

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

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News from the San Diego Border Office



The U.S.-Mexico Border Program is excited to share the first series of Border 2025 Program grants. This new funding is for eight projects for implementation in the [Arizona-Sonora](#) and [California-Baja California](#) regions. Learn more details about the projects from our most recent press releases!

In case you missed it, this past summer the U.S.-Mexico Border Program launched a borderwide project map application showcasing 112 projects. These projects were funded in cooperation with the North American Development Bank through the previous Border 2020 Program between 2013-2020. The map will be updated in 2022 with the new Border 2025 projects and will eventually be available in Spanish. View the map application [here](#). Note that you can integrate it into [EJSCREEN](#), environmental justice screening and mapping tool, by searching it in the geoplatform under the “search for maps” tool – “search geoplatform.”

Did you miss the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Border 2025 request for proposals in Region 9? The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has an environmental justice grant opportunity in North America, EJ4Climate. The EJ4Climate grant supports environmental justice and climate resilience in underserved, vulnerable communities, and Indigenous communities across North America. [Apply today- deadline is November 14, 2021.](#)

Lastly, October is children’s health month and binational health month. View this listserv [here](#) and look out for another one coming soon for resources. At the Imperial Valley Ivan Task Force Meeting as well as the San Diego - Tijuana Air Task Force Meeting, Sarah Sullivan, presented on children's health touching on topics such as asthma, lead, indoor air quality, and sanitizing and cleaning. See later in the newsletter for opportunities to participate in lead exposure and prevention trainings. I hope you consider joining one of our upcoming task force meetings to hear more updates and from others on environmental and public health in the US-MX border region.

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

Region 9: Border 2025-Pre-selection of eight new Proposals

In coordination with the North American Development Bank ([NADB](#)), the EPA will support the implementation of eight new proposals selected under the first funding opportunity of the Border 2025 Program: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program. The new environmental and public health projects will benefit the communities of [Arizona/Sonora](#) and [California/Baja California](#). The agency will award over \$501,388 and an additional \$575,000 will be matched by the recipient organizations. The border region is defined as the area within 62 miles (100 kilometers) on either side of the U.S.-Mexico border as defined by the 1983 La Paz Agreement. USEPA Region 9 Office and NADB have been working together since 2005 through a series of binational efforts to implement domestic and binational projects in these regions.

The eight projects selected under the 2021 Request for Proposal help meet the goals and objectives of the Border 2025 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program to reduce air pollution; improve water quality; promote sustainable materials management and waste Management, and Clean Sites; and improve joint preparedness for and response to hazardous environmental emergencies.

For more information on these new proposals or the Border 2025 Program please contact Jorge Hernandez at jhernandez@nadb.org, or Lorena Lopez-Powers at lopez-powers.lorena@epa.gov

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>

Upcoming Meetings

Water Task force Arizona-Sonora

- November 18, 2021, a 11:00 AM -1:00 PM (Mountain Standard Time)
- <https://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/arizonasonora-border-region-water-task-force-meeting-november-2021>

Example of Events in the Region-2021 Tribal Annual Conference

There were two sessions held at the 2021 Annual Tribal Conference with border relevant topics. The Tribal Border Workgroup held a session on “Drought Impacts to Tribal Communities in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region” with talks by representatives from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Campo Kumeyaay Nation, Cocopah Indian Tribe, and updates to a case challenging a waiver to cultural resources assessment in constructing the border wall. The University of Arizona grantee and grant collaborators gave a presentation demonstrating practices to leverage and share results of the Integrated Pest Management grant through various partnerships and communication outreach tools.

Water Spotlight: Border Infrastructure Program and Border Program - Staff Transitions

The B2025 Water Goal was developed with a focus on mutual benefits and responsibilities that shared watersheds bring to both the United States and Mexico. Binational objectives include the reduction of marine debris, protecting and restoring water quality in domestic and transboundary watersheds, and promoting beneficial water reuse and trash-free waters initiatives.



We want to thank Doug Eberhardt, currently under phased retirement, who will be fully retiring from EPA in April 2022. He has been at EPA since 1983. Doug was one of EPA R9's original border team members in the 1990s who led water quality efforts for several years and more recently as the Infrastructure Section Manager in the Water Division leading the Pacific Islands, State Revolving Fund (SRF), and the Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) teams. His efforts also include many contributions to EPA's work in the border and this have allowed for continuous collaboration with internal and external partners to promote efficient solutions to water quality issues.



Welcome to Lily Lee who recently joined the Infrastructure Section as the new manager, taking over Doug Eberhardt's position. Lily brings her vast experience to the Water Division after working in various programs within EPA Headquarters and Region 9, including the Environmental Justice team, Toxics Section, Superfund, and the Pacific Islands. Since starting in May 2021, Lily has successfully immersed herself in the border team's many complex activities, including taking an active role in the USMCA Tijuana River project selection process.



