

# Institute of the Three Californias

*An initiative for cross-border cooperation  
and sustainable socio-economic  
development*

Prepared for conference on U.S.-Mexico Security Cooperation Pillar  
IV: Building Strong and Resilient Border Communities  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
April 27, 2011, Washington, D.C.

*Prepared by Denise Moreno Ducheny and Paul Ganster*



# Context for Cooperation in the California-Mexico Border Region

- Commission of the Californias, 1964—
- Southwest Border Regional Commission, 1976—
- Border Governors Conference, 1980—
- Governor's Office of California-Mexico Affairs, 1984
- Legislative Forum of the 3 Californias, 2003-2010, ten meetings

# Context for Local Cooperation

- City of San Diego Office of Binational Affairs, 1986
- County of San Diego, Office of Transborder Affairs, 1987-1993
- Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities—COBRO (SANDAG), 1996—
  - Annual summer seminar
  - Focus on practical, concrete projects

# Background: Academic Sector

- 1976, Association for Borderlands Scholars
- 1978, SDSU, California Border Area Resource Center
- 1982, COLEF established in Tijuana (CEFNOEX, COLFRON)
- 1980s, Escuela de Economía, UABC
- 1983, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UCSD

# Background: Academic Sector

- Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, San Diego State University
  - Forum for applied research, outreach, capacity building, and discussion of border issues
  - Emphasis on transborder cooperation and regional approaches to challenges and opportunities
  - Established 1983
  - Joint Master's in Transborder Public Administration and Governance with UABC
  - Community studies with UABC and UABCS: Loreto, Los Cabos, Mexicali, and Tecate

# The Tijuana River Watershed

# La Cuenca del Río Tijuana





Paul Ganster – Oscar Arizpe – Antonina Ivanova  
*Editado por*

*El futuro de la  
primera capital de las Californias*

# Loreto

Ganster  
Arizpe  
Ivanova

# Loreto

*The Future of the First Capital of the Californias  
El futuro de la primera capital de las Californias*

SDSU Press  
IRSC

# Loreto

*The Future of the  
First Capital of the Californias*

*Edited by*  
Paul Ganster – Oscar Arizpe – Antonina Ivanova





# TECATE, BAJA CALIFORNIA:

## Realidades y Desafíos de una Comunidad Mexicana Fronteriza

compiladores

Paul Ganster, Felipe Cuamea Velázquez,  
José Luis Castro Ruiz y Angélica Villegas



## *Tecate Baja California: Challenges and Realities in a Mexican Border Community*

- Bilingual edition, 2002
- SDSU
- El Colegio de la Frontera Norte.
- Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
- Fundación La Puerta, A.C.



**IMPERIAL-MEXICALI VALLEYS:  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE  
U.S.-MEXICAN  
BORDER REGION**

*Edited by:*

K. Collins, P. Ganster, C. Mason, E. Sánchez López, M. Quintero-Núñez

*Imperial-Mexicali Valleys:  
Development and Environment of the  
U.S.-Mexican Border Region*

- SDSU & UABC
- English edition (SDSU); Spanish edition (UABC)
- 2004

# Why Cooperation across Borders?

- Take advantage of opportunities
  - Economic
  - Cultural
  - Quality of life
- Address challenges
  - Environmental problems and security
  - Natural or human-caused disasters
  - Social problems
  - Public health

# 3 Californias Founding Meeting

- April 7-9, 2011
- Old Town, San Diego—the birthplace of Alta California, 1769
- 40 current and former elected and appointed state and local officials from 3 Californias
- Academic representatives
- Department of State/Relaciones Exteriores representatives

# A Shared Vision

***The three states of California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur comprise one ecological and economic region.*** They have strong historical and cultural ties that have existed for more than a century through trade, investment, labor flows, and personal connections created by tourism, migration, and family ties. In addition, all have an interest in preserving the shared fragile and unique ecology of mountains, deserts, and oceans, as well as building sustainable communities with sufficient water and local, renewable energy sources. The security and prosperity of the entire region is also important to the individual security and prosperity of each state.

The economy of the entire region depends on a transportation infrastructure that allows families and goods to move across the region efficiently and to cross the international border without the undue delays that are currently experienced.

Because of all these common interests, it is proposed that the three states enhance the cooperative relationship of their governments and existing public policies by creating an Institute of the Californias.



# Shared Purpose and Goals

- ***Build Strong and Resilient Communities***  
consistent with Pillar IV of the Mérida Initiative
- Enhance tri-state collaboration, especially of the local and state governments and academic sector
- Facilitate sharing of best practices among the three states, emphasizing community engagement
- Implement collaborative initiatives to improve public safety, advance sustainable economic development, and improve social and cultural institutions focused on concrete projects with measurable results

# Founding Meeting: Conclusions

- Consensus reached to move ahead with the initiative
- BC and BCS will establish non-profits under Mexican law; CA will utilize the mechanism of SDSU's non-profit
- Participants at the Old Town meeting will be the core group and each state's delegation will add members as convenient

# Founding Meeting: Conclusions

- The draft Mission Statement was agreed upon
- A strategic focus was developed to guide specific areas of work as funding becomes available:
  - Society and public security
  - Economic development and sustainable tourism
  - Education, research, and culture
  - Public health
  - Environmental quality and risks
  - Capacity building for public sector professionals



# Next Steps

- Priority Projects
  - 3 Californias disaster preparedness, response, and recovery; immediate focus on developing clear protocols to facilitate international donations
  - Capacity building for public sector professionals through a joint course of study leading to a Master's degree
  - Trainings for state and local officials on shared environmental issues
  - Strategic analysis of socio-economic and environmental issues of the 3 Californias to help prioritize actions of the Institute

# Next Steps

- Meetings
  - August-September, 2011, working group meeting
  - November 2011, plenary meeting of members
  - Preliminary plenary agenda
    - Approval of governing structure and leadership
    - Progress reports on projects identified
    - Presentation and approval of 2011 work plan
    - Presentation and approval of 2012 work plan

# Contacts

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