

**Air Quality Task Force Meeting
Mexicali / Imperial
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 4th, 2020**

Co-chairs: Belen León; Saul Guzmán

I. Attendance:

Izadora Clark Ordoñez, Environmental Protection Management; **Efrain Nieblas**, Environmental Protection Management; **Lilian García**, National Border Patrol Council; **Margarito Quintero** interested in air quality issues; **Oscar Romo**, PERSIS; **Raúl Tovar** Air Quality; **Iván Martínez**, REDSPIRA; **Alberto Mexia**, REDSPIRA; **Patricia Torres**, REDSPIRA; **Fernando Amador**, CARB; **Ryan Atencio**, CARB; **Juan Serrato**, Mexicali Public Utilities State Commission; **Marco Antonio Vargas**, agricultural farmer; **Alicia Botello**, Mexicali Ecological and Environmental Community Committee; **Oswaldo Leyva**, Architecture and design School in UABC; **Adriana Arias Vallejo**, Architecture and Design School in UABC; **Alejandra Álvarez**, OBSERBC; **Daniel Yáñez**, PROFEPA; **Laura Lawrence**, EPA; **Reyes Romero**, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; **Marlene Flores**, Imperial County Transportation Commission; **Meosotis Torres**, Environmental Protection Management; **Luis Olmedo**, Comité Cívico del Valle; **Sandy Ian**, US Consulate in Tijuana; **Arturo Castro**, Environmental Control Engineering; **Rodolfo Castro**, Environmental control Engineering; **Ray Askins**, Environmentalist; **Amy Zimpfer**, EPA

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The public was reminded about the interpretation services available and how to activate them through the Zoom platform.

Belen León welcomed everyone to the task force's second Zoom meeting. She commented that if anyone is new to the group and they are interested in receiving the agenda and the minutes to please provide their information including an email that she will link in the chat.

Saul Guzmán welcomed everyone and thanked those who attended for their time.

Belen León said that it is particularly important to mention your name and affiliation before you speak so that it can be included in the minutes. She mentioned **Amy Zimpfer** from EPA had great suggestions in the last meeting and they tried to add all of them to the agenda.

II. Revision of Minutes from Prior Meeting

The previous minute was reviewed and there are no observations.

III. Presentations / Questions and Answers

The Salton Sea Imperial County Efforts; Katie, Imperial County Special Projects Coordinator.

Amy Zimpfer thanked **Katie** for her presentation and gave kudos to the district on how they are approaching this issue. She mentioned the EPA approved the PM10 re-designation request and maintenance plan. She commented it was predicated by the actions in the maintenance plan. She asked if **Katie** could talk more about

the levels, they are seeing out there both from regulatory and non-regulatory monitors and if she does not have that information at hand maybe share it with the group later.

Katie mentioned she will pull some data together so that she can give her a better answer. She said they have two regulatory monitors plus the six non-regulatory monitor stations from IID around the shoreline of the Salton Sea.

Amy Zimpfer said she appreciates all the efforts that she is making. She commented that she underscored several of the comments about the importance of the public to see that there is an effort underway.

Border Water Infrastructure of the New River; Gabriela Baez Castañeda, US EPA.

Belen Leon asked **Gabriela Baez** if she could send the diagnostics report to her email so she could share it with anyone from the group that requested it. She mentioned they have **Ramiro Zaragoza** from SEMARNAT on the line if they have any questions for him about the Mexico side of the New River.

Pro Aire Status and Industry Environmental Compliance Requirement; Saul Guzman, Director of Environmental Protection in Mexico.

Alberto Mexia asked which pollutants are included in the new monitoring stations, in which areas they will be installed, and on what date.

Saul Guzmán said that the pollutants remain the same with which they have been working. He mentioned that they want to cover the area of the Technological Institute of Mexicali with a southwest orientation so that they can further explain the correlation of pollutants in the final part of the urban area with the Mexicali valley.

Alberto Mexia mentioned if he could talk specifically about pollutants because in Mexicali particles are being given a lot of relevance and he thinks that there is a need to talk more about the other criteria. He commented that the current stations do not have a high range. He asked if there would be an increase in pollutants or if they were going to be left with ozone, particles, and the basics.

Saul Guzmán commented that it will be the basic contaminants. He said that they are waiting to be able to be equipped for PM10 and 2.5 and gases like monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur, and ozone. He mentioned that the idea is to continue with them because it is difficult to obtain the resources and make them differentiated. He said that what they want is to equip themselves with infrastructure and then see how they study differentiated things.

Alberto Mexia asked what had happened to the equipment from the CONACYT event.

Saul Guzmán said that this project via FOMEX has not finished yet, he mentioned that the alternative they are looking for is not to throw away this resource and recover the low-cost stations and then see how to locate them on the map of stations they have.

A participant asked if they included maintenance funds and the cost of operation in this plan.

Saul Guzmán mentioned that they are, he said that they are programming the 2021 budget to rehabilitate at least two more stations, one in Tijuana and another in Mexicali, and bring in resources for the maintenance of the stations.

A participant mentioned that the monitor station at COBACH has not been sending data in recent days and asked if they could give a date for when it will be fixed. He said that the season with the highest contamination in Mexicali is beginning and it is especially important to have data from the stations.

Saul Guzmán said they have had problems with several of the stations in Mexicali. He mentioned that the colder weather will not break down as regularly. He said that it is being taken care of.