Roger Kohn, Project Officer in the border team will be retiring from EPA in late October, after decades of work in Region 9 Border 2020, Border 2025 and BWIP programs. Before his work in the border, Roger worked for over 18 years in the Air Division's Permit Office and led teams conducting audits for Clean Air Act Title V operating permit programs. His work in the border as the Arizona/Sonora region lead led to the advancement and completion of various water and wastewater infrastructure projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities for years to come. Thank you, Roger!



Dave Smith, Assistant Director of the Tribal and State Assistance Branch in the Water Division will be retiring at the end of December. His vast experience in water programs at EPA such as Wetlands, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and Water Quality Standards, as well as outside ventures at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Congressional Budget Office, and private consulting firms, helped successfully engage and coordinate with stakeholders to forge ahead in the USMCA Tijuana River project selection process. Thank you, Dave!

Moving forward, the Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) team will be led by Lily Lee and supported by Doug Liden, Monica Moran, and Gabriela Baeza-Castañeda.

You will see these names at several public meetings that take place throughout the year that may be directly water-related or that touch on the topic. Some are led by outside organizations for example, the Tijuana River Taskforce meeting and the South Bay EJ Taskforce.

On 29 October, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's Joint Public Advisory Committee ([JPAC](#)) will be hosting an online webinar, titled 'Sustainable management of transboundary waters: How to build successful collaborations. This public forum will feature experts who will discuss the sustainable management of transboundary waters, emphasizing the need for international cooperation at the local, regional, and national levels, especially in areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and where water is already scarce. Sign- up [here](#).

In other water news, EPA has received \$300 million in conjunction with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement for the planning, design and construction of wastewater facilities along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Virtual Public Information Meeting on **Monday, November 8, 2021 at 1:00 – 2:30 PM Pacific Time**.

At this meeting EPA will share updates on the alternatives analysis to address the transboundary wastewater pollution issues in the San Diego/Tijuana region, in accordance with the US-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) treaty legislation. Implementation strategies including the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and binational coordination will also be discussed.

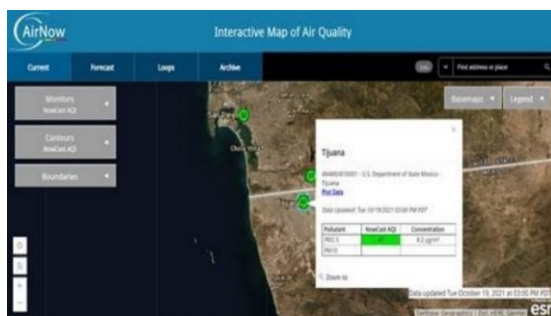
This meeting is open to the public. Please feel free to share meeting information with others who may be interested in participating. An access link will be posted at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/usmca-tijuana-river-watershed> one week before the meeting.

Please check out more information about the USMCA Tijuana River project proposal process at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/usmca-tijuana-river-watershed>.

Here you will find more information about our past and future public engagement NEPA meetings. If you wish to be added to our USMCA listserv, please contact Monica Moran at moran.monica@epa.gov or Gabriela Baeza-Castañeda at baeza-castaneda.gabriela@epa.gov.

Updates on Air

First Air Quality Monitor on U.S. Consulate in U.S. – Mexico Border

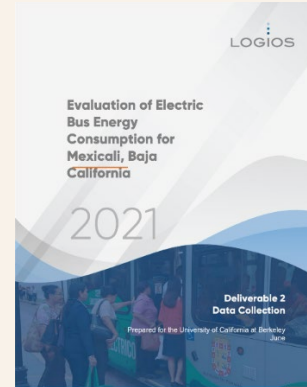


Interactive map on AirNow

On September 20, the US Department of State in collaboration with EPA Region 9 and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District unveiled data for the newly installed PM_{2.5} monitor at the US Consulate in Tijuana. This is the first air quality monitor at a US consulate along the US- Mexico Border. The data is available on the international portal of [AirNow](#) to help surrounding communities make informed decisions to reduce their exposure and minimize health risks. San Diego and Tijuana share an airshed, such that activities in one city can directly affect the other. Having a shared understanding of local air quality helps each community take steps to reduce their exposure and see the connection between emission sources and health said Ben Machol, Assistant Director in the Air and Radiation Division.

Air Quality, Transportation, and Environmental Justice Analysis

In August 2021, a researcher for the University of Texas Austin and his collaborators completed a project to help assess –and eventually lead to reductions in– air pollution from buses. Through their analysis of the urban layout and transportation in Mexicali, Baja California they identified vulnerable populations being exposed to emissions from buses. The study has recommendations of new existing bus routes that could be to be electrified based to maximize benefits based on environmental justice principles.



