

City of Imperial Beach



News Updates & Information

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21, 2011

This publication is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information from around the City.

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SECTION 1 BORDER 2020 COMMENTS

The City provided a comment letter on the proposed EPA Border 2020 Draft Framework Plan to replace the existing Border 2012 Program at the end of the year. The proposed EPA plan continues and expands upon many of the existing successful elements of the Border 2012 Program. Comments made by the City supported the proposed program and emphasized the importance to address cross border wastewater flows. See the attached comment letter and Border 2020 summary, [Attachment #1 and 2](#).

SECTION 2 SCRIPPS LETTER OF SUPPORT

The City provided a letter of support to Scripps Institute of Oceanography for a proposed Center for Marine Pollution and Health. The proposal is for a National Science Foundation Grant to build upon the existing projects off of Imperial Beach to model the fate and transport of contaminants through the Tijuana Estuary and ocean. The proposed center will also bring together cutting edge bio-medical and oceanographic researchers to study marine pollution effects on human health from the buildup of contaminants in offshore fish and mussels as well as the impact of emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals. See the attached letter, [Attachment #3](#).

CONTACT US

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City of Imperial Beach, California

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 17, 2011

US-Mexico Border Program
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of International and Tribal Affairs (MC-2650R)(Room31137)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Comments on Draft Framework for the U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program: Border 2020

Dear Border 2020 Review Staff:

We want to first commend you for the accomplishments and progress made through the Border 2012 Program. We believe the proposed Border 2020 Program builds upon the successes of an excellent program and takes into account the knowledge gained over the last 8 years.

The residents of Imperial Beach know firsthand the environmental consequences of living downstream in the Tijuana River Watershed. Since Imperial Beach is significantly affected by the Watershed we strongly agree with making it a priority area for cleaning-up trash, sediment, and bacteria. As we address the problems with trash and sediment it is also important to not lose focus on the issue of cross border wastewater flows and therefore we offer the following comments:

- It is important to continue efforts to provide wastewater treatment to all residents and businesses in Mexico.
- We support the expansion and upgrade of inadequate wastewater treatment plants, notably the Punta Bandera plant.
- We have concerns over the unknown health impact on both sides of the border of the direct discharge of treated effluent onto the beach at Punta Bandera.
- Another concern is the operation and maintenance (O&M) of existing sewer lines to ensure that clogs and breaks are minimized. O&M needs to be a priority when installing new wastewater infrastructure.
- A new problem is emerging from increases in dry weather flows in the Tijuana River as the result of new wastewater treatment plants discharging tertiary treated effluent directly into the Tijuana River. Our concern is that the amount of effluent being discharged into the river is equal to or exceeding Mexico's ability to divert that flow at the border.

- The operational schedule and aging condition of the Tijuana River diversion system in Mexico can be improved. After the first winter storm the diversion system is turned off until the sediment and debris is manually removed around the structure and “dry weather” flow conditions (which are undefined) return to the river. The recent increases in treated wastewater flows in the Tijuana River have made the task of maintaining the diversion structure in Mexico more dangerous, and raises the question as to when the diversion structure is required to operate. As a result, increased flow frequencies and durations are making it across the border during winter months resulting in longer than necessary beach closures along Imperial Beach.

The City of Imperial Beach looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the EPA and the Border 2020 taskforce groups. Through strong partnerships we will continue to improve the environment and public health on both sides of the border.

Sincerely,



Gary Brown
City Manager
City of Imperial Beach



BORDER 2020: U.S.-MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Summary of the Draft Framework Document



The draft Border 2020 Program is the latest environmental program implemented under the 1983 La Paz Agreement. It builds on the current Border 2012 Environmental Program, emphasizing regional, bottom-up approaches for decision making, priority setting, and project implementation to address the environmental and public health problems in the border region. As in Border 2012, the new program encourages meaningful participation from communities and local stakeholders.

The draft Border 2020 Plan also strengthens its focus in regional areas where environmental improvements are needed most, establishing thematic goals, supporting the implementation of projects, considering new fundamental strategies, and encouraging the achievement of more ambitious environmental and public health goals.

