



REGION 6 2 Year Action Plan

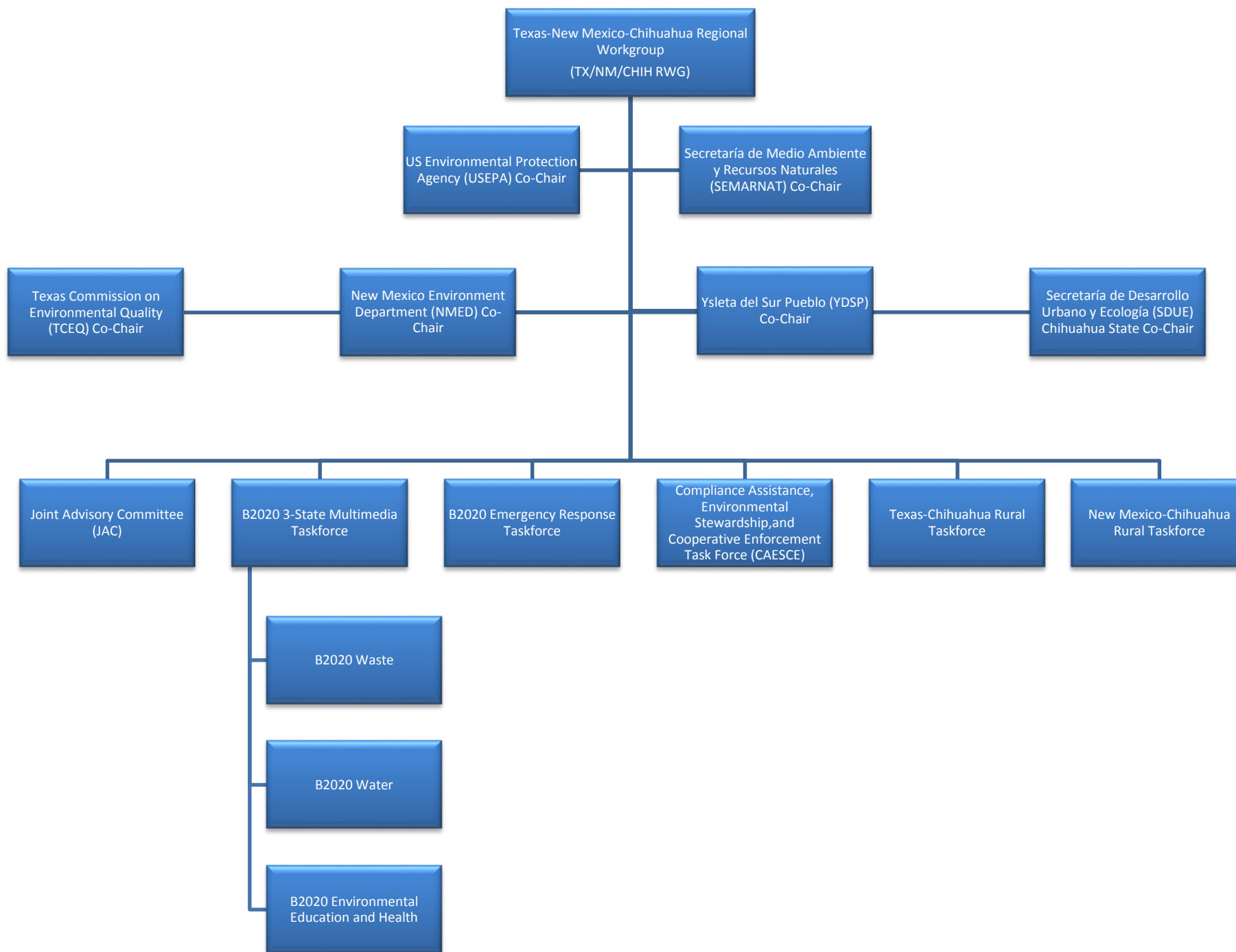
Texas – New Mexico – Chihuahua Regional Workgroup (TX/NM/CHIH RWG)

