



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 3, 2017

Dr. Paul Ganster, Ph.D.
Chair, Good Neighbor Environmental Board
Associate Director, Office of International Programs
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive, AL-173
San Diego, CA 92182-5102

Dear Dr. Ganster:

Thank you and the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) for the 2016 report on *Climate Change and Resilient Communities Along the U.S.-Mexico Border: The Role of the Federal Agencies*. Climate change is an important issue in the border region, as the effects will be felt substantially by every community. Climate change will bring about many challenges to border communities, but as your report outlines, the proper management of these impacts can lead to many opportunities for economic growth and stronger communities. It is critical that we, as a Nation, face these challenges with a united front, and work to ensure that all people have the opportunity to benefit equally from climate solutions and to diminish the disproportionate burden of climate impacts that some communities endure.

The management of climate change in the border region will set an example, both domestically and internationally. Not only will the border region be one of the first parts of the country to face extreme climate impacts, but the need to manage these impacts across two nations will set the stage for other bi-national resilience efforts. During the North American Leaders Summit, held in June 2016, the leaders of the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, reaffirmed the need for cooperative action in preparing for climate change, and set the tone for further collaboration between the three countries.

The Obama Administration is committed to helping the border region, and all communities across the country, prepare for the impacts of climate change. In October 2016, the Federal interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience released a report on *Opportunities to Enhance the Nation's Resilience to Climate Change*. This report outlines opportunities for how governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations can work together on shared resilience challenges and provide communities with the tools and support needed to build resilience. These opportunities can provide useful guidance to communities and entities along the border as they work to tackle the issues discussed in your report.



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Once again, I would like to thank you for your detailed report and continued support of enhancing resilience in the border region. Good luck with the development of the GNEB's 2017 report on *Environmental Protection and Security in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaimey Bavishi".

Jaimey Bavishi
Associate Director for Climate Preparedness and Resilience
Council on Environmental Quality