UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
SAN DIEGO BORDER OFFICE
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November 23, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EPA Region 9 U.S.-Mexico Border Program Progress Report, April-Sept 2016

FROM: Héctor F. Aguirre
Director, San Diego Border Office

TO: Region 9 Management Team – Border
Regional Workgroup Co-Chairs

Reduce Air Pollution (Goal 1) – *Jeremy Bauer, 619-235-4787*

Mayor Galindo discusses Border 2020 ProAIRE project.

Border 2020 supports effort to inventory and address air emissions in Nogales. With the support of the U.S. EPA and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) through a Border 2020 Program grant, the city of Nogales, Sonora developed in August 2016 its ProAIRE, a strategy to reduce air pollution based on a detailed analysis of local emissions sources, meteorology, air quality, potential pollution controls, and other considerations. The ProAIRE program recommends thirteen planned measures including strengthening regulations for commercial establishments, reducing dust from paved and unpaved roads, implementing a vehicle emissions testing program, strengthening the ambient air quality monitoring system, and developing an environmental education program. The ProAIRE also establishes goals and indicators for each measure. The measures, goals, and indicators were developed by a "Core Committee" of environmental, planning, and development professionals representing Mexican local, state, and federal government as well as the academic sector. David Galindo, Mayor of Nogales, leads the Committee. The ProAIRE document was developed with the guidance of the Core Committee by a Border 2020 Program grantee who had previously developed an emissions inventory of Nogales with support of the Border 2020 Program, which helped to inform the focuses of the ProAIRE program. The inventory considered the sources of emissions including PM_{10} (inhalable particles, with diameters that are 10 micrometers and smaller) and $PM_{2.5}$ (fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are 2.5 micrometers and smaller). The inventory showed that in Nogales 87% of PM_{10} emissions and over half of the $PM_{2.5}$ emissions were from paved and unpaved roads, and almost half

of the $PM_{2.5}$ emissions were from wildfires. Wildfires were also found to be the principal cause of SO_2 emissions. Emission of CO and NO_X were attributed to motor vehicles in Nogales and emissions of ammonia (NH_3) were found to come from livestock. Nogales, Sonora, a city of 250,000 inhabitants is directly across the border from Nogales, Arizona. Although Nogales, Arizona, is in non-attainment with the health-based national ambient air quality standards for PM_{10}, the State has demonstrated that it would be in attainment "but for" emissions from Nogales, Sonora.

EPA, partners meet in Tijuana to discuss border air quality and action plan. EPA met with Border 2020 partners on May 31, 2016 at the U.S. Consulate General facility in Tijuana to discuss Air Quality in the California-Baja California border region. Topics included air quality monitoring networks, emissions and technologies at border ports of entry, vehicle inspection programs, State Implementation Plans, among other topics. Participants also reviewed the Border 2020 Action Plan. The meeting was jointly facilitated by Amy Zimpfer, Associate Director, EPA, Region 9 Air Division and Ana Patricia Martinez Bolivar, General Director of Air Quality Management, SEMARNAT. More than 20 follow-up action items were identified including reactivating the Baja California ProAIRE Core Committee (SEMARNAT), sharing monitoring location selection criteria (EPA), correlating traffic count at San Ysidro with $PM_{2.5}$ data (SDAPCD), and updating Border 2020 Goal 1 Action Plan (all). Approximately 20 people participated including representatives from the U.S. EPA Region 9 Air and Land divisions, California Air Resources Board, CalEPA, San Diego Air Pollution Control District, Imperial County Pollution Control District, California Department of Transportation, the Mexican Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Secretariat of Environmental Protection of Baja California (SPA), and the Mexican National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC).

