

# Border 2012 Environmental Health Work Group Annual Meeting



May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007  
San Antonio, TX

**2007 Annual EHWG Meeting - Reunión Anual EHWG 2007**  
**San Antonio, TX/ - San Antonio de Tejas**  
**May 22, 2007- Martes 22 de Mayo**

**8:30: Welcome by Co-Chairs**

**8:35-8:45** Background on EHWG: Current Principles and Approaches to Setting Priorities (*Dr. Hal Zenick, EPA*)

**8:45-10:00:** Follow-up Actions from 2006 EHWG Meeting  
 Water White Paper, (*Carlos Rincon/ Matiana Ramírez Aguilar*)  
 Air White Paper, (*Bob Curry/Sally Edwards*)  
 Pesticide White Paper, (*Norman Calero/Maura Mack*)  
 PAHO Projects/ RFA, (*Sally Edwards*)

**Break**

**10:15-11:00:** EHWG: A new working model, (*Rocio Alatorre*)  
 The new model case study *Lourdes Sandoval Nolasco/Maura Mack*

**11:00-12:30:** Regional Environmental Task Force Updates (10 min. each)

**12:30-1:30:** Lunch

**1:30-2:00:** Updates(10 min. each)  
 Communication & Healthy Places (*R. Sabogal*)  
 Environmental Education (*Iris Jimenez*)  
 Indicators (*Andrew Carnahan/Sandra Duque*)

**2:00 - 2:20:** Update on the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (*Dan Reyna*)

**2:30 - 3:00:** Next Steps

**3:00** Adjourn

**8:30: Bienvenida de los Co-Presidentes**

**8:35-8:45:** **Antecedentes del grupo de trabajo EHWG:** Principios y Metodologías actuales para establecer prioridades (*Dr. Hal Zenick, EPA*)

**8:45-10:00:** **Seguimiento de actividades planeadas en la reunión anual 2006 del EHWG**  
 Reporte del grupo de Agua, (*Carlos Rincón/ Matiana Ramírez Aguilar*)  
 Reporte del grupo de Aire, (*Bob Curry/Sally Edwards*)  
 Reporte del grupo de Plaguicidas, (*Norman Calero/ Maura Mack*)  
 Proyectos de OPS/ RFA, (*Sally Edwards*)

**Descanso**

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 El caso de California/Baja California como ejemplo del Nuevo modelo de trabajo, (*Lourdes Sandoval Nolasco/Maura Mack*)

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**12:30-1:30:** Almuerzo

**1:30-2:00:** **Actualización 10 min. Cada uno)**  
 Comunicación y Lugares Saludables (*Raquel Sabogal*)  
 Educación Ambiental (*Iris Jiménez*)  
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**2:00 - 2:20:** **Actualización de actividades de la Comisión de Salud Fronteriza (Dan Reyna)**

**2:30-3:00:** **Actividades futuras**

**3:00:** **Cierre de la reunión**

# EHWG Mission

- *To identify and address, in a binational framework, environmental factors that pose the highest risk to human health so that exposure to such factors may be reduced.*

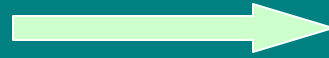
# Environmental Health Workgroup:

## Our Focus Areas:

- Surveillance
- Research
- Training
- Communication



**La Paz Agreement  
1983**



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

Interagency Workgroup

EHWG



**Border XXI**

WATER

AIR

LAND

ENV Health

**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



**Border 2012**

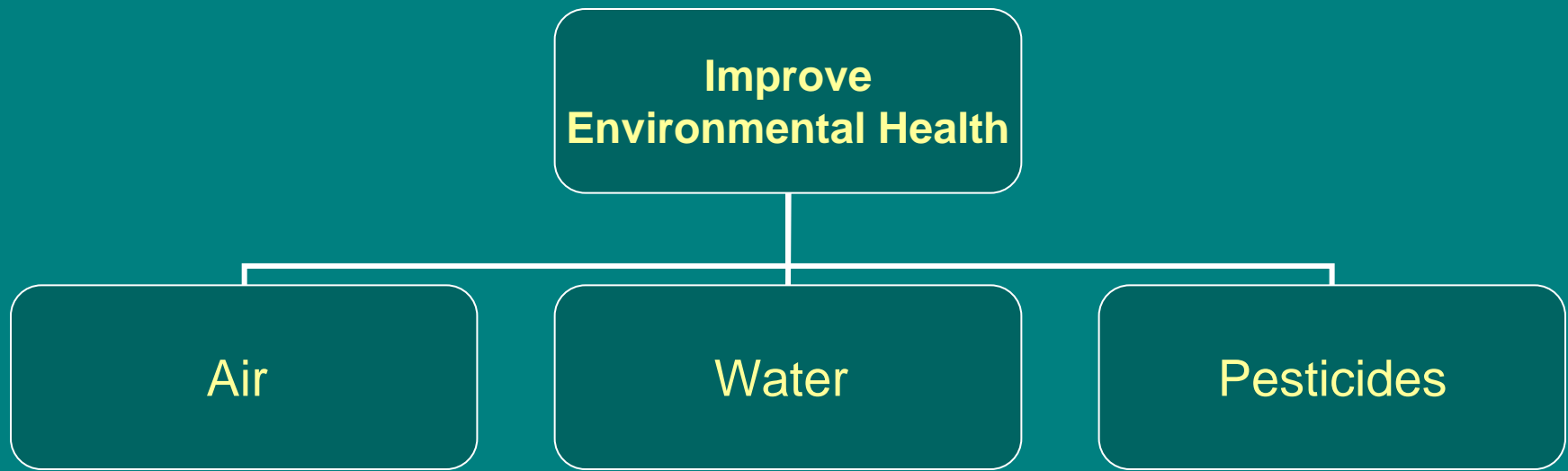
# EHWG

- Joint Program with EPA and SEMARNAT, DHHS and SALUD to improve public health in the US-Mexico border in a ten-year goal strategy
- **Border 2012's "bottom up approach":**  
local communities, State environment/health agencies, border wide workgroups, policy work groups

## EHWG Traditional Working Model

- Focus on primarily supporting the other border-wide work groups
- Initially State health and environmental representatives, and now Regional task forces, present priorities
- Through multi-vote process, identify a subset that have binational, and border-wide, applications and implications
- 2005-2006 emphasis:
  - indicators (RFA through PAHO)
  - white papers on air, water and pesticides

# 2007 and Beyond- Focus Areas



- Environmental Monitoring
- Health Surveillance
- Capacity Building
- Communication
- Policy Development

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# Air Projects

- The health effects of PM and co-pollutant exposure to children living in El Paso, (Neas et al.)
- Traffic-related exposure, airway function, inflammation, and respiratory symptoms in children (Holguin et al.)
- A binational pilot study examining the impact of traffic-related air pollution on asthmatic children (Sarnat et al.)

## EHWG Border 2012 Goals

1. **AIR:** evaluate respiratory health indicators in children to assess air quality improvements in border communities.

Status: Underway

2. **WATER:** evaluate gastrointestinal illness indicators to assess water quality improvements in border communities.

Status: Underway

3. **PESTICIDES:**

- complete an assessment and pilot program to determine the feasibility of a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings

Status: To begin 2007

- reduce pesticide exposure by educating farm workers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to reduce home exposure

Status: Underway

4. **CAPACITY BUILDING:**

- establish a "distance-learning", post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health

Status: ongoing

- extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.

Status: Completed through Health Resources Service Administration agreement

[www.epa.gov/ehwg](http://www.epa.gov/ehwg)