The Texas- New Mexico-Chihuahua Region stretches approximately 500 miles (800 km) along the international boundary from the Coronado National Forest to Big Bend National Park and includes the following major sister cities: Columbus-Palomas, Las Cruces-El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, and Presidio-Ojinaga. This region is a part of the Chihuahua Desert ecosystem that is primarily comprised of arid to semi-arid biotic communities and is home to the second largest community along the U.S.-Mexico Border known as the Paso del Norte region. The Paso del Norte region is made up of the fastest growing desert cities (Ciudad Juárez, El Paso, and Las Cruces) that share the same limited water resources. Almost two million residents live in the urban and semi-urban area. This population forms an important part of the growing binational economy of the region.

Federal, State and Tribal Partners from the U.S. and Mexico serve as the Co-Chairs of the TX/NM/CHIH RWG (see Organizational Chart). The Co-Chairs support local Task Force efforts and coordinate activities at the regional and local levels. Among other responsibilities, Co-Chairs encourage open dialogue and public participation, leverage resources to achieve program goals, help ensure concrete measurable results, and recommend issues beyond regional scope to be addressed by the Policy Forums. The US EPA El Paso Border Office staff, together with Program Partners help coordinate the Tri-State RWG activities and reports to ensure transparency and timely access to environmental information. The multiple taskforces within the regional workgroup are the foundation of the RWG that encourage local decision-making, priority-setting and project implementation to solve the border region's environmental problems. The taskforces help promote awareness and education on environmental issues, and coordinate efforts with community residents, governmental agencies, universities and NGO's on both sides of the border, in both the urban and rural communities.

The Texas-New Mexico-Chihuahua Regional Workgroup is comprised of the following taskforces:

1. Joint Advisory Committee (Goal 1)
2. Border 2020 TX/NM/CHIH Water Taskforce (Goal 2)
3. Border 2020 TX/NM/CHIH Waste Taskforce (Goal 3)
4. Border 2020 TX/NM/CHIH Emergency Response Taskforce (Goal 4)
5. Compliance Assistance, Environmental Stewardship, and Cooperative Enforcement Task Force (CAESCE) (Goal 5)
6. Border 2020 TX/NM/CHIH Environmental Education and Health Committee (Multi-media)
7. Border 2020 New Mexico-Chihuahua Rural Taskforce (Multi-media)
8. Border 2020 Texas-Chihuahua Rural Taskforce (Multi-media)



Two Year Action Plan (TX/NM/CHIH RWG)