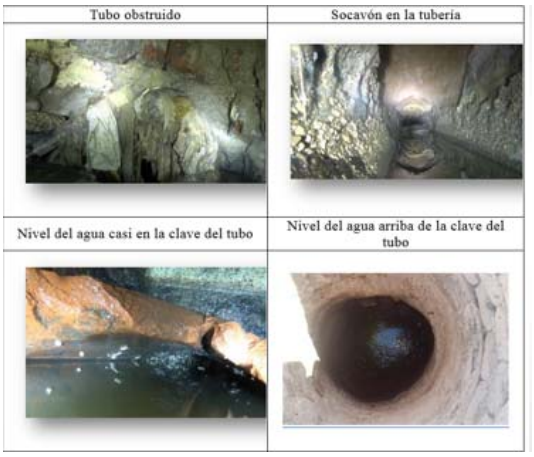
Mexicali-Imperial Air Quality Task Force discusses binational efforts to reduce air pollution. EPA and other members of the Mexicali-Imperial Air Quality Task Force including the Imperial Valley Air Pollution Control District, the Secretariat of Environmental Protection of Baja California, and the California Air Resources Board, met in Calexico on September 8, 2016 to share updates on ongoing and upcoming projects to protect air quality in the border region. The Mexicali Urbanization Board described an ongoing paving and road rehabilitation program in Mexicali designed to address air pollution and its health impact. Fausto Espinoza, speaking on behalf of the Board, indicated that they are looking into the use of environmental indicators such as PM_{10} to document the resultant reduction in air pollution. The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District highlighted several EPA-funded efforts underway including two binational media campaigns planned in conjunction with the Secretariat of Environmental Protection in Mexicali, one to improve community awareness of real-time air quality conditions and another designed to discourage the burning of wood and tires and the lighting of fireworks during the winter holidays. The latter consists of five commercials that have been distributed to radio stations and television networks that broadcast to both sides of the border. One of the commercials features a young student and is designed to call attention to children and teenagers. The commercial is available online and can be shared via social media. The Task Force next meets on December 8, 2016 at the Autonomous University of Baja California in Mexicali.

Border 2020 grantee holds green infrastructure workshops. On May 19 and 20, 2016, the non-profit "Watershed Management Group" and the Municipal Planning Institute of Nogales held their second "green infrastructure" workshop at the Technological Institute of Nogales in Nogales, Sonora. The workshop, which was attended by over 50 individuals, was aimed at training government officials, engineers, and members of the public on the types and benefits of stormwater retention projects aimed at reducing flooding and improving water quality during storms. This effort is supported by two Border 2020 grants. The grant supports the implementation of various green infrastructure projects, such as passive rainwater systems, via future volunteer training events.

Task Force discusses current and proposed future projects. The Border 2020 Tijuana River Watershed Task Force met in Imperial Beach in conjunction with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team on July 28, 2016. Topics included updates on the Border 2020-funded Ocean Friendly Restaurants project by Proyecto Fronterizo de Educacion Ambiental; Recovery and Recycling of Waste Tires in the Tijuana River Watershed by Wildcoast; Minute 320 update by IBWC; Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration Planning and Environmental Review Project; Brown Property Proposal for Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Work Plan by County of San Diego; Tijuana River Valley Hydraulics and Hydrology Study by City of San Diego; and the Alamar River Green Infrastructure Project by the City of Tijuana. Presentations are available online.

Infrastructure projects in development and construction. The Border Water Infrastructure Program continued to make significant progress on a number of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects in California, Arizona, Baja California, and Sonora. Six projects are currently under development, including two that were certified by the joint BECC-NADB Board at its November 17, 2016 meeting. One project will construct a wastewater collection system to serve 342 homes in the Bay Acres colonia and upgrade the nearby Douglas, AZ WWTP to accommodate the new service. The second project will extend drinking water distribution and wastewater collection system infrastructure to unserved homes in six colonias in southwestern Nogales, Sonora. The Nogales project will remove some of the untreated wastewater discharges from the Nogales Wash which contributes flow to the Santa Cruz River in AZ. Four projects are currently under construction, including the rehabilitation of wastewater collection main lines and residential wastewater connections in Tijuana and the expansion of the wastewater collection system in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora. Contact Roger Kohn (kohn.roger@epa.gov)

Mexicali Diagnostic Study identifies opportunities for improvement of binational waterways. EPA, through the North American Development Bank, funded a study of the wastewater infrastructure in Mexicali with the goal of reducing discharges of untreated sewage and industrial wastes to the New River. The New River originates in Mexicali, crosses into the U.S., passes through Calexico, CA, and eventually empties into the Salton Sea. The New River is listed by the State of California as "impaired" under the Clean Water Act due to various pollutants, such as bacteria, organic material, and trash. This extensive study, which was recently completed, included hydraulic modeling of the wastewater collection system, video surveillance in the collectors, and a thorough review of the condition of the various pump stations, wastewater treatment plants and stormwater system in Mexicali.



