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Inventory of Mexico Related Projects Conducted by California State Agencies

By Alicia Bugarin

*Prepared at the Request of
Assemblyman Marco Antonio Firebaugh*

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C A L I F O R N I A

R E S E A R C H B U R E A U

**Inventory of Mexico Related
Projects Conducted by
California State Agencies**

By Alicia Bugarin

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AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspections

The Air Resources Board (ARB) has been inspecting heavy-duty vehicles at the Otay Mesa and Calexico international ports of entry since 1998, as required by SB 270 (Peace, 1998). The law requires foreign commercial vehicles operating within California to meet the State's safety and pollution standards. The ARB has also prepared Spanish language informational materials and an instructional video.

Tijuana Smog Check Pilot Project

In coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR), and the City of Tijuana, ARB participated in the development of a pilot vehicle emissions inspection program for Tijuana. Under the agreement, ARB is responsible for a major portion of the pilot program and will develop a "train the trainer" program for the inspection of diesel-powered vehicles.

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AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

The Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) does not have any formal programs that focus on common issues between California and Mexico. However, ALRB does have an informal practice of seeking assistance from the Consul General of Mexico in locating witnesses in Mexico who are asked to testify in ALRB evidentiary hearings and in locating missing persons who may be entitled to back pay and/or "make-whole" awards.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Non-Point Source Issues

The Water Quality Division has communication with Mexico through the Bight of the California's Project, including attendance at a joint meeting in San Diego to understand Mexico's efforts on Non-point Source (NPS) issues within the Southern California Bight.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Prior to 2001-2002 California operated 17 Mexican Trade Centers at community colleges located throughout the State. The trade centers offered training in Mexican business

practices, language and culture to California business people to help them expand their opportunities in Mexico.

Currently services formerly provided by the Mexico International Trade Centers have been absorbed by the California Community College Centers for International Trade Development (CITD). Eight of the existing 14 CITD's continue to have a focus on Mexico (San Diego, Long Beach, Orange County, Los Angeles (2), Riverside, Fresno, and Sacramento). Some examples of these trade centers and projects are listed below.

Southwestern College Small Business Development and International Trade Center

Southwestern College Small Business Development and International Trade Center (SBDITC), serves San Diego and Imperial Valley Counties. It promotes collaborative small business development and international trade projects with Mexico. The SBDITC continues marketing and offering its primary service, which is counseling to clients that want to trade with Mexico. Businesses are able to increase their presence in Mexico through the following resources: (1) industry-specific trade missions to Mexico, (2) attendance at industry-specific trade shows in Mexico, (3) qualified lead generation and identification of material and supply needs of Mexican businesses via Internet databases, (4) one-on-one business counseling with Mexico export/import specialists, (5) training seminars on opportunities for doing business in Mexico, (6) access to a "consulting team" of cross-functional specialists and organizations for companies needing a broad array of resources (organizations include World Trade Centers, Mexican Consulates, U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Centers, among others).

The SBDITC has played a role of coordinating multiple statewide trade missions to Mexico and has specialized in the border familiarization and maquiladora tours in Baja California.

The SBDITC currently has a collaborative agreement with the San Diego Greater Chamber of Commerce Mexico Business Center. The objective is to collaborate with the proposed mission and goals of assisting clients with business and trade opportunities between San Diego and Mexico.

The SBDITC has strong contacts with multiple public and private organizations in Mexico such as the Secretariat of Economic Development in Baja California, (Lic. Roberto Reyes) and in the State of Michoacán, (Lic. Jesus Melgoza), Nacional Financiera Baja California, (NAFIN) (Lic. Jorge Dueñas).

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Cal-Mex-Net Project

The SBDITC is working in conjunction with the San Diego Community College District in their Cal-Mex-Net project. The Cal-Mex-Net website serves as an informational research tool to promote the development of mutually beneficial business and educational linkages. The Cal-Mex-Net project involves an alliance among trade, commerce and community organizations, education and training providers, and business, and industry associations. It also coordinates a large bi-national conference that facilitates face-to-face communication among educators, community and industry leaders from both sides of the border. The Cal-Mex-Net website is www.calmexnet.org. The next Cal-Mex-Net conference will be in Tijuana, Camino Real Hotel, December 9-10, 2004.

The Cal-Mex-Net project has strengthened the excellent collaborative relationship between Mexico's Centros de Formación para el Trabajo (DGCFT).

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Orange County Center for International Trade Development

The Orange County Center has jointly opened offices within Mexican educational institutions with business development offices in order to facilitate and coordinate trade missions, sourcing of products and services, and contacts for California companies looking to invest or do business in California.

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Riverside Center for International Trade Development

Riverside Center for International Trade Development (CITD) has conducted "doing business with Mexico seminars and "border familiarization tours" with the government and nonprofit agencies in Baja California, Mexico. Most recent activities include: August 18, 2004, "Doing Business with Mexico Seminar" in Ontario, California. This event was organized with Tijuana Economic Development Corporation and Tijuana Secretaría de Desarrollo Económico Baja California (SEDECO). These seminars assist California companies conduct trade with Mexico.

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Citrus Center for International Trade Development

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with University Tecnológicas, Hidalgo. These MOUs allow Citrus Center for International Trade and Development to provide seminars on doing business with Mexico, and to assist California companies conduct trade with Mexico.

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Sacramento Center for International Trade Development

Conduct regular seminars on doing business with Mexico in the Sacramento region. Assist California companies in conducting trade with Mexico.

Memorandum of Understanding with Mexico allow the community colleges to facilitate and coordinate trade missions, sourcing of products and services, and contracts for California companies looking to do business in and with Mexico as well as Mexican companies looking to invest or do business in California.

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Small Business International Collaborative Program

The Small Business International Collaborative Program established a Collaborative Agreement with the CENTRIS Program from the Tijuana Economic Development Council. CENTRIS' mission is to assist small businesses in Baja California, and it is funded by the InterAmerican Development Bank. Both organizations offer counseling services to businesses, and participation in mutual Advisory Board Committees. Both programs provide specialized market studies, analysis and access data resources that will assist businesses in their expansion as local suppliers to the Maquiladora industry as well as the international market place, and they provide training in the international trade export markets.

The aim of the Small Business International Collaborative Program (SBICP) is to provide a process whereby connections can be made between businesspeople and entrepreneurs in various industry sectors on both sides of the San Diego-Baja California border. The general objective is to improve cross-border collaboration to assist small businesses access international trade opportunities. In this preliminary stage the SBICP will focus on the software industry cluster on both sides of the border.

These seminars assist California companies conduct trade with Mexico. Prior to elimination of California-Mexico Trade Assistance Center funding, the CITD of Citrus

College and the UTs (technical universities) of Hidalgo cooperated on: (a) two sets of week long training modules in Hidalgo; one set for UT faculty involved in their local economic development efforts, and one for small businesses (curriculum content includes international business and trading with California businesses); (b) Small Business conference in Hidalgo State Capitol with Latino Journal of Sacramento, California, on doing business with the USA (especially California).

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

High School Diploma

Working with the Mexican Consúl General, to develop a program that provides the opportunity for Mexican National inmates to achieve their Mexican high school diploma.

Annually Mexican law enforcement brings the Special Olympics Torch to the international border and hands it off to a team comprised of many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in San Diego County. As part of its commitment to collaboration and community service, Parole and Community Services Division (P&CSD) line staff, supervisory personnel and administrators are regular attendees.

The P&CSD staff, supervisory and administrators participate in many outreach committees, cooperative partnerships and boards in an “unofficial” capacity. These committees and boards, especially in the Southern California area, discuss issues associated with deportation of criminal aliens, repatriation or extradition, as well as international drug and alien smuggling.

DENTAL BOARD

Foreign Dental School Licensure

The Dental Board of California has implemented a program authorized by AB 1045 (added Business and Professions Code Section 853) that allows graduates of approved foreign dental schools to come to California and immediately take the clinical examination for licensure. This program is called “Approval of a Foreign Dental School.” The Board has adopted regulations that define the criteria a foreign school must meet to be deemed approved; this includes a trip to the school to observe the faculty, facilities and students.

The Dental Board of California has visited DeLaSalle University, located in Leon, Mexico. The approval of DeLaSalle as a California recognized Foreign Dental School was voted and approved on the November 4-5, 2004 Board meeting in Sacramento. This enables a DeLaSalle University student, upon completion of the program, to take the licensure examination to practice in California.

Contact: Linda Madden
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Projecto California

The project is a joint collaborative effort on the part of the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), and two Mexican government agencies, Instituto Nacional para la Educación de Los Adultos (INEA) and a division of INEA, the Consejo Nacional de Educación para la Vida y el Trabajo (CONEVyT). In California, affiliates in this project include the Mexican Consulates of San Diego and Sacramento and the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE). In Mexico, affiliates include the Secretaria de Educación Publica (SEP), the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), and the Instituto de Los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME). The project was inaugurated last July via a live videoconference with Mexican President Vicente Fox, the California Secretary for Education Kerry Mazzoni and officials from San Diego and Sacramento.

Expected outcomes of the project are:

- A significant increase in the number of California English Learners successfully completing Pre-Algebra and Algebra courses.
- Increased passage rates for program participants on the math portion of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).
- Increased parental involvement and knowledge regarding technology's impact on student learning.
- Increased number of Spanish speakers 15 years and older who enroll in course work leading to the Mexican Primaria or Secundaria certificate.

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Visiting Teachers Program from Mexico

The California Department of Education (CDE) has sponsored 67 teachers from Mexico (during the 2004-05 school year) to work in 15 school districts in California.

CDE has sponsored over 420 teachers since 1998 from 12 Mexican states to work in 19 California school districts. Mexican teachers go through rigorous screening requirements, have to be bilingual and pass a test to teach in California. These bilingual teachers are especially needed to teach mathematics, and science.