Pro--- ject #	Description of Project	Collaborating organizations and Points of Contact	Ongoing – continuing	Status Complete or accomplished target	Target for 2017 -2018
GOAL 1: REDUCE AIR POLLUTION					
Objective 1: By 2020, reduce the number of vehicles operating in the border region that do not comply with the respective vehicle emissions standards, and reduce vehicle emissions at ports-of-entry through anti-idling and other feasible reduction measures.					
1 – 1	<p>a) Assessment of used Vehicle Emission Import Program’s compliance with emission regulations in Mexico.</p> <p>b) Implement used vehicle importation regulation currently in place in Mexico’s federal register recognizing the validity of decals issued from United States and Canada programs where the vehicle is registered and operated by its title owner.</p>	<p>Mexico’s Custom Agency; SEMARNAT- PROFEPA; Custom brokers; City of Juarez VEIP; State of Chihuahua Ecology and Urban Development Secretariat (SDUE); Daniel Lopez, Mexico City SEMARNAT’s Office for Atmosphere, Emissions Registry and Transport, and a colleague at SEMARNAT’s Assistant Secretary for Norms and Regulations.</p>	<p>Delegate authority to State of Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez’s Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program, by Mexico’s PROFEPA – SEMARNAT’s, so that the City of Juarez VEIP would carry out the emissions test at the moment of vehicle importation.</p> <p>Have a mechanism on hand for efficient-effective share information between SEMARNAT - SAT</p>	<p>a) Accomplished publishing the Federal Rule, regulation, guideline and procedure currently all used vehicles being imported must follow.</p> <p>b) Mexico’s Customs’- SAT gathers data information of vehicles imported daily by port of entry.</p>	<p>a) MoU between administration of the State of Chihuahua, Ciudad Juarez’s Ecology Program with Mexico’s PROFEPA – SEMARNAT’s, so that the City of Juarez would carry out the emissions test at the moment of vehicle importation.</p>
1 – 2	<p>Promote the State of Chihuahua Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program compliance and its consequence on increase of performance when evaluating output of the Ciudad Juarez’s VEIP</p>	<p>City of Juarez Ecology (DGE) VEIP and State of Chihuahua Ecology and Urban Development Secretariat (SDUE); and Ciudad Juarez Ecology Department</p>	<p>Strengthen the State of Chihuahua VEIP, improve enforcement performance by the City of Juarez VEIMP program.</p>	<p>a) 113,335 vehicles were inspected throughout State of Chihuahua.</p>	<p>a) Implement PROAIRE VEIMP measure prioritized by State of Chihuahua’s action plan adding border cities other than Ciudad Juarez.</p> <p>b) Have all vehicles registered in the State of Chihuahua comply with the VEIP.</p>
1 – 3	<p>Freight Shuttle System (FSS) between Ciudad Juarez and El Paso. A privately funded and operated freight transportation</p>	<p>Bob Cook of Cook Strategies Group and Stephen Roop at Freight Shuttle International; a</p>	<p>The FSS is being prototyped and will be available for stakeholders to view in the summer of 2015. The</p>		<p>Ongoing coordination with CBP, Aduana, State Department, SRE, SCT and others; Presidential permit; Right away easemen</p>

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	system that will relieve highly congested international freight corridor at existing POEs. The system, completely automated and controlled by a central command will increase safety and security, reduce congestion at POE, improve air quality, etc.	Director of City of El Paso Streets Departments and POEs, JAC; INDAABIN, Mexico’s SCT; Bob Cook, Stephen Roop, Freight Shuttle	prototype is full-scale and will demonstrate the ability to carry fully-loaded truck trailers.		identified but not secured; Consensus with GSA and INDAABIN;
1 – 4	Zaragoza POE Frontera-21 Lane. Expand the use of dedicated lanes for Trusted Trade to other US – Mexico commercial Ports of Entry (POE) to minimize or eliminate unnecessary wait times for trusted trade.	El Paso – Juarez Private Public Partnership, INDEX, Border Mayors Association; City of El Paso; DHS and Science and Technology; Bob Gray, of SecureOrigins	Integration of Supply Chain and Security at US-Mexico Commercial Ports of Entry. Approach will continue to expand to all US – Mexico Commercial Ports of Entry.	Frontera-21 Lane has been in operation since early 2013 with an estimated reduction of 30 minutes in wait times for trusted trade. Segmentation of trusted trade concept is expanding to other ports.	Validation of cross-border commercial shipment integrity, combined with a detailed assessment of benefits to increase participation in Trusted Trade and efficient cargo processing expanding to other Border POE: Tijuana-San Diego, Laredo – Nuevo Laredo,
Objective 2: By 2020, reduce pollutant emissions in order to approach attainment of respective national ambient air quality standards in the following air-sheds: Paso del Norte (El Paso / Juarez / Sunland Park)					
1-5	Juarez’s Air Quality Improvement Management Program (PROAIRE): Development and implementation of Juarez’s PROAIRE 2016 – 2026. It will address cost – effective measures that would effectively reduce air emissions.	Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez’s government administration SEMARNAT; COESPRIS; USEPA; JAC and academic institutions; State of Chihuahua Government (SDUE)	Overall Project: Ongoing thru 2026.	PROAIRE complete, presented during the 67 th JAC meeting on September 22, 2016, as per Terms of Reference for the PROAIRE Outline and Guidelines that have been produced,	Start implementation of State of Chihuahua PROAIRE. Status report and document sessions to be presented at each of 2017 -2018 JAC meetings Evaluate annually effectiveness of measures in PROAIRE
1 – 6	Reduction of Brick–kilns emissions, and assessment of reduction of risk of exposure by 2015. Relocate brick-kilns in MX border cities, to an appropriate location away from populated neighborhoods, with MK2	Federal, State, Municipal government administration partnering with brick makers’ association and academic institutions; Alba Yadira Corral Avitia of UACJ, and Chihuahua-SDUE	Relocation still in the plans as an Initiative, for every traditional brick kiln being substituted on its place by a MK2 design. Ongoing, construction of Modified Brick Kilns Design known as MK2 is now being		Coordination between State of Chihuahua and Juarez’s Ecology authorities supporting applicable Land Use and Urban Planning accordingly to study findings and technical strategies presented by Juarez’s Autonomous University PIs with active participation by Brick Makers’ sector.

