



January 24, 2022

TO: Mr. Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman

FROM: Luis Ramirez, President, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Activities – December 2021

On behalf of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC (“RAI-N”) allow me to present our activity report to you and the Board of Directors of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority. As always, we request and welcome your continued comments and suggestions as to how we can improve on our services, our communications and on our activities on your behalf. With your feedback, we will make every effort to improve our response to your directives and ensure an effective implantation of the initiatives at hand.

Our recent activities on behalf of the GNSCCPA have focused on the following key areas:

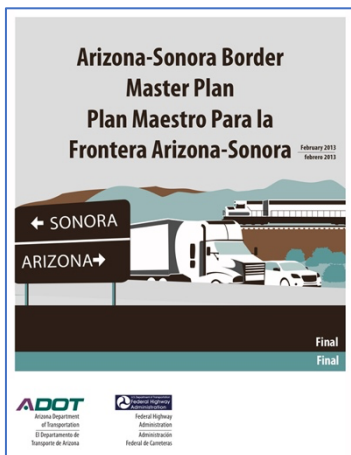
1. Mariposa Cold Room Project Update;
2. Arizona-Sonora Border Master Plan;
3. Supporting Continuation of ADEQ;
4. Delegation Letter on I-94 Waiver pilot program
5. Event with US Ambassador to Mexico, Ken Zalazar;
6. AMC Dinner with Governor Alfonso Durazo;
7. Governor Durazo holds Roundtable Discussion with GPEC;
8. NADBank announces Grant for IOI; and
9. Port Authority promotes CBP information on I-94’s.

This report is not intended to be a full description of all activities but rather, provides highlights and information on the direction of our activities to keep the Board of Directors informed and to ensure adherence to the vision and guidance imparted to RAI-N by the GNSCCPA and its leadership. Throughout this period, RAI-N has maintained active and frequent communications with Ms. Allison Moore, Mr. Bruce Bracker and various other members of the Board of Directors in order to ensure that we have a fully coordinated approach to our efforts. RAI-N stands ready to address any issue, concern or suggestion that may arise from this report and from our on-going dialogue with the leadership and the Board of Directors.

1. *MARIPOSA COLD ROOM PROJECT UPDATE*

- Work with the General Services Administration (GSA) continues on the project.
- GSA has provided initial response to changes suggested by Technical Team on the Revocable License Agreement.
- Technical discussions continue between PA and GSA on architectural requirements, including the easements for the electric energy service.
- Port Authority is working with architects to complete 90% design for submission.

2. *ARIZONA-SONORA BORDER MASTER PLAN*



- The Arizona Department of Transportation has selected the vendor to update the 2013 Arizona-Sonora Border Master Plan.
- For those interested, they can view the original Master Plan at: <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/completed-transportation-studies/arizona-sonora-border-master-plan>
- A list of stakeholders has been provided to ADOT that includes the Port Authority stakeholder distribution list and other key local and regional stakeholders.
- Be on the lookout for upcoming meetings and information gathering efforts by ADOT and the consulting team.

3. *SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF ADEQ*



- The Arizona State Legislature is conducting a Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).
- The Port Authority submitted a letter to the state legislature in support of the continuation of the agency.
- “On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I write to express our support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for the maximum allowable period of 10 years... While our relationship with ADEQ is broad and covers our air, water, and land, we have had a close working relationship with the department on a key local issue with critical binational implications: the International Outfall Interceptor or IOI,” stated Chairman Chamberlain in the letter.
- A copy of the letter can be found in Attachment #1.

4. *DELEGATION LETTER IN SUPPORT OF I-94 WAIVER PROGRAM*

- On December 8, 2021, Arizona’s Senators Sinema and Kelly, along with House Representatives Stanton, Schweikert and Kirkpatrick, sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, asking for the implementation of a pilot program for the Expansion of Arizona and New Mexico Border Zone Travel.
- In the letter, Delegation members stressed “This pilot has the ability to improve efficiency at port of entry, allowing CBP officers to focus on the agency’s other critical missions, including the flow of commercial trade and the prevention of cross-border crime. November 3, 2021, Chairman Chamberlain, and Board member Josh Rubin, participated in a meeting during which Juan Laborin, a consultant, proposed modifications to the Mexican side of the Mariposa port of entry.”
- DHS has not confirmed this pilot program.
- A copy of the letter can be found in Attachment #2.