Contact: Dr. Daniel González Spencer, Director General de Relaciones Internacionales.
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Binational Teacher Migrant Education Summer Program

CDE has sponsored 103 teachers from Mexico for three Migrant Education Summer Programs in the last three years. The duration of the summer program is six weeks. The teachers are mainly from the Mexican states of Michoacán, Oaxaca, and Baja California. These teachers do not receive a teaching salary, but they receive a weekly food and lodging stipend from the migrant regions. These teachers serve as instructional aides to the American classroom teacher during the day, and in the evenings provide parent education to migrant parents.

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ENERGY COMMISSION

Border Governors' Commission Energy Work Table

This workgroup is comprised of representatives from the ten U.S./Mexican Border States to address broad energy policy issues in the border area. The Energy Work Table recommends actions formalized in joint declarations and approved annually by the Governors of the ten states. The current joint declarations for energy include recommendations to compile a "state of the border energy report," support opportunities for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and alternative fuel projects, and maintain open dialogue about plans and environmental reviews for cross border energy infrastructure projects.

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Western Governors' Association U.S.-Mexico Border Area Energy and Air Quality Work Group

This work group promotes energy-related business strategies at a project level in the border area to reduce air quality problems. The workgroup is comprised of senior staff from state governments and utilities in the U.S. and Mexico, in addition to representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mexico's Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), Comisión Federal de Electricidad, Secretaria de Energía, and North American Development Bank. The work group facilitates clean energy projects through energy audits, case study successes, an annual conference and a bilingual website (www.borderenergy.org).

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California-Mexico Border Energy Report Section

The Energy Commission prepares a report on the status of California's energy issues, trends, and new policy initiatives for submittal to the Governor and Legislature every two years. This "California Energy Report" provides a basis for the state's energy policy. The upcoming California Energy Report is scheduled for completion in November 2005 and will feature a section on California-Mexico border energy topics. The Energy Commission will analyze issues and conduct meetings with government officials and other stakeholders in California and Baja California to seek information and perspectives about issues and potential new initiative actions.

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Energy Technology Export Program

The Energy Commission conducts a business development program to assist 600 California energy companies to export energy technologies to international markets. Often times, the energy technology exports occur as a part of energy project developments in other countries. The program claims to have stimulated over \$500 million in export sales representing a 37-to-1 return on investment to promote business. Mexico is the leading market for California's energy technology exports and several California firms are actively working on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the border area. The program facilitates exports through a pre-investment fund, trade missions, energy audits, a project financing network, conferences and a website (www.globalenergyconnection.ca.gov). The program acts as a broker between California firms and Mexican government officials and private enterprise.

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Lead Contaminated Candies Project

In August 2001, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) embarked on a cooperative project with the California Department of Health Services for community-based sampling of potentially lead-contaminated candies. Such candies, (often made of tamarind or other fruit), are very popular among the Latino populations in the border region. Two community-based organizations that represent primarily Hispanic communities, the Environmental Health Coalition (in San Diego County) and Campesinos Unidos (in Imperial County) have partnered with OEHHA and the Department of Health Services (DHS) to collect candies at small neighborhood markets and candy shops. Different samples have been collected from both border counties and are under analysis by the California Environmental Health Laboratory.

Children's Exposure to Lead Study

OEHHA is working with the Baja California Health Department to identify and prioritize needs as a first step to developing a cooperative study of Tijuana children's exposure to lead. It is anticipated that this study will serve three purposes: 1) To establish a working relationship between our respective governmental institutions; 2) to provide additional training to Instituto Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Baja California (ISESALUD), (Baja California Institute for Public Health Services) personnel in exposure assessment

services; and 3) to give an indication of the extent of the problem of lead exposure among the California/Baja California border Hispanic population.

Training in Lead Poisoning Prevention

OEHHA has partnered with Clínicas de Salud del Pueblo and provided training in lead poisoning prevention for the Environmental Health Coalition's lead *promotora* group (which works in San Diego County and Tijuana) and Clínicas de Salud del Pueblo *promotoras* in Imperial County. Training on pesticide illness recognition and treatment is provided to Baja California physicians in Ensenada by OEHHA staff partnering with ISESALUD. In addition, one-day toxicology and risk assessment workshops are offered for staff of ISESALUD and the Dirección General de Ecología.

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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CALEPA BORDER AFFAIRS UNIT

Directs the Border Environmental Program in the California, Baja California, Mexico border region. The vision of the program is to promote a standard of excellence for international cooperation and collaboration that focuses on resolving environmental and natural resource issues to help ensure the future quality of a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous border region. CalEPA Border Affairs unit has achieved the following.

Transfer of Surplus Computers Pursuant to the California-Mexico Environmental Protection Act of 2002 (AB 2317)

CalEPA located approximately 60 surplus personal computers and related accessories. In March and April 2001, these computers were transferred to the City of Tijuana Department of Ecology, the Baja California Secretariat for Ecology, and the Mexican Federal Attorney's Office for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA). These computers are being used to monitor and track environmental compliance, and issues related to water, soil, and air contamination in the Baja California region.

Signing of Environmental Education Agreement

CalEPA led the development of an environmental education agreement that was signed between CalEPA, the Mexican Federal Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and Secretariat of Education (SEP), California Secretary for Education, the Baja California Secretariat for Ecology and State Education System, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The purpose of the agreement is to

engage in a cooperative effort to share resources and information and to develop a bi-national environmental education curriculum that will be taught to elementary students in the border region.

Implementation of the Pretreatment and Wastewater Monitoring Agreement Program

CalEPA is implementing the agreement that was signed by the State of California and government entities of Mexico in March 2001. The first phase of the project, the development of a report entitled “California/Baja California Industrial Wastewater Monitoring, Pretreatment and Minimization Program: Needs Assessment” was completed during the first half of 2002. The report identifies a strategy for coordinating the participation of U.S. and Mexican municipal, State, and federal government organizations for the development of a wastewater monitoring, pretreatment, and technical assistance program; a survey of industrial dischargers, pollutants discharged, and receiving waters in the Mexicali, Tecate, and Tijuana municipalities of Baja California; industrial wastewater worker needs and opportunities, and resources needed to monitor and analyze industrial wastewater.

Environmental Technology and Service Opportunities Conference

CalEPA sponsored a forum and trade exhibit to introduce environmental technology vendors to the opportunities available for their products in Baja California. The Tijuana conference allowed participants to discuss the need for environmental technologies and the regulatory environment in northern Mexico. Participants were also allowed to view products and participate in a tour of environmental sites between Tijuana and Mexicali.

Agreement of Cooperation Between the State of Baja California, Mexico and the State of California, United States of America

The purpose of this agreement is to carry out a pilot-scale vehicle emissions inspection program for the city of Tijuana.

Assistance to Tijuana for the Siting of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants and a Replacement Landfill

CalEPA has coordinated the technical assistance to the City of Tijuana necessary to properly site new wastewater treatment plants and the replacement for their aging landfill.

Agreements of Cooperation on Environmental Issues

In March 2001, California and Mexico signed three historic agreements of cooperation on environmental issues. The agreements concerned industrial wastewater monitoring and pretreatment along the California/Baja California border, implementation of a “Smog Check” pilot program in Tijuana, and cooperation in the protection of the Sea of Cortez ecosystem.

Other agreements signed by CalEPA in 2001 include a memorandum of understanding with the Baja California Institute of Public Health to initiate a study of lead in the blood of residents of Baja California; an agreement with the San Diego Natural History Museum to promote environmental education, public programs, and research in the border region with the Secretariat of Education of Mexico (SEP) and the Secretariat of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (SEMARNAI).

California hosted the 23rd U.S./Mexico Border Governors Conference in Sacramento on June 1 and 2, 2000 and hosted a meeting of the Environmental Secretaries of the 10 U.S./Mexico Border States in Monterey, California in September of 2001. Both meetings resulted in significant cross-border agreements and improved communication and cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico. These meetings and resulting agreements further established California as a leader in establishing a strong role for border states in identifying and resolving border environmental issues.

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Ricardo Martinez
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), in conjunction with other state and federal agencies, participates in projects aimed at protecting and promoting agriculture in California and around the U.S.-Mexico border area.

These projects have evolved from efforts of individuals working independently at the local level to a more comprehensive collection of agreements directed to improving the agricultural economies of California and Mexico. These projects include matters of mutual interest such as agricultural security, sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety issues.

Under the auspices of these agreements, CDFA is collaborating with Mexico in activities such as control and eradication of pests and diseases, and implementation of good agricultural practices. These endeavors not only help ensure a safer and abundant food supply, but aim at creating a region free from major pests and diseases.

Contact: Melissa Eldson
(916) 492-3457
melson@edfa.ca.gov

Animal Health & Food Safety Services

Due to the constant movement of livestock across our border with Mexico, veterinarians at CDFA have a longstanding commitment to work cooperatively with their counterparts in Mexico to prevent the spread of serious animal diseases.

Border Governor's Conferences

Location: Baja, Mexico

The California Secretary of Food and Agriculture has participated in several Border Governor's conferences. As result of the conferences, several agreements and initiatives exist between CDFA and Mexico such as the Cooperative Agricultural Agreement with Baja California signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture from California and Baja California. CDFA is also actively involved with the U.S./Mexico Border States under the auspices of the Border Governors Agriculture Work Table.

Contact: Victor Velez, Research Program Specialist
Animal Health Branch
(916) 654-1264

Tuberculosis Epidemiology Training

Location: Various Locations in Mexico

Due to the increase of cases of bovine tuberculosis originating from Mexico found in U.S. slaughter establishments over the past three years, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has modified tuberculosis test requirements for cattle from Mexico. As a result of these new requirements, cattle exports from Mexico have diminished. California is committed to continue to work with Mexico to enhance the infrastructure of the state tuberculosis programs in Mexico states, and give technical assistance and collaboration to Mexican animal health officials. CDFA staff have participated in tuberculosis epidemiology training workshops in Mexico to support the advancement of the tuberculosis program in all Mexican states.

