

February 21, 2023

TO: Mr. Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman

FROM: Luis E. Ramirez Thomas, President, Ramirez Advisors Inter-National

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Activities – January 2023

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

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

1. Mariposa Cold Rooms Project Update;
2. Inauguration for Mayor Jorge Maldonado and Nogales City Council;
3. Inauguration of Governor Katie Hobbs and nominees for state agencies and key policy advisors;
4. PA Sends Letter on Querobabi to Governor of Sonora;
5. North American Leader’s Summit;
6. Budget Proposal to eliminate CVE Task Force;
7. BIMP Workshop with City, County and Local Stakeholders;
8. Farewell Lunch for Director John Halikowski;
9. ADOT Participates in City Council Meeting to Address Country Club Dr.;
10. Congressional Letter on Border Water Infrastructure Program; and
11. Dialogue with GSA and EPA on Urban Design Study process.

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 ongoing dialogue with the leadership and the Board of Directors.

1. MARIPOSA COLD ROOMS PROJECT UPDATE

- The technical team continues to hold monthly calls to define next steps as the construction phase of the project continues.
- Project team anticipates that the project can be completed by the first week in March 2023.
- Consideration for ribbon-cutting ceremony for April 6, 2023. Many details need to be worked out with GSA and CBP, in particular because CBP will have to clear any and all invitees so that they can enter the CBP compound.

2. INAGURATION OF MAYOR JORGE MALDONADO AND NOGALES CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



- On January 3, 2023, in a ceremony held at the Nogales High School, The Honorable Jorge Maldonado was sworn in as Mayor for the City of Nogales.
- Additionally, new and returning members of City Council, The Honorable John Doyle, The Honorable Hector Bojorquez and the Honorable Esther Melendez-Lopez (who was unable to attend in person) were also sworn in during the ceremony.



- Important to note that, at the invitation of then Mayor-Elect Maldonado, the Honorable Alfonso Durazo, Governor of Sonora, was in attendance during the festivities.
- Mayor Maldonado embraced a theme that was inclusive of the youth in Nogales, reflected by selecting students to as masters of ceremony for the festivities.

▪ Ramirez Advisors would like to congratulate Mayor and Council. We are excited to continue our work with City leadership!

3. INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR HOBBS, AND APPOINTMENTS TO KEY STATE AGENCIES AND POLICY ADVISORS



- On January 5th, the Honorable Katie Hobbs was sworn in as our new Governor, along with the Honorable Adrian Fontes as the Secretary of State (we mention Mr. Fontes because of his roots in the Nogales community).
- Present during the ceremony were former Arizona Governors Doug Ducey and Jan Brewer along with Sonora Governor, Alfonso

Durazo.

- Since the inauguration, the Governor has made many appointments, including:
 - Jennifer Toth as Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation
 - Karen Peters as Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
 - Marisol Flores-Aguirre, Director, Governor’s Southern Arizona Office
 - Billy Kovacks, Federal Affairs Liaison

4. PA SENDS LETTER ON QUEROBABI TO GOVERNOR OF SONORA

Greater Nogales Santa Cruz C... @PortNogales

In response to industry concerns, PA sends letter to Governor @AlfonsoDurazo regarding impact of Querobabi inspections on trade and tourism. Look forward to working with the Governor to implement programs that enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of the AZ-MX Corridor.

Murphy Woodhouse · 1/20/23

The @PortNogales is raising major issues about the @SEDENAmx military checkpoint in Querobabi, Sonora: costly delays, damage to goods etc. Here's a letter they just wrote to Sonoran Governor @AlfonsoDurazo

- On January 5th, in response to complaints and concerns from industry, the Port Authority sent a letter to the Governor of Sonora asking for his intervention in addressing the chronic delays experienced by trucks at the Querobabi Military Inspection Station.
- Querobabi, located between Hermosillo and Nogales, Sonora, is an inspection station operated by the Mexican Military (SEDENA for its initials in Spanish).
- Industry, both maquila and fresh produce, have reported recurring delays that are typically in the 4-to-8-hour range, severely impacting regional supply chains.
- Additionally, industry is reporting damage to their products during the manual inspection process by SEDENA personnel. The manual inspection is a

