



TCEQ Border Affairs
February 12, 2025

Task Force of Border Health
Officials

Environmental Quality and Compliance Assistance along the Texas Border with Mexico

"Conservation of natural resources and public health does not stop at international boundaries. Protecting our shared environment requires a multifaceted, binational approach."

- Commissioner Bobby Janecka



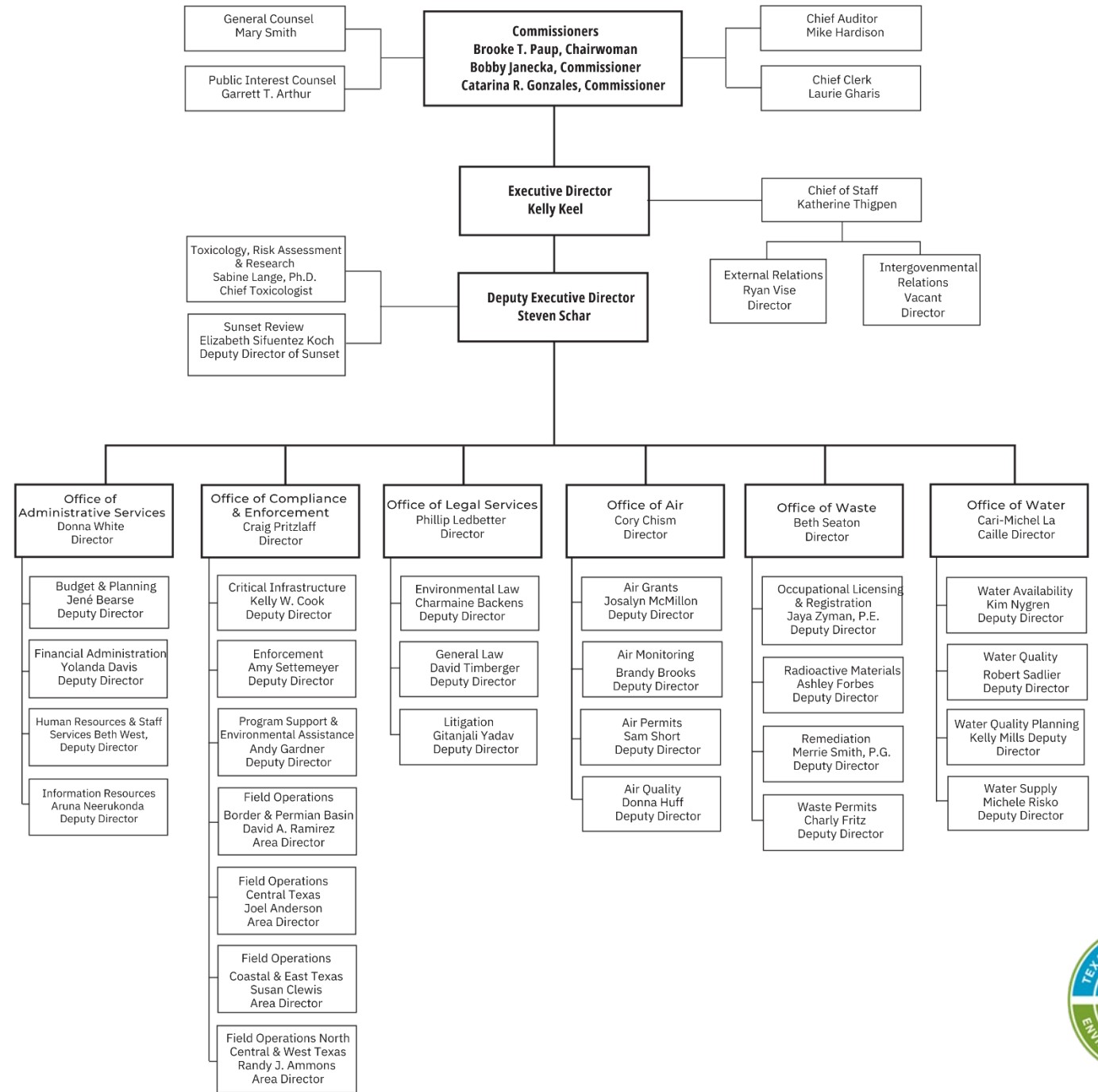
TCEQ's Mission Statement

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality strives to protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development.