Contact: Dr. Annette Whiteford, Division Director
Animal Health & Food Safety Services
(916) 654-0881

Exotic Newcastle Disease

Location: Baja, Mexico

The State of Baja California, Mexico supported the efforts to control and eradicate Exotic Newcastle Disease (END), a serious disease of poultry, by providing personnel to the END Task Force in California.

From February 2003 to June 2003, teams of veterinarians (on a two week rotation schedule) from Fomento Agropecuario worked with the END Task Force. The team from Mexico was instrumental in reaching the Hispanic population via community presentations, presence at swap meets and feed stores, in the development of bio-security training at commercial poultry operations, and in the translation and creation of documents being used by the task force personnel. Due to the containment of Exotic Newcastle Disease, the program has now been transformed into a surveillance program.

Contact: Dr. Annette Whiteford, Division Director
Animal Health & Food Safety Services
(916) 654-0881

Fairs & Expositions

In 2002, CDFA's Fairs and Expositions staff forged a new relationship with their Mexican counterparts in the fair industry in order to increase the relevance of our fairs to California's growing Hispanic population.

Contact: Melissa Eldson
(916) 492-3457
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Agro-Baja

Location: Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico

The Department expanded the relationship with Mexico in 2001 with Agro-Baja, an agricultural farm show in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, by serving as the trip lead for the 2003 trade show which featured a booth shared by CDFA and the Agricultural Department of Baja California. The theme of the booth was "Celebrando Juntos" and it focused on the cooperative agreement between the two departments and our joint efforts to provide a safe, wholesome food supply.

Several California Fair CEO's attended a presentation and toured the "Fiesta Del Sol" fairgrounds in Mexicali. In turn, Mexicali also participated in a few fairs in California. These visits provided an opportunity to better understand how events are managed and the types of activities that appeal to this market.

This initial interaction with agricultural communities of Baja California provided an opportunity for both organizations to expand common interests. Both countries shared ideas on similar issues, challenges and opportunities with an emphasis on cultural outreach to California's Hispanic community; networked with organizations and events that embrace tradition, show-cased industry and production of events in multicultural urban settings; and attracted new guests to fairs located in close proximity to the shared border.

Contact: Bruce Lim, Assistant Director
Fairs & Expositions Division
(916) 263-2955

Organics Conferences

Location: Ensenada, BC, Mexico

In 2000, CDFA staff participated in a multi-divisional training conference in Ensenada, Baja California (BC). The purpose of the conference was to provide information on CDFA's Organic Program and Food Safety Initiatives (i.e., how to obtain certification, etc.) to Mexico farmers. In 2002, staff attended a similar conference in the same location to provide information about the impending National Organic Program.

Contact: Ray Green, Organic Program Manager
Fruit, Vegetable, Egg Quality Control Branch
(916) 445-2180 ext. 3506

Plant Health & Pest Prevention Services

Plant scientists from CDFA's Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services have a longstanding relationship with their Mexican counterparts to work cooperatively on exotic pest surveys and regional insect control measures.

Contact: Ray Green, Organic Program Manager
Fruit, Vegetable, Egg Quality Control Branch
(916) 445-2180 ext. 3506

Sterile Mexican Fruit Flies Lab

Location: Mattapan de Dominguez, Chiapas, Mexico

Because of ongoing pest pressures, USDA and Mexican agricultural personnel release six million sterile Mexican fruit flies per week in the Tijuana, Ensenada and Tecate communities of Baja California Norte, Mexico.

Mexico has provided California with high quality sterile *Anastrophe lumens fruit flies* (Mexican fruit flies) from the Muscat Fruit Sterile Insect Laboratory in Mattapan de Dominguez, Chiapas. The sterile flies are used for eradication efforts in our State. The Department partially funds operations and one position at the Chiapas lab facility.

Contact: Dr. Dennis Mayhew, Division Director
Plant Health & Pest Prevention Services
(916) 654-0317

Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug

Location: Mexicali Valley, Mexico

In 2002, California provided 38,200 pink hibiscus mealy bug parasites for release in the Mexicali Valley, as part of cooperative bio-control effort. Pink hibiscus mealy bug is a serious pest of many plants in tropical and subtropical regions. Bio-control is the suppression of pests through production and release of their natural enemies.

Contact: Dr. Dennis Mayhew, Division Director
Plant Health & Pest Prevention Services
(916) 654-0317

Pink Bullworm

Location: Phoenix, Arizona

In cooperation with USDA and Mexico federal and state officials, a pink bollworm suppression/eradication program was developed in 2002 for New Mexico, West Texas, and Northern Mexico. Pink bollworm is a major pest of cotton, a crop that is grown throughout this region. CDFA has provided the necessary sterile moths from the CDFA rearing facility in Phoenix, Arizona.

Contact: Dr. Dennis Mayhew, Division Director
Plant Health & Pest Prevention Services
(916) 654-0317

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Wildfire Suppression Program

This is a joint agreement, which allows U.S., (as represented by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) and the U.S. Forest Service) and Mexico to cooperate in suppressing wildfires, which occur on or near the border in San Diego County. This program allows CDF to move resources a short distance into Mexico to help them suppress fires which threaten State Responsibility Areas on California's side and includes the ability to fly air tankers over Mexican soil. All parties participate in joint vegetation fuels management practices with Mexico to help mitigate our common forest fire threat.

Border Agency Fire Council

The members meet regularly at the CDF – San Diego headquarters. Through collaborative efforts, Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC) has altered the environment to allow better access into the wild lands for emergency responders while respecting the natural values of the area. BAFC has enhanced communication among emergency

responders on both sides of the U.S. - Mexico border, and they have reached out to people in both countries with safety messages in Spanish and English.

Contact: Chief Tim Turner
(559) 222-4120
Roxanne Provaznik
(619) 590-3125

Tecate Peak Bi-national Partnership

Tecate Peak is a mountain in the southern portion of San Diego County. The land is primarily wild and protected habitat owned by CDF, Bureau Labor of Management (BLM) and the City of San Diego. The adjacent land south of the Mexican border is owned and operated by the Fundación La Puerta (FLP) and Pronatura, an organization similar to the Nature Conservancy. Land managers of both countries have expressed the desire to preserve this land for green space in the face of unbridled urban growth on both sides of the border.

The plan for a conservation easement has been drafted by the FLP and Pronatura and will be translated into English and forwarded to CDF San Diego unit for review. The easement in Mexico is expected to benefit the land on the U.S. side of the border as well. Future meetings among the cooperators will be arranged to discuss the easement and other aspects of land management. CDF Resource Management staff (in the Sacramento Headquarters and Archaeology Office) will also review the plan.

Contact: Thom Porter
(619) 590-3103

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Mexico Liaison Unit

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has a Mexico Liaison Unit (MLU) assigned out of Border Division Office in San Diego that has direct contact with Mexican Government officials.

The MLU maintains contact with municipal, state, and federal Mexican government officials along the border area of Baja California and California to facilitate the prosecution of Mexican Nationals arrested in Mexico with U.S. stolen vehicles. The same contacts facilitate general public information regarding missing persons, welfare checks, recovery of stolen vehicles and intelligence gathering.

The primary function of the Unit is the recovery of stolen vehicles from the United States found in Mexico and coordinating the prosecution of vehicle theft suspects in both countries. The Unit routinely supports dignitary protection details and renders assistance

to law enforcement officials of Mexico and other agencies in the United States. Further, the MLU will help carry out the Department's responsibilities regarding AMBER alerts.

The Unit's primary geographical area of responsibility is the State of Baja California, Mexico. This area is divided into five regions and each region is assigned one investigator, with the exception of Region V. Region V has two investigators who are based at the Calexico Inspection Facility. The regions have been designated as follows:

REGION I. The Tijuana region covers the majority of the metropolitan area of the city. This region yields the highest level of vehicle theft activity.

REGION II. This region includes the Playas de Tijuana, Colonia Libertad, La Gloria, and Mesa de Otay. These four areas are located outside the city limits of Tijuana.

REGION III. This region is made up of the cities of Rosarito, Ensenada, San Quintín, and Valle de la Trinidad, as well as the surrounding communities, which are located along the Pacific Coast of Baja California.

REGION IV. This region is comprised of the City of Tecate and the suburbs of south Tijuana known as La Mesa, La Presa, and Ejido Matamoros.

REGION V. Region V covers the cities of Mexicali, Algodones, San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora and San Felipe, as well as the surrounding communities along the Gulf of California.

Contact: Lieutenant John Martínez or Sergeant Kenneth Jolly
(858) 650-3600

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Environmental Education Partnership

The Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB) is responsible for implementing an on-going environmental education partnership between CalEPA and the Secretariat of Education for Baja California that focuses on capacity building for border teachers. Major accomplishments are as follows:

Three hundred and twenty Mexican teachers were trained using the K-12 integrated waste management curriculum known as "Closing the Loop." Nine lessons of a cross-media compendium containing border-specific lessons for K-9 children were developed. This curriculum, as a whole, consists of 17 classroom activities.

Donation of Refuse Containers

In cooperation with the City of Los Angeles Solid Resources Collection Division and the Secretariat for Public Education of Baja California, 1,400 refuse containers which were no longer needed by the City of Los Angeles were donated to 269 Tijuana/Mexicali, Baja California K-12 schools.

El Cerro Centinela Tire Pile Study

Working with a group of professors and graduate students from the Autonomous University of Baja California, the IWMB conducted an in-depth characterization study of the El Cerro Centinela Tire Pile. This study represents an initial step in devising a bi-national abatement plan to prevent a potential tire fire that would impact both California and Baja California.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

California Bureau of Investigation, Foreign Prosecution Unit

The Foreign Prosecution Unit (FPU) has been charged by the Attorney General with the responsibility for providing assistance to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies on foreign prosecution matters. Several countries, principally Mexico, allow for the prosecution of their citizens in their own country for crimes committed abroad, such as in the U.S. The FPU works with U.S. law enforcement to serve as the liaison agency to Mexican law enforcement to prepare and pursue foreign prosecution cases in Mexico. This requires travel and meetings with officials of the Mexican Federal Prosecutor's office and meetings with Mexican state and federal police agencies. The FPU may also act as the liaison to the department on special requests for training, including general law enforcement and drug lab clean up.