- break in the security chain, and a break in the cold chain for temperature sensitive commodities.
- In the letter, the request was for the Governor of Sonora work with the appropriate authorities to help address the situation, with the recognition that the military efforts are essential to security efforts of the region, but that with non-intrusive technologies and additional training, the inspection process could be more effective and efficient.
 - The Port Authority outlined a number of areas that could have a positive impact on the situation:
 - Deployment of programs that enables certified companies to be expedited during the inspection process
 - Deployment of Non-Intrusive Inspection technologies
 - Training for SEDENA personnel on new inspection techniques and use of NII
 - Consider expansion of inspection process to monitor southbound traffic
 - Possible relocation of facilities to locations closer to the border.
 - The Port Authority also offered to participate in meetings that may be convened to discuss the situation at Querobabi to ensure industry input into the process.
 - This letter and the request received significant media attention in the region.
 - A copy of the letter is provided in Attachment #1.

5. NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS SUMMIT

- On January 9-10, the Presidents of Mexico, and the United States, along with the Canadian Prime Minister, met for two days of meetings in Mexico City.
- While the meeting touched on a myriad of topics of mutual interest, there were a few that stand to have greater impact on the US-Mexico border, including:
 - Focus on strengthening the supply chains for semiconductors/microchip manufacturing;
 - Development of North American map of essential minerals;
 - Deployment of electric vehicle charging networks long the border to ensure a seamless cross border flow of electric vehicles.
- A copy of the joint declaration outlining all these initiatives can be found in Attachment #2.

6. BUDGET PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE CVE TASK FORCE

- In the Governor's budget proposal that was submitted to the Arizona Legislature, there is a provision that eliminates the Commercial Vehicle

Enforcement Task Force (CVETF) that brings together the Arizona Department of Public Safety and ADOT for the inspection process at the ports of entry.

- While the Port Authority originally opposed the creation of the Task Force, the Task Force has proven to be an asset in efforts to expedite the inspection process and ensuring safer roads with the added benefit that now DPS is an integral part of the stakeholder process.
- A copy of the letter to the Governor is provided in Attachment #3.

7. BIMP WORKSHOP WITH CITY, COUNTY AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

ID	State	Agency / Sponsor	Facility	Project	Status
65	AZ	Santa Cruz County	Public Road	...	...
72	AZ	ADOT Santa Cruz County	W. Frontage Road	...	...
81	AZ	Santa Cruz County	W. Frontage Road	...	...
84	AZ	City of Nogales	Public Library Varsity	...	...
85	AZ	Santa Cruz County	Nogales Drive	...	...
95	AZ	City of Nogales	Frank Reed Road	...	...
111	AZ	Santa Cruz County	Public Road	...	...
141	AZ	City of Nogales	...	...	...
344	City of Nogales	...	...	...	...
345	City of Nogales	...	...	...	...
346	City of Nogales	...	...	...	...

▪ On January 18, the City of Nogales hosted a meeting with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the consulting team leading the process on the update of the Arizona-Sonora Border Infrastructure Master Plan (BIMP).

▪ During the meeting, held at City Hall, stakeholders were able to ask questions on the list of projects and the ranking process.

▪ Stakeholders agreed to review the list of projects, determine if any projects needed to be removed from the list, added to the list or modified based on the information provided.

▪ The first draft of the completed BIMP should be done by March 31, and it is to be made available for a final review shortly thereafter.

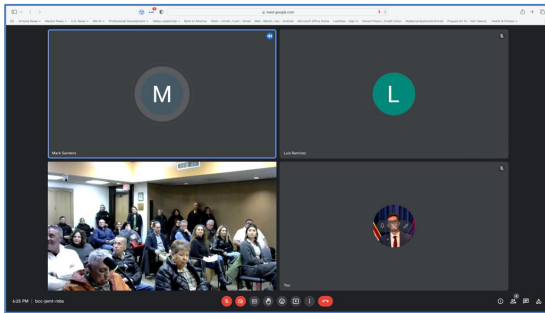


8. FAREWELL LUNCH WITH ADOT DIRECTOR JOHN HALIKOWSKI



- On January 18th, taking advantage of the presence by Director John Halikowski of ADOT in Nogales, the Port Authority hosted a lunch to thank the Director for his 13 years of service and the productive and collaborative work on a number of projects of great significance for Nogales and Arizona.
- Director Halikowski is a previous recipient of the Friend of the Border Award presented by the Port Authority.