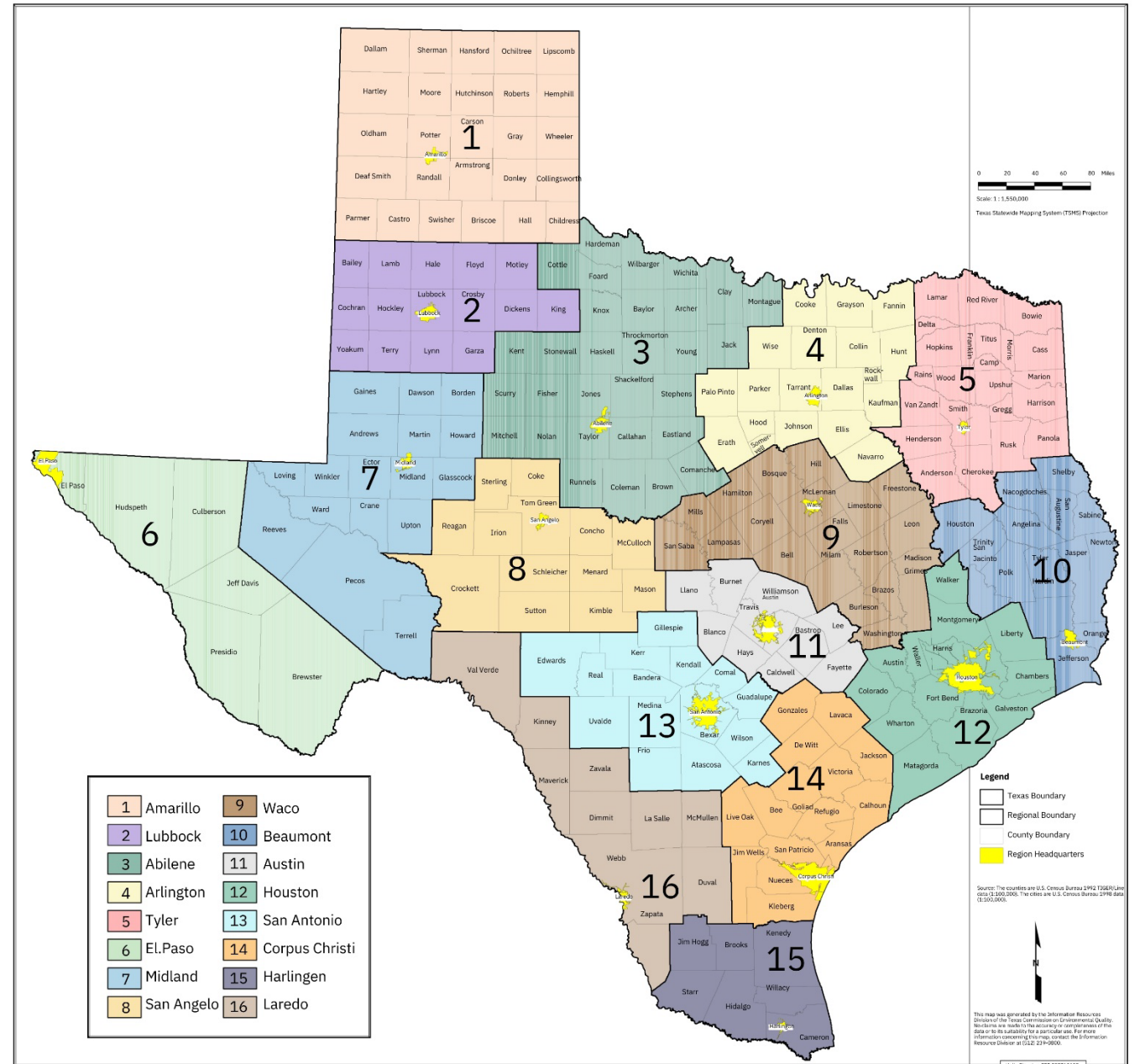
Our goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.

TCEQ ORGANIZATION

January 7, 2025



TCEQ AREAS & REGIONS



TCEQ's Operating Budget

- There are approximately 2,800 employees, 16 regional offices, and a \$557 million operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year (includes both baseline and contingency appropriations).

Program Fees:	Federal Funds:	General Revenue:	Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Trust:	Other Sources:
\$290.9 million	\$59.2 million	\$20.6 million	\$170.1 million	\$15.8 million





TCEQ's Border Initiative

Comprehensive and cooperative initiative focused on benefiting residents along the Texas-Mexico border.

