MEXICALI/CALEXICO GROWING WATER SMART
LISTENING SESSION REPORT

Mexicali, Baja California| Second Listening Session for BGWS| May 25, 2023

Summary

On May 25, 2023, the Sonoran Institute and The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, hosted the second Listening Session to advance the US-MX Border Growing Water Smart Program.

In April 2022, the Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center laid the groundwork for the program by interviewing 30 experts on cross-border water issues. The report on Growing Water Smart (GWS) Opportunities for the US-Mexico Border is available here in English or Spanish. The Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center are using the valuable feedback from these outreach efforts to build a GWS-inspired training and assistance program – focusing on education, capacity-building, and network building – to improve the integration and collaboration around water and land use planning in communities along the US-MX border. The goal of the program is to strengthen community and watershed resilience in the face of rapid population growth and increasing climate risks in border cities.

On March 9th, Sonoran Institute, with the support of Mexican and American consulates in Nogales, hosted the first Listening Session in Nogales SON. The Listening Session created an inclusive space for a bi-national discussion that empowered local and regional stakeholders involved in water and land use activities to share their ideas about current and future water-related opportunities and challenges along the border. Thirty-five policy leaders participated.

The second Listening Session took place in Mexicali Baja California. More than thirty officers and organization representatives participated in the event, sharing their perspectives about two important topics described below:

SMALL GROUP SESSION TOPICS

1. Nature-based management of stormwater to reduce flooding and improve water quality
   (Soluciones basadas en la naturaleza para el control de inundaciones y agua pluvial)
   - Green infrastructure projects and code requirements (water retention/detention, curb cuts and bioswales, treatment wetlands) *Proyectos de infraestructura verde e implementación de códigos catastrales (retención y detención de agua pluvial, cortes en los bordes de las aceras y canales con vegetación, lagunas de tratamiento.*
   - Low Impact Development code requirements (pervious pavement, site-scale water retention and infiltration). *Implementación de códigos para el desarrollo de bajo impacto (pavimentación permeable, retención de agua a escala y proyectos de infiltración.*
   - Protecting sensitive areas by restricting development. *Restringir el desarrollo urbano en áreas sensibles a la inundación.*
   - Promoting aquifer recharge. *Promover recarga de acuíferos.*

2. Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse to preserve regionally shared groundwater (Mexicali Valley Aquifer) and individual surface water. *Conservación, uso eficiente, y reuso de agua para proteger recursos compartidos de agua subterránea (Acuífero del Valle de Mexicali) y aguas superficiales.*
    - Replace high water use fixtures, appliances, and landscapes in existing development. *Reemplazar equipos, accesorios, y paisajes de alto consumo de agua en el desarrollo urbano existente.*
    - Regulate new development to be more water efficient (landscape standards, alternative water supply, water budgets, compact development, smaller lot sizes, etc.) *Regular nuevos desarrollos para incrementar la eficiencia del uso de agua (reglamentos de paisaje y áreas verdes, fuentes alternativas de agua, restricciones en los balances de agua, desarrollo compacto, reducir el tamaño de lotes y terrenos de construcción.*
    - Reduce water loss by upgrading infrastructure. *Reducir las pérdidas de agua a través de la renovación de infraestructura (tuberías, equipo de bombeo, infraestructura de almacenamiento).*
    - Harness alternative water supplies (rainwater harvesting, water reuse). *Uso de fuentes de agua alternativas (cosecha de agua de lluvia, reúso de agua).*

The participants were broken into three small groups, two of them provided feedback and perspectives on Topic 1, and one small group provided feedback on Topic 2. At the same time, one of the small groups working on Topic 1, focused specifically on nature-based solutions to improve water quality in the drains and lagoon system that connects to the New River in Mexicali B.C. The key findings are below:

Topic 1A and 1B. Nature-based management of stormwater to reduce flooding and improve water quality

Current Conditions

- Main sources of contamination are irregular settlements.
- Low areas in the city experience flooding during rain events and some drains overflow.
- Health risks (like dengue) have been identified due to water quality in drains in lagoons.
- Coordination of efforts to verify that factories, enterprises, and business discharges are regulated.
- Lack of coordination between Local, State, and Federal governments.

Areas of Opportunity

- There is a need for community outreach and education.
- There is a need for regulation of the land surrounding the channels and drains.
- Water reuse and wastewater treatment

Current Efforts and Initiatives

- Mexicali Fluye has been of exceptional support in improving water quality in Mexicali channels and drains.
- NOM - Offers a regulatory framework for regulated wastewater discharges, however, it needs updates.
- ONA - Regulation of garbage disposal units.

- Initiatives on the PDUCP (Urban Development Plan - Population Center) about development policies and regulations.
- There is a need for a drains and lagoons conservation plan.

