

State Water Resources Control Board

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TEN U.S. AND MEXICAN STATES MAKE PROGRESS ON BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SACRAMENTO – Representatives of ten states on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border met recently to discuss and take action on some of the key issues affecting the future of the border environment. Officials drafted declarations to reduce air-polluting particulate matter, to cooperate on funding environmental infrastructure projects in the region and other matters of mutual concern.

“The Ten States Retreat is an important tradition – collaboratively working together to develop strategies that meet our shared goals of protecting the environment and improving public health,” said Dan Skopec, Acting Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, which sponsored the Ten States Retreat.

Leading environmental and resource conservation officials from Arizona, Baja California, California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, New Mexico, Nuevo León, Sonora, Tamaulipas and Texas met in San Francisco April 19-21 at the tenth annual Ten States Retreat.

“The Ten States Retreat turns out to be an extremely effective forum. Top representatives discuss and compare environmental solutions that would be difficult, if not impossible, for member states to solve individually,” said Celeste Cantú, Executive Director of the California State Water Resources Control Board, which coordinated this year’s conference in San Francisco. “All residents of the region, on both sides of the border, will benefit from the recommendations that were approved this year.”

The Western Governor’s Association also provided support for the 2006 Ten States Retreat. Declarations drafted at the retreat will be presented at the XXIV Border Governor’s Conference this August in Austin, Texas.

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