Contact: Ernest Duran, Supervising Agent Supervisor
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Division of Criminal Law, Child Abduction Unit

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan, in implementing the then recently adopted Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, designated state agencies to act as points of contact in international child abduction cases. In response, Governor Deukmejian designated the California Attorney General as the point of contact in cases arising under the Hague Convention. Subsequently, in response to the Governor's direction, a Child Abduction Unit (CAU) was developed within the Office of the Attorney General to ensure compliance with the Governor's obligations arising under the Hague Convention. The Child Abduction Unit presently assists district attorneys in fulfilling their statutory mandate to take all actions necessary to locate and recover missing and abducted children. The Federal Protection Unit (FPU), in conjunction with the Child Abduction Unit, is responsible for directly assisting district attorneys in

recovering children from Mexico and, where appropriate, other countries. The FPU's Special Agents accompany district attorney investigators to Mexico to pick up the abducted children and return them to California, and serve as liaisons to Mexican law enforcement. Both the CAU and FPU actively interact with Mexican state and federal officials, including judicial officials, on these matters.

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Raquel Gonzalez, Supervising Deputy Attorney General
(619) 645-2281
raquel.gonzalez@doj.ca.gov

Office of the Attorney General, Executive Division Programs

A Special Assistant, under the direction of the Attorney General and Chief Deputy Attorney General, is responsible for promoting law enforcement programs, both civil and criminal, with Mexican governmental officials. The Attorney General participates in the annual Attorneys General Border Conference where state Attorney Generals from states that share the border meet to confer on matters of mutual importance. The Attorney General also promotes specific projects with Mexican governmental officials on Hague Convention and foreign prosecution issues, including educational forums and information sharing. The Attorney General provides informational letters and bulletins to local law enforcement on sensitive diplomatic issues.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

This program is involved in the U.S.-Mexico Border Diabetes Prevention and Control Project. Below is a brief description of the project taken from the CDC news release as well as the website with all of the program and contact information:

In response to the growing numbers of people on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico border who have diabetes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and other U.S. and Mexican health agencies have created the Collaborative U.S.-Mexico Border Diabetes Prevention and Control Project. The 5-year collaborative project will determine the prevalence of diabetes among the U.S.-Mexico border population and develop bi-national diabetes prevention and control programs.

Agencies involved in the new cross-country initiative include PAHO's El Paso Field Office, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association, the Secretariat of Health of Mexico, CDC's diabetes control programs in the four U.S. border states (Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas), the diabetes programs in the six Mexican states (Baja California,

Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Sonora, and Tamaulipas), the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, and the El Paso Diabetes Association.

Contact: Mark Shannon, Interim Program Chief
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program
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California Office of Binational Border Health

The California Office of Binational Border Health (COBBH) functions primarily as a liaison between California Department of Health Services (DHS) programs and Mexican officials. Within the last year it has assisted efforts from the DHS Immunization Branch, the Tuberculosis (TB) Branch and the Office of AIDS. It has assisted the Director's Office by setting up meetings with officials such as Dr. Francisco Vera, Baja California's Secretary of Health, and Hector Javier Martinez, Executive Director for the Mexico Section of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC). This has provided staff support to the Director in conjunction with her participation in the Border Governors Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. COBBH's Director, and the Director of the DHS recently participated in a Binational Health Week event (October 11, 2004) in Leon, Guanajuato that was attended by President Vicente Fox and Mexico's Secretary of Health Julio Frenk Mora.

COBBH also collaborates with other agencies. Co-located at its office complex in San Diego is staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), USMBHC, the California-Mexico Border Health Initiative (from the University of California, Office of the President), and the San Diego County Border Health Office. COBBH staff is collaborating on projects with these agencies and other partners in the California-Baja California border region. One recent activity was to arrange several meetings and accompany the administrator of HRSA, Dr. Betty Duke, on a tour of the border area, which included meetings with Mexican officials. To perform these functions, COBBH staff routinely meets with Mexican officials at the state and local levels, including the municipalities and health jurisdictions of Tijuana, Ensenada, and Mexicali, as well as contacts in academic and nongovernmental organizations.

Since November 2003, COBBH has been involved with DHS' public health emergency/bioterrorism preparedness planning efforts in the border region. The office has convened several planning meetings with federal, state, and local health officials from Mexico and the United States, and held two bi-national public health emergency preparedness planning conferences (in San Diego in June 2004, and in the Imperial Valley in August 2004). COBBH has also conducted a survey of Baja California's communication and information technology infrastructure, and executed a subcontract with USMBHC, (the California-Mexico Border Health Initiative [from the University of California, Office of the President] to enhance the epidemiological surveillance capability of health department epidemiologists and sites (labs and administrative offices) in Baja California.

Contact: Maura Mack, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief
Ricardo Jimenez, M.P.H., Assistant Chief
(619) 692-8472

Office of Aids

California-Mexico Epidemiologic Surveillance Pilot Project

The California-Mexico Epidemiological Surveillance Pilot (CMESP) project is a bi-national collaborative project between federal, state, and local agencies in Mexico and in California, including: the University of California, University-wide AIDS Research Program; Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS; the Department of Health and Human Services in the Counties of San Diego and Fresno; Mexico's Centro Nacional para la Prevención y Control del VIH/SIDA (CENSIDA); and Mexico's Instituto General de Epidemiología.

- The general goal of this project is to jointly develop a bilateral epidemiological surveillance system to provide improved monitoring of behavioral, service, environmental, and disease trends and changes among Mexican migrants and recent U.S. immigrants from Mexico.
- The goals are to: 1) assess the burden and trends of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), sexually transmitted disease (STD), tuberculosis (TB) and other health conditions; 2) evaluate the trends in behaviors, environment, and other factors that impact disease transmission; and 3) assess the implications for current and potential prevention and care strategies.
- At a local level, partnerships with county public health departments and community-based organizations will entail collaborative data collection on disease prevalence and incidence, symptoms, behavior, and also on linkage to care strategies.
- The CMESP will pilot these innovative surveillance approaches among Mexican migrant and recent immigrant populations within the counties of Fresno and San Diego in California and within the states of Michoacán, Jalisco, Baja California, and Oaxaca in Mexico.
 - Mexican Government Officials/Collaborators:
Dr. Carlos Magis (CENSIDA)
Dr. Pablo Kuri (Instituto General de Epidemiología)
 - DHS/OA Contact person:
Dr. Juan Ruiz; e-mail: jruiz1@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5832
 - University of California, Office of the President contact person:
Dr. George Lemp; e-mail: george.lemp@ucop.edu

Report on HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in California and Mexico

California and Mexico, although very different, have several similarities, which create similar challenges for control of HIV and other infectious diseases. The Office of AIDS and Mexico's Centro Nacional para la Prevención y Control del VIH/SIDA are currently completing an in-depth assessment of HIV/AIDS in Mexico and California, with emphasis on cases of Mexican descent. This report, to be published in English and Spanish, will present descriptions of the HIV/AIDS surveillance systems in both California and Mexico.

This report is being developed with the intent of fostering information exchange and bilateral collaboration to better serve those populations that spend time in both regions.

- Mexican Government Officials/Collaborators:
Dr. Carlos Magis (CENSIDA) Lic. Enrique Bravo (CENSIDA)
- OA Contact person for additional information:
Assunta Ritieni; e-mail: aritieni@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5841
Dr. Juan D. Ruiz: e-mail: jruiz1@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5832

HIV Prevalence, Incidence, and Risks Among Young Latino Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) at the California–Mexico Border: Imperial County, California, and Mexicali, Baja California.

- Same gender sex is the most common mode of exposure among California Latino/Hispanic male AIDS cases. In 2003, Office of AIDS, in collaboration with Baja California Department of Health Services, began a study to assess HIV prevalence and risks among Latino MSM between 18 to 29 years old in the Imperial, California, and Mexicali, Baja California, border region.
- With financial support from the University of California, University-wide AIDS Research Program, Office of AIDS is working with Baja California Department of Health Services, the Imperial County Health Department in El Centro, California, and La Iniciativa de Salud Fronteriza of Project Concern in Mexicali, Baja California, with support from Mexico's Centro Nacional para la Prevención y Control del VIH/SIDA (CENSIDA).
- The intent of this study is to assess HIV prevalence and incidence, HIV-related perceptions, sexual and drug using behaviors, as well as access to health care and prevention information.
- This study will provide more complete characterization of the impact of the California-Mexico border on risk behaviors and HIV transmission. This study will also provide a greater understanding of HIV-related attitudes and knowledge among Latino MSM in the California-Baja California border region.

- Mexican Government Officials/Collaborators:
Dr. Carlos Magis (CENSIDA)

Dra. Maria Ma. Concepción Meneses Imay (ISESALUD Mexicali)
Dr. Enrique Gomez (Programa Amigos – Initiative de Salud Fronteriza)

- OA Contact person for additional information:
Assunta Ritieni; e-mail: aritieni@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5841
Dr. Juan D. Ruiz; e-mail: jruiz1@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5832

Transborder Latino Women Study

- Office of AIDS, in collaboration with Baja California Department of Health Services, Proyecto de Consejo y Apoyo Binacional (PROCABI), a bi-national community-based organization, and the San Diego County Health Department, is conducting a transborder study among Latino women in the San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Baja California, border area.
- The total study population includes 515 Latino women between the ages of 18-35. This study will assess prevalence of HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis among this population and will investigate sexual and drug using behaviors.
 - Mexican Government Officials/Collaborators:
Dr. Carlos Magis (CENSIDA)
Dra. Remedios Lozada
 - Contact person for additional information
Ms. Maya Tholandi; e-mail: mtholand@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5842
Dr. Juan D. Ruiz: e-mail: jruiz1@dhs.ca.gov; 916-449-5832

Division of Communicable Disease Control

CureTB

Five tuberculosis (TB) projects where there is direct contact with Mexican government officials. This ongoing contact is essential to the implementation of each of these projects.