The **Guiding Principles** will support the mission of the Border 2020 Program and will ensure consistency by continuing the successful elements of previous binational environmental programs:

- Reduce the highest public health risks, and preserve and restore the natural environment
- Adopt a bottom-up approach
- Address disproportionate environmental impacts
- Improve stakeholder participation
- Foster transparency, public participation, and open dialogue
- Strengthen capacity
- Achieve concrete, measurable results
- Measure program progress through the development of environmental and public health-based indicators
- Recognize tribal sovereignty of U.S. Tribes and address issues impacting tribes on a government-to-government basis

MISSION STATEMENT

As a result of the partnership among U.S. Border Tribes and federal, state and local governments in the United States and Mexico, the mission of the Border 2020 program is to: Protect the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.¹

In this program, sustainable development is defined as "conservation-oriented social and economic development that emphasizes the protection and sustainable use of resources while addressing both current and future needs and present and future impacts of human actions."

- Address the specific concerns and protect and preserve the cultural integrity of Mexican indigenous communities

Border 2020 has established five **fundamental strategies** that will complement and inform the way we will achieve the goals and objectives of the program:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Climate Change | 3. Children's Health | 5. Strengthening Tribal, State, Federal and International Partnerships |
| 2. Underserved Communities | 4. Environmental Education | |

Border 2020 has identified six long-term **Goals** with specific **Objectives** to address the most serious environmental and environmentally-related public health challenges in the border region. Some objectives and sub-objectives targeted by these strategic goals are broad and are expected to serve as guidance in the development of biennial action plans. Biennial action plans will establish priority and near-term targets that pay attention to the particular needs of a geographic area, region, or community, and adapt to emerging issues and/or unanticipated resource constraints.

Goal #1: Reduce Conventional Air Pollutant and GHG Emissions

- Continue to focus on air pollution reductions in binational airsheds
- By 2018, maintain effective air quality monitoring networks and timely access to air quality
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and alternatives or renewable energy projects

Goal #2: Improve Water Quality and Water Infrastructure Sustainability and Reduce Exposure to Contaminated Water

- By 2015, increase homes connected to safe drinking water (DW) and waste water (WW) treatment
 - By 2015 ~ 8,500 homes with DW
 - By 2015 ~ 39,000 homes with WW
- Help DW and WW utilities become more efficient and sustainable
- Reduce levels of metals, sediment, or bacteria entering rivers and watersheds

Goal #3: Materials Management and Clean Sites

- Develop capacity to improve collection and recycling of e-waste, plastics, and trash
- Develop scrap tire pile prevention and recycling capacity
- Develop institutional capacity to clean up contaminated sites
- Continue to share information on border area hazardous waste facilities

Goal #4: Improve Environmental and Public Health through Chemical Safety (THIS GOAL IS A U.S. PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME)

- Minimize obsolete and unwanted agricultural chemicals in the border region
- Reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals and asthma triggers
- Reduce exposure of farm workers and their families to pesticides
- Train health care personnel and *promotoras* on dealing with pesticide-related illnesses/poisonings

Goal #5: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

- Update eight sister city joint contingency plans with risk identification and reduction of all hazards
- Facilitate easier trans-boundary movement of equipment and personnel
- Continue updating the U.S.-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan

Goal #6: Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship

- Improve information sharing between enforcement agencies on the movement of hazardous waste across the border
- Use Toxics Release Inventory (in the U.S.) and RETC (in Mexico), annually to identify top polluters of toxic releases
- Training and information exchange on laws and regulations of respective countries

To complement and support the goals and objectives, Border 2020 encourages the use of **Border 2020 Tools**. The tools are not intended to be all-inclusive and are listed on page 28 of the Framework Document. They include:

- Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities
- Pollution Prevention Techniques
- Public Health Interventions
- Sustainable Management of Water Resources

Key differences between 2012 and 2020

Border 2020 includes:

- An 8-year implementation horizon
- Five new guiding principles
- 2-Year Action Plans that account for resource and priority changes and that consider the particular needs of a community or geographic area
- Indicators and Communication Committees
- A stronger communication component
- Updated goals and objectives

- Environmental Information
- Regulation and Policy Development
- Cooperative Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
- Environmental Education and Training
- Infrastructure Planning and Development

Organizational Structure and Coordinating Bodies (see figure) remain similar to the previous Border Environmental Program. Consistent with the La Paz Agreement, **National Coordinators** from each country manage overall program implementation, and ensure cooperation, coordination and communication among all coordinating bodies. **Regional Workgroups** are *multi-media* and *geographically-focused*, and emphasize regional public health and environmental issues. They coordinate activities at the regional level and support the efforts of local Task Forces and coordinate with U.S. Tribes and Mexican indigenous communities. Each Regional Workgroup has one state and one federal co-chair from each country. The Regional Workgroups may create **Task Forces** to identify priority issues and help facilitate pilot projects by engaging with local, state and tribal governments, academia, NGOs, and the public. **Policy Fora** focus on *border-wide* and *multi-regional issues* (identified as a priority by two or more regional workgroups), *primarily federal in nature* (requiring direct, high-level, and sustained leadership by federal program partners in the United States and Mexico) and that require broad policy considerations. Each of the six Policy Fora has a federal co-chair from the United States and Mexico.



