/ecologia/portal.htm) and there is a link to the study on that page.

Dave Fege commended the State's Department of Environmental Protection for having commissioned this GGE Inventory. He stated that Baja California is the first border state to have this inventory and that Sonora is in the process of doing its own emissions inventory. The report will soon be available in English at the Baja website.

### **Next Steps for the Air Quality Task Force**

The future calendar and locations for meetings of this task force was presented. The meetings are scheduled on the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October. The locations alternate between San Diego and Tijuana. If there are any changes to the dates, notice will be given at least one month in advance. Attendees were encouraged to start thinking about project proposals for the next funding cycle in order to have enough time to process and discuss them. The proposals should actually reduce emissions.

Dmitri indicated that many good proposals were submitted, however, the criterion of emission reduction ruled the selection process. He also mentioned that there are opportunities for collaboration and that early discussion would probably facilitate the proposal,

### **General Issues and Task Force member survey**

Paula indicated that the EPA and BECC are evaluating all proposals submitted. The National Coordinators' Meeting will be held the first week of September in Ciudad Juarez, this is when the awardees will be announced. This meeting is open to the public.

Domingo indicated that the best way to have a survey is for him to email it so that every person can fill it out at their own leisure and this way, hopefully, more surveys will be answered.

Paula invited all attendees to suggest topics for future meetings or to sign up if anyone wants to give a presentation. The agenda is prepared about a month and a half in advance.

Guillermo Rodriguez suggested that other, non-criteria, pollutants be studied in order to be fully aware of the air quality of the region, given that their impact on health is greater than criteria pollutants. He offered to give a presentation on non-criteria, photo-pollutants present in the region. These studies are being carried out along with Jenny Quintana from San Diego State.

Victor Borboa thanked EPA and Remex Mart (?) for their support for the recent E-waste and battery collection campaign. Approximately 600 kilos of e-waste and batteries were

collected during the first campaign. The second campaign was advertised through radio and TV spots as well as in printed media. About 12 tons of e-waste and batteries were collected during this second campaign, making it a huge success.

Another topic mentioned by Victor was the fact that cars sold from the U.S. to Mexico be cars that have passed the California vehicle emission test, not non-operational or heavily polluting vehicles as is the case now. Finally, Victor introduced Lizzeth Mejia who is one of the persons that will be supporting the monitoring stations in Tecate, Rosarito and Tijuana.

Maura invited all to the next meeting of the Environmental Health Task Force meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 in El Centro or Calexico from 11 am to 4 pm. The environmental health task force submitted a proposal related to agricultural burning and public health. She offered to give a presentation on the project after the funding results are given. Even if the project doesn't get funding the task force will do the outreach and education component and she will have those results to present. Also, the Office of Binational Health published a health status report related to air quality, she will be sharing this chapter with the air quality task force soon, and would like to include Baja California perspective in the health status report the next time the report focuses on air quality. Maura complemented this task force for the summary fact sheet on the Air Quality Tsk Force.

Domingo received thanks for all the work he does for the Task Force.

The next meeting will be October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in National City, from 4 to 7 pm.

**Adjourn**