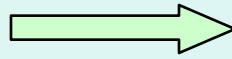
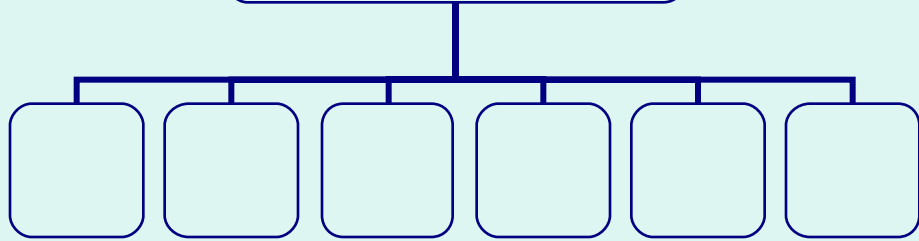


US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

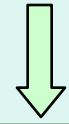
**US-Mexico Border Health Commission  
and  
Border 2012-Envrionmental Health Workgroup  
BUILDING AN ALLIANCE  
February 2, 2005**



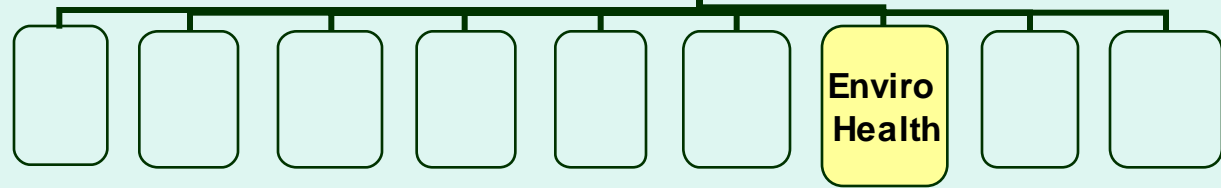
**La Paz Agreement  
1983**



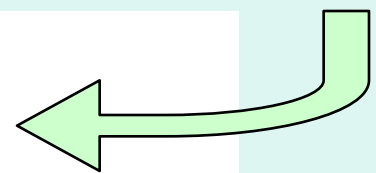
**Integrated Border Environmental  
Plan for US-Mexico Border Area  
(IBEP) - 1992**



**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

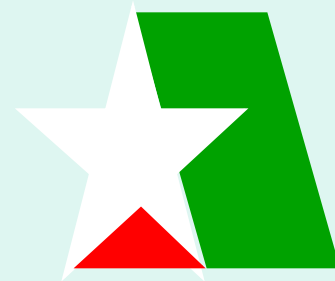
- Greatly strengthen role/visibility of health in Border 2012 programs
- Places environmental health in broader context of public health
- Facilitates representation of health officials at regional meetings
- Enhances likelihood of true binational partnering and participation
- Leverages resources

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