Topic 2. <u>Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse to preserve regionally shared groundwater (Santa Cruz aquifer) and individual surface water.</u>

<u>Current Conditions</u>

- There is a lack of maintenance in the drinking water infrastructure.
- Drinking water pipes are obsolete (30-40 years old) and it is estimated that as much as 30% of the water is lost through leaks.
- Consumption and water rates are not well regulated.
- Lack of water and land use integration on regulations for development.

<u>Areas of Opportunity</u>

- Although Mexicali has senior water rights, water conservation culture is important and identified as an important opportunity area.
- Implementation of comprehensive plans for a sustainable water future.
- Increase efficiency of agricultural consumers/systems.
- Location of infiltration areas to improve aquifer recharge.

<u>Current Efforts and Initiatives</u>

- Integration of requirements of green infrastructure in comprehensive plans and development regulations.
- Municipal regulation for afforestation and landscapes.
- State program of promotion of water conservation culture.

Detailed responses are included in the OUTCOMES section of this report. The Listening Session findings demonstrate that the Growing Water Smart Program is a potential resource for Mexicali B.C. and Calexico communities to tackle important areas of opportunity that strengthen the integration of land use and water coordination. Both themes, 1) The use of nature-based solutions to improve water quality and 2) Water conservation in general, were of great interest to the attendees. We identified major opportunity areas that can be tackled by the GWS program. The GWS program will continue moving forward this summer with targeted meetings and identification of Consultant Experts in the City's Issues to help solidify the overall US-MX Border GWS structure. It is anticipated that the first US-MX Border GWS workshop will take place during Winter 2023/2024.

GROWING WATER SMART, MEXICALI/CALEXICO LISTENING SESSION May 25th, 2023.

The Border Growing Water Smart team, comprised of [Waverly Klaw (who attended virtually), Francisco Zamora, and Vivian Hobbins (who attended in person)] organized and hosted the event with the support of the Sonoran Institute Team.

Sonoran Institute Support Staff in the Listening Session:
Edith Santiago, Carlos Nieblas, Angela Melendez, Mariana Miranda, Eliza Stokes, Tomas Rivas, Alejandro Rosas, Israel Sanchez, Claudio Hernandez.

Francisco Zamora was the master of ceremony, and the following individuals gave introductory remarks:

- Mike Zeller, CEO of Sonoran Institute
- Waverly Klaw, Director of Growing Water Smart
- Anna Morales US, Area Operations Manager, Yuma, International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)
- Ing. Alfredo de la Cerda Regis, Representante de la Sección Mexicana de la Comisión Internacional de Límites de Aguas MEX-EUA
- Ing. Francisco Bernal, Director General del Organismo de Cuenca Península de Baja California, Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA)
- Dr. José Armando Fernández Samaniego, Titular de la Secretaría para el Manejo, Saneamiento, y Protección al Agua de Baja California
- Lic. Manuel Zamora, Director de Protección al Ambiente. Gobierno de Mexicali
- Norma Alicia Bustamante, representate del Presidente Municipal

This Listening Session covered 4 hours of presentations, small group discussions, and final discussions in which Sonoran Institute focused on two main topic areas:

1. **Nature-based management of stormwater to reduce flooding and improve water quality.**
2. **Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse to preserve regionally shared groundwater (Santa Cruz aquifer) and individual surface water.**

A. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

The Mexicali/Calexico Listening Session was well attended. In total, 46 people attended and participated in the Mexicali/Calexico Listening Session (including 12 staff members from the Sonoran Institute). Some of the staff members were distributed in the working tables to support note-taking and co-facilitation, while others supported in the reception, pictures, and organization of events in general. Francisco Zamora, Vivian Hobbins (from Sonoran Institute) and Edgar Carrera (from The Nature Conservancy) served as facilitators.
The final list of participants is shown below. Staff members are shown in light gray.

Full Name	Organization Name
Adriana M. Arias Vallejo	UABC
Jorge Ramirez Hernandez	UABC
Alfredo de la Cerda Regis	CILA Sección Mexicana
Mario Beltrán Mainero	Consulado de México en Calexico
Anna Morales	US-IBWC
Nahomi Cristina Ponce Cardenas	Consulado de México en Calexico
José Martín E. Haro Rodríguez	Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas - R. B. ALTO GOLFO DE CALIFORNIA Y DELTA DEL RÍO COLORADO
Manuel Zamora Moreno	Ayuntamiento de Mexicali
Ramon Ramsés Romero Araiza	Instituto Municipal de Investigación y Planeación Urbana de Mexicali
Israel Hernandez	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
Rene Felix	California Assembly Office - Representative
Meozotiz Torres Garcia	Dirección de Protección al Ambiente del Ayuntamiento de Mexicali, B.C.
Manuel Eduardo Franco Corza	Ayuntamiento de Mexicali
Gastón Lopez Beto	Ayuntamiento de Mexicali
Valeria Pimentel Rangel	Regidores XXIV Ayuntamiento
Martha Irene Celaya Figueroa	Regidores XXIV Ayuntamiento Mexicali
Mario Castillo Noriega	Regidores XXIV Ayuntamiento Mexicali
Daniel Perez Bastidas	Instituto Municipal de Investigación y Planeación Urbana de Mexicali
Edgar Carrera	The Nature Conservancy