Updates on Waste

Comprehensive Electronic Waste and Discarded Domestic Appliances Management Program

The NGO Inspirando Acción para un Mundo Mejor (IAMM) completed its \$34k Border 2020 grant on *Comprehensive E-Waste and Discarded Domestic Appliances Management*. The project, which was carried out from April 2020-April 2021, was a collaboration with the Sonoran border communities of Nogales, Agua Prieta, and San Luis Río Colorado to foster education and outreach on appropriate e-waste management.

Manual para Apoyar Eventos de
Recolección de Residuos Electrónicos
en Sonora

IAMM adapted Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's guidance for e-waste best management practices, giving six virtual trainings to municipal staff, community organizations, high school students and the public. Additionally, the grantee raised awareness of e-waste through interviews with local news media, and the creation of a [manual](#) and factsheets on the sustainable management of e-waste via the state of Sonora's Commission on Ecology and Sustainable Development website, thus fostering improved environmental conditions in the Sonora-Arizona border.

EPA's Solid Waste Management Guide for Developing Countries now available in Spanish

EPA has published the Spanish-language version (also available in English and French) of its *Best Practices for Solid Waste Management: A Guide for Decision-Makers in Developing Countries*. The Guide, which includes input and case studies from solid waste management entities around the world, like México, provides state- and city-level decision makers in developing countries with information and resources to help them improve solid waste management. Topics include waste prevention, characterization and recycling, dumpsite management, and stakeholder engagement. Download the Guide at <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/solid-waste-management-guide-developing-countries>



Grant Opportunities

New Request for Applications: Brownfields

Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund Grants

Application Submission Deadline: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 by 8:59 pm PST

[Link to Guidelines](#)

The Center for Creative Land Recycling is available for free peer review services of your draft application for brownfields funding. Getting an early start is key to giving CCLR enough time to provide meaningful feedback.

Interested in learning more? [Click for more info](#) or contact CCLR at: info@cclr.org or (510) 918-3374.

Environmental Education (EE) Grants

Under the Environmental Education Grants Program, EPA seeks grant applications from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Since 1992, EPA has distributed between \$2 and \$3.5 million in grant funding per year, supporting more than 3,800 grants.

The 2021 Environmental Education grant competition closes on December 6, 2021. We encourage you to review the current [Request for Applications](#) and our [answers to frequent questions](#) to learn more about the current competition. By [subscribing to the EE Grants Listserv](#), you can stay up-to-date on all EPA Environmental Education information.

You can find the application instructions on our [Environmental Education \(EE\) Grant Solicitation Notice](#) page.

Other Bilingual Resources

EPA Makes Information About Lead More Accessible to Spanish Speakers with New “Plomo” Web Area

In a step toward ensuring that Spanish-speaking communities have equal access to critical information about lead, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a Spanish-language [website](#) to cover lead-related issues. For the first time, all of EPA’s Spanish-language resources about lead are accessible in one place. You can view the new Spanish-language plomo web area at <https://espanol.epa.gov/plomo>.

Free Lead Trainings for General Public and Professionals in English and Spanish

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering a series of free webinars related to its Lead Awareness Curriculum in conjunction with National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW), which is October 24-30, 2021. In accordance with the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to advancing environmental justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a new training initiative, Enhancing Lead-Safe Work Practices through Education and Outreach ([ELSWPEO](#)), to raise awareness about childhood lead exposure and protect environmentally overburdened and underserved communities across the United States from lead exposure.

The Lead Awareness Curriculum is a set of educational tools designed to be used by community leaders to raise awareness about childhood lead exposure, expand public understanding of lead’s potential impacts on children’s health, and encourage actions that can be taken to reduce and/or prevent childhood lead exposure. The Curriculum was built with and for tribes and designed to be adaptable for all communities across the U.S.

The Curriculum is designed to be taught by community leaders (educators, public health advocates, environmental justice advocates, outreach specialists, environmental staff, social workers, community health

workers, youth leaders, local government officials) with experience educating and training members of their community but does not require instructors to be experts on lead or lead exposure.

As part of EPA's NLPPW 2021 activities, several sessions of these webinars will be offered between October 14 and November 9, 2021

- Community leaders (educators, public health advocates, environmental justice advocates, outreach specialists, environmental staff, social workers, community health workers, youth leaders, local government officials) interested in learning how to use and modify the Lead Awareness Curriculum to teach your community, register to attend one of the 2-hour **Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer** sessions listed below:

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:00-3:00PM EDT in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation
§ Register at https://nov3_train_the_trainer.eventbrite.com

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:00-5:00PM EST in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation
§ Register at https://nov9_train_the_trainer.eventbrite.com

Anyone interested in learning more about lead, its impacts, and actions to prevent lead exposure and lead poisoning, register for one of our **Understanding Lead webinars** being offered in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation:

Thursday, October 28, 2021 11 AM - 12:30 PM EDT
§ Register at https://oct28_understanding_lead.eventbrite.com/

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