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	design used for construction of new brick-kilns.		used throughout the Country of Mexico.		
1 – 7	Bring enforcement agencies, where appropriate, into dialogue about best management practices for mitigating particulate matter.	EPA; NMED; NMDOH - OBH SEMARNAT; Junta Municipal de Agua in Palomas; City of Las Cruces; NMSU, Cattle Ranchers Association in Northern Chihuahua USDA, NRCS Las Cruces office, and BLM Las Cruces office; Dr Dave DuBois State Climatologist and NMSU Professor; Freida Adams with NMDOH, and Michael Baca at NMED	Follow up best management practices that resulted from three workshop held in Columbus, Palomas and at Ascención / Janos including cattle ranchers as well.		Provide support NM-OBH’s Binational study; in conjunction with B2020 Air Policy Forum. Final report and map will be placed on the project’s website at: http://nmborder.nmsu.edu and at http://border.nmsu.edu
Objective 3: By 2018, maintain effective air monitoring networks and provide real-time access to air quality data in: Paso del Norte Airshed; Any additional binational airshed that is designated as non-attainment for U.S. or Mexican air quality standards prior to 2015.					
1 - 8	Air Monitoring networks for the El Paso / Juarez Region. Deploy, maintain, and operate the air quality monitoring network designed to measure, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide, Particulate Matter between 2.5 and 10 microns, and Metrological data	JAC Air Quality Data Working Committee, USEPA; TCEQ; SEMARNAT – INECC, City of Juarez Ecology Air Quality Program and El Paso Air Quality; Program; Dr. Victor H Paramo, INECC; Carlos A Rincon, USEPA JAC Chair, and Ciudad Juarez Ecology Department	On-going, carrying out steps as per assessment done in 2013 by EPA intern; ongoing discussion of AAQM Juarez’s Air Quality Monitoring department in conjunction with Mexico’s National Ecology Institute and Climate Change INECC; is in process of submitting a comprehensive recommendation and financial support.		Establish mechanism for sustainable means of financial support for consumables and continuous operation, maintenance and calibration of AQMS. Recommend establishment of new and relocation of old monitoring sites in areas where data is needed to demonstrate impact to communities.
1 – 9	Improve Ciudad Juarez’s Air Quality Monitoring Network. Expand Ambient Air Quality Monitoring geographic	State of Chihuahua Executive administration; City of Juarez’s government; State of	Project On-going. Taking into consideration outcome of EPA’s Intern document, the Juarez’s Ecology Department is		Identify means of financial support for consumables and continuous operation, maintenance and calibration of AQMS.