9. ADOT PARTICIPATES IN CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO ADDRESS COUNTRY CLUB DR.



- On January 24, at the request of the Honorable Jorge Maldonado, Mayor of the City of Nogales, Mark Sanders, Director of International Affairs and Local Government Relations at ADOT, participated in the City Council meeting to address the ongoing concerns over flooding at a key juncture of Country Club Drive.
- Mr. Sanders indicated that ADOT was looking into the situation and was evaluating a number of possible efforts to improve the situation and that it would report back to the city once they had more information and a possible course of action.

10. CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

- On January 24, members of both the US Senate and House of Representatives came together in a letter asking the Office of Management and Budget to increase the funding from \$35 million to \$100 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP).
- These funds, that the EPA delegates to the North American Development Bank for implementation, is used to pay water and wastewater projects. Traditionally, these funds have been limited for use on the Mexican side of the border, but these funds are intended for use on the US side of the border.

- Projects could include new connections or hook ups for water and wastewater in new developments along the border.
- Of the 10 signatures, 2 were from the Arizona delegation: Senator Mark Kelly and Congressman Juan Ciscomani.
- A copy of the letter can be found in Attachment #4.

11. DIALOGUE WITH GSA AND EPA ON URBAN DESIGN STUDY

- On January 26, representatives of the Port Authority, the City of Nogales and Santa Cruz County participated in a video conference call with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the General Services Administration (GSA) to discuss the possibility of an Urban Design Study.
- As indicated in previous reports, both San Luis and Douglas have undergone a similar process in order to create a long-term view for the development of the community that leverages the federal investment at the ports of entry.
- The Urban Design Study will look at all types of growth and development, including retail and tourism and will look at opportunities to develop other types of infrastructure that connect or benefit from the investment in the port of entry.
- Both the City and the County have submitted letters of intent to partner with EPA and GSA on this process (see December 2022 report).

Attachment #1

Letter to Governor of Sonora on delays at Querobabi



January 5, 2023

The Honorable Alfonso Durazo Montaña
Governor
State of Sonora
Palacio de Gobierno
Comonfort y Dr. Paliza S/N
Col. Centenario
Hermosillo, Sonora 83260
Mexico

RE: Interruptions to International Trade at Querobabi Military Inspection Station

Dear Governor Durazo,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I write to seek your assistance in helping to address a major impediment to the flow of north-bound trade on the Arizona-Mexico corridor. The Querobabi Military Inspection station, staffed by the Mexican Department of Defense (SEDENA), that lies between Hermosillo and Nogales, continues to impose major delays to thousands of commercial trucks as they travel from destinations all along the Pacific Coast of Mexico and the southern and coastal parts of Sonora to destinations in the United States. They rely Mexican Highway 15 (MX-15) for access to the border. Delays at this inspection station are being reported that measure in multiple hours, and reports are confirming queues of trucks that exceed 10 kilometers. This is an untenable situation that we hope will garner your immediate attention.

Based on data released by the US Department of Transportation, truck crossings at Nogales reached more than 338,000 units from January through November of 2022, and we expect that this number will exceed 360,000 trucks once the December data is released. The US Department of Commerce estimates that more than \$26 billion worth of goods pass through Nogales each year, making Nogales and the Arizona-Sonora border essential to global supply chains and the economies of both countries.

The Mexican military deployed the inspection station some 20-plus years ago, at a time when that level of inspection was required for northbound commercial traffic. Since then, the US government and Arizona have invested hundreds of millions of dollars on new infrastructure to modernize the Mariposa port of entry – making it the nation’s 5th largest commercial port of entry – and the connector roads to the US federal highway system.

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The Honorable Alfonso Durazo Montaña
Governor of the State of Sonora
January 5, 2023

Additionally, the Mexican federal government has spent over \$1.8 billion dollars to modernize MX-15 from Mexico City to the border, making this one of the most efficient, safe, and cost-effective corridors for Mexican products to reach the United States.

The investments that have been made are all for naught if the military inspection station continues to stop every truck, hold them for hours, before being allowed to proceed. Additionally, it remains the only north-south corridor that connects Mexico with the United States that has a permanent military inspection facility to all commercial trucks. All other corridors rely on temporary, side-of-the-road inspections. This means that our corridor is the only one encumbered with physical permanent facilities for inspections. This creates an unfair competitive advantage for every other corridor in the other 5 Mexican border states over Arizona and Sonora.