Isaac David Vizzuett Herrera	Secretaría para el Manejo, Saneamiento y Protección del Agua de BC (SEPROA)
Jose Guadalupe Rodriguez Resendiz	Secretaría de Infraestructura, Desarrollo Urbano y Reordenación Territorial
Lic. Edgar Adrian Grijalva Corona	Secretaría de Infraestructura, Desarrollo Urbano y Reordenación Territorial
Jesus Zatarain	Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas - R. B. ALTO GOLFO DE CALIFORNIA Y DELTA DEL RÍO COLORADO
Glenda Karime Navarro Castillo	Protección al ambiente
Jose Alberto Montoya Patlan	Secretaria del Agua
Michelle Palacios Moreno	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable
Juliana Ortega Secillo	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable
Mazu Correa Valenzuela	JADEZ B.C.
Carmen Gonzalez Zamora	Ecologia DSPM
Álvaro Ariel Morales Aguirre	Ecologia DSPM
Vazquez Sosa Rubi	Ecologia DSPM
Luis Arcenio Morales	Congreso del Estado
Pamella Peralta	DPA
Antonio Magaña	Reportero Independiente/Periodista
Francisco Zamora	Sonoran Institute
Carlos Nieblas	Sonoran Institute
Edith Santiago	Sonoran Institute
Angela Melendez	Sonoran Institute
Vivian Hobbins	Sonoran Institute
Mariana Miranda	Sonoran Institute

Eliza Stokes	Sonoran Institute
Tomas Rivas	Sonoran Institute
Alejandro Rosas	Sonoran Institute
Israel Sanchez	Sonoran Institute
Claudio Hernandez	Sonoran Institute

B. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
CILA Sección Mexicana
Consulado de México en Calexico
US-IBWC
Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas - R. B. ALTO GOLFO DE CALIFORNIA Y DELTA DEL RÍO COLORADO
Ayuntamiento de Mexicali
Instituto Municipal de Investigación y Planeación Urbana de Mexicali
Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
California Assembly Office - Representative
Dirección de Protección al Ambiente del Ayuntamiento de Mexicali, B.C.
Regidores XXIV Ayuntamiento Mexicali
The Nature Conservancy
Secretaría para el Manejo, Saneamiento y Protección del Agua de BC (SEPROA)
Secretaría de Infraestructura, Desarrollo Urbano y Reordenación Territorial (SIDUR)
Comisión Estatal del Agua B.C.
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable
JADEZ B.C.
Ecología - Dirección de Seguridad Pública Municipal
Congreso del Estado
Dirección de Protección al Ambiente

Targeted organizations for future engagement:

City of Calexico Local Government
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
California Department of Water Resources
Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali (CESPM) / State Commission of Public Services of Mexicali (CESPM)
North American Development Bank
Colegio de la Frontera Norte
Restauremos el Colorado
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

United States Geological Survey (USGS)
California Water Boards
Imperial Irrigation District

C. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ORGANIZATION

Sonoran Institute initiated the Growing Water Smart US-Mexico Border Assessment in 2021. The final assessment report, which contained desk research for several sister cities along the US-MX border and information gathered during targeted interviews was published in April 2022. This assessment summary concluded the importance and need to continue Growing Water Smart efforts in the US-MX border, unlocking steps forward for the organization of sister city Listening Sessions to determine the possibility of US-MX GWS Workshops.

The Mexicali/Calexico Listening Session results were in support of the previous findings. 35 participants (not considering staff members) shared their perspectives about two main topic areas for 120 minutes of the 4-hour session. The topics and outcomes are described in the following section.

OUTCOMES

The 35 participants were divided into three discussion groups. One group was assigned Topic 1A, another group was assigned Topic 1B, this group was focusing on the drain and lagoon system of the New River. Lastly, the other group was assigned to Topic 2. Facilitators in the three discussion groups were: Francisco Zamora (Sonoran Institute) (Topic 1 Group A); Edgar Carrera (TNC) (Topic 1 Group B); and Vivian Hobbins (Sonoran Institute) (Topic 2). The main outcomes for each of the topics are highlighted below. Consensus was reached around some outcomes, which are shown in the last part of this report.

