

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NO. EV24-0011 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ARIZONA THROUGH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ) AND THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (AZGFD), AND THE STATE OF SONORA THROUGH THE ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (CEDES IN SPANISH) AND THE STATE OF SONORA WATER COMMISSION (CEA IN SPANISH), FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN IN THE ARIZONA-SONORA MEGAREGION.

The following is a Memorandum of Understanding between ADEQ, AZGFD, CEDES, and CEA (hereafter referred to as **"THE PARTICIPANTS"**) for the development and implementation of an environmental strategic plan in the Arizona-Sonora megaregion. THE PARTICIPANTS are committed to the following:

CONSIDERATIONS

That Arizona and Sonora share a number of environmental issues related to water, air, solid waste, and wildlife which do not conform to political boundaries along their 362 miles of shared border, necessitating that the environmental, water, and wildlife agencies of both states work together with their federal and binational counterparts to achieve sustainable solutions in the region. That the development of the Arizona-Sonora Environmental Strategic Plan (ASESP) emerged from a long history of cross-border cooperation involving local, state, federal, binational, and non-governmental organizations and the private sector in Arizona and Sonora.

That in order to improve cooperation and maximize the effective use of resources, the Arizona-Mexico Commission's Environment and Water Committee in collaboration with the Agribusiness Committee, agreed to work on an ASESF for the period of 2023-2027.

That ADEQ's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment in the State of Arizona by administering its environmental laws and delegated federal programs to prevent air, water and land pollution and ensure cleanup.

That AZGFD's mission is to conserve the State of Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and manage them for safe, compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations.

That CEDES aims to develop, implement, and evaluate the State of Sonora's environmental policies, promote the participation and responsibility of public and private sectors in the formulation of environmental policies, their application, information sharing and monitoring, and, in general, the environmental actions undertaken by the

State of Sonora. CEDES also conducts and promotes scientific and technological research in the fields of ecology and the environment to encourage and disseminate environmental values and culture in the State of Sonora.

That CEA aims to participate in the planning, financing, budgeting, and sustainable development of the State of Sonora's water sector, implementing policies and actions that establish a holistic water system, advising and assisting water user organizations, and providing drinking water, drainage, and sewerage and sanitation services to municipalities that have such agreements with the State of Sonora.

That ADEQ, CEDES, and CEA requested support from the AZGFD to collaborate on specific issues regarding wildlife priorities. That binational organizations such as the North American Development Bank (NADB) and federal agencies such as the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were also asked to participate.

That the plan was designed to incorporate elements of economic and social development in accordance with the priorities of both states' administrations.

That in order to develop the priorities in the areas of air quality, water quality and waste management, ADEQ, CEDES and CEA hosted a series of video-conferences, including three multi-agency virtual workshops held on October 19 and 20, 2022. That the purpose of these workshops was to discuss a) the development and selection of priorities, b) the criteria for evaluating these projects, and c) their prioritization, this final point was refined over the course of several teleconferences and meetings between experts from the participating organizations.

That the ASESP includes background information on: environmental issues in the Arizona-Sonora megaregion, demographics and economic competitiveness of the region, environmental justice and strategic priorities and projects should funding sources become available.

That 14 strategic priorities were selected addressing a number of public issues related to the areas of water quality, air quality, waste management, and wildlife management. In addition, the plan identifies possible strategic projects that address these priorities in an enunciative manner, not in a limiting way.

That the 14 strategic priorities and their respective projects that "THE PARTICIPANTS" commit to further developing and implementing within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding are as follows:

Air Quality

Identified Priorities	Associated Projects
<p>1. Improve Air Quality from Binational Airsheds Through the Identification of Emission Sources and Implementation of Control Measures</p>	<p>Update and/or Develop Emissions Inventories in Communities on Both Sides of the Border (Criteria Pollutants and Greenhouse Gasses).</p>
	<p>Implement Actions and Control Measures Derived from ProAires/State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and/or Develop These Plans Where Needed</p>
<p>2. Reduce Air Pollution Resulting from Burning of Open Air Solid Waste in Sonora Border Cities</p>	<p>Develop a Diagnostic to Identify Vulnerable and Prone Regions to the Open Air Burning of Urban Solid Waste and Establish Control Strategies</p>
<p>3. Increase Border Community Involvement in Air Quality Topics through Education, Participation, and Outreach</p>	<p>Implement Outreach/Education Campaigns on Air Quality and its Health Effects (May Include Agricultural and Solid Waste Open Air Burning)</p>
	<p>Implement Environmental Education Programs on Air Quality with Collaboration of K-12 Schools that Should Consider the Development of a Monitoring Network with Low Cost Sensors and Other Educational Initiatives</p>
<p>Water Quality</p>	
Identified Priorities	Associated Projects
<p>1. Pretreatment and Reuse of Industrial Wastewater with Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants in Nogales, Sonora</p>	<p>Implement a Continuous Monitoring Program for Industrial Establishments with Water and Heavy Metal Management Processes</p>
	<p>Define Pretreatment Alternatives for Wastewater with Heavy Metals and Other Contaminants</p>
	<p>Promote the Training of Water Operators in Sonora Border Cities in Wastewater Pretreatment Programs</p>
<p>2. Develop and/or Implement Initiatives that Support Ongoing Strategies Related to Binational Watersheds</p>	<p>Development of a Mechanism to Close Data Gap and a Strategy to Develop a Binational Data Set System between Universities</p>
	<p>Diagnostic Relating to Water Salinity and Drinking Water Wells in Yuma, Arizona/San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora region</p>