5. *EVENT WITH US AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, KEN SALAZAR*

- On December 15, 2021, US Consul General in Nogales, Sonora, Laura Biedebach hosted a dinner with local officials featuring US Ambassador to Mexico, Ken Salazar.
- Ambassador Salazar engaged for over 2 hours with various stakeholders, including an extensive discussion of border infrastructure issues with Mark Sanders, Director of International Affairs from the Arizona Department of Transportation and on the DeConcini port of entry, manufacturing, cross-border logistics and job creation with Chairman Chamberlain and Board Member Josh Rubin.
- Additionally, Allison Moore of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas was able to pose questions about food supply during the conversation.
- Additionally, attending on behalf of Nogales, Arizona were:
 - The Honorable Esther Melendez-Lopez, Vice Mayor, City of Nogales
 - The Honorable Joe Diaz, Councilman, City of Nogales
 - Olivia Ainza-Kramer, Nogales Chamber of Commerce
 - Luis Heredia, Office of Senator Mark Kelly





6. AMC DINNER WITH GOVERNOR ALFONSO DURAZO

- On December 17, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Arizona-Mexico Commission hosted a dinner with Governor Alfonso Durazo of Sonora.
- The dinner offered an opportunity to engage in an intimate dialogue with Governor Durazo on a variety of issues, including the need to expedite traffic at Querobabi and the need to coordinate with Sonora on the update to the Arizona-Sonora Border Master Plan.





7. GOVERNOR DURAZO PRESENTS INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS TO GPEC

- On December 17, 2021, Governor Durazo participated in a roundtable discussion with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) during which he presented a detailed overview of his plans to invest and modernize Sonora’s infrastructure.
- Governor Durazo stressed his interest in promoting the Tourism Sector and 1,207 kilometers of coastline that Sonora has as an area of opportunity.
- He also mentioned his interest in promoting the Port of Guaymas and a corridor from the seaport to Chihuahua.



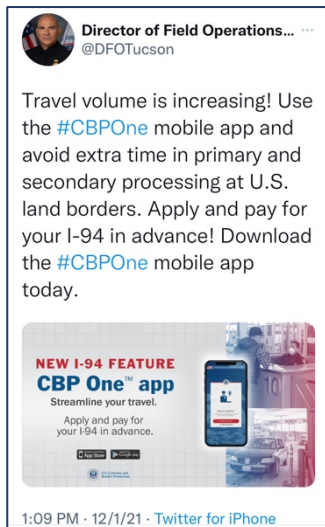
	<p>IMPACT INVESTMENTS PROJECTS</p> <p>Customs - Land Ports of Entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Luis Rio Colorado Sonoyta Sasabe Nogales (2) Naco Agua Prieta <p>Highways and Roads</p> <p>Private Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caborca - SLRC Puerto Peñasco - Sonoyta Hermosillo - Kino Bay <p>Logistics Bypasses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navojoa Caborca Sonoyta Nogales San Luis Rio Colorado Imuris - Aribabi <p>Sea Ports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guaymas Puerto Peñasco (Home Port) <p>Public Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guaymas - Chihuahua Huachinera - El Willy Sáric - El Sasabe Bavispe - Agua Prieta <p>Beach Destination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puerto Peñasco Caborca Guaymas 		<p>Located in the northwestern region of the country, bordering to the north with Arizona, United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22,500 Miles of roads and highways 1-15 4 lane Federal highway 15 connecting with the US through I-10 and I-19 5 Border States with Sonora 8 Customs - Land Ports of Entry 6 International airports 2 Cargo capacity airports 1 International direct flight 1,250 Miles with FERROMEX as provider 1 Deep sea Port for imports and exports with railroad
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8. NADBANK ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR IOI



- On December 2, 2021, the North American Development Bank, during a meeting of the organization’s Board of Directors, announced a \$2.8 million grant to be applied at the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI).
- This complements the efforts by ADEQ and our Senators in helping to secure the necessary funding to affect the repairs of the IOI.
- According to the NADBank website: the project consists of the abandonment of five substandard lateral connections to the IOI, three of which will be relocated to the nearest manhole on the IOI, as well as erosion protection for vulnerable segments of the IOI within the Nogales Wash. (www.nabank.org).