98 employees and contractors are dedicated to the border region, including border regional offices

Activities:

- **Support Offices** in achieving agency goals at the international border
- Quarterly **agency-wide meetings**
- Weekly briefing of environmental **border news**
- Agency **publication**
- **Memoranda of Cooperation** with Neighboring Mexican States



Border Initiative Weekly News

Volume 13, Issue #35 | May 12, 2023



El Paso County public service staff collect scrap tires as part of scrap tire cleanup campaign. (El Paso County)

Recent News

- The state of Nuevo León created a new agency dedicated to air quality management and monitoring. The Monterrey metropolis has struggled with poor air quality in recent years and seen their vehicle fleet more than double in size since 2015. A day after her appointment by Governor Garcia, Director Armandina Valdez Cavazos met with the TCEQ Border Affairs team to discuss joint projects on forecasting, modeling, and monitoring. (El Universal/El Nuevitas)
- According to the CONAGUA Drought Monitor, Nuevo Laredo is no longer classified under extreme drought conditions due to unreasonable rainfall of more than 4.5 inches. Recent rains and water transfers from the Amistad Reservoir increased the storage at the Falcon Reservoir from 12% to 23%. (El Mañana)
- A recent report from the Nature Conservancy and the Texas Living Waters Project found that water market activity is increasing across the state, especially in the last decade, and that environmental transactions are the largest growth area in Texas water markets. (The Nature Conservancy)
- The Mexican federal government is preparing a decree for publication in the Official Federal Journal that will prohibit issuing new water concessions for industrial use due to scarce water resources, authorizing only Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to issue concessions. A representative of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers (CONCAMIN) said that the decree must consider water usage as some industries consume less for their operations. (T21)
- The proposed revision to the Mexican general water law will be reviewed by governmental entities, universities, and water specialists in the coming months. This process aims to ensure a general consensus is reached before the Senate convenes in September. (La Jornada)
- The Public Services Department of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas collected more than 77,400 scrap tires from the streets and dump sites as part of a scrap tire cleanup campaign. Nuevo Laredo is exploring alternatives to reduce dumping, such as collection sites and processing operations. (El Mañana)

Events and Funding Opportunities

- Save the date for TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair and Conference May 16-17 at the Austin Convention Center. Join Border Affairs on May 16 for a day of talks on border environmental topics. And at 10am on the Trade Fair floor join Commissioner Janecka and Tamaulipas Secretary of Environment, Karina Lizeth Saldivar, for the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between their two agencies.

2022 Border Initiative: 18th Edition

"Conservation of natural resources and public health does not stop at international boundaries. Protecting our shared environment requires a multilateral, binational approach." — Commissioner Bobby Janecka



What is TCEQ's Border Initiative?

A comprehensive and cooperative initiative focused on benefiting residents along the Texas-Mexico border. Since 2006, TCEQ's Border Initiative has served Texans in 32 border counties and engaged sister agencies in four neighboring Mexican states, as well as local and federal stakeholders on both sides of the border.

The purpose of the **Border Initiative** is to highlight and target the agency's efforts on the border to protect public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development.

The Border Affairs team leads quarterly agency-wide meetings with regional offices, agency leadership, and subject matter experts on air, water, and waste to ensure strategic and effective results for border residents.

Who leads and works on the Border Initiative?



Commissioner Janecka of the North American Development Bank presenting TCEQ's initiative for the Border, NEA, and Mexico.

Commissioner Bobby Janecka leads the Border Initiative. The Border Affairs team, under the direction of Executive Director Toby Sauer, carries out the Initiative. The agency has 98 employees and contractors dedicated to the border region, including regional offices in El Paso, Laredo, Harlingen, and Midland, and programs at the Austin headquarters.

Regional office staff support compliance with agency rules and regulations, respond to complaints, serve as first responders during emergencies, and provide confidential compliance assistance to small businesses and local governments, both in-person and through a toll-free hotline (800-447-2827).

North American Development Bank, International Boundary and Water Commission, and Advisory Boards



Border 2025: U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program

- Commissioner Janecka serves as State CoChair of two **Regional Workgroups**
- BA staff provides program support including **logistics, reporting, and outreach**
- Secure funding for border projects
- **Binational meetings** the length of the border on topics including air, water, waste, emergency response, and compliance assistance
- **Joint Advisory Committee** for the improvement of air quality (JAC). BA provides logistics, reporting, and manages the bilingual website



Federal Advisory Committees:



GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Presidential advisory committee on environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S. border with Mexico

[GNEB website](#)

December 20, 2022

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

As your federal advisory committee for environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S. border with Mexico, the members of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) are pleased to provide this advice letter about the unmet drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs for hundreds of thousands of Americans along the southwest border. This advice letter serves as the Board's report for 2022 and will be followed in 2023 with a full, detailed report documenting and elaborating on the themes and recommendations described in this letter.

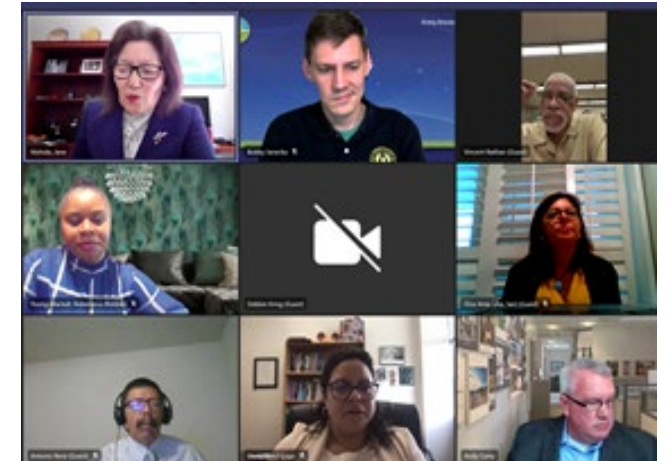
Border Context

The southern U.S. border region includes the counties immediately adjacent to the U.S.–Mexico border or located partially within the zone that extends 60 miles north of the international boundary; this is referred to as the “border area” or “border region.” This area is the poorest region of the country, with per capita incomes, health outcomes and education levels well below the national average. Nearly 1 million border residents live in colonias and rural settlements, and more than two dozen U.S. federally recognized tribes are located in the region. Numerous urban and rural populations in the border area are underserved in terms of water and wastewater infrastructure. The intersection of poverty, ethnicity, and lack of basic water and sanitary services has created enduring inequities and an environmental and public health crisis along the southern border.

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Governmental
Advisory Council
(Commissioner Janecka)

Good Neighbor
Environmental Board (appt.
pending)

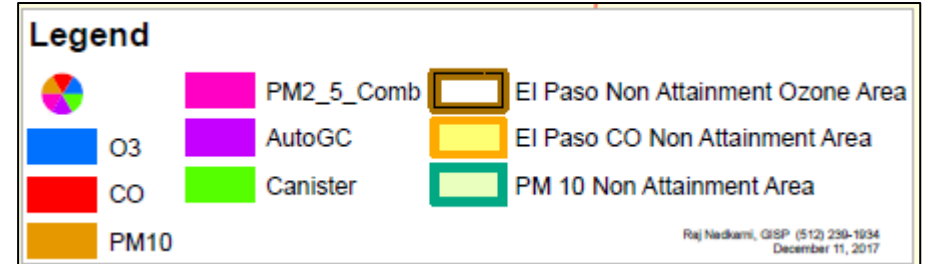
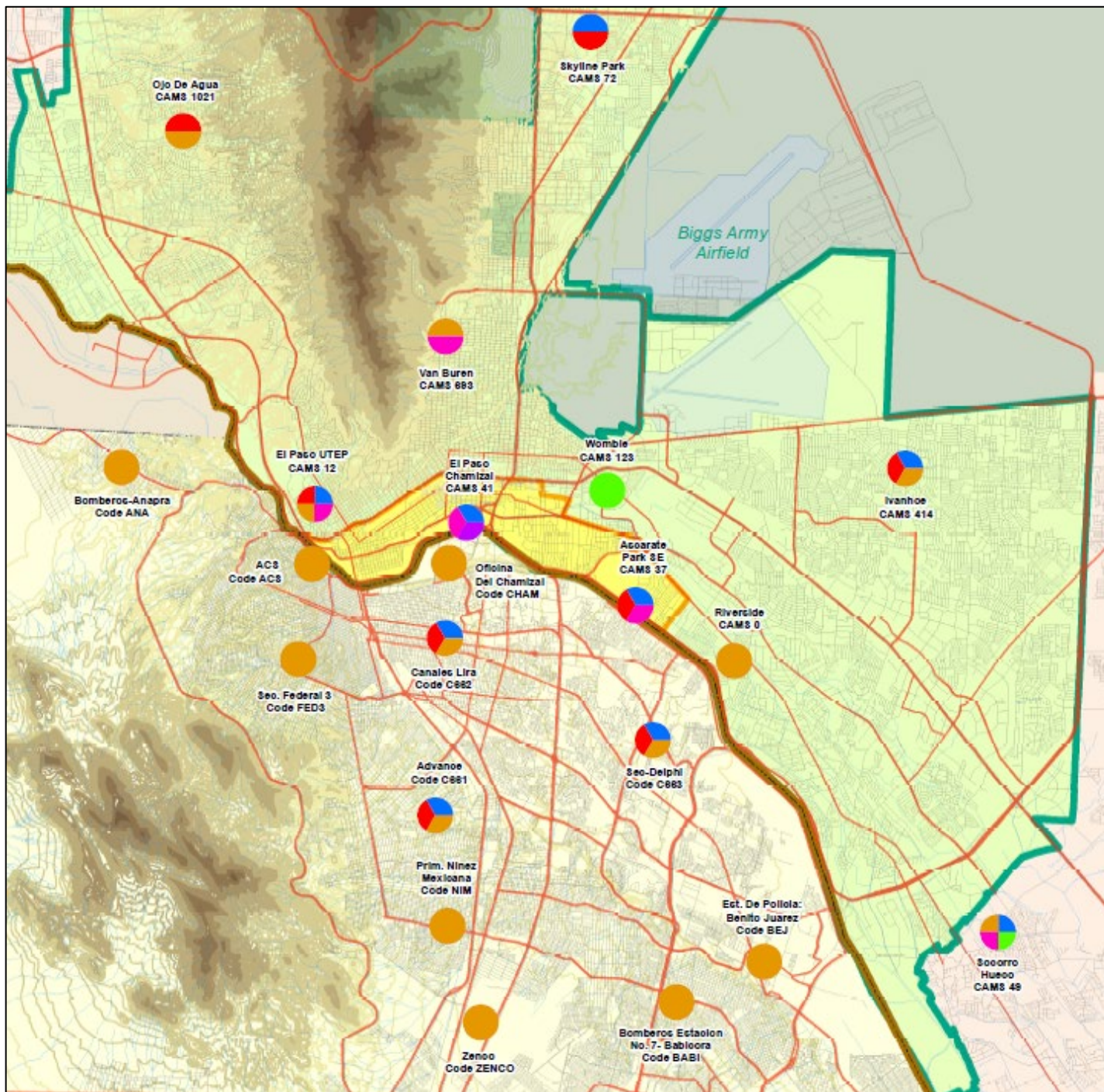
Advice
letters in 2024