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	coverage and analytical capabilities; enhance and advance on quality of data and public notification measures. Encourage and promote to the State of Chihuahua, applying for federal funding available to states (Programa Estatal de Financiamiento- PEF).	Chihuahua Congress; The State of Chihuahua Government, and Ciudad Juarez Ecology Department	following up on findings and have done various visits to the CAAQMN sites, During 2015 State of Chihuahua’s PROAIRE a proposed network and technical capabilities will be included in the Air Quality section.		Assure annual source of funding included in the 2015 budget proposal for an Air Quality Project to be financed by local, state and federal mechanisms of source of funding
1 – 10	Maintain operation of the binational air quality monitoring network for consistent reporting to community of the PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} levels, as well as other priority contaminants, as established under the NMDOH-OBH funded the Binational Air Quality Assessment	EPA; NMED; NMDOH-OBH; SEMARNAT; Consortium of NNMSU-Utep-UACJ-Desert Research Institute; Junta Municipal de Aguas in Palomas, Chihuahua; National Weather Service Santa Teresa office; NMED Michael Baca, NMDOH Freida Adams, and NMSU Dave DuBois	Ongoing analysis to map and monitor the sources of windblown dust in the three states. New effort to predict the onset of windblown dust through sensor development and dust storm weather pattern climatology for the border region. Dr. David Dubois findings and recommendations would allow for a binational AQ monitoring and information reporting to be included in the PROAIRE.		Integrate air quality monitoring efforts, data sharing and reporting among state and local authorities and universities of New Mexico, Northern Chihuahua and West Texas. Make data available on the Internet and other appropriate public access outlets (including mass and social media) in all three states. Assessment of climatologically & meteorological phenomena; inventory & characterization of sources of Particulates during extreme weather events.
Objective 4: By 2015, support completion of, climate action plans in each of the six northern Mexican Border States (as appropriate), and build the necessary capacity for sustained implementation.					
1 – 11	State of Chihuahua Climate Action Plan and support Implementation	SEMARNAT; State of Chihuahua Governor’s Administration; State of Chihuahua SDUE; INE; BECC; Tomas, Balarezo, BECC, SEMARNAT	Numerous Public Policies for mitigating climate change has been identified obtained and worked through a set of open public participation and multi-jurisdictional process.		Work on valorization and feasibility of Implementation the State of Chihuahua’s Climate Action Plan mitigating measures as per work program within its 2nd phase.
Objective 5: By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.					

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1 – 12	The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (YDSP) will reduce particulate matter by improving dirt roads on the Tribal Ranch	YDSP Environmental Department; Evaristo Cruz (YDSP)	On-going; The Pueblo has been in contact with Terry McMillan who is a vender of this surface hardening product and will be scheduling a trip to the ranch to look into application possibility	<p>The Ranch roads have been managed with caliche but the surface has not been treated with any soil hardening material as planned.</p> <p>The pueblo has used a similar product to treat parking areas that are used to service the Speaking Rock entertainment center.</p>	<p>The Pueblo will continue to review this project and identify funding sources.</p> <p>Identify portions of the ranch that would greatly benefit from this application and look at cost for the application, aimed toward dust abatement by hardening the soil.</p>
1 – 13	Reduce YDSP Carbon footprint by funding energy efficient retrofits for government buildings, to include retrofits to HVAC systems and energy efficient glass	YDSP Environmental Department; EPA Region 6 Air Program; Evaristo Cruz (YDSP)	On-going, EPA energy star portfolio manager has been set up for all government buildings and bench marking will begin this year.	The administration building has installed double paned weather proof windows and LED lighting for all offices.	<p>The Pueblo is continuing to work with EPA Portfolio manager in logging energy utilization data</p> <p>Weatherized windows will be retrofitted to the administration building to improve the energy efficiency and energy escape of these windows.</p>
1 – 14	Reduce Carbon Foot Print by converting all YDSP water wells to run off of solar panels rather than generators or local electric grid.	YDSP Environmental Department; NRCS/USDA; Evaristo A. Cruz, Santana Villa (NRCS/USDA)	The Ranch has retrofitted a total of 5 wells with solar panels and improving energy savings and reducing the carbon footprint.	An addition of 2 wells have been retrofitted with solar systems.	The Pueblo will begin benchmarking to empirically identify cost savings and energy savings.

