

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

- ITEM: 7
- SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Border 2020 Program
- PURPOSE: The Border 2020 Program is the latest environmental program implemented under the 1983 La Paz Agreement. It builds on the Border 2012 Environmental Program, emphasizing regional, bottom-up approaches for decision making, priority setting, and project implementation to address the environmental and public health problems in the border region. As in Border 2012, the new Program encourages meaningful participation from communities and local stakeholders.
- The Border 2020 Program also strengthens its focus in regional areas where environmental improvements are needed most: establishing thematic goals, supporting the implementation of projects, considering new fundamental strategies, and encouraging the achievement of more ambitious environmental and public health goals.
- RECOMMENDATION: There are no recommendations at this time; no action will be taken by the Board at today's meeting
- KEY ISSUES: Watersheds in the U.S.-Mexico border region are shared bi-nationally, with rivers flowing from one country to the other or forming the international boundary. Protecting and restoring watersheds and water quality in these rivers and providing adequate drinking water and basic sanitation services requires collaborative bi-national, multi-jurisdictional planning efforts. The border region faces significant challenges in shared watersheds that are exacerbated by high population growth rates and impacts from climate change.
- The Border 2020 Water Goal builds upon the successes and lessons learned from the Border 2012 Program. Under the Water Goal, the United States and Mexico will work together to address the following challenges:

- Lack of access to safe drinking water, which poses a significant threat to public health in border communities.
- Inadequate collection and treatment of wastewater, which contaminates surface waters and aquifers and threatens public health and the environment.
- Inadequate management of stormwater pollution that contributes significantly to water pollution problems and the potential for floods.
- Inadequate public access to water quality data, which decreases the public's ability to know whether a waterbody is safe for recreational use.
- Impacts of climate change that affect precipitation patterns and duration of droughts, making water availability even more challenging in an already arid region, and making wastewater infrastructure more vulnerable to damage from floods.

PRACTICAL VISION: Border 2020 Goal 2 is to Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water, and Goal 3 is to Promote Materials Management and Waste Management and Clean Sites, both of which correspond to Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Border 2012 Accomplishments Report
2. Border 2020 Summary
3. Border 2020 Fact Sheet
4. Goal 2: Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water
5. Goal 3: Promote Materials Management and Waste Management and Clean Sites

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Agenda Notice for today's meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those subscribed to the email list for Board meetings.