Additionally, industry continues to report damage to the cargo during the inspection process. Even with the availability of non-intrusive technologies for inspection, SEDENA personnel continues to conduct hands-on inspections that break the food-safety chain that ensures the safe handling of products for human consumption. Fresh produce growers and shippers take great care to protect their commodities from contamination on its way to their customers in the United States. We have documented multiple instances where military personnel open containers, walk through, and handle the cargo, without taking care to maintain the food-safety chain. In the event of a contamination incident, it will be the shipper and the producer that will be forced to suffer the consequences.

Let me be clear, the Port Authority and the industries that it represents, are staunch advocates of the need to maintain a safe and secure logistical corridor. But we are also advocates for the efficient and responsible application of security provisions. We believe that the original reasons for the deployment of Querobabi in its current configuration have changed.

We believe that inspection must be conducted in state-of-the-art facilities that apply the latest in non-intrusive inspection technologies and procedures. Inspections must also be conducted so that they maintain and contribute to the food-safety and security supply chains that industry has worked so hard to define and implement. The investments made at the port of entry, on MX-15 and State Route 189 in Nogales, Arizona, investments designed to greatly reduce the inspection and travel time for trucks and their cargo, are zeroed-out with the delays at Querobabi.

In the spirit of enhanced security along the corridor, we would urge for the Mexican government to consider the relocation of the inspection facilities and operations to a location closer to the border for northbound traffic, perhaps adjacent to the existing Aduanas facilities that are located approximately 13 kilometers south of the border at Mariposa. Trucks are already required to stop at this location. Additionally, recognizing the major investments made by the US government to inspect northbound cargo at Nogales, we would suggest that Mexico dedicate more resources to inspecting south-bound cargo.

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The Honorable Alfonso Durazo Montaña
Governor of the State of Sonora
January 5, 2023

Finally, we would be happy to engage in a dialogue with you and the respective SEDENA authorities in order to identify opportunities for improvement, implement initiatives that promote security and that enhance the competitiveness of the corridor. There is simply too much at stake and we are hopeful that with your leadership and intervention, the situation can improve for all.

We are grateful for all your efforts to promote the Arizona-Sonora corridor and for your passion to make our region the best that it can be.

Respectfully,



Jaime Chamberlain
Chairman

CC: The Honorable Katie Hobbs, Governor, State of Arizona
The Honorable Ken Salazar, United States' Ambassador to Mexico
The Honorable Esteban Moctezuma, Mexico's Ambassador to the United States
John Halikowski, Director, Arizona Department of Transportation
Heriberto Aguilar, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure and Urban Development of Sonora
Guadalupe Ramirez, US Customs and Border Protection

Attachment #2

North American Leaders Summit Statement

FACT SHEET: Key Deliverables for the 2023**North American Leaders' Summit**

January 10, 2023

North American cooperation makes our countries safer, our economies more competitive, and our supply chains more resilient. By working together, the countries of North America are better able to address shared challenges, like climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and transnational criminal organizations trafficking and smuggling people and illicit drugs like fentanyl. The North American Leaders' Summit (NALS) strengthens our partnerships and advances our shared priorities. Today, President Biden is joining President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada to promote a common vision for North America. This year, the leaders will build on last year's accomplishments with new initiatives and announcements.

President Biden has used NALS to drive North America's economic competitiveness and promote inclusive growth and prosperity. The three countries will deepen our economic cooperation, promote investment, and reinforce competitiveness, innovation, and resilience by:

- Organizing the first-ever trilateral semiconductor forum with industry to adapt government policies and increase investment in semiconductor supply chains across North America. Participation will include senior industry representatives and cabinet level participation from the United States, Mexico, and Canada in early 2023.
- Coordinating semiconductor supply chain mapping efforts to develop a collective understanding of unmet needs. This mapping with all the three countries will identify complementary investment opportunities.
- Expanding North American critical minerals resource mapping to collect details on resources and reserves. The Geological Surveys of each country will organize a trilateral workshop to share data and facilitate cooperation.
- Partnering with the region's private sector to increase student development and mobility under a new North America Student Mobility Project in coordination with Canada and Mexico, an expansion of the successful public-private partnership model of the 100,000 (100K) Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund. This is the

first time Canada and Mexico will be added as co-government partners in the decade-old 100K Strong initiative.