9. PORT AUTHORITY PROMOTES CBP INFORMATION ON I-94’S



- As part of the efforts to facilitate travel with the modification of travel restrictions for non-essential travel, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) urged travelers to go on-line and secure and pay for their I-94s prior to arrival at the border in order help mitigate long delays as people were once again traveling to the US for non-essential purposes.
- By securing the I-94 prior to arrival at the border, travelers could eliminate some of the processing time required to secure an I-94 at the border at Secondary inspection.
- In a combined effort of staffing, coordination with Mexico, and pushing information to the traveling public, the much-anticipated excessive long wait times to cross the border were avoided. Thank you CBP!!

Attachment #1
Copy of letter in support of ADEQ Continuation



December 16, 2021

The Honorable Gail Griffin
Chairwoman
Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee
Arizona State Legislature
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Judy Burges
Vice Chair

RE: Continuation of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Dear Chairwoman Griffin and Vice-Chair Burges,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I write to express our support for the continuation of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for the maximum allowable period of 10 years.

The numbers tell the story. Just in FY 2021, they have issued more than 6,400 permits, conducted more than 4,300 site inspections and more than 1.7 million vehicle emissions tests, and done so much more to protect and enhance the environment. While our relationship with ADEQ is broad and covers our air, water and land, we have had a close working relationship with the department on a key local issue with critical binational implications: the International Outfall Interceptor or IOI.

As you know, more than 14 million gallons of raw sewage from Mexico cross the international boundary every day for treatment at the Rio Rico Wastewater Treatment facility. The IOI, a pipeline that runs from the border along the Nogales Wash to Rio Rico, is decades old, in a state of disrepair, and subject to major breaches particularly during the Monsoon season.

After a multi-year legal battle and ongoing negotiations, ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera and his team reached a settlement with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission that resulted in a commitment of approximately \$38 million to modernize the pipeline. This investment will greatly improve our groundwater quality and reduce the threats to our basin and the Santa Cruz River. In past breaches of the IOI, hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage reached our surface water and posed a great threat to local health. While we are truly excited about this investment, we continue our work with ADEQ on a number of IOI-related projects that still remain unresolved.

Our community of 20,000 people (47,000 county wide) simply does not have the resources to affect these repairs. Without ADEQ at the helm in these negotiations with the federal government and

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The Honorable Gail Griffin
The Honorable Judy Burges
December 16, 2021

other stakeholders, we would not be awaiting this investment and improvements.

We are truly grateful to ADEQ for the partnership with have developed and look forward to our continued working relationship with them. We hope you will work with your colleagues in the legislature to ensure the continuation of ADEQ so that our work with them can continue.

Respectfully,



Jaime Chamberlain
Chairman

CC: Senator Rosana Gabaldon
Representative Andrea Dalessandro
Representative Daniel Hernandez, Jr.
Misael Cabrera, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Attachment #2
Copy of Delegation letter on I-94 Waiver

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We request the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provide us the briefing previously requested on the status and timeline for implementation of the *Expansion of Arizona and New Mexico Border Zone Travel* pilot program included in *Title II – Security, Enforcement, and Investigations of the Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260)*.

In your May 24, 2021, letter, you indicated that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) leadership was “working to finalize a timeline for the pilot program to be implemented as soon as the COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted.” You further indicated the Department would be prepared to provide a briefing when the United States was closer to lifting travel restrictions. With travel restrictions now lifted between the United States and Mexico as of November 8, it is time for the Department to move expeditiously to advance this pilot.

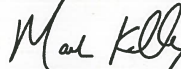
This pilot has the ability to improve efficiency at ports of entry, allowing CBP officers to focus on the agency’s other critical missions, including the flow of commercial trade and the prevention of cross-border crime.

This briefing will ensure Congress understands DHS’s short-term and long-term plans regarding this initiative. We look forward to your update and thank you for your prompt attention.

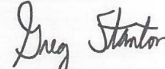
Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senate



Mark Kelly
U.S. Senate



Greg Stanton
U.S. House



David Schweikert
U.S. House



Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. House

cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Chris Murphy, Chair, Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman, Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee