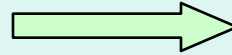
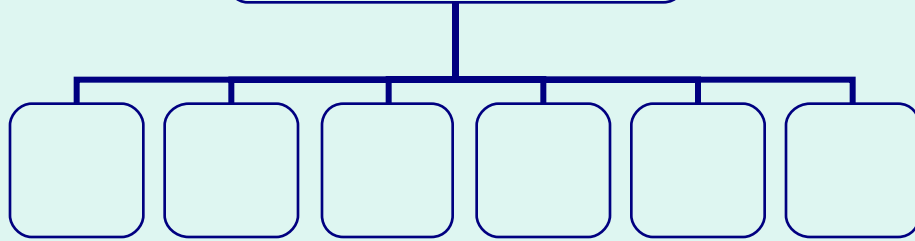


**US-Mexico Border Health Commission
and
Border 2012-Environmental Health Workgroup
BUILDING AN ALLIANCE
February 2, 2005**



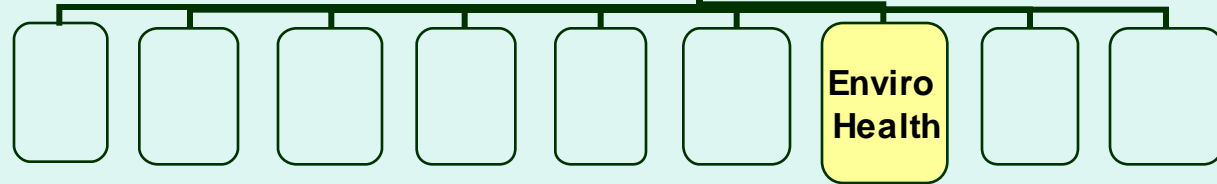
**La Paz Agreement
1983**



**Integrated Border Environmental
Plan for US-Mexico Border Area
(IBEP) - 1992**



Border XXI



Border 2012

National Coordinators

EPA

SEMARNAT

**Regional
Workgroups**

California-Baja California

Arizona-Sonora

New Mexico-Texas-
Chihuahua

Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo León-
Tamaulipas

**Border-wide
Workgroups**

Environmental Health

Emergency Preparedness
and Response

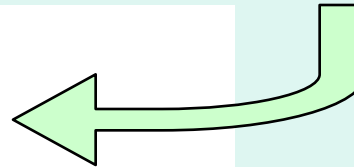
Cooperative Enforcement
and Compliance

**Policy
Forums**

Air

Water

Hazardous and Solid
Waste



Environmental Health Workgroup:

Who we are

Our Focus Areas:

- Surveillance
- Research
- Training
- Communication



The efforts of the environmental health workgroup support the activities of the other Border 2012 workgroups by providing scientific and health expertise.

Mission Statements

USMBHC Mission Statement

To provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Border 2012 Mission Statement

To protect the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region.....

EHWG Mission Statement

To identify and address, in a binational framework, environmental factors that pose the highest risk to human health.....

Goals of the Environmental Health Workgroup:

1. **AIR:** evaluate respiratory health indicators in children to assess air quality improvements in border communities.
2. **WATER:** evaluate gastrointestinal illness indicators to assess water quality improvements in border communities.
3. **PESTICIDES:** complete an assessment and pilot program to determine the feasibility of a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings; reduce pesticide exposure by educating 36,000 farm workers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to reduce home exposure.
4. **CAPACITY BUILDING:** establish a "distance-learning", post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health; extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.

Goals of the US-Mexico Border Health Commission:

Overarching Goals:

1. Improve the quality and increase the years of healthy life, and
2. Eliminate health disparities

To be Achieved by Working in the Following Areas:

- Access to Health Care
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- **Environmental Health**
 - improving household access to sewage disposal
 - reducing hospital admissions for acute pesticide poisoning
- HIV/AIDS
- Immunization and **Infectious Diseases**
- Injury Prevention
- Maternal, Infant and Child Health
- Mental Health
- Oral Health
- **Respiratory Diseases**
 - reducing the rate of hospitalization for asthma

Alliance between the EHWG and the Commission

The EHWG to serve as the lead technical group to achieve Healthy Border 2010 environmental health goals

Examples of Benefits for the Commission:

- Provide ready access to EHWG network of partners with attendant expertise and training and often, already ongoing programs
- Collaborate with the only workgroup that bridges the environmental and health agencies in facilitating collaborations, data sharing and joint problem solving
- Leverage resources

Alliance between the EHWG and the Commission

The EHWG to serve as the lead technical group to achieve Healthy Border 2010 environmental health goals

Examples of Benefits to the EHWG

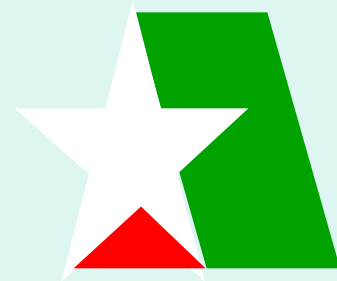
- Greatly strengthen role/visibility of health in Border 2012 programs
- Places environmental health in broader context of public health
- Facilitates representation of health officials at regional meetings
- Enhances likelihood of true binational partnering and participation
- Leverages resources

How can we maximize the opportunity presented to us by the Alliance?



TEN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Is it a Model for EHWG?



DIEZ CONTRA
TEN AGAINST TB
LA TUBERCULOSIS

TEN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Is it a Model for EHWG?

- Created 1995
- Goal --- is to [...] identify and address the opportunities and challenges that cannot effectively be addressed unilaterally by either country acting alone
- Operational guidelines

TATB Guidelines

- Raise the awareness of the general public by advocating the importance of TB **[EH]** issues
- Share and disseminate information about border health activities
- Stimulate new ideas for prevention, treatment and management of TB **[EH]**
- Guide project implementation by identifying creative partnerships

TATB GUIDELINES

- Offer feedback to health care providers **[BHC]** on practical implementation of TB *[EH]* related projects
- Mediate when appropriate
- Remove barriers to the implementation of needed activities

Building a Strategic Plan for Environmental Health Work Group



Our Focus Areas:

- Surveillance
- Research
- Training
- Communication