Communication is an essential element of past and present U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Programs. Border 2020, like the previous program, Border 2012, will depend on a bottom-up communication approach. In order to ensure effective and timely communication, and engagement, with the public, program partners and stakeholders, a communication strategy will be developed and updated regularly to ensure that efforts are streamlined and effective. Staff from EPA and SEMARNAT will organize these efforts taking into consideration input from Border partners.

Operational Guidelines designate minimum standard operating and reporting procedures for coordinating bodies and are detailed on page 35 of the draft document.

Interagency Cooperation and Leveraging of Resources – In order to maximize interagency cooperation, Border 2020 will consider the relevant activities implemented by other institutions and the input provided by organizations that represent a broad spectrum of programs and perspectives from governmental, non-governmental, academic, and private sectors. Achievement of the goals of Border 2020 will also depend on continued availability and efficient utilization of funding from federal, state, and local governments as well as from public/private partnerships and collaborations. Border 2020 will encourage all parties to participate in leveraging resources when developing projects, policies, and programs to meet its goals and objectives.

Please submit comments by November 30, 2011 to: border2020.comments@epa.gov or frontera2012@semarnat.gob.mx. For more information please visit our websites: www.epa.gov/border2012 and <http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/temas/internacional/frontera2012>.



City of Imperial Beach, California

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 17, 2011

Dr. Falk Feddersen
Integrative Oceanography Division
9500 Gilman Drive 0209 02543
La Jolla CA 92093-0209

Subject: Letter of support for the proposed Center for Marine Pollution and Health (cMPH)

Dear Dr. Feddersen:

The City of Imperial Beach is pleased to provide our support for the development of a new Center for Marine Pollution and Health (cMPH) at the University Of California San Diego Scripps Institute Of Oceanography. This proposed center will bring together cutting edge bio-medical and oceanographic researchers to study marine pollution effects on human health that are important for our region. Focusing this research along the coastal waters off south San Diego County will provide greater understanding of the potential public health impacts in the region and build upon previous projects that identified potential health threats from ocean sewer outfalls, Tijuana River flows, and cross border pollution sources originating in coastal waters off Mexico. This specific area of study will provide valuable knowledge and tools that will enhance public health for the coastal waters off Imperial Beach.

The proposed cMPH will develop predictive models for the fate and transport of contaminants through the Tijuana River Estuary and coastal zone. In addition, the project will investigate the process of bio-accumulation of contaminants in mussels and fish that are locally eaten and emerging marine pollution issues of endocrine disruptors in coastal waters. The center's integrated projects will increase knowledge and awareness of the impacts from marine pollutants on human health and lead to actionable results that will provide benefits to coastal communities like Imperial Beach.

We look forward to working with the Center for Marine Pollution and Health on this unique and important research opportunity.

Respectfully,

Gary Brown
City Manager

Cc: City Council

California economy poised to rev up

And a full recovery will take even longer in Nevada, still reeling from the real estate crash, as well as Michigan and Rhode Island, which were having problems before the recession began.

State tax revenues rise for 3rd straight quarter

Currently, North Dakota's leading the pack because of recently discovered oil reserves that are generating 450,000 barrels a day, turning the state into the nation's fourth-largest oil producer after Alaska, Texas and California. And as more wells are built, it could soon be in the Number 2 slot.

San Diego County may regain lost jobs by 2013

California vs. Texas: Who has the best economy?

With oil comes jobs. As of last month, North Dakota had 16,000 job openings. The capital city, Bismarck, has a jobless rate of 3 percent, which qualifies as "full employment."

Public sector woes mask private sector growth

With a current population of 647,000 - slightly more than half the size of the city of San Diego - it doesn't take many jobs to boost economic growth in North Dakota.

The IHS study predicts that by the end of 2013, the job markets in a dozen other states will have recovered, led by oil producing states in the west and coal producers like West Virginia and Pennsylvania. By the end of 2015, 41 states will have recovered.

But California's job market probably will not rebound until the second quarter of 2016, according to IHS. Economists at the UCLA Anderson Forecast say that is mostly because of the lingering effects of the real estate bust in the Central Valley and Inland Empire. The coastal areas should regain their footing much sooner, they say.

Find this article at:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/nov/14/whos-emerging-recession-fastest>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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