Topic 1. Nature-based management of stormwater to reduce flooding and improve water quality *(Soluciones basadas en la naturaleza para el control de inundaciones y agua pluvial)*, for example:

- Green infrastructure projects and code requirements (water retention/detention, curb cuts and bioswales, treatment wetlands) *Proyectos de infraestructura verde e implementación de códigos catastrales (retención y detención de agua pluvial, cortes en los bordes de las aceras y canales con vegetación, lagunas de tratamiento.*
- Low Impact Development code requirements (pervious pavement, site-scale water retention and infiltration). *Implementación de códigos para el desarrollo de bajo impacto (pavimentación permeable, retención de agua a escala y proyectos de infiltración.*
- Protecting sensitive areas by restricting development. *Restringir el desarrollo urbano en áreas sensibles a la inundación.*
- Promoting aquifer recharge. *Promover recarga de acuíferos.*

Topic 2. Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse to preserve regionally shared groundwater (Santa Cruz aquifer) and individual surface water *(Conservación, uso eficiente, y reuso de agua para proteger recursos compartidos de agua subterránea (Acuífero Santa Cruz) y aguas superficiales)* , for example:

- Replace high water use fixtures, appliances, and landscapes in existing development. *Reemplazar equipos, accesorios, y paisajes de alto consumo de agua en el desarrollo urbano existente.*
- Regulate new development to be more water efficient (landscape standards, alternative water supply, water budgets, compact development, smaller lot sizes, etc.) *Regular nuevos desarrollos para incrementar la eficiencia del uso de agua (reglamentos de paisaje y áreas verdes, fuentes alternativas de agua, restricciones en los balances de agua, desarrollo compacto, reducir el tamaño de lotes y terrenos de construcción.*
- Reduce water loss by upgrading infrastructure. *Reducir las pérdidas de agua a través de la renovación de infraestructura (tuberías, equipo de bombeo, infraestructura de almacenamiento).*
- Harness alternative water supplies (rainwater harvesting, water reuse). *Uso de fuentes de agua alternativas (cosecha de agua de lluvia, reúso de agua).*

TOPIC 1 OUTCOMES

Group A and B

Question #1: Please describe the current conditions around <u>localized flooding and water contamination/pollution</u> in Mexicali/Calexico Region?

- Even Though the region experiences low levels of rainfall, flooding occurs during the rainy season. There is no independent system for stormwater management. Combined sewer system.
- Soil type prevents stormwater infiltration.
- Lack of maintenance in rivers, drains, and lagoons causes overflow during the rainy season.
- Areas without wastewater regulation or technical/service issues cause wastewater overflow
- Unregulated industrial and agricultural discharges, and agricultural runoff are some of the main sources of contamination in the lagoon and drain system.
- Unregulated human settlements (Corredor Industrial Palaco)

- Calexico: Extraction equipment to withdraw water and empty it into the river (not necessarily contaminated wastewater).
- Jardines del Lago (Mexicali) waste collection and management has a very low price.
- Solid waste is exposed in Laguna Xochimilco
- Dead animals dumped in canals and drains

Where (Localized flooding)	**BC**	**CA**	**BC/CA**
Zona del Cetys - San Pedro I y II	X		
Puentes desnivel Lopez Mateos/Lazaro Cardenas	X		
Puentes desnivel Cetys altura	X		

Colonia Cuauhtémoc - combined sewer system overflows with heavy rains	X		
Zona limite (sur del caudal)	X		
Border sector (Algodones)	X		
Zona al sur de Mexicali - Zona Rural	X		
Contaminated water reach Calexico through the new River			X
Overflow sewer system	X		
New developments IVerde			
FEX-FAC Ciencias Admin (Independencia y Rio Nuevo) https://goo.gl/maps/o65KDZzBANDFkEtq9			
Low-level topographic areas in the city (asta bandera and aguazeguas) Plaza Centenario https://goo.gl/maps/Gio15J2rEEEpJK1e8			

Question #2: What efforts and initiatives are currently underway to address stormwater management and water quality challenges through land use plans, development policies, or programs?

Ongoing projects and initiatives

- New River Project - Close to the wastewater treatment plant
- Regulations for new developments
- Mexicali Fluye
    - Community outreach and education
    - Trash and solid waste removal from drains and lagoons
- Dirección de Protección al Ambiente (DPA)
- Salvemos las lagunas (https://www.facebook.com/SalvemoslasLagunas/?locale=es_LA)
- Fundación Hélice (https://www.facebook.com/fundacionheliceac/?locale=es_LA)
- CESPM
- NOM: There is an initiative to regulate discharges to drains and rivers
- ONG: Regulation of solid waste disposal
- Updated regulations to Urban Development policies (PDUCP)
- Community participation projects for the lagoon, drain cleaning, and environmental education
- In USA there is a program to control water quality in the New River
- Green areas and flooding protection in new developments
- Social organizations are interested in the topic
- A.V. Regulation in Mexicali
- Restauration plan for Salton Sea

Question #2.a. Is some element of this issue NOT being addressed or in need of greater attention? What do you need more information and training on in order to begin taking action?

- There is a need for wastewater pretreatment in residential areas.

- Impose fines on entities that throw trash or discharge contaminated water (there is a need for legislation/regulation).
- Closer transfer centers.
- Take advantage of US interest.
- Water-quality monitoring system.
- Reduce trash, increase compost, and recycle.
- Increase solid waste designated and regulated disposal sites.
- Green Infrastructure pilot projects in Mexicali.
- Integrate the community, gain back their trust (OSC, organizaciones de la sociedad civil).
- Find funding opportunities for OSC projects.
- Restructure of waste management costs.
- Gather all the hydrological and land use studies and propose holistic projects.
- There is a need for land use and water integration.
- Increase communication between organizations.
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination among different sectors and authorities.
- Currently, there is a working group focused on drain system maintenance, integrated by Federal, State, and Local governments.
- DPA outreach and education program. E.A. and cleaning.
- There is a lack of supervision and regulation enforcement.
- Plan to relocate unregulated human settlements along the drains and rivers.
- Certification of industrial discharge.
- Plan for the construction of wastewater treatment plants.
- Impose fines and penalties for water contamination in industries.
- Updated outreach and education campaigns.

Question #3: How could the Growing Water Smart program (workshop, training, and technical assistance) focused on the integration of water into land use be helpful in furthering the implementation and impact of these initiatives?

Ideas:

- Establish a government committee integrating different organizations like CONAGUA, IMIP, SIDURT, possibly regulated and led by CESPM.
- Effort coordination among different government levels.
- Learn what is being done in other cities (with similar characteristics as Nogales).
- Involve universities and non-governmental organizations to promote continuity.
- Find a way to increase funding opportunities.
- Increase outreach and communication.
- The workshops could be a good place to train different groups.
- Data compilation.
- Establishment of pilot projects.
- Massive outreach and communication campaigns in coordination with ONGs, OSC, AC.
- TA Grants.

Question #4: Who needs to be part of the conversation as part of the Growing Water Smart program?

Civil organizations

Community leaders
CANACO
INDEX
Universities
Business/Industrial sector
Binational groups
CMIC
CONAGUA
Community
State and Local government
CESPM
Todos somos Mexicali A.C.
Arq. Germán Meza - Consultant(+52 686-169-60-12)
Binational Task Forces
EPA
CALEPA
State Ecology Department
CAMIRAC

TOPIC 2 OUTCOMES

Question #1: Please describe the current conditions around groundwater and surface water supply in Calexico/Mexicali Region?

- Drinking water coverage of more than 90% in Mexicali.
- There is no infrastructure for rainwater harvesting or capturing.
- Infrastructure is old and needs maintenance. It is estimated that around 30% of water is lost through leaks.
- Conduction infrastructure is very old (more than 30-40 years old).
- Mexicali has secured water due to having senior rights. There is a set of wells in SLRC, this water is mixed with surface water of the colorado river.
- Disorderly city expansion.
- Industry and agriculture are major water consumers. Efficiency in agriculture is an opportunity area.
- Limited communication and outreach about water culture.
- "Zona Dorada" problems with sewage.

Question #2: What efforts and initiatives are currently underway to implement water conservation/efficiency/reuse strategies through land use plans, development policies, or programs?

- 2030 municipal plan.
- Urban development plan.
- Regulations and urban development law have imposed new construction requirements (increased green areas percentage).
- Municipal forestry regulation (in its way to be approved).

- Federal water law and state environmental protection regulations.
- State program for water conservation.
- Environmental protection law (Article 153).
- “Comisión de Infraestructura de Desarrollo Urbano y Transportes” - Regulation and supervisión.
- In California, there is a norm that regulates urban water supply for green areas and for new development.
- In California, there is a regulation that requires car wash businesses to use at least 60% of recycled water sources in their total consumption.

Question #2.a. Is some element of this issue NOT being addressed or in need of greater attention? What do you need more information and training on in order to begin taking action?

- Municipal and state development plans do not include requirements for green infrastructure.
- Lack of water culture.
- Retrofit programs are not available.
- Efficiency programs for the agricultural sector.
- There is a need for micro metering and macro metering with telemetry.
- Need for projects of water reuse, like infiltration wells.
- Education campaigns (training and involvement of universities).
- Training on how to address problems, and financing options.
- Unoccupied development regulation.

Question #3: How could the Growing Water Smart program (workshop, training, and technical assistance) focused on the integration of water into land use be helpful in furthering the implementation and impact of these initiatives?

- Training in different sectors about regulations and norms available.
- Creation of communication and outreach program.
- Educate different sectors about indirect and direct supply sources and uses.
- Integrating of cost - benefit analysis in master plan.
- Establish partnerships with government and institutions.