CureTB is a referral system for tuberculosis (TB) patients traveling between the United States and Mexico. CureTB is based in the TB Control Program of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. The goal of the CureTB program is to improve continuity of care for persons traveling between the United States and Mexico who have active TB. The California Department of Health Services, Tuberculosis Control Branch (DHS TBCB) provides funding, consultation, and technical assistance to CureTB. CureTB program staff are in frequent communication with Mexican government officials, especially staff working for the Mexican National TB Program and for health departments throughout Mexico.

CureTB Contact:

Alberto Colorado, Program Mgr.
(619) 692-5710
alberto.colorado@sdcountry.ca.gov

DHS TBCB Contact:

Anne Cass, MPH
(619) 692-8642
acass@dhs.ca.gov

National Workgroup With the Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

DHS TBCB staff participate in a national workgroup that has developed processes to improve continuity of care for TB patients in the custody of Immigrations and Customs enforcement (ICE) that are to be deported to Mexico before they complete their anti-TB treatment.

When these individuals are deported to Mexico prior to completion of anti-TB therapy, they are at risk for disease relapse, subsequent transmission and the emergence of drug resistance. In this workgroup, local, state, and national agencies are working together to develop systems to ensure completion of treatment for Mexican-born ICE detainees diagnosed with active TB.

Most recently, this workgroup has developed a system for short-term medical holds for ICE patients. When a medical hold is placed, U.S. health department officials are granted time to enroll the patient in the CureTB program and to facilitate arrangements for a coordinated removal or direct transfer of care to a Mexican health official. The workgroup has also developed a process for certain ICE patients with multi-drug resistant -TB be held in the United States until they complete therapy, as the treatment necessary for these patients is not available in Mexico.

DHS TBCB Contact:

Anne Cass, MPH
(619) 692-8642
acass@dhs.ca.gov

Binational Report

The bi-national report is a joint report on TB epidemiology for Baja California and California. Tuberculosis is more common along the U.S.–Mexico border than in most parts of the United States and Mexico. The border poses unique challenges to effective TB control and prevention. This publication is the result of collaboration of health professionals in Mexico and the United States. The purpose is to provide baseline information to begin to understand and monitor trends and TB control program performance in these two separate but linked states. The first bi-national report has been completed and efforts are underway to update with recent numbers and publish in 2005.

Mexico Contact:

Maria Guadalupe Felix
Herrera, MD
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DHS TBCB Contact:

Janice Westenhouse, MPH
510-883-6076
jwestenh@dhs.ca.gov

Ten Against TB

Ten Against TB (TATB) is a bi-national initiative created by the health officers of the 10 U.S./Mexico Border States in 1995. This collaboration is focused on improving TB control for the population shared by Mexico and the United States. It was established when border state officials realized that the effectiveness of state and national tuberculosis control programs are compromised when an international border interferes with consistent treatment and follow-up. In 1997, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary of Health of Mexico signed an agreement to “support TATB, a bi-national collaboration with the goal of developing and implementing bi-national strategies to reduce the spread of tuberculosis in the region.” The structure of this TATB group consists of a technical committee, steering council, and secretariat. The TATB group works closely with the Border Health Commission. A primary activity of this group has been to develop a strategic plan to improve TB control in the bi-national population (see below).

U.S. Contact:

Eduardo Sanchez MD,
MPH (co-chair)
(512) 458-7376

Mexico contact:

Francisco Gonzalez MD
(co-chair)
(686) 559-5815

DHS TBCB Contact:

Jennifer Flood MD, MPH
510-540-3688
jflood@dhs.ca.gov

Ten Against TB Strategic Plan

The TATB strategic plan was recently completed and represents nearly a decade of collaboration between U.S. and Mexican states. It has four components: surveillance, case management, laboratory, and health promotion and training. It is expected to result in prioritizing and incorporating TB control activities in the 2004-05 work plan of the Border Health Commission. It will also help to advocate for and earmark resources for those activities. The committee that developed this plan includes national and state representatives from the United States and Mexico.

U.S. Contact:

Jose Moreira (plan
coordinator)
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Jose.Moreira@tdh.state.tx.us

DHS TBCB Contact:

Jennifer Flood MD, MPH
510-540-3688
jflood@dhs.ca.gov

Vaccination Weeks in the Americas

Vaccination Weeks in the Americas (VWA) is coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to reduce the number of vaccine preventable diseases throughout the Western Hemisphere. The California Department of Health Services participated in

the 2004 VWA campaign activities in collaboration with PAHO, the California Distance Learning Health Network (CDLHN), the San Diego County Immunization Program, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Events were held in April and August 2004 highlighting cross-border teamwork in protecting children from vaccine preventable diseases.

The April events were tied into the National Infant Immunization Week observance and included children's events and physicians forums held in both San Diego, California, and in Tijuana, Mexico.

VWA's in August were conducted in San Diego and included a visit by Surgeon General Carmona, a promotoras training, and luncheon for San Diego, Immunization Branch, and Mexican health officials.

Immunization Branch Contact Person: Suzi Bouveron 619/692-8855; Cell 619/857-2327.

Binational Health Week

The third annual Binational Health Week (BHW) sponsored by the California-Mexico Health Initiative was celebrated throughout California during the week of October 12-19, 2003. With an emphasis on migrant and immigrant health, BHW included three main components: health education and promotion activities, a bi-national public policy forum, and press events.

Contact: Karina Celaya
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Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control

While the Occupational Health Branch (OHB) has no ongoing projects where there is direct contact with a Mexican government official, it has had intermittent contact with such officials through attending conferences, such as those on Binational Border Health.

In addition, OHB has worked with staff in the California Office of Binational Border Health (COBBH) to mentor a CDC Public Health Prevention Specialist on occupational and environmental issues; it has proposed joint projects with COBBH focusing on farmworker health issues. OHB's work on farmworker health, specifically on pesticide-related issues, may be of interest to Mexican government officials, although no direct contact has been made so far. Finally, through the California-Mexico Health Initiative, OHB has provided funds to University of California's Labor Occupational Health Program to educate young farmworkers about work-related health issues in the Central Valley/Salinas area.

The Occupational Health Branch prevents injury and illness among California's workers through a program of public health activities that includes identifying and evaluating

workplace hazards, tracking patterns of work-related injury and illness, recommending more protective workplace standards, working with others to develop safer ways to work, and providing information, training, and technical assistance to employers, workers, and others.

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Division of Food, Drug, and Radiation Safety

The Drug and Consumer Product Safety Section does not have any ongoing program/projects with Mexican government officials. However, over the years, it has had contact, primarily through the Department's Office of Binational Border Health, with Mexican officials describing the division's program. For example, division staff met with a prior health official from one of the Mexican border states and discussed issues such as border hospitals treating cancer patients, concerns about dipyrone, sale of drugs from Mexico in California without a prescription, etc.

Contact: Dr. Ray Wilson
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The Food and Drug Branch

The Food and Drug Branch (FDB) has an array of food issues that may require interaction with the Mexican officials. Confections, mostly imported candy, have been found to have significant amounts of lead. Lead has also been found in substances sold or used as seasoning. Because of their sweet, salty, or spicy flavor, packets of seasonings are sometimes sold and consumed as snacks, typically by children. Ingestion of lead can cause or contribute to childhood lead poisoning. Exposure to lead is particularly dangerous in young children because of their developing neurological systems and smaller size. In pregnant women, there is a risk to the fetus of intrauterine lead poisoning.

DHS has participated in conference calls with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Mexican officials and in meetings between the California Attorney General's Office and Mexican government officials. Direct contacts with Mexican government officials would be helpful in reducing lead in Mexican candy.

FDB is responsible for assuring the safety of all foods produced, held for sale, or distributed in California. FDB enforces the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law that sets standards for adulterated food, including confections.

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MEDICAL BOARD

Licensing of Mexican Physicians

AB 1045 (2002) added Business and Professions Code Section 853. This legislation requires the Medical Board to issue 3-year non-renewable licenses to licensed Mexican physicians under the licensed physicians and dentists from Mexico's pilot program.

According to the Medical Board "implementation of this program may not proceed unless appropriate funding is secured from nonprofit philanthropic entities."

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DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

Residue Tracking Project

The "Residue Tracking Project" is a joint project between the Department of Pesticide Regulation and Mexico's Sanidad Vegetal regulatory agency. This project is proposing to develop procedures to identify the source of origin of contaminated produce from Mexico. Both agencies are also working on taking steps to remedy the problem of contaminated produce.

The Pesticide Episode Response Project

The Pesticide Episode Response Project was originally established in response to an aerial drift incident in California. County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) and representatives from DPR and Mexico will continue to work to develop a system to share data on human health, investigative and sampling techniques, and pesticide exposure.

The Coordinated Press Release Project coordinates efforts with Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego County Agricultural Commissioners on the transport of pesticide products from Mexico for personal use, and coordinates outreach efforts to educate the public about the hazards associated with many of these pesticide products.

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DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Border Office

In 2001, The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) established a border office in San Diego to better address the issues confronting the border region. The office also acts as a hub for other border coordinators to conduct their work in the region.

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Binational Planning Activities

Caltrans, in an effort to coordinate border-wide planning, is an active participant in binational transportation and planning programs and committees with Mexico and other stakeholders (listed below) along the U.S./Mexico border and the California/Baja California region:

These programs include:

- Border Technology Exchange Program,
- Border Governors Conference (Port of Entry (POE) Work Table),
- The U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee (JWC) for Binational Planning and Programming,
- U.S./Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Committee,
- General Service Administration (GSA) and Comisión de Avaluos y Bienes Nacionales (CABIN) Technical Committee,
- Border Liaison Mechanism,
- Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC),
- The Borders Committee of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and
- Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO).