- Convening industry and academia experts in semiconductors, ICT, biomanufacturing, and other key advanced manufacturing and logistics industries for design sessions on the skills needed to develop the workforce North America over the next five years.

The United States, Mexico, and Canada recognize the urgency for rapid, coordinated and ambitious measures to build clean energy economies and respond to the climate crisis. At the NALS, the three leaders committed to combatting the climate crisis by:

- Committing to reduce methane emissions from the solid waste and wastewater sector by at least 15% by 2030 from 2020 levels and deepen collaboration on waste and agriculture methane measurement and mitigation, including achieving the Global Methane Pledge through trilateral cooperation on methane and black carbon emissions.
- Developing a Food Loss and Waste Reduction Action Plan by the end of 2025 outlining efforts to cut food loss and waste in half by 2030.
- Sharing information between our countries on best practices to electrify and decarbonize public buses through the cooperative development of a Joint Transit Decarbonization Toolkit.
- Developing a plan for operating standards and the installation of EV chargers along international borders to ensure a seamless EV charging transition from country to country.
- Committing to trilateral cooperation to meet a joint commitment to conserve 30 percent of the world's land and ocean area by 2030 and to advance Indigenous-led conservation.
- Developing a North American clean hydrogen market, including potential cooperation on research and development, safety codes and standards, cross-border hydrogen clusters, green freight corridors, and integrated maritime operations.

On the occasion of the six-month anniversary of the adoption of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, the leaders of North America reaffirmed their commitment to work together to achieve safe, orderly, and humane migration in the region. In particular, the United States, Mexico, and Canada will continue to champion expansion of legal pathways and other humane measures to address irregular migration in the region, including:

- Finalizing and implementing the trilateral Extending Development Partnerships Action Plan with practical steps to improve coordination and address the root causes of irregular migration.
- Announcing a virtual platform through the Los Angeles Declaration website to give migrants streamlined access to legal pathways. This will give potential migrants the information they need to come to Mexico, the United States, and Canada lawfully – making them less likely to rely on smugglers who lie about border restrictions in place and put their lives at risk.
- Building on an initiative under the last NALS to further help migrants access legal pathways in-person, and announcing a partnership on a new center in southern Mexico with strong private sector support.
- Increasing information sharing and best practices on the binational Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program in order to enhance labor rights.
- Sharing best practices to increase promptness, efficiency, and fairness for the asylum processing systems to ensure that eligible individuals are promptly granted relief or protection and migrants with unmeritorious protection claims are quickly removed.
- Countering xenophobia and discrimination against migrants and refugees by promoting balanced public narratives on migrants and refugees to support their meaningful inclusion in the region.

The United States, Canada, and Mexico committed to coordinate actions and strategies to combat arms and drug trafficking, as well as trafficking in persons, that represent a shared threat to the three countries. These include:

- Resuming the North American Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons dialogue to improve cooperation against labor and sexual trafficking in the region.
- Continuing collaboration within the North American Drug Dialogue (NADD) under an updated strategic framework to address illegal drug threats and strengthen public health approaches to substance use. This includes increased information sharing on chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs, meetings of NADD principals, and a trilateral Public Health Summit.
- Developing a unified North American position to the collection, storage, use, sharing and retention of Passenger Name Records (PNR).
- Increasing trilateral collaboration to advance nuclear security and safety in North America.
- Increasing trilateral engagement to share information on cyber security best practices, including trainings for public servants on best practices.

Drawing from the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the leaders committed to share information and develop public policies to protect our countries against current and future health crises. These include:

- Revising the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI) to strengthen North America’s ability to respond to health security threats, including influenza and beyond.

The three leaders committed to promote diverse, inclusive, equitable, and democratic societies that combat racism by:

- Establishing a trilateral expert exchange of information to share best practices and strategies to advance equity and racial justice in our public policies.
- Collaborating through regional and multilateral organizations to advance equity and justice.
- Combatting violence against Indigenous women and girls, including by convening indigenous women leaders from all three countries to discuss their priorities and develop recommendations for the three governments.
- Combatting violence against LGBTQI+ individuals, including by expanding membership within the Americas to the Equal Rights Coalition and the UN LGBTQI+ Core Group.
- Adding Mexico to the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse, a commitment from the first Summit for Democracy to bring together countries, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/10/fact-sheet-key-deliverables-for-the-2023-north-american-leaders-summit/>

Attachment #3
Letter to Governor on CVE Task Force



January 27, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Task Force

Dear Governor Hobbs,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority, I want to congratulate you as our new governor. We look forward to working with you to advance the Arizona-Mexico relationship, and promoting cross-border trade, investment, tourism, and the security of the region. To that end, we have partnered with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Arizona Department of Public Safety to implement programs that enhance the safety of Arizona roads and enhance the competitiveness of the region.