Question #4: Who needs to be part of the conversation as part of the Growing Water Smart program?

Environmental protection agencies (“Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente)
Imperial Irrigation District
Urban Development
NGO’s (Doserlac, Respira, Todos Somos Mexicali)
State Government
Urban Administration Department
Urban Development Commission
Architecture Department - Universities
Community
Business and industry sectors
Agriculture sector
Magisterio y regidores

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

HIGHLIGHTS

Theme 1 Group A

- Need for mechanisms to regulate water and land use integration.
- Establishment of incentives.
- Education.
- New strategies for funding sources.
- Community outreach and awareness.
- Create a new entity to manage stormwater.
- Address knowledge gaps and lack of communication between organizations.

Theme 1 Group B

- Establish incentives to promote adequate infrastructure use and best practices.
- Include universities and non-governmental organizations in planning and projects to improve the continuity of efforts.
- The program could increase binational collaboration.
- Holistic approach for managing water resources (considering ecosystems, aquifers, watersheds).

Theme 2

- Lack of incorporation of water into comprehensive planning.
- There is a need for binational regulation in the water quality-quantity topic.
- Education and water culture are two very important factors for water conservation.
- Implementation of more efficient fixtures in homes and businesses is an area of opportunity.
- Including the agriculture and industry sectors in the conversation is essential.
- Infrastructure projects for water reuse.
- Incorporation of the community.
- Civic organizations can serve as an important medium of influence and leverage.

LISTENING SESSION EVALUATION

Mexicali/Calexico GWS Listening Session participants provided their feedback on four specific questions about the session by filling out an online survey after the event. The response rate was calculated using the number of responses received for the evaluation.

Number of Community Participants Attended: 34

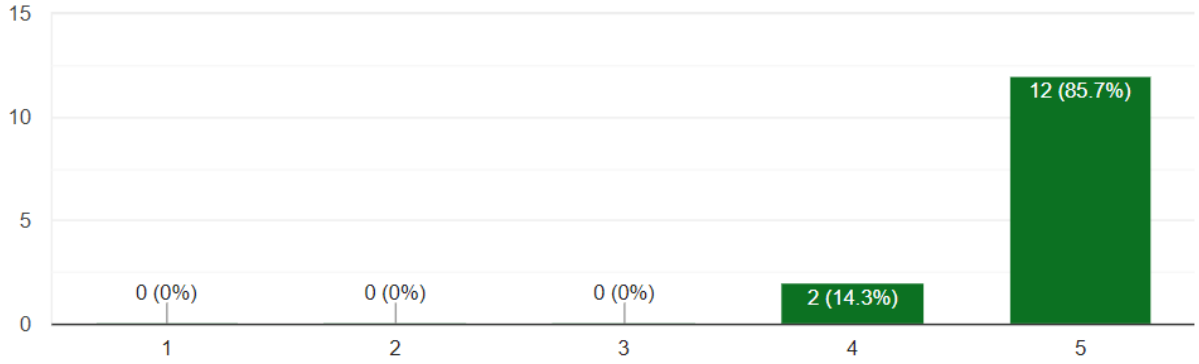
Number of Evaluation Responses Received: 14

Response Rate: 41%

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

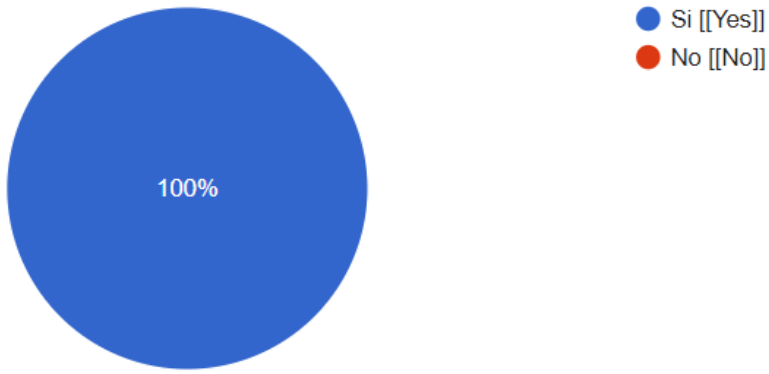
Question 1.

En una escala de 1 al 5, siendo 1 la expresión de mínima satisfacción ¿Que tan útil fue la sesión de escucha para aprender más del programa Creciendo Inteligentemente en el Uso del Agua (Growing Water Smart)? [On a scale of 1-5, How useful was the Listening Session to learn more about the Growing Water Smart program?] *85.7% of the participants found the LS very useful, and 14.3% found it useful.*



Question 2.

Basado en la información proporcionada durante la sesión de escucha, ¿Consideras que el programa GWS podría ser implementado con éxito en tu comunidad? [Based on the information shared during the Listening Session, do you think the Growing Water Smart program could be successfully implemented in your community?] *100% of the participants responded positively.*



Question 2B.
Why?

Comment 1:

"Compartimos el agua que nos llega del Río Colorado a Baja California y por parte del Río Nuevo el agua va a California, por lo que debemos de ser empáticos entre las naciones que compartimos el vital líquido y tratar de que el agua que va hacia el norte vaya lo menos contaminada, tanto para la flora y fauna, como para las personas que la utilizarán en su momento. así que hay que crear estrategias de comunicación para ambos países e implementar campañas de cultura del agua, tanto en los hogares como en las industrias."

Translation

We share the water from the Colorado River and through the New River water is transported to California. For that reason, we must be mindful between nations about water quantity and water quality, either for ecosystem, recreational, or urban water use purposes. I believe we must establish communication strategies for both countries (U.S. and Mexico) and implement water culture campaigns to reach people in general and the industry sector.

Comment 2:

"Por la necesidad de cuidar el agua"

Translation

For the need to protect and take care of the water.

Comment 3:

These programs could possibly help improve the water quality in the New River that arrives at the U.S./Salton Sea and provide ideas for water conservation on the Colorado River.

Comment 4:

La conservación de los espacios verdes y los drenes agrícolas-urbanos representan un reto para la ciudad que debe ser abordado a través de la consulta y el consenso, como lo plantea GWS

Translation:

Green areas and agricultural/urban drains conservation represent a challenge to the city, and the matter should be addressed through consultation and consent as the Growing Water Smart Program proposes.

Comment 5:

Considero que pretende abordar una problemática desde un enfoque integral donde se incluyen todos los actores involucrados en la ciudad y planteando soluciones estratégicas.

Translation:
I believe that the Program intends to take an integral approach to tackle the problem, in which all the main actors are included and propose strategic solutions.

Comment 6:

Debido a que están comprometidos con la importancia del tema del uso del agua en las comunidades, es una organización capacitada, tienen las herramientas suficientes y están abiertos aprender y cruzar fronteras para llevar con éxito el uso del agua.

Translation:
The GWS Program is committed to water conservation in the communities, it comes from an organized and qualified institution, and it has all the tools to tackle the problem. Besides they are open to learning and reaching other communities (like the border) to be successful in their objectives and protect water resources.

Comment 7:

Urgente necesidad de administrar y reutilizar el recurso hídrico en la comunidad.

Translation:
The urgent need to manage and reuse water resources in the community.

Comment 8:

Por la oportunidad de desarrollo de la zona.

Translation:
For the development opportunities of the region.

Comment 9:

Porque se necesita una entidad externa e independiente para organizar a los actores relevantes

Translation:
Because an external and independent entity is needed to organize all the relevant actors.

Comment 10:

Tema de interés en general para todos los diversos sectores de la sociedad.

Translation:
It is a topic of interest for diverse sectors of society.

Comment 11:

El seguimiento y evaluación del programa es básico para que este funcione, al involucrar a la comunidad y desarrollando el sentido de pertenecía, se crea una mayor posibilidad de desarrollo positivo y continuidad del programa

Translation:
The continuance and evaluation of the program are fundamental to making it work. Getting the community involved and creating a sense of belonging will more likely generate a positive development and continuity of the program.

Comment 12:

Es compatible y congruente con los esfuerzos que ya se realizan a nivel comunitario y en colaboración con diversas instancias.

Translation:
The GWS is compatible and congruent with all the current efforts in the community and in collaboration with various institutions.

Comment 13:

Se requiere por los daños existentes en el medio ambiente

Translation:
The program is needed due to all the environmental damage.

Comment 14:

Porque es necesario rescatar los humedales de Mexicali. Este programa ayudaría mucho a crear conciencia ecológica.

Translation:
Because we need to rescue wetlands in Mexicali. The GWS Program would help to create environmental awareness.

Question 3.

Además de las organizaciones e individuos invitados a esta sesión de escucha, ¿Qué otros actores deberían ser considerados en futuras reuniones? [Besides the individuals and organizations that attended the Nogales Listening Session, who else should be invited to future meetings?]