A **participant** asked what part vehicle emissions plays and what regulatory actions are planned to combat this.

Saul Guzmán commented that they have identified that a good vehicle verification program can reduce pollutants in the transportation sector by 22 to 30%. He said that the program was unfortunately suspended this year because 16 of the 18 concessions expired and they are preparing a new program for the heavy-use transport sector so that they can start the following year.

A **participant** asked what protection is being given to workers working in this industry. He asked if workers are aware of what they are exposed to and what preventive measures they can take.

Saul Guzmán said he does not have a concrete answer. He commented that the Ministry of Labor is responsible for the safety of the work environment in industries. He mentioned that his work focuses on regulating activity when there are emissions.

Belen León thanked **Saul Guzman** for the breakdown of the industries that the state regulates. She mentioned she thinks it is important to have a consolidated list of the dependencies that regulate at a local, state, and federal level. She said this is important because people do not know who to contact when they have complaints.

Alberto Mexia commented that together with the Directorate of Environmental Protection of the city council, RESPIRA is developing a project for the subject that **Belen León** commented on. He said that it is an online app where people can identify the type of complaint they want to make and the area to which it corresponds. He mentioned that the reports are being automated, and they are evaluating generating a group of lawyers to represent these people depending on the complexity of their situation. He said that it is particularly important because in Mexicali the events derived from the lack of regulatory attention are increasing. He added that once they have the first version running, they would like to invite **Saul Guzmán** and the team to join in receiving the complaints.

IV. Border 2020 Project and Updates

Christine Vineyard wanted to talk about the US Berkley indicator project and its continuing development of indicator tools for the city of Mexicali and that they will focus on the transportation sector. She said that in phases 1 and 2 they have developed indicator maps related to the demographics and pollution exposure which are available to the public on their website. She mentioned that in the future phases of the project they plan to use their findings to help identify the electrification of city buses in the region. She mentioned the Sensor Network Expansion project that is continuing to make progress on their low-cost sensor network in Mexicali. She commented that they have a quality assurance plan that has been approved by the EPA and they will also make their data available on their website and mobile app. She asked if any of the task force members have received any feedback from their September 22nd sensor training or if anybody made a specific request.

Belen Leon said they have not received any feedback. She mentioned AQTF is doing a project where the AQI will be displayed after the weather on channel 76 news in Mexicali.

Alberto Mexia mentioned that they are using an average of air quality in the city, which considers the normative monitors. He commented that the new website includes the panoramic camera of the city and a map with the locations as a graphic tool.

Belen León mentioned another Project that they are doing with **Alberto Mexia** which is the Loteria. She commented the Ambientalízate campaign started on October 26th and said the goal is to go year-round with the campaign.

V. Updates from Federal, State, Local Governments, and Others.

Nancy Lebon commented the EPA approved Imperial County's 2018 re-designation request and maintenance plan for PM10 and it is now in the federally enforceable State Implementation Plan. She mentioned the other regulatory updates that happened in February will be linked in the chat.

Ryan Atencio said he mentioned in the last meeting a portable emissions acquisition system that CARB's research division is beginning to undertake at the border crossings. He commented this system can collect emissions in a portable fashion from mobile sources crossing through. He said If anybody wanted more information about this system, CARB in the meeting on September 22nd gave an explanation on what the system can do and mentioned he will link the meeting in the chat. He mentioned another project was an inventory one where another CARB division was looking to undertake which would be updating emissions inventory at the border. He asked the group if they had any idea on who to talk to get specific information on vehicles on the Mexican side. He said they will look at how to legally and appropriately do this so they could look at locations to get inventory. He commented CARB's contract for the two monitoring stations was beginning in October at COBACH and UABC. He congratulated **Sylvia** and her staff for getting that contract.

Saul Guzmán thanked **Ryan Atencio** for his comments. Regarding the vehicle monitoring campaign, He said they have information on registered vehicles that could be useful information for the campaign. He said that in 2010-2011 the INEC carried out a remote measurement campaign in vehicles throughout BC. He added that he makes himself available to help in these matters.

Alberto Mejia asked if they could coordinate a meeting with the municipal institute of investigation and urban planning.

Ryan Atencio said he would be happy to do that. He mentioned he would bring the appropriate staff from CARB to that meeting.

Belen Leon said they have **Ramiro Zaragoza** from SEMARNAT and **Efrain Nieblas** from the Municipality of Mexicali on the call and they could be contacted if anyone had questions for them.

Thomas Brinkerhoff gave a brief presentation on the overview of the local AB 617 efforts.

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. Closing Remarks / Adjournment

Belen Leon mentioned proposing border crossing related data and the new infrastructure for the next meeting agenda. She appreciated **Alberto Mexia's** comment because they need to contact somebody to do a presentation on the new border air quality effects. She said they may bring back **Ryan Atencio's** two new projects so they can see their status. She mentioned the next meeting will be on February 4th and that it will probably still be via Zoom.

Saul Guzmán made himself available to all and thanked **Belen León** very much for her support at the meeting.

Belen Leon thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Izadora Clark commented that through **Belen León**, support was arranged for the Directorate of Environmental Protection for an educational intervention project with the State Secretariat of Education. She said she will keep them posted on the progress of that project.

Belen León asked **Izadora Clark** if she could talk a little more about that at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.