Findings of the study, completed in October of 2016, include:

- Due to the flat nature of the city, wastewater flows in the collectors are often very slow, resulting in sediment accumulation and in the creation of corrosive gases that eat the iron and concrete pipes.
- Water rates in Mexicali are some of the lowest in all of Mexico, making it difficult for the utility to generate enough resources for proper operation and maintenance of the system.
- Over 2000 cross-connections exist between the sanitary sewer system and the storm system. When it rains, stormwater flows into the wastewater collection system and vice versa. Trash accumulation in the sanitary sewer system can cause overflows of raw sewage into the storm system.
- 91 km of pipe are currently in danger of collapse and will need to be replaced.
- Many lift stations are being damaged by vandalism.
- Operator training and lab capacity need to be enhanced.
- Screens need to be installed at outlet of sewage lagoons to keep solids such as algae from leaving treatment plant.
- Additional aerators need to be installed and short-circuiting of flows need to be addressed at the Zaragoza Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Many recommendations were made and solutions were prioritized based on cost and impact to the New River. The state water utility for Baja California in Mexicali has already taken numerous actions to implement the recommendations. They purchased their own video inspection equipment, which has already been used to detect and eliminate untreated sewage flows into the New River from 9 different locations. They have repaired two pump stations, while spending extra resources to ensure that the wastewater flows to that pump station were not sent to the New River. They have installed screens and aerators at Zaragoza WWTP. From 2014 to 2016, CESPT has invested $10.4M USD and they have another $1.1M budgeted for 2017 to improve the wastewater infrastructure in Mexicali.

CESPT General Director, Francisco Javier Paredes Rodríguez, and his staff display their latest video inspection van and equipment at the annual Mexican "Water and Wastewater Business Association" conference, held in Tijuana in November of 2016.

EPA, SEMARNAT exchange information on hazardous waste in border region. Consistent with the agreement laid out in the 1999 Binational Consultative Mechanism, EPA and SEMARNAT each completed an exchange of information on hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal in the border region. This recent submittal was expanded to include spent lead-acid battery and electronic recyclers, per the 2015 agreement among the agencies. The recent submissions for 2016 are available on the Border 2020 website. Spent lead-acid batteries from cars and trucks are among the world's most recycled consumer products because the lead they contain is valuable and can be processed for reuse. Lead is also a persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic substance. Electronics, including components such as cathode ray tube components, have a variety of toxic and valuable metals and other materials. How these materials are recycled is an important economic, public health, and environmental consideration.

California Regional Solid Waste Working Group addresses solid waste challenges in border region. The Regional Solid Waste Working Group created under SB83 convened several times with speakers covering waste and sediment issues in Imperial and San Diego areas. In June 2016, they completed a Solid Waste and Waste Tire Strategic Plan to help guide development of solutions. The next task will be to prepare a report on long-term solutions to solid waste challenges. Their work has already contributed to selecting and funding $300K for two projects: one to Wildoast for tire cleanups in Tijuana and the other to the Sonoran Institute for trash mitigation in Calexico and Mexicali. For additional information on meetings and reports see Cal-EPA's link: online.

Working groups to advise IBWC on border solid waste issues. The solid waste working group of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) convened in April, June, and August in Tijuana after forming in February 2016. Among the highlights was a presentation by the engineer Fabian Matamoros, Sub-Director of Tijuana's Public Works Cleanup program, of regulatory and enforcement efforts to address illegal dumping; updates on 543 clandestine dumps sites and progress towards addressing them; and need for (1) mechanized trash cleanup equipment to replace less effective manual labor and (2) an effective education campaign to raise public conscientiousness on trash impacts. The working groups, formed under Minute 320, plan to continue convening in 2017 and provide recommendations to the IBWC.

Working group participants.

Compost piles.

Composting pilot project a success. Currently 118 households in Tijuana are participating in a food scrap composting demonstration project under a Border 2020 grant to Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF). To date, over 10,000 kg of household organic food scraps have been collected over 24 weeks. Of the hundreds of organics bags collected only seven percent (663 kg) were considered unacceptable. The household's successful adherence to protocols was attributed to the meticulously detailed workshops. A total of 27

Compost donated to household participants.

workshops were held and required for any household to participate in the compost pilot. The compost is processed through static piles using a forced aeration system. The project team also continues to adhere to field monitoring and lab analysis to ensure the quality of the compost being produced and document the results for future demonstrations efforts. The compost has met minimum requirements for use as soil amendments for ecological agriculture and reforestation, as well as for green urban corridors. As a token of appreciation, 107 sacks of compost produced by COLEF have been distributed to households who expressed interest in having it.