- Todos Somos Mexicali, AC. and experts in the water conservation campaigns. *[Todos somos Mexicali, AC. y a expertos en campañas del Ahorro de Agua.]*
- University Representatives from Architecture and Civil Engineering colleges. *[Representantes de las carreras de Ingeniería y Arquitectura Universidades.]*
- For the New River in the U.S., City of Calexico, Imperial County, The California Natural Resources Agency, and Salton Sea Authority. Possibly the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as well. They also are working on the implementation projects for the Salton Sea. Imperial Irrigation District and Bureau Reclamation.
- Community leaders *[Posiblemente las organizaciones de colonos aledaños a los sitios elegidos para intervenir y que se apropien del espacio.]*
- Dr. Efrain Nieblas. City Mayor of Calexico, El Centro, Brawley and Imperial
- State and municipal owned departments that take care of social development, given their involvement with current projects or programs that reach the communities. It is possible they already have community assessments for the development of project or services *[Creo deben de estar invitados también como paramunicipales o paraestatales que se encarguen del desarrollo social, ya que ellos también cuentan con el contacto y proyectos en las comunidades tanto en la*

ciudad como valle o periferia para que tengan del conocimiento y retroalimenten y propongan ya que tienen también el contacto directo con la comunidad y cuentan con diagnósticos comunitarios para el desarrollo de proyectos en obras y/o servicios.]

- In Calexico and Imperial Valley, Imperial Irrigation District *[En Calexico y Valle Imperial considerar IID que es la Agencia Administradora del agua.]*
- Calexico Municipality *[Ayuntamiento de Calexico]*
- Imperial Valley elected officials, Comité Cívico del Valle.
- Chamber of commerce, Agricultural Sector, NGOs, Civil Association, Education and Community Sectors *[Cámaras de Comercio, Sector agrícola, ONG, A.C y Mas sector educativo y Comunitario.]*
- Representatives from the civil society, developers - so they can use new criteria in their new projects - Urban Management Departments and Municipality of Mexicali *[Representantes de la sociedad civil, desarrolladores que involucren estos criterios en la planeación de sus nuevos proyectos habitacionales, Dirección de Administración Urbana del Ayuntamiento de Mexicali.]*
- Media representatives - so they can adopt communication and outreach strategies -. In the same way, community leaders, so they make sure to reach all people in their neighborhood. *[Representantes de medios de comunicación, a fin de que adopten tareas en la estrategia de comunicación y difusión. Asimismo, algunos líderes comunitarios locales, para que se pueda ir permeando la información hacia los habitantes de las localidades.]*
- Helice, A.C. *[Fundacion Helice, A.C.]*

Question 4.

¿Tienes alguna sugerencia o comentario sobre la sesión o cómo hacer más efectivo el programa Creciendo Inteligentemente en el Uso del Agua para ambos nogales? [Do you have any suggestions or comments about the Listening Session or about how to make the Growing Water Smart program more effective in Ambos Nogales?]

- Everything was excellent, there was very good participation from the attendees and the presenters. Thank you for taking care of all details and attentions from Sonoran Institute. *[Todo estuvo excelente, muy buena participación de los asistentes y de los ponentes. Gracias por las finas atenciones y detalles por parte de Sonoran Institute.]*
- The meeting was very well conducted. *[Creo que la reunión estuvo muy bien llevada.]*
- You are more than welcome to present at our next Colorado River Citizens Forum on September 20th (tentatively virtual meeting). Could assist in relaying the information to the surrounding counties in the U.S. Please let me know if you are interested. *[Son bienvenidos a presentar en nuestra siguiente reunión/foro con Colorado River Citizens en Septiembre.]*
- Maybe it would be a good idea to organize a session to show current conditions in the city, with some images of the city, followed by a proposal of locations where action could be taken, and possible approaches. In that way, the audience can analyze and reach a consensus for both cities. *[Quizá un sesión que muestre la situación actual, con algunas imágenes de la ciudad seguida de una imagen identificando los sitios más apropiados para intervenir indicando las opciones de intervención y someterlo al análisis de la audiencia para buscar el consenso. En ambas ciudades.]*
- None. *[Ninguna]*
- I had not had the chance to attend this type of meeting, thanks for the opportunity. I think it was very complete and there was excellent participation from the attendees. *[No había tenido la*

oportunidad de asistir a este tipo de reunión, agradezco la oportunidad, pero se me hizo una presentación muy completa y los asistentes muy involucrados con el tema.]

- The GWS structure is appropriate. In the case of Calexico, consider getting involved in the community college IVC and SDSU Calexico Location. [La estructura del programa es apropiada, en el caso de Calexico; involucrar al colegio comunitario IVC y a SDSU Campus Calexico.]
- I believe there is a need to establish the project in specific and detailed ways*. [Establecer el proyecto de manera específica.]*
- None for the moment. *[No por el momento.]*
- Consider decision makers in both sides of the border. *[Integrar al programa a los tomadores de decisiones en el tema de ambas partes.]*
- I suggest inviting public departments of the three levels (federal, state, local) to participate in a negotiating table to reach an agreement. In this way, align public policies instruments and tools, to generate collaboration and coordination in synergy. *[Sugiero una mesa de acuerdos entre las instancias públicas participantes de los tres niveles, a fin de materializar una alineación de instrumentos de políticas públicas y generar una base de colaboración y coordinación en sinergia.]*