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Contents

Camilla Kazimi, Felipe Cuamea, Juan Alvarez, Alan Sweedler, and Matt Fertig

Emissions from Heavy-Duty Trucks at the San Diego-Tijuana Border Crossing

The volume of heavy-duty trucks crossing the border between the Mexico and the United States has increased dramatically as trade restrictions have been reduced. As volume and delay at the border increases, so do total emissions. But little information is known about the level of emissions from trucks at the border. In this paper, we describe the results of a survey of trucks crossing the border from Mexico into the United States at Otay Mesa. We characterize the fleet of trucks and delay patterns by day-of-week and time-of-day. We then use this information to calculate total emissions of hydrocarbons(HC), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides(NOx), and particulate matter(PM). Our findings indicate that while emissions from trucks at the Otay Mesa border crossing are negligible as compared to total emissions within San Diego County, they are significant within the regions adjacent to the border.

Richard C. Jones

Environmental Deterioration and Disease in the Middle Rio Grande Valley: An Investigation of the Linkages at Household Level

This study investigates the association between exposure to pollutants and the incidence of disease in an area undergoing rapid growth. On the Mexican side, proximity to polluted watercourses and agriculture are found to be spatially correlated with gastrointestinal ailments such as dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis, parasites, and diarrhea. On the U.S. side, a wide array of factors are important in the incidence of gastrointestinal ailments -- including large size of family, the frequency with which a family crosses the border into Mexico, and proximity to standing water. Regarding "cellular" diseases(neural tube defects, other congenital and nervous defects, and cancers). large family size and proximity to and contact with industrial pollution are implicated on the Mexican side, but small sample subsizes preclude definitive conclusions.

Maria Carmen de Mello Lemos and Antonio Luna

Public Participation in the BECC: Lessons from the Acuaférico Project, Nogales, Sonora

This paper examines the Acuaterico Project proposed by the city of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico to upgrade and improve the city's clean water-supply system. In 1996, the project was submitted to the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission(BECC) created by the Mexican and U.S. governments to evaluate and certify sustainable water-related projects in the border region. This study focuses on the Acuaterico Project certification process, more specifically on BECC's requirement for public participation prior to project submission. It concludes that although BECC's certification process has positively affected policy making in Ambos Nogales, in order to encourage further community participation

and policy makers' responsiveness, the Commission will have to strictly enforce its mandate for public involvement in project certification.

Ellen Ryan, Philip Tan, and Bonnie Hatchett

Homeless Adults on the Texas-Mexico Border: Results of a Point-in-Time Survey in One Texas Border Town

The southwest borderland regions in the United States have high poverty, significant unemployment and high rates of homelessness especially among the immigrant population. One difficulty in determining how to assist the homeless has been the lack of information about the homeless population of El Paso, Texas. This study was undertaken to respond to this gap in the research. The aim of this study is to determine the characteristics of homeless persons in El Paso using the technique " point in time" or " point prevalence". The El Paso Coalition for the Homeless collaborated with the Social Work Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. A total of 664 persons residing in homeless shelters was counted. Three hundred and thirty-three individuals were surveyed, with 227 adults over the age of 18. The characteristics of these 227 are described and compared to the general population of El Paso. This paper presents the results of the study and assists in providing information about the characteristics of the homeless population of El Paso.