Since 1992, Caltrans has participated in the completion of numerous studies and activities to identify and address transportation infrastructure needs and issues affecting California and the other nine border states along the U.S./Mexico border (three U.S. states and six Mexico states). The following is a list of the most current studies completed and underway.

Maquiladora Study - The Survey and Analysis of Trade and Goods Movement Between California and Baja California, Mexico, June 2003.

Binational Infrastructure Needs Assessment Study (BINS), August 2004.

Bottleneck Study – Transportation Infrastructure and Traffic Management Analysis of Cross-Border Bottlenecks, Completion: Fall 2004.

Economy and Security at the Border, Completion: June 2005.

Additionally, Caltrans is participating in the planning process for the U.S. VISIT program, the Implementation of NAFTA Trucking Regulations, and New Ports of Entry and Transportation Facilities.

The sections below provide a summary of current bi-national committees, programs, studies and issues undertaken with Mexico and U.S. stakeholders.

Border Technology Exchange Program

The Border Technology Exchange Program (BTEP) was created by Caltrans District 11 to advance the achievement of a safe, efficient, secure, and seamless transportation system between the United States and Mexico. The BTEP was created in 1994 to provide opportunities for sharing transportation information and technology between the Department and Baja California agencies. BTEP is designed to enhance and expand the bi-national working relationships and understanding of the transportation agencies on both sides of the border. It also serves as an opportunity for transportation officials in the border region to improve the planning, design, construction, and operation of bi-national land transportation facilities.

Through this program California is working in partnership with Mexico's government transportation agencies, Federal Highway Administration, San Diego and Imperial County Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and universities from both California and Baja California to continue the BTEP program. The program includes a personnel exchange component in which Baja California transportation planners/engineers receive training in Caltrans for a period ranging between six months to two years. Over 100 professionals from Baja California have participated in the training and exchange program.

The California - Baja California BTEP is a 100 percent Federal Funded Program and Caltrans is currently enjoying the benefits of these bi-national efforts by gaining knowledge and obtaining expedient data from Baja California that is being used in many of our own transportation studies and projects in the border region. Baja California's agencies at the federal, state and local level are active participants and are interested in continuing this program as they feel it is of great mutual benefit.

Border Governors Conference

This annual conference brings together the governors of the 10 border region states (Arizona, Baja California, California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, New Mexico, Nuevo Leon, Sonora, Tamaulipas, and Texas) and their key staff members. The conference is divided into seven “worktables:” agriculture, border crossings, economic development, education, environment, health, and tourism. Following consensus on key issues of discussion, Joint Governors’ Declarations are developed providing frameworks for the implementation of strategies to address future activities.

The conference allows for the development of personal relationships, identification of issues and opportunities in the border region, and promotion of initiatives to improve the quality of life for the populace of this region.

The Governors meet annually alternating between sites in the U.S. and Mexico while the worktables meet as needed in order to produce draft proposals and communiqués.

U.S./Mexico Joint Working Committee

The Joint Working Committee (JWC) was created through a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Transportation and Mexico’s Secretariat of Communications and Transportation in 1994. The JWC consists of transportation and planning representatives from the 10 border states (four in the U.S. and six in Mexico), the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of State, Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, and the Mexican Foreign Ministry. The formal charge of the JWC is “analyzing, developing and coordinating border transportation plans and programs reflecting the needs of both countries.”

Additional goals of the JWC are to advise the Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Group on issues affecting the efficiency of transportation systems in the border region; to support the analysis and joint formulation of projects between federal and state governments of both countries; and to encourage the implementation of innovative solutions to improve border efficiency. The JWC meets semi-annually, alternating between states in the U.S. and Mexico.

U.S./Mexico Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Committee

The Binational Bridges and Border Crossings Committee is charged with reviewing all matters affecting the international ports of entry between the U.S. and Mexico. The U.S. Department of State and the Mexican Foreign Ministry head this committee, which meets twice a year. All states are requested to attend the committee meetings so as to provide assistance to federal inspection agencies and to report the “State of the Border Committee.” Over 25 U.S. and Mexican governmental entities attend including the U.S. State Departments, U.S. General Services Administration; International Boundary and Water Commission; Department of Transportation (DOTs) of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas; Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations; Mexican Ministry of the

Interior; Secretariat of Communications and Transportation; and the DOTs of Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Sonora and Tamaulipas.

Participation in the Bridges and Border Crossings Committee allows for improved bi-national planning, programming and funding of highway projects with port of entry (POE) improvements on both sides of the border; and improved transportation and POE systems in the region. This group meets annually, alternating between locations in the U.S. and Mexico.

General Services Administration and Comisión de Avaluos y Bienes Nacionales Technical Committee

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and Mexico's Comisión de Avaluos y Bienes Nacionales (CABIN) meets twice annually in either California or Baja California to discuss and review technical infrastructure issues related to the Ports of Entry including transportation directly serving the port facilities. Caltrans attends by invitation of either federal agency. Meetings are held annually, alternating between sites in the U.S. and Mexico.

Border Liaison Mechanism

This group is co-chaired by Consulates of San Diego and Tijuana and meets "on request" to address social, economic and transportation issues of California and Baja California. Caltrans attends based on Consular request. Invitees and participants include representatives from both sides of the border, such as economic development organizations, social services organizations, and federal, state and municipal governments.

Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

In order to create better coordination and communications between municipalities and regional organizations involved in land use and transportation planning in the border region, the Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (BTTAC) was created in 1992. Members of BTTAC include the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG), the Secretariat of Human Settlements and Public Works of the State of Baja California (SAHOPE); the city of San Diego; municipalities of Ensenada, Mexicali, Rosarito, Tijuana, Tecate, and Caltrans.

BTTAC allows the integration of bi-national transportation corridor planning serving the land border crossings with the bi-national land uses including design, construction and operation of transportation facilities. By products of this relationship include improved integration of transportation systems throughout the border region, enhanced professional and cultural understanding, and the strengthening of professional and technical capabilities. Executive management meets annually, alternating between California and

Baja California, while staff representatives of the participating organizations meet monthly alternating between the two states.

The Borders Committee of SANDAG

The Borders Committee provides oversight for planning activities that impact any of the borders of the San Diego region (Orange County to the northwest, Riverside County to northeast, Imperial County to the east and the Republic of Mexico to the south). The preparation and implementation of the SANDAG Binational Planning and Interregional Planning Programs are included under its purview. The Borders Committee advises the SANDAG Board of Directors on major interregional planning policy-level matters. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board of Directors for action.

The Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) states that the Committee of Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) “will serve as a working group to the SANDAG Borders Committee to facilitate a better understanding of the bi-national border-related issues and needs of the California-Baja California region.” This group provides advice on both short and long-term bi-national related activities, issues and actions; recommendations regarding bi-national border-related planning and development; and identifies ways to assist and coordinate with existing efforts in the bi-national area. The membership of COBRO includes elected officials and staff representatives of academia, business, community organizations, and the Mexican government. COBRO meets monthly in San Diego and occasionally holds advisory meetings in the Baja California municipalities located along the border.

Binational Planning Studies

Maquiladora Study: In June 2003, the “*Survey and Analysis of Trade and Goods Movement Between California and Baja California, Mexico*” was completed. This Caltrans funded study was designed to assess cross-border shipping patterns and collect information previously not available from the key private sector stakeholders in bi-national commerce, such as maquiladora (assembly only); maquiladora (manufacturers); customs brokers; non-agricultural shippers; agricultural shippers (produce importers/exporters); and transportation companies.

The study surveyed these key sectors to determine their concerns regarding border crossing delays at Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay, Calexico-Mexicali, and Tecate-Tecate, to collect experience and information on shipping practices, and to develop a reliable source of data to be used in supporting recommendations for improvements to border transportation infrastructure or federal inspection facilities, as well as proposing incentives or measures that would encourage shippers to alter their shipping times.

Binational Transportation Infrastructure Needs Assessment Study

On behalf of the Joint Working Committee (JWC), Caltrans recently completed the Binational Transportation Infrastructure Needs Assessment Study (BINS) study, August 2004. It follows the JWC vision of developing and coordinating border transportation plans. The purpose of BINS was to identify major transportation corridors in the border region, and to develop a quantitative procedure to evaluate the needs of the corridors. BINS identifies transportation projects to meet the needs of the corridors and identifies possible funding sources. The report findings have been submitted to the JWC for final approval and distribution. Upon approval, the report will be posted on the Federal Highway Administration's and the Caltrans District 11 website. The JWC will be considering a proposal for a Phase II study to fulfill the recommendations identified in the BINS study.

Transportation Infrastructure and Traffic Management Analysis of Cross-Border Bottlenecks

The U.S./Mexico Smart Border Agreement signed in April 2003, by Secretary of State Colin Powell and his Mexican counterpart identified the need for a study of bottlenecks at the land ports of entry. In December 2003, the U.S./Mexico Joint Working Committee/Federal Highway Administration provided funding to Caltrans to develop a methodology and conduct a multi-model pilot study of traffic management and transportation infrastructure bottlenecks at the San Diego/Tijuana Gateway. At Otay Mesa Port of Entry, the study focus is on commercial vehicle traffic, and at San Ysidro the focus is on passenger vehicle crossings. The pilot study is near completion and the draft final report will be submitted to the JWC in Fall 2004.

Economy and Security at the Border

Post-September 11th security measures at the international border crossings have lead to longer and sometimes unpredictable delays at the Ports of Entry (POEs). This Caltrans funded study, undertaken by SANDAG, will develop economic models for the Baja California municipalities of Tijuana and Tecate, and the San Diego region, to assess economic impacts of border wait times on both sides of the border.

Current Cross-Border Issues

In the broad context of the region, several innovative programs, projects and concepts may have a significant impact on the cross-border movement of people and goods. Caltrans is participating in the planning process for developing solutions during the appropriate phase of these programs. The following is a summary of key current cross-border issues.