Full report in
Sept. 2025

The “Paso del Norte”



Air Quality Monitors in the Paso del Norte





Paso del Norte Ceilometer Network

TCEQ manages a project with the University of Texas at El Paso and the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez to operate 4 ceilometers

- A ceilometer measures the boundary layer/cloud height/mixing layer; vital to understand ozone formation and PM transport and dispersion.
- Data analysis on PM_{2.5} source apportionment and dispersion is conducted by Dr. Rosa Fitzgerald
- Data used for modeling and forecasting



Binational Network: air quality sensors in the Paso del Norte

Task 1: Monitoring PM and NO₂ at 6 low-income community centers in El Paso

Task 2: Monitoring PM and NO₂ at 6 industrial sites and community centers in Ciudad Juárez

Task 3: Collaborate with community-based organizations for data dissemination

Task 4: Increase youth awareness, interest, and involvement

Equipment:

- Purple Air Sensor
- Clarity Node-S



Air Quality Monitoring in the Paso del Norte

1990's - start

2010 - end

2015 - rebuilding

2021 – binational fund

Binational Air Quality Fund

Before: Breakdown, interruptions in operations and maintenance, insufficient funding, closure of most stations

After: Sustainable operations and maintenance and expansion of the network in Ciudad Juarez. Continuous binational engagement and consensus-based decision making.



Accomplishments:

- New monitoring site added to network, the first since the 1990's
- Professional O&M
- Publicly available data

Contributor	Amount
NADB	\$ 25,000.00
TCEQ	\$ 25,000.00
EPA/TCEQ (FY22-23)	\$ 102,044.00
MPF/PDN CF	\$ 99,753.00
MPF/PDN CF	\$ 75,000.00
EPA/TCEQ (FY24-25)	\$ 145,550.00
NADB for siting study	\$ 60,000.00
Total	\$ 532,347.00

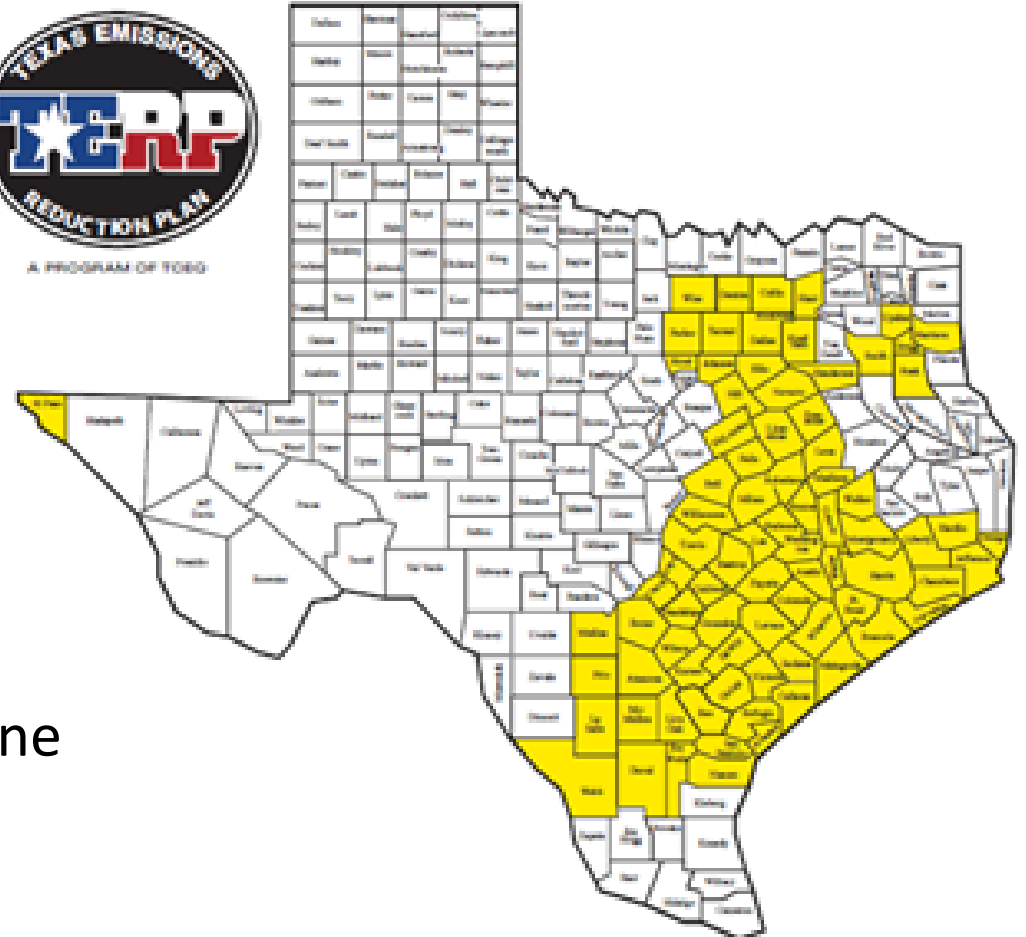
Binational Diesel Emmissions Reduction for the Paso del Norte

Clean Transportation Zone

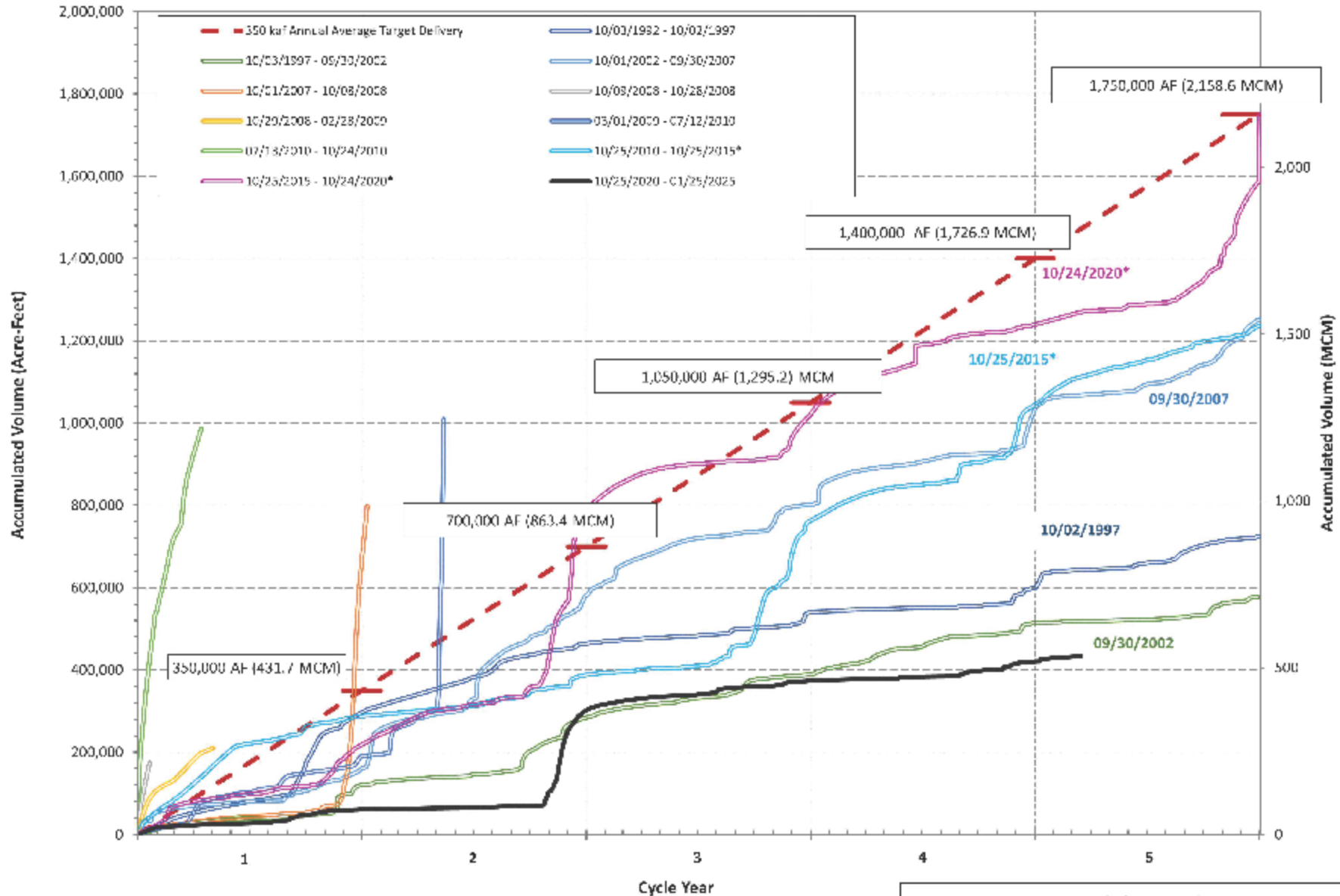
Four-way partnership:

- TCEQ
- Paso del Norte Community Foundation
- UT El Paso
- North American Development Bank

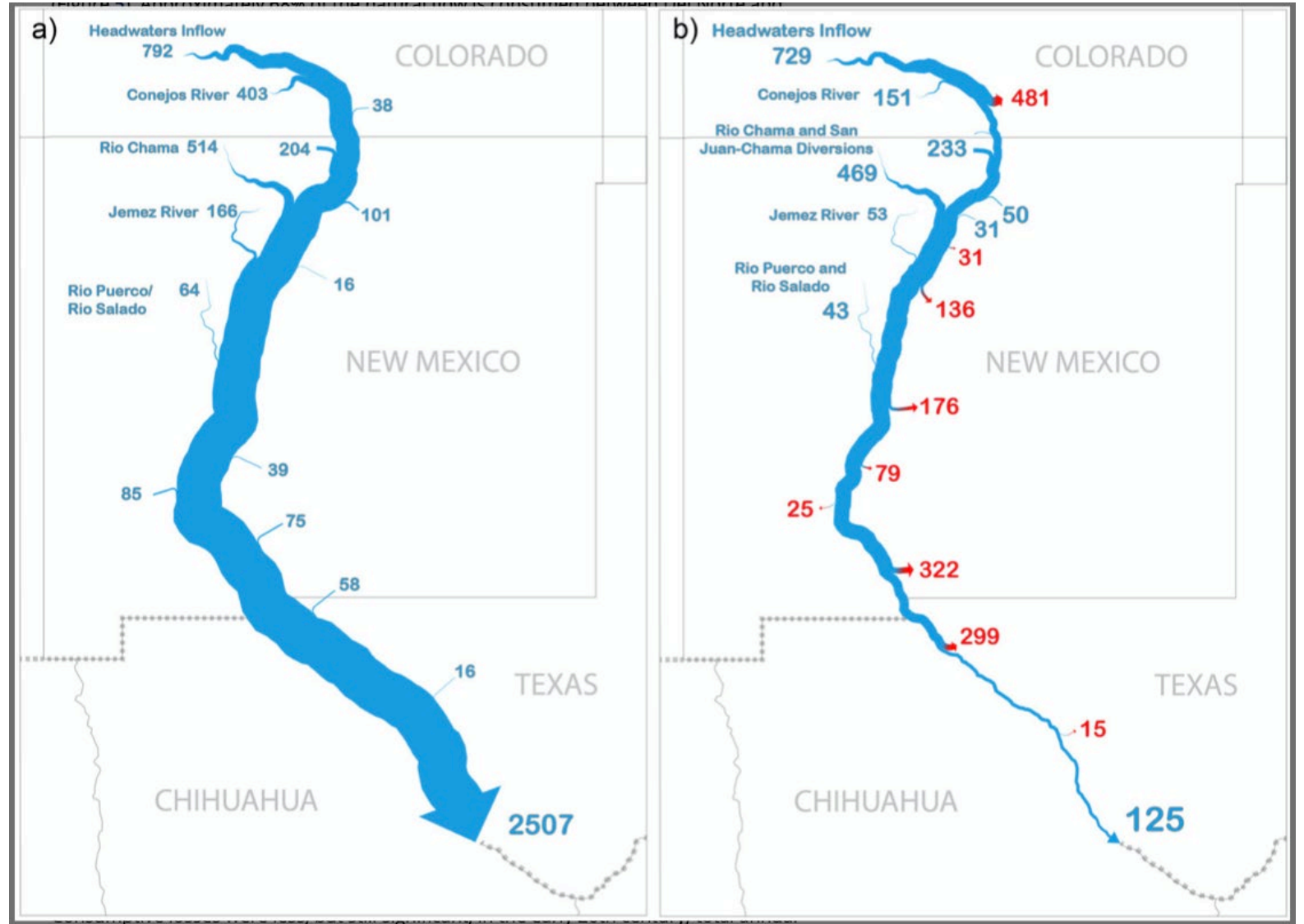
Objective: pilot project for diesel engine replacement of old freight trucks in border zone



Rio Grande River Basin
Estimated Volumes Allotted to the United States by Mexico from Six Named Mexican Tributaries
and Other Accepted Sources* under the 1944 Water Treaty
Current Cycle: October 25, 2020 thru January 25, 2025



Average annual inflows and outflows of upper reach of Rio Grande between 1900 - 2010



Blythe & Schmidt, 2018
 Utah State University
 Water Resources Research

Estimated natural conditions
 1900 - 2010

Modern conditions
 1950-2010



1944 Water Treaty and Water Deliveries

In 2020, minute 325 created two Work Groups with technical experts from both countries to enhance information exchange, develop a water availability model, and use the model as a tool to analyze water management scenarios.

- Rio Grande Policy Workgroup
- Hydrology Workgroup
- Minute Writing Team

Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative: Salinity Study

This binational partnership aims to restore and protect water quality, enhance monitoring efforts, and reduce pollutants entering the river.

Under the Border 2025 program we created the LRGWQI Binational Forum (bajobravalowerriograndewq.org)

A comprehensive analysis is underway to identify the sources of salinity and understand their contributions to the Rio Grande.

This includes examining point sources, irrigation return flows, and other potential factors, utilizing a mass balance model.





Texas-Mexico Environmental Fellowship

TCEQ partnered with UT Austin to sponsor and support internships with Mexican state and federal agencies in support of Border 2025 and TCEQ's MOCs.

Internships focus on air quality, water quality, and sustainable management of waste (recycling, scrap tires)

Successful partnerships set for this summer:

1. CONAGUA (Mexico's National Water Commission)
2. SEMARNAT (Mexico's Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources)

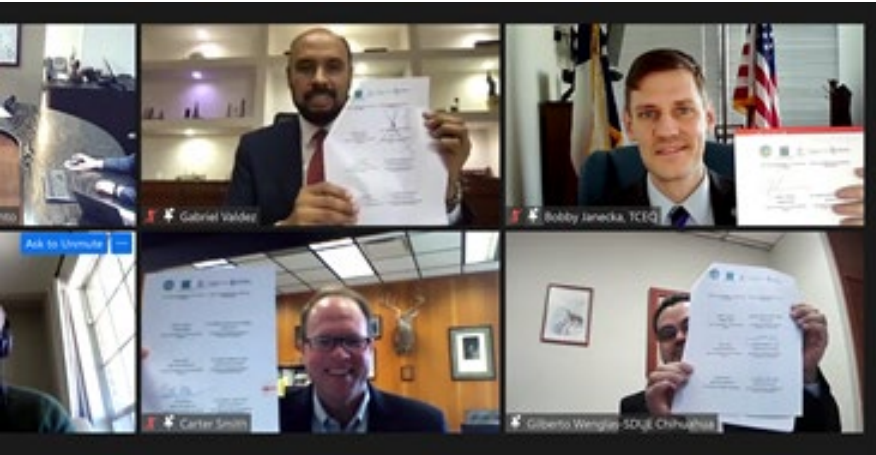
State environmental agencies in:

1. Tamaulipas
2. Nuevo León
3. Coahuila



Memorandums of Cooperation

Border Affairs negotiates with neighboring Mexican states a work plan that details specific actions and goals to be accomplished both during the duration of the MOC and within a calendar year.



- Coahuila (May 2024)
- Chihuahua (June 2019, January 2022)
- Nuevo León (April 2022)
- Tamaulipas (May 2023)



Border Affairs Team

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