3. Develop Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plans and Promote Green Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality and Mitigate Flood Impacts in Border Cities	Define an Economically Feasible Project Portfolio Based on the Already Existing Ambos Nogales Green Infrastructure Master Plan
	Develop Binational Green Infrastructure Master Plans in Border Communities of Arizona and Sonora
4. Strengthen the Institutional Capacity of Local Authorities for Drinking Water, Sewage, and Stormwater in Sonora Border Cities	Produce a Program Proposal for Maintenance and Operation for Water Infrastructure in Border Cities
	Binational Training on Management and Strengthening of Water, Sewage, and Treatment Utility (Workshops)
Waste Management	
Identified Priorities	Associated Projects
1. Integration of Waste Management Strategies to Reduce Illegal Dumping, Streamline Sustainable Material Recovery, and Promote Proper Final Disposal of Waste	Develop a Comprehensive Waste Management Program for Sonora Border Communities
	Promote the Development of Compost Programs in Cities on Both Sides of the Border
	Develop a Binational Diagnostic that Identifies Regional/Local End Market Hotspots for Reusable Solid Waste in Sonora and Arizona Border Cities
2. Develop Recycling Programs in Border Communities between Sonora and Arizona	
3. Implementation of Local Schemes for Solid Waste Management in the Industrial Sector of Sonora Border Cities to Encourage the Development of Circular Economy Systems	
4. Community Outreach Efforts to Improve Waste Management Behavior and Regulation Compliance	“Green School” Educational Program with Multisectoral Stakeholder Collaboration
	Informational Campaign on the Health Impacts of Improper Solid Waste Management in the Border Region
	Training Programs on Regulation Compliance for the Adequate Management, Recovery,

	Utilization and Final Disposal of Solid Waste in Sonora. Emphasis on Industrial Waste, Tires, and Construction/Demolition Waste.
Wildlife	
Identified Priorities	
1. Wildlife inventory in private ranches in Sonora	
2. Sonoran pronghorn binational recovery	
3. Masked bobwhite reintroduction in Sonora	

That the ASEP includes a monitoring tool that will be used to track the progress of the implementation phase of these projects during the period of 2023-2027, this information will be publicly accessible.

Therefore, based upon the above considerations, "THE PARTICIPANTS" are committed to the following:

First.- "THE PARTICIPANTS" will implement the priority projects established in the ASEP during the period 2023-2027.

Second.- "THE PARTICIPANTS" will report on the progress of the ASEP implementation through the Environment and Water Committee and the Agribusiness Committee of the Commissions Arizona-Mexico and Sonora-Estados Unidos.

Third.- "THE PARTICIPANTS" agree that the list of priorities may be modified through a document signed by "THE PARTICIPANTS" and submitted to the Environment and Water Committee and the Agribusiness Committee of the Arizona-Mexico Commission.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The primary points of contact for each PARTICIPANT is as follows:

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THE PARTICIPANTS shall seek to settle any dispute, controversy or claim relating to this Memorandum of Understanding through good faith negotiation.

Each state will be responsible for its own expenses in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding can be made by either state, through written notification directed to the other state, thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the termination. Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding should not affect the completion of cooperation activities initiated while it was in force, unless otherwise jointly decided in writing by the states.

The States of Arizona and Sonora acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is only intended to provide for cooperation and a framework for collaboration in order to advance the tasks outlined herein; it is non-binding and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding should be read to conflict with the laws and regulations of the United States of America or the United Mexican States (or any state or local jurisdiction), or with any relevant international agreements. There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Memorandum of Understanding.

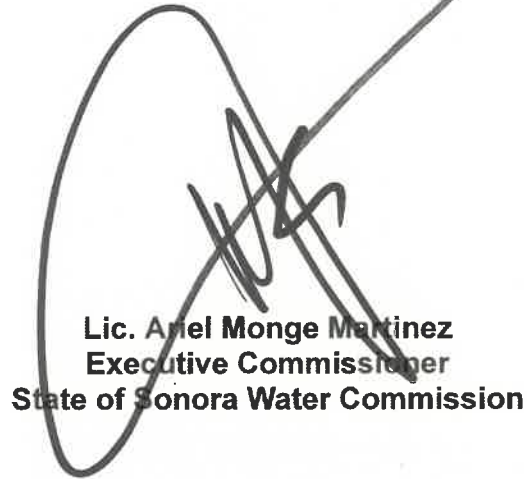
This Memorandum of Understanding will be effective on the date of its signature and will terminate on September 12, 2027. This Memorandum of Understanding may be renegotiated for additional periods, through a document signed by "THE PARTICIPANTS" and submitted to the Environment and Water Committee and the

Agribusiness Committee of the Commissions Arizona-Mexico and Sonora-Estados Unidos.

Memorandum of Understanding signed in the city of Hermosillo, Sonora, on October 25, 2024, in two original copies in English and Spanish, both texts being equally valid.



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Witnesses



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