Ocean-friendly restaurants toolkit and media campaign launched in Tijuana. Under a Border 2020 grant, the Environmental Education Border Project (known by the acronym PFEA in Spanish), launched a campaign to inform restaurants and patrons about the value of supporting restaurants certified as ocean-friendly to reduce plastics, especially styrofoam and other single use containers, and ultimately reduce trash in watersheds and oceans. The team recently produced two compelling 60-second Spanish language videos that align with EPA's global "Trash Free Waters" program. Other project successes to date include identification of 113 restaurants in Tijuana's Playas district; meetings with over sixty of these; and commitments from 12 restaurants thus meeting their original project goal. On December 7, the project team will be hosting an event to formally recognize the restaurants that have committed to meeting the ocean friendly restaurant criteria. The team has been working with various stakeholders including the Secretary of Tourism for Baja California. This state agency considers this initiative as complimentary to promoting its "distinguished hosts" program, given its tourism industry is strongly associated with the regions gastronomy and coastal communities. Environmentally friendly practices that result in clean beaches and oceans support the image they want to cultivate for the region. The team is also working with the municipality to find incentives to reduce trash volumes going to landfills and to provide collection services for recyclables and organics.

Ocean-friendly practices.

Inter-American Development Bank funds e-waste program in Mexicali. Through an IDB grant, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) has contracted consultants, among them Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Autonomous University of Baja California, and others to assess and develop a public-private sector business model for the collecting and recycling of e-waste in Mexicali. The goal is to increase practices to safely refurbish and recycle discarded electronics, leading to improved health and safety of the informal sector working in Mexicali, reduced illegal dumping, and the reduction of valuable resources going to landfills. The grantees completed a report, "Baseline Study, Market Analysis, and Study of Regulations in the Baja CA Region." The report includes a survey of e-waste regulations and practices in the United States, the European Union, and six other countries and compares them to Mexicali e-waste collection practices.

Electronics burning in Mexicali landfill.

Students engaged in learning to fix electronics.

Nogales chemists lead used electronics reuse pilot. The Colegio de Químicos reported successfully completing various training activities on e-waste inventory protocols, then conducted inventories of used electronics laboratory equipment in 12 laboratories, and assessed their condition and opportunities for repair and reuse. This effort identified 756 kg and 101 pieces of excess equipment in educational laboratories. Of these, 60 percent were still functional. The project team was able to find and donate 20 pieces of electronic lab equipment totaling 68 kg and institutions interested in acquiring the equipment. The process involved checking operability, tasking engineering students eager to help to make (often only simple) repairs when necessary, and processing donations. Donating the operable equipment to labs across the state increases useful life, before e-waste recycling is ultimately needed. The project team leader is developing protocols to expand this pilot to other cities which will lead to the repair and reuse of equipment that is currently often warehoused without a disposal or end-of-life recycling plan.

Trash cleanups and mitigation expands in Imperial and Mexicali. The Sonoran Institute kicked-off a second, more expansive phase of trash cleanups involving five drains in Mexicali. The project, led by Dr. Francisco Zamora, started with the Tula drain cleanup on June 26th. All five drains are undergoing cleanups and some form of improvement such as landscaping for public and ecosystem use. This second phase, funded by a $200K grant from Cal-EPA, leverages a $100K grant from BECC, and numerous in-kind contributions from

Jeff Scott, US EPA Land Division Director thanking Mexicali high school student who volunteered.

Tula Drain cleanup in Mexicali.

Mexican local, state and federal agencies. On September 28, the Sonoran Institute kicked-off the cleanup at Dren Mexicali and promoted the *Mexicali Fluye* educational outreach campaign with a press event attended by Mexican federal, state, and local agencies and the U.S. EPA to raise awareness about their expanded cleanups in four additional drains and trash mitigation efforts. The project is strengthening its outreach campaign *Mexicali Fluye* including communication on public health risks of trash, such as serving as vector breeding sites. See Mexicali Fluye video.

California-funded tire cleanups launched in Tijuana. In response to binational concerns on impacts of waste tires entering California, including Border Field State Park and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, California funded Wildcoast to conduct waste tire cleanups in Tijuana. Wildcoast and Mexican agencies held a press event in mid-June to launch the cleanups being led by John Holder of Wildcoast. During cleanups in May and June, 3,150 tires were removed from Matadero and Laureles Canyons. The tires are being transported by GEN, a waste management company, to their tire shredding facility in eastern Tijuana. Wildcoast is also working with Eco-Commodities to promote solutions to safely recycle these tires. Wildcoast is planning to work in the main Tijuana River channel to access additional sites for cleanup.

Laborers piling tires into GEN truck in Tijuana.

Kitchen sample ready for sorting.

Border 2020 partners with Campo Band of Mission Indians towards zero waste program. Lisa Gover, the Environmental Director of the Campo Band of Mission Indians (CBMI), appointed in July, is working with her staff, the EPA, and SCS Engineers to address their waste management needs. SCS Engineers, an environmental engineering firm based in California, was contracted by BECC to work with CBMI in response to their request for technical assistance. SCS Engineers was contracted to prepare a waste characterization study to support the development of a zero waste plan. The study will provide critical information for designing and developing the future programs, policies, and facilities to effectively achieve a zero waste program. Based on the findings, they will assess infrastructure needs, including consideration of a transfer station. From September 21 to 23, SCS Engineers conducted field sampling to assess the Golden Acorn Casino. On September 28, Jeff Scott, EPA's Land Divison Director visited Campo. Contact Deirdre Nurre (Nurre.Deirdre@epa.gov) or Alheli Baños (Banos.Alheli@epa.gov).

Emergency Preparedness and Response (Goal 4) – *Bill Jones*, 619-235-4776

Quarterly task force meetings facilitate information, equipment exchange. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force met in Caborca, Sonora on April 7; Cananea, Sonora on July 18; and Puerto Penasco on October 6. The meetings focused on progress of Sister City Emergency Plan revisions, ongoing training and overall preparedness- and response-related updates from Federal, State and Local constituencies. The quarterly meetings are critically important to establish the information flow and relationships to respond effectively and efficiently when incidents arise. In addition, the meetings provide a forum to exchange equipment. For example, over 30 sets of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) were donated to Sonoran fire departments as part of the Task Force meeting in Cananea.

Three sets of first responder training in Sonora border region a huge success. The 8 hour First Responder Awareness (FRA) course; the 24 hour First Responder Operations (FRO) Course; and 8 hours of Incident Command System (ICS 100 and ICS 200) training were conducted at three border locations with over 400 training certificates issued. By the end of the First Responder Awareness Course, trainees were able to: understand their respective roles as a first responder; identify hazardous substances and know the risks associated with them if they are released or spilled; recognize a hazardous release or spill and potential outcomes; report the spill or release by calling for help, notifying others of the chemical spill or release; help coordinate an evacuation of the area; call for additional resources if needed; and secure the area in order to prevent untrained, unauthorized people from going near the spill location. The FRO Course provided participants with an improved capability to respond to hazardous material events in a safe and competent manner, within the typical resource and capability limitations at the operational level. The first responder at the operational level is trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop a hazardous material release. Their function is to contain a release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures. The ICS 100 and 200 courses introduce the standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.

EPA, partners bring hazmat tech refresher training to Calexico and Mexicali. EPA, Proteccion Civil and the County of San Diego sponsored Hazmat training in Mexicali and Calexico (July 18-20). The hazmat tech training involved classroom instruction on chemistry, toxicology, and Hazcat review with lab demos of some of the tests. Hazcat is an analytical toolbox of test devices to systematically determine into which family a chemical contaminant fits. With this information, a hazmat responder can determine what type of immediate hazards he or she is facing. The training also involved air monitoring and personal protective equipment (PPE) review and practice (PPE levels A-D) including decontamination practices. Despite temperatures of 110 degrees, the class was fully subscribed and students completed the 3 full days of training.

Binational partnership launches pilot industrial hazmat emergency response training institute. Arizona State University and the Nogales Technical Institute (Sonora) are partnering through a BECC grant to develop training courses and to train trainers. A total of 15 new instructors are now enrolled in the train the trainer project. The courses tailored for maquiladora emergency health and safety staff cover first responder operations; incident command; knowledge of industrial hazards with a focus on chemicals; and control and prevention. A training schedule has been established for holding the training classes during the months of September 2016 through January 2017. The pilot effort in Nogales will result in training for maquiladoras and first responders and will provide a model that can be replicated at other border locations.

Six locations trained in use of emergency preparedness and response software applications. The Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Management received a BECC grant to facilitate data and information exchange through training at 6 locations along the Arizona-Sonora border. The training covered several software applications: WebEOC (Web Based Emergency Operations Center) allows real time communications amongst responders at the scene with command personnel; CAMEO (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations) can be used to access, store, and evaluate information critical for developing emergency plans; and ALOHA (Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres) allows the user to estimate the downwind dispersion of a chemical cloud. After completing training, WebEOC practice sessions were conducted in late July and August. More complex WebEOC practice sessions will be exercised by the end of the calendar year.

Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship (Goal 5) -

Emily Pimentel, 415-972-3326

Border 2020 grantee helps make industrial release data more accessible to public. The Colorado School of Mines (CSM), a Border 2020 grantee, completed draft and final factsheets using Mexico's registry of emissions and transfer of pollutants (RETC, by its Mexican acronym) and the U.S. Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program data. Now that the fact sheets are completed, EPA plans to explore opportunities to host border region workshops in 2017 to inform and engage communities on the availability of this information and how they can use it. The project builds on recommendations identified in the Commission for Environmental Cooperation report "Taking Stock" which recommends that information be made more accessible and understandable to communities. See CEC website for report.

Jeff Scott, Director of Land Division, EPA Region 9, welcomes the more than 250 participants and discusses his hopes for the symposium.

EPA, partners convene binational symposium exploring environmental and health aspects of vector-borne disease. On September 27, the EPA Region 9 U.S.-Mexico Border program and the Autonomous University of Baja California convened a binational environmental health symposium in Mexicali, Baja California focused on vector-borne disease, including Zika virus, in collaboration with Border 2020 partners, CDC and their Mexican counterpart, CENAPRECE, among others. Speakers included 18 experts from the U.S. and Mexico, and over 250 attended, medical students, faculty, health practitioners, and government officials among them. Session topics included preventative measures to combat Zika, integrated pest management, and adaptation to the spread of vectors due to climate change. In his opening remarks, Jeff Scott, Director of the EPA Region 9 Land Division, asked participants to commit to addressing sources of vectors by keeping their homes and environment clean and free of trash and standing water. Mr. Scott also asked participants to pass on their new knowledge in the weeks and months following the symposium to their colleagues, family, and community. In the event evaluation, 98 percent of respondents indicated that they learned something new, and 94 percent said that they intend to share their new knowledge. The EPA Border Office will send a follow-up evaluation to symposium attendees to confirm symposium outcomes and follow-through. The symposium agenda and presentations are available online at the symposium website, and additional information and summaries may be found online through media coverage of the event.

Students sign pledge poster committing to keep their homes and environments clean and free of trash and standing water to prevent the spread of mosquitos.

EPA reconvenes environmental health roundtable participants via webinar. The EPA Region 9 Children's Environmental Health Program and U.S.-Mexico Border Program hosted a webinar on June 28th to reconvene participants from a roundtable discussion held after the closing session of the Protecting Children's Environmental Health in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region Symposium on January 27th in San Diego. Representatives from federal, state and local government, academia, and community-based organizations participated in the webinar. EPA representatives summarized the list of recommendations that were received during the January 27th roundtable, updated participants on border activities responsive to the recommendations that occurred since January, and solicited participant feedback on the recommendations to gain a better understanding of which of the

recommendations participants believe will most help mitigate or eliminate children's environmental health risks in the border region. The feedback will help to inform future proposal solicitations and priority-setting. Symposium presentations, proceedings, and a summary of the roundtable discussion are available at the symposium website.


Community forum (August 2016).

Border 2020 grantee improves asthma management in Imperial County. The Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP), under a $98,518 EPA-funded Border 2020 grant, is convening community environmental health and asthma awareness fora to build asthma management capacity in low income communities in Imperial County. To date, IVCAP has conducted 10 fora and enrolled 27 families into one-on-one asthma home intervention sessions. During the sessions, community health workers (CHWs) help families to recognize and address environmental triggers of asthma in the home such as scented candles, pets, cigarettes, dirty air filters, and old rugs. The CHWs provide patients with corrective action recommendations and conduct follow-up visits to confirm implementation of the recommendations. Under the same grant, IVCAP has also begun planning workshops to train housing maintenance workers to recognize and address asthma triggers in low income housing. IVCAP is working directly with the Brawley Housing Authority District and Calexico Housing Authority to organize the training workshops and reach the appropriate staff and maintenance workers.

Identifying sustainable asthma financing solutions. On June 6th, EPA, in partnership with the Environmental Finance Center West (EFCWest), convened a stakeholder workshop to explore opportunities to finance asthma care in Imperial County. The event, *Beyond Grants: Imperial County Asthma Finance Workshop*, covered such topics as ongoing efforts to catalyze local collaboration to fund asthma management; holistic approaches to improve public health; and standardized performance measures for health insurance providers. The group also discussed accessing federal reimbursement opportunities pursued by the State, noting that California is among several states that are seeking financial reimbursement opportunities for asthma management services through the Affordable Care Act. EFCWest will continue researching asthma financing opportunities and plans to publish a final financing strategies report later this year. More information is available at the EFCWest website.

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