The proposed budget that was submitted to the Arizona legislature included a provision that would terminate the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Task Force (CVETF). We ask that you reconsider this proposal and allow the joint ADOT/DPS Task Force to continue at our ports of entry.

Our ports of entry are at the forefront of the relationship with Mexico. In 2022, we estimate that over 360,000 trucks crossed into Arizona at Nogales, representing some \$30 billion worth of bilateral trade. With that volume of trucks on our roads, we embrace efforts that promote the safety of our roads, meet the needs of industry, and make our region more competitive vis a vis other trade corridors in North America. Since its creation, CVETF Force has forged a strong partnership with industry with the transparent intention of promoting safer roads.

The results of the task force and its partnership with industry have been stellar. The data for cross-border commercial traffic speaks for itself. We have seen higher compliance rates, fewer fines and out-of-service orders, a more competitive binational region, and safer roads in our state. The Task Force is also the umbrella organization that houses the Border Liaison Unit (BLU) that has created and implemented a unique training program for Mexican truck drivers.

In other states, the approach to road safety has been one based strictly on enforcement. While we are supportive of enforcement efforts that promote safety, we have found that helping industry, including trucking companies, truck drivers, importers, and exporters, comply with

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The Honorable Katie Hobbs
State of Arizona
January 27, 2023

safety regulations, that is backed by strict enforcement, the results are better. In fact, the results have been so significant that other states have come to Arizona to try to learn what we do. CVETF and the BLU have helped set Arizona apart from the rest, and these efforts are in fact heralded by federal authorities in both the United States and Mexico.

The Port Authority, comprised by the City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County, the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, Nogales Customs Brokers Association, the Nogales Santa Cruz County Economic Development Foundation, Index Nogales, Nogales Community Development Corporation, and the Santa Cruz County Mining Cluster, is focused on improving the quality of life of the residents of the region and making the port of entry system at Nogales the best that it can be.

We thank you for the consideration you give to this request, and we hope that we will be able to continue working with the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Task Force to make our roads safer and our binational region more competitive.

Respectfully,



Jaime Chamberlain
Chairman

CC: Jennifer Toth, Director, Arizona Department of Transportation
Lt. Colonel Tim Chung, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Marisol Flores-Aguirre, Office of the Governor
Julieta Cruz, Office of the Governor
Sarah Brown, Office of the Governor
Ben Henderson, Office of the Governor

Attachment #4

Copy of Congressional Letter on Water Infrastructure Funding

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 Seventeenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young:

We write to request that you include \$100 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program funds competitive grants on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border to help finance critical infrastructure projects impacting predominantly Hispanic and Native communities. These projects include the construction of first-time water hook-ups and sewage infrastructure that help reduce polluted runoff in the U.S. as well as shared waterways between the U.S. and Mexico. The current pipeline of projects that have submitted applications for the program is more than \$320 million, of which BWIP would cover more than \$125 million.

Our southern border states are home to 2,000 colonias, many of which lack basic infrastructure like water and wastewater services among others. In Mexico, urbanization, geography and inadequate wastewater infrastructure have led to untreated sewage, trash and sediment routinely flowing into the U.S. through shared waterways. This program is designed to aid those communities, on both sides of the border, which have the capacity to maintain and administer utilities funded through the grants.

This vital fund has proven to be a successful program over its life. To date, 137 projects have been financed using BWIP funds (69 in the U.S. and 68 in Mexico) including colonias and federally recognized tribes. This is the only federal program which works on both sides of the border, and Mexico has been a faithful partner, matching every dollar invested on their side of the border.

We must prioritize funding for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program to meet the needs of colonia residents who live in the U.S and lack basic services like clean drinking water

The Honorable Shalanda Young
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and sewage treatment, and to meet the broader needs of the border for first-time water hook-ups and sewage infrastructure. We look forward to working with you to adequately fund this much-needed program for the states along our Southern border with Mexico.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress