

U.S.-Mexico Border 2025: July 2021 Newsletter

Por favor siga este [enlace](#) para leer **la versión en español** del boletín de noticias. La versión en español no está en este correo. Nota: si tiene problemas con los enlaces, desconecte su RPV

Please follow this [link](#) to view the newsletter as a PDF in **English**. Disclaimer: if you're having trouble with hyperlinks, disconnect your VPN.

News from the San Diego Border Office



I'd like to give a big, warm welcome to our new program, Border 2025, which was launched this past spring in partnership with Mexico's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). [Border 2025](#) is the fifth in the series of environmental efforts being implemented by EPA and its border program partners. It includes four goals related to air, water, waste and emergency preparedness and response that include key objectives as well as guiding principles such as environmental justice and climate change. The new program continues to reach communities in the United States-Mexico border region, 62 miles on either side of the border stemming from the 1983 La Paz Agreement. To learn more please join us for the up-coming informational session July 14th to learn more (see calendar)!

On June 28, the first [request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) was released for projects (grant opportunity) launched in coordination with the North American Development Bank and closes August 2 at 5 PM pacific. The RFP includes topics under all of the Border 2025 goals in addition to [environmental justice and climate change](#). On July 15, we will have our final RFP webinar session to review the RFP and answer questions for those interested in applying or learning more. See the RFP section below for more information.

A special thank you to everyone who we collaborated with in Border 2020 to make it a successful program. Learn more about recently closed Border 2020 projects, check out our [Key Closing Accomplishments Report \(Spring 2021\)](#). The report highlights projects such as mitigating climate change, reducing water pollution, enhancing to waste sites and responding to environmental emergencies in border cities. We look forward to continued collaboration with our partners and forming new partnerships as we kick off Border 2025.

Stay cool and safe this summer,

Melissa Dimas

Director of the San Diego Border Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Upcoming Meetings and Webinars

Please join EPA and Border 2025 program partners at various upcoming meetings in the border region. All meetings during this time are virtual due to COVID-19 challenges and will include simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish. See the Border 2025 calendar for more information and meeting updates: <https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/region-9-calendar>

Border 2025 Program Virtual Meeting

- July 14 at 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (PST)
- Register here: <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-CvqzquGDBmdfPYLyuSvtwsKouaUu8>

Virtual RFP Workshop and Webinar 2

- July 15 at 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (PST)

US-Mexico Border Goal 4 Task Force Meeting (Closed Session)

- July 28 at 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. (PST)

San Diego – Tijuana Air Quality Task Force Meeting

- July 22 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Healthy Air Indoors and Out: Helpful Information from EPA for U.S.-Mexico Border Communities

- August 12, at 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Border 2025 Spotlight: André Villaseñor U.S. EPA



EPA Region 9 employee André Villaseñor joins us as the new Waste Task Force lead. Based in the Southern California Field Office, he has fulfilled EPA's mission since 2005. Fluent in Spanish after years of living in Chile, Ecuador and Spain, André has garnered experience in sustainable materials management, with an emphasis on food waste prevention, recovery and recycling given his years-long involvement in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge and Sustainable Management of Food Program. Prior to EPA, André served in the U.S. Peace Corps in rural Ecuador as a natural resources conversation specialist. He also worked as an Environmental Compliance Officer at the Los Angeles

County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He received his M.S. in Environmental Science and an M.A. in International Relations from State University of New York and Syracuse University, respectively.

Case Study: Scrap Tires in Baja California



Scrap Tires

The government of Baja California is making efforts to minimize the adverse effects of the management of scrap tires generated in Baja California. The federal government, through the Secretary of Economy, authorizes the importation of 800,000 used tires from the United States to Baja California each year. In 2020, due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to import the entire quota, however, the proliferation of tires that are not handled properly continues to be visible. It is estimated that for every tire imported legally, another may be imported informally or illegally. In recent years, only two companies have been authorized to handle tires properly, Cemex in Ensenada and Geocycle in Mexicali. The greatest uncertainty lies in the lack of financing for tire handling and processing infrastructure.



Junk vehicle site in Nogales, Sonora. Photo by city of Nogales, Sonora

The Municipality of Nogales, Sonora, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology, is near its August 2021 completion of a junk vehicles training grant started in February 2020. The workgroup continued its progress in inspecting and auditing junk vehicle establishments for best practices such as proper storage of the vehicles, allowing for easy and safe access by site personnel, and measures to prevent or remediate spills. In some cases, the inspections revealed improper storage of used tires and car batteries.

The grantee then captured the inspection data in web-based graphics showing what percentage of the inspected sites possess a comprehensive environmental license (13% do), as well as the percentage (over 95%) of sites with soil contamination from vehicular liquid waste. This grant demonstrates much work remains in getting junk

vehicle establishments properly trained and in environmental health and safety compliance.

If you have questions contact Adriana Guerrero – Municipality of Nogales, Sonora (adriana.guerrero@nogalessonora.gob.mx) or André Villaseñor at Villasenor.andre@epa.gov

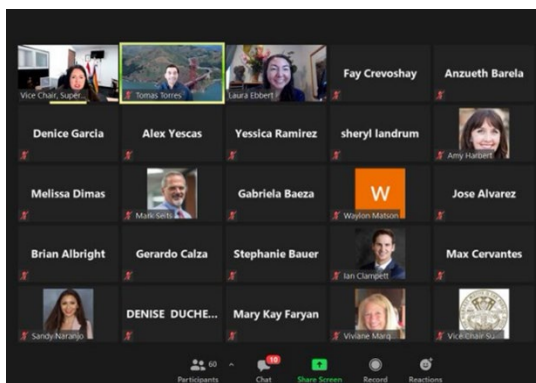
Non-profit Organization Forum



On May 12, the US-Mexico Border Environmental Program hosted a Non-profit Organization Forum in both English and Spanish with over 60 participants in attendance. The forum's objective was to acknowledge the integral role NGO's and academia in advancing public health and environmental protection in the border region, share information about the role of

communication in past program projects, and share perspectives on ways to amplify and leverage NGO's activities and strengthen community engagement in the future to improve overall border program outcomes. Attendees discussed communication knowledge and best practices, participated in break-out sessions to facilitate small and large group discussions. Based on the responses, 100 % of poll participants affirmed their interest in participating in future similar events, with over 50% stating interest in presenting.

EPA Presents at South County Environmental Justice Task Force

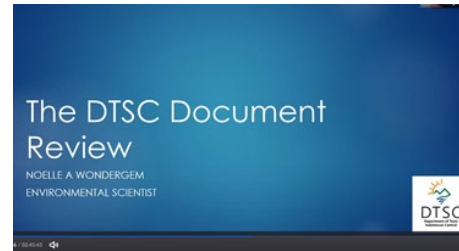


The South County Environmental Justice Task Force kicked-off its first meeting on June 21, 2021, where EPA took a leading role in discussing its commitment to EJ issues along the U.S. - Mexico border. Laura Ebbert of the Tribal, Intragovernmental, and Policy Division gave a brief overview of EPA's enduring history of work and partnership, highlighting this year's EJ Small and EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving grants and new binational framework for the Border 2025 Program. Tomás Torres of the Water Division, provided a brief but

comprehensive overview of EPA's USMCA project selection process, currently taking place in the Tijuana River Valley region. The task force will convene periodically, and Gaby Baeza-Castañeda of the Water Division will serve as EPA's representative. For more information reach out to baeza-castaneda.gabriela@epa.gov.

DTSC/EPA Workshop on Cross-Border Hazardous Waste

EPA Region 9 collaborated with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to host a June 22nd virtual workshop on hazardous waste management and transport across the U.S.-Mexico border. 45 people attended the workshop, including shippers, customs brokers, government, recyclers, truck drivers and more. Workshop participants learned about the import/export of scrap vehicles and used automotive parts, document review, RCRA hazardous waste acknowledgement of consent, land disposal restrictions, hazardous waste transport manifests, liability insurance, and hazardous waste notification to EPA.



Carlo Rodríguez, Supervising Environmental Scientist of DTSC's San Diego-based Enforcement and Emergency Response Division, facilitated the workshop, which was interpreted in Spanish and English. EPA's new San Diego Border Office Director Melissa Dimas gave an overview of the recently launched Border 2025 program and highlights of the completed Border 2020 program. Technical speakers were DTSC's Carlos Padilla and Noelle Wondergem. The workshop was rounded out with a robust Q&A session. A follow-up workshop with participation from DTSC/EPA Mexican counterparts is expected in fall.

Grant Opportunities

U.S.EPA Region 9 Office in coordination with the North American Development Bank (NADB) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects in the Arizona-Sonora and California-Baja California border region (62 miles on either side of the US-MX border). The projects selected under this RFP will meet the goals, objectives, and guiding principles of the Border 2025 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program, whose mission is to protect the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region consistent with the principles of sustainable development:

<https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/border-2025-framework>

The RFP application period is opened on June 28, 2021 and will close on **August 02, 2021 at 5:00 PM (Pacific Time)**. For more information, click on the following link: [Request For Proposals Border 2025 - English](#). If you have any questions regarding the RFP, contact Jorge Hernandez at jhernandez@nadb.org.

You are invited to attend an Informational Workshop Webinar regarding the 2021 RFP. The webinar will be via Zoom on **Thursday, July 15, 2021 from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm (PST)**. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided (in English and Spanish). Please register in advance at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#). We hope you are able to join us for this new funding grant opportunity! Note, the bilingual power point has been posted from the previous session as a resource.

Stay Connected

[EPA Border 2025](#)
[SEMARNAT: Frontera 2025](#)
[EPA Region 6 Calendar](#)
[EPA Region 9 Calendar](#)
[North American Development Bank](#)

FOLLOW US

