

**OUTCOMES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL
TEN STATES RETREAT: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
A REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER ENVIRONMENT
APRIL 2006**

The representatives of the state agencies responsible for environmental quality and protection, and natural resource conservation for the States of **Arizona, Baja California, California, Chihuahua, Sonora, New Mexico, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas and Texas** came together in San Francisco, California on April 19-21, 2006 for the Tenth United States-Mexico Border States Retreat.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To exchange information and learn about successful programs and projects;
- To discuss and take action on some of the key issues affecting the future of the border environment including but not limited to border environmental infrastructure, U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program, vehicle emissions, Border Legislative Conference Initiatives; and
- To take next steps and reach agreements aimed at improving the effectiveness of the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program, the North American Development Bank (NADBank), and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC).

The participants highlighted Ten States achievements in the 2005 Border Governors Conference (BGC) Joint Declaration and BGC joint declarations over the past nine years.

The Ten States heard a Council of State Governments West, Border Legislative Conference presentation on a *New Vision for Trade along the US-Mexico Border*.

The Ten States also heard a perspective from U.S. EPA regarding status of federal funding for the border region, the need to continue to support the allocation of additional funding to this important region, and the importance of identifying political leadership in leading local taskforces to leverage resources.

The state officials also presented and discussed concepts and ideas for the 2006 BGC Joint Declarations.

The meeting was hosted by the California Environmental Protection Agency with support from the Western Governors Association (WGA) and the California State Water Resources Control Board. The host for the 2007 Ten States Retreat will be determined prior to the 2006 Border Governors Conference.

Agreements and Next Steps

Responsibility for Future 10 State Communication

- By May 8, 2006, California will email Ten States representatives a document outlining roles and responsibilities, tasks, and budget for hosting the annual Ten States Retreat and for coordination efforts leading to the Ten States Retreat.

- On May 12, 10:00 am, the Ten States representatives will hold a conference call to decide the host and coordinator for the 2007 Ten States Retreat and related activities.
- The host and coordinator of the 2007 Ten States Retreat will be presented at the 2006 Border Governors Conference in Austin, Texas.

Air Quality/Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (ULSDF)

- Nuevo Leon will contact PEMEX via telephone regarding the status of their ULSDF program.
- By May 8, 2006, Nuevo Leon will draft a letter from the Ten States to President Vicente Fox, with a copy to the Director of PEMEX requesting the status of Mexico's efforts to make ULSDF available to Mexican border states by 2007.
- The letter will be finalized following the Ten States conference call on May 12th, 2006.
- If PEMEX options include purchase of ULSDF from the U.S. Border States, a separate Ten States letter to the appropriate U.S. agencies may be prepared regarding identification of ULSDF availability.

Joint Declarations

- A total of six draft Joint Declarations for the Environment Worktable were selected for further consideration.
- The Ten States representatives will select three draft Joint Declarations by June 1, 2006. The three selected Joint Declarations will be presented at the Border Governors Conference in Austin, Texas in August 2006.

Border 2012

- By June 1, 2006, following discussions at the National Coordinators Meeting, California will draft a letter to U.S. EPA on behalf of the Ten States with recommendations for modifications to the Border 2012 Program.