Impacts of Implementation of "U.S. VISIT" Program

The Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at major land ports of entry (POEs) will complete implementation of the U.S. Visit program in December 2004. California POEs with Mexico will be retrofitted with technology capable of identifying outbound (into Mexico) non-U.S. Citizens pre-registered at point of entrance. Concerns remain that U.S. VISIT implementation will create long borderlines similar to those experienced by inbound (into U.S.) traffic. Businesses are concerned about the possible impact on the local economies. DHS aims to minimizing this impact. Status: Caltrans continues communication with DHS to assure that a safe and efficient process is established that does not impact the existing traffic flows into the POEs and that the communities on both sides of the borders are informed of developments of this program.

Implementing NAFTA Trucking Regulations

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that Mexican trucks are permitted to travel through the continental United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is implementing pre-clearance methods for frequent truck crossings through the Free and Secure Trade program (FAST) in an effort to expedite truck flow. California is the only state that is “NAFTA ready” and “safety-ready” as Caltrans constructed and opened two Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facilities (CVEF) at the Otay Mesa POE in 1996 and Calexico East POE in 1997. The state’s CVEFs are operated by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), which enforces state and federal safety laws. Arizona and Texas are currently developing plans for similar truck safety inspection facilities. At the Tecate POE, an interim CVEF facility was opened in 2003. Caltrans is in the process of building a permanent CVEF at the Tecate POE and roadside facilities for a small number of trucks that enter California at the Andrade POE near the California/Arizona border. These POEs process all of the trucks that enter California from Mexico. In 2003, these trucks were responsible for transporting \$30 Billion in imports and exports between CA and Mexico. Air quality emissions by trucks crossing the border may be an issue that needs further investigation. Status: Caltrans will continue to work with DHS and entities on both sides of the border to improve the flow of vehicles at the POEs.

New Port of Entry Facilities

San Ysidro POE: The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is studying the feasibility of expanding the POE to the west. Currently in the environmental feasibility study phase, this project faces controversy. Some project alternatives would realign the I-5 freeway that serves the POE. The San Ysidro community is divided on this issue because of the resulting impacts. Caltrans is working with GSA within the environmental studies process to address the impacts. Status: Continuing to work with San Ysidro representatives, U.S. GSA, and Mexico on solutions.

Otay Mesa East Proposed POE and its SR-11 Road Connector. A travel forecast for the year 2020 shows a 200 percent increase in border traffic between San Diego and Tijuana. In 2000, Caltrans submitted a preliminary Permit Application for a new international Port of Entry at “Otay Mesa East” to the U.S. Department of State (DOS). The City of San Diego, County of San Diego, Municipality of Tijuana, the San Diego Association of

Governments (SANDAG), Caltrans and its Baja California counterpart, Secretaría de Infraestructura y Desarrollo Urbano Estatal (SIDUE) support this application. Status: Caltrans has funding only for the environmental document and has begun working toward its completion. Caltrans is working with the private sector, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and the Government of Mexico to secure necessary funding to build the Otay Mesa East POE and roadway infrastructure.

Tecate POE: GSA modernization project is planned to begin in August 2004. The current design of the U.S. facility impacts local streets as well as the residential and business communities of Tecate, Mexico. To improve truck flow, Mexico has asked the U.S. to modify the entrance into the U.S. and discharge into Mexico. A dedicated commercial truck route on the U.S. side connecting both new POE facilities will be needed. Status: Caltrans is working with the federal GSA and Department of State, as well as with the DHS to provide engineering and construction support to solve the problem. Caltrans recently submitted a grant application to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the funding needed to build the new truck route.

Rail Connection Between California and Baja California

A recent concession of the rail line to the State government of Baja California has enabled the State to promote and develop a rail connector between the Port of Ensenada and Tecate, Mexico. For California, this rail service would have potential to connect with the San Diego & Arizona Eastern (SD & AE) Railway that provides rail freight service from San Diego to Imperial County. Status: While funding has not been identified, California supports the potential for a cross-border freight rail connector and its ability to move international trade and provide an opportunity to reduce trucks on California highways and freeways.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD/ REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

SWRCB has represented CalEPA on the Salton Sea Science Advisory Committee and coordinated and facilitated participation by CalEPA Boards, Departments and Offices in Salton Sea Restoration Program activities. The committee has provided guidance to major environmental documents and engineering evaluations related to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) San Diego County Water Authority Water Transfer, restoration of the Colorado River Delta, and a revised Salton Sea Restoration Program.

Industrial Wastewater-Monitoring

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have worked closely with the State of Baja California to address a joint goal of developing a coordinated regional program for the monitoring, pretreatment and minimization of industrial wastewaters in the border region. SWQCB has established a strong environmental technical assistance program in response to

requests from the State of Baja California. Representatives of the States of California and Baja California have worked with the City of San Diego to develop a model industrial wastewater-monitoring program in Tijuana, and recently obtained funds to extend the program to Tecate. Both states, working with California State University, Sacramento, have developed written and video worker training materials for use by domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater workers in the State of Baja California and throughout Mexico. The Tecate Industrial Waste Monitoring and Pretreatment Technical Assistance Program is currently being implemented.

Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

SWRCB and CalEPA have worked closely with Federal, State and local government agencies along the California/Baja California border to identify and promote the implementation of over 100 million dollars of wastewater infrastructure projects. These projects will provide water quality and public health protection for hundreds of thousands of border citizens.

Environmental Infrastructure Problems

SWRCB is also providing technical assistance to the State of Baja California regarding environmental infrastructure problems.

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUSES

CSU Academic Programs in Mexico

The CSU administers two system wide programs with Mexico:

- 1) ***Learn Spanish in Mexico Program*** focuses on the rapid acquisition of Spanish Language skills by students with minimal prior study of the language. Students pursue a full-time course of study in Spanish language and courses in Mexican culture, social sciences, and humanities. The program is held at the Querétaro campus of the Instituto Tecnológica y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM).
- 2) ***CLAD/BCLAD Credential Program*** combines the resources of CSU teacher education faculty with those of the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Mexico City to provide a unique system-wide credential program designed to prepare teacher candidates to meet the challenges of the contemporary multicultural classroom. Students who satisfactorily complete this program receive the

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential with the Bilingual Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development (BCAD) emphasis from the State of California.

In addition, the following campuses offer programs in Mexico:

- **CSU Bakersfield's** office of Extended Education offers intensive Spanish language instruction in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico.
- **CSU Chico** offers state-funded cultural immersion programs in Mérida (through the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan) and Colima (through ITESM).
- **CSU Dominguez Hills** maintains exchange agreements with ITESM and the Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior (CETYS), which has campuses in Ensenada, Mexicali, and Tijuana. In addition, CSUDH offers Spanish language instruction in Cuernavaca.
- **CSU Fresno** maintains a relationship with ITESM, Mexico City Campus.
- **CSU Fullerton** students may attend the Universidad de Guadalajara for Spanish language instruction. The University's Office of Extended Education also offers short-term and summer programs in Guadalajara.
- **CSU Hayward's** Extended and Continuing Education Program offers a "Summer in Colonial Mexico" program in Patzcuaro, Oaxaca, San Miguel de Allende, and Guanajuato.
- **Humboldt State University's** Offers programs in Oaxaca, Mexico and Ensenada, Mexico.
- **CSU Long Beach** has a formal exchange agreement with the Universidad de Guadalajara.
- **CSU Los Angeles** conducts summer internships at ITESM-Querétaro.
- **CSU Monterey Bay** students do applied research and field study in Querétaro.
- **CSU Northridge** maintains a relationship with the University of Guanajuato.
- **Cal Poly, Pomona** maintains formal exchange agreements with:
 - Instituto Tecnológico de Hermosillo
 - Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior (CETYS)
 - Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)
 - Universidad Iberoamericana
 - Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UBAC)
- **CSU Sacramento** maintains exchange agreements with the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara and a consortium of three universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. CSUS has also established study abroad programs with ÍTESM in Monterrey, the Universidad de Guadalajara and the Universidad de Guanajuato.

- ***CSU San Bernardino*** offers a special four-week summer program in Toluca, Mexico. This is a cooperative effort between the American Culture and Language Program and Extended Education. The campus also has a program in elementary education in Hermosillo, Mexico.
- ***San Diego State University*** has formal exchange agreements with CETYS, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), UABC, and the Universidad de Guadalajara.

The Mexus International Business Program was the first transnational undergraduate, dual-degree program in the U.S. and Mexico. It was initiated by a consortium of four regional institutions of higher education: SDSU, Southwest College, UABC, and CETYS. Students spend two years studying at Mexican universities and two years at SDSU. Upon graduation, they receive a degree from both institutions.

SDSU's College of Extended Studies conducts total Spanish language immersion programs in Cuernavaca and Ensenada as well as a five-day bus excursion to the California gray whale sanctuary in Scammon's Lagoon in Baja California. In addition, SDSU conducts a number of internship and independent study programs, including the Buen Vecino Internship Program (sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the Border Link Summer Internship. The Border Link program has focused on such topics as solid waste recyclables in the San Diego-Tijuana region and environmental characteristics of the bi-national Tijuana River Basin.

San Francisco State University's Office of Extended Education conducts a summer program at the Cuernavaca Language Institute and recently offered a short program on the ecosystems of Mexico: The Baja Peninsula. In addition, the School of Education offers a program in language, culture, and education in Chiapas.

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo maintains a formal exchange agreement with ITESM for programs in business and agribusiness. The Office of Extended Education conducts a summer program in Cuernavaca for an in-depth study of Spanish.

CSU San Marcos' Office of Extended Education offers Spanish language and cultural immersion programs in Cuernavaca and Morelos (via the Instituto Chac Mool).

Sonoma State University offers a business and cultural studies program in cooperation with CETYS in Ensenada. The program offers SSU students the opportunity to study Mexican business and culture, with an emphasis on the economically important border region, while they advance their competency in Spanish.

CSU Stanislaus offers several short-term human development, nursing and teacher preparation programs in Oaxaca and Cuernavaca.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUSES

The University of California campuses have projects directly with various universities in Mexico. For example, UC Riverside has an agreement with “la Universidad de Veracruz” for research exchange. There are many other examples of these types of projects administered by the 10 University of California campuses.

House of California (Casa de California)

In 2001, the University of California established a California House in Mexico City to facilitate academic research and exchanges between Mexico and California.

The California House will also be connected to Internet2, a high speed Internet link connecting all Mexican Universities to the University of California’s on-line library, the largest on-line library in the world. Internet2 will also allow cross-border real time video conferencing.

UC MEXUS

UC MEXUS was established in 1984 to develop and sustain a coordinated, University wide approach to Mexico-related studies. UC MEXUS has had a role in agreements between universities and institutions both at the University of California and in Mexico.

There are many of those agreements between individual universities in California and universities in Mexico.

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UC MEXUS promotes education, research, public service, and other scholarly activities in five principle areas:

Mexican Studies as related to Mexican history, society, politics, culture, arts, and economy.

United States-Mexico Relations in contemporary and historical context, in terms of the economic, political, demographic, and cultural interactions between Mexico and the United States.

Latino Studies related to the history, society, culture, and condition of Mexican-origin populations in the context of American society and institutions, including their interactions with other U.S. immigrant groups.

Critical Issues in terms of urgent public policy or academic topics affecting Mexico, the United States and Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico relationship, or Mexican-origin populations in the United States.

UC-Mexico Collaboration between U.S. and Mexican scientists in all disciplines, including the basic and applied sciences, humanities, and the arts.

UC MEXUS provides grant funding under the categories listed below:

Faculty Grants. Approximately 15 faculty grants were funded to support projects that lead to the development of major, long-term collaborations with strong potential for extramural funding; bi-national conferences and publications; significant advancement of scholarship; new creative works; innovative bi-national instruction or new intercampus courses; public service programs; strengthening of academic and research capabilities; and graduate student training.* These grants cover a wide range of subject areas.

Small Grants. Approximately 14 small grants were funded to support special, one-time, short-term needs of researchers undertaking projects related to UC MEXUS goals. Projects range in subject; for example, gender and political participation (a cross-national study of Mexico, the United States, and Mexican immigrants to the United States).

Dissertation Grants. Approximately 35 UC MEXUS dissertation grants were awarded to UC graduate students for research toward the completion of their dissertations. Dissertation grants cover a range of subject areas. For example, evolutionary relationships between wild and cultivated chili peppers in Mexico using a DNA sequence of low copy nuclear gene and micro satellite data.

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UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants

UC MEXUS and el Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) equally finance grants that support teams of UC and Mexican researchers in basic and applied collaborative research, instructional development, and public service and education projects that apply to public issues. The primary objective of the program is to enable the establishment of new collaborative initiatives with the potential for creating permanent linkages between UC campuses and Mexican institutions that will grow and continue with the support of other institutional and extramural funds.

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

UC MEXUS and CONACYT's join in a program to support post-doctoral researchers at the University of California or at Mexican institutions of higher education or research. The primary objective of this program is to advance academic ties and exchange between emerging Mexican researchers and UC scientists and scholars in the early stages of their careers.

* UCMEXUS website: <http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/index.php?content=research/funded.html>.

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Faculty Fellowships

UC MEXUS and CONACYT provide funding for Mexican faculty fellowships at the University of California and for UC faculty fellowships in Mexico. The primary objective of the program is to advance academic exchange between established Mexican and UC researchers who are interested in initiating or continuing academic collaborations with their counterparts at UC campuses or Mexican universities.

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Sabbatical Fellowships

UC MEXUS and CONACYT provide funding for fellowships for distinguished University of California and Mexican researchers at UC campuses or Mexican research institutions. The program seeks to promote and further the academic careers of accomplished scientists and scholars through extended periods of research and scholarship at UC Campuses or at Mexican institutions of higher education.

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants

UC MEXUS and CONACYT equally finance grants that support teams of UC and Mexican researchers in basic and applied collaborative research, instructional development, and public service and education projects that apply to public issues. The primary objective of the program is to enable the establishment of new collaborative initiatives with the potential for creating permanent linkages between UC campuses and Mexican institutions that will grow and continue with the support of other institutional and extramural funds.

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

UC MEXUS and CONACYT's joint program to support postdoctoral researchers at the University of California or at Mexican institutions of higher education or research. The primary objective of this program is to advance academic ties and exchange between emerging Mexican researchers and UC scientists and scholars in the early stages of their careers.

Internet2

This special grants competition was offered in 2001 for collaborative projects in all academic and research fields that engage and enhance the use of advanced network services provided by Internet2. Recently Internet2 connection was established at UC San Diego and links UC campuses with Mexican universities and research centers connected to a network.

Colorado River Delta & Upper Gulf of California

This special grants competition was offered in 2001 to support bi-national collaborative research applied to issues of transboundary water resources in the Colorado River Delta

and Upper Gulf of California. A second but equal objective is to foster and strengthen the linkages among research and academic institutions in the United States and Mexico in terms of research, education, and training.

UC MEXUS – California Migration & Health Issues (CMHI)

The primary objective of the program is to provide seed funds for developing projects in all disciplines that will enhance the understanding and knowledge of migration and health-related issues facing Mexican-origin workers and their families in California and Mexico, as well as the dissemination of information regarding these issues. A second objective is to promote new collaborative research actions and long-term linkages among the University of California campuses and Mexican research institutions.

UC MEXUS News

UC MEXUS also supports two publications and provides support for books, conference proceedings, and reports.

UC MEXUS Conferences, Workshop, Symposiums

UC MEXUS also convenes numerous conferences, meetings, workshops and symposiums. These events propose to bring the academic and scientific resources of the UC system and Mexico to address issues of significance or concern to U.S. and Mexican communities, or academia.

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California-Mexico Commission on Education, Science and Technology

The California-Mexico Commission on Education, Science and Technology provides a high-level forum to determine the critical areas for collaboration in research and education. The President of the University of California and the Director of CONACYT select commission members from among California's and Mexico's leading educational and scientific institutions, with representation of government and business as well.

The Commission acts as an intellectual and scientific advisory body to both California and Mexico; sponsors in-depth analysis of critical topics and reports on indicators of educational, scientific, and technological progress in California and Mexico.

The Border Water Project

This is a joint initiative by the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UCSD and the Water and Society Program of the Colegio de San Luis Potosí. This project proposes to formulate a medium-term agenda for bi-national research on trans-border water

problems. The specific objective of the project is the strengthening of social science research on issues of water in the border region through creation of a bi-national network of researchers dedicated to the study of these topics. This network of key researchers from both countries are undertaking a critical revision of the existing literature in order to establish the state of the art of research on the themes of water and society in the border region, identifying areas for future research.[†]

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CALIFORNIA POLICY RESEARCH CENTER UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The California Policy Research Center

The University of California (UC) established the California Policy Research Center in 1977 as a research and public service program that applies University-based expertise to the development, implementation, and evaluation of state policy as well as federal and international policy issues that affect California. CPRC activities and projects benefit policymakers, community leaders, and the general public.

California-Mexico Health Initiative

Established by the California Policy Research Center in January 2001, the California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI) is a binational project that sponsors research, training, and outreach activities focused on improving the health status of Mexican immigrants and their families. CMHI has created a number of bi-national partnerships to conduct health promotion campaigns, train professionals, facilitate the coordination of health services, and inform the development of policies and programs related to immigrant health. With matching support from the California Endowment, the California Program on Access to Care, UC MEXUS, and Mexico's Health Secretariat, CMHI conducts a special research grant program for UC faculty working with Mexican counterparts on issues of immigrant health in the California-Mexico context. CMHI is co-sponsored by the Mexican Secretariat of Health, the California Department of Health Services, the U.S.-Mexico Binational Working Group on Health, and the University of California, representing an unprecedented partnership among U.S. and Mexican officials, health providers, and academics.

U.S. -Mexico Binational Education Initiative

The California Policy Research Center and the Davis Institute for Education Policy, Law, and Government, have established the Binational U.S.-Mexico Education Initiative in conjunction with the Secretariat of Foreign Relations (SRE), the Secretariat of Education (SEP), the National Pedagogical University in Mexico and Arizona State University and

[†] UCMEXUS website: <http://ucmexus.ucr.edu/index.php?content=research/funded.html>.

the California Department of Education. The Binational Education Initiative represents a comprehensive, coordinated effort of binational research, training, and public service programs in teacher training, student advancement, and adult education involving university, education, and public sector leaders from both countries. As part of the first steps in this effort, the UC Davis Institute for Education Policy, Law, and Government and CPRC are conducting an evaluation of educational outreach programs being conducted by the Mexican government in U.S. communities. Also Mexican education and foreign relations authorities have agreed to incorporate the Binational Education Initiative into the U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding to be renewed by both countries in November 2004.

The Mexican/Mexican-American Dialogue

The University of California is one of three academic centers in the United States that joined in the summer of 2001 with three Mexican counterparts to establish the Mexican/Mexican American Dialogue - Diálogo Mexicano/ Méxicoestadunidense. The Dialogue promotes a binational exchange of ideas that focuses on the Mexican immigrant and Mexican American communities in the United States and their role in domestic issues and foreign policy. Dialogue-sponsored activities provide forums for a public conversation regarding the strategic role of these communities and opportunities for advancing the study and analysis of leading public policy issues related to the Mexican origin population in the United States. On March 22, 2004 in Washington D.C., the Dialogue sponsored a forum of public officials and opinion leaders that addressed the effects of Homeland Security Policy on the Mexican immigrant community in the U.S. and the U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Relationship.

U.S. sponsors include the California Policy Research Center at the University of California Office of the President, the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington, and the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. The three Mexican sponsors are the Department of International Relations of the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM - Mexico City, also publisher of Foreign Affairs en Español), El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Mexico), also publisher of Migraciones Internacionales, and Centro Universitario de Ciencias Económicas Administrativas of the Universidad de Guadalajara.

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