

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Good Neighbor Environmental Board

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1. Department or Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Good Neighbor Environmental
Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

1942

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? 5. Current Charter 6. Expected Renewal Date 7. Expected Term Date

No 05/29/2024 05/29/2026

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Presidential

12. Specific Establishment Authority

EO 12916

13. Effective Date

09/12/1994

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

Yes

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

To approve GNEB comment letter #1 of four
in the series; This letter focuses on the
challenges to drinking water availability and
potential technological solutions to improve
access and resilience in communities within
the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Start

End

11/13/2024 - 11/13/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$32,890.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$11,900.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$48,290.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	2.00	1.50

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board issues an annual report to the President and the Congress on environmental and infrastructure needs along the U.S. border with Mexico. These reports incorporate public input from its border-community meetings as well as its diverse membership. Environmental issues along the border are greatly complicated by other issues such as immigration, security, cultural diversity, poverty, cross-border trade, and other issues. The board is uniquely positioned to identify current and

emerging issues of concern within this complicated policy arena, and advise the federal government and U.S. - Mexico border states on how best to allocate its resources to address these concerns. To accomplish its purpose, the board maintains a close working relationship with the chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the President's environmental advisor. Across EPA, the board maintains a relationship with EPA's regional offices, especially those along the southwest border serving as both an information resource and as an objective provider of feedback. Thus, its recommendations have a direct effect on Agency operations.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board was created by the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act of 1992 (7 U.S. Code Section 5404) to advise the President and the Congress concerning environmental and infrastructure issues and needs within the States contiguous to Mexico. The Act requires that board membership include a representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and representatives from other appropriate U.S. federal government agencies; from the state governments of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas; local/county, tribal governments; and from private organizations, including community development, academia, health, environmental, and other nongovernmental entities involved with environmental and infrastructure problems along the southwest border.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee expects to meet approximately three times a year. Meetings may occur every four months, or as needed and approved by the DFO and the chair. Meetings may be held virtually or in a hybrid (virtual and in-person) format. During this fiscal year, the board held one hybrid meeting.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board was established pursuant to the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act, 7 U.S.C. Section 5404 and Executive Order 12916. The GNEB is currently operating under the authority given in Executive Order 14109, dated September 29, 2023.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

All members are Tier 1 (parent committee members). There are no Tier 2 (subcommittee) members serving.

Designated Federal Officer

Eugene Green DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Aguirre, Paloma	12/09/2022	12/15/2024	Mayor, City of Imperial Beach, CA, Tier 1 Community	Representative Member
Barcenas, Alejandro	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Services/Public Works Director, City of Nogales, Tier 1	Representative Member
Beavers, Rebecca	12/16/2023	03/21/2025	Climate Policy Specialist, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Becker, Kathryn	12/15/2022	01/17/2025	Assistant General Counsel, Tribal and Border Liaison, New Mexico Environment Department, Tier 1	Representative Member

Biggs, Trent	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Professor of Geography, San Diego State University, Tier 1	Representative Member
Brown, Christopher	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Professor , Department of Geography, New Mexico State University-Las Cruces, Tier 1	Representative Member
Carrillo-Guerrero, Yamilett	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Senior Program Manager, Binational Resilience Initiative- San Diego Foundation, Tier 1	Representative Member
Collins, Kimberly	12/14/2018	12/15/2025	Executive Director, William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center and Professor of Public Administration, California State University-San Bernardino, Tier 1	Representative Member
Coronado, Irasema	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Director and Professor, Arizona State University, School of Transborder Studies, Tier 1	Representative Member
Cruz, Evaristo	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Director of Community Development, Ysleta Del Sur, Tier 1	Representative Member
DeLeon, Rafael	05/05/2022	12/15/2025	Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of International and Tribal Affairs, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Ford, Larisa	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Deputy Program Manager, Sundance Consulting, Inc, Tier 1	Representative Member
Giblin, Pamela	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Board Member, B Carbon	Representative Member
Giner, Maria-Elena	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Gonzales-Roses, Melisa	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Assistant Director, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Community and Economic Development, Tier 1	Representative Member
Heyman, Josiah	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Director, University of Texas at El Paso, Center for Interamerican and Border Studies, Tier 1	Representative Member

Hollis, Mignonne	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Executive Director, Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation, Tier 1	Representative Member
Khubchandani, Jagdish	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Professor of Public Health, New Mexico State University-Las Cruces, Tier 1	Representative Member
Kirschner, Richard	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Youth Representative/Advocate, Southwest Border States, Tier 1	Representative Member
Lopez, Mario	12/14/2018	12/15/2025	External Affairs Manager, Sempra Infrastructure, Tier 1	Representative Member
Marruffo Ruiz, Joaquin	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Environmental Justice Coordinator, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Tier 1	Representative Member
Mumme, Stephen	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Professor, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University-Fort Collins, Tier 1	Representative Member
Murrieta-Saldivar, Joaquin	12/16/2024	12/16/2025	Director, Cultural Ecologist, Watershed Management Group	Representative Member
Niermann, Jonathan	01/11/2022	12/31/2024	Commissioner, Texas Council on Environmental Quality, Tier 1	Representative Member
Payne, Jeffrey	07/01/2015	12/15/2025	Director, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for National Oceanic Service, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Pohlman, Teresa	01/07/2011	10/31/2024	Sustainability and Environmental Programs Director, U.S. Dept of Homeland Security, Office of Chief Readiness Support, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Porto, Victoria	12/16/2024	01/22/2025	Acting Executive Director, Sustainability and Environmental Programs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Program Manager Inter-Agency Borderland Coordinator, U.S. Department of the Interior, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Range, Brent	12/16/2023	12/15/2025		

Roy, Rob	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Director, Environmental Protection Office, La Jolla Representative Band of Luiseño Indians, Member Tier 1
Sangster-Begay, Christy	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Director, Department of Environmental Protection, Representative San Carlos Apache Member Tribe, Tier 1
Talaugon, Sabine	12/16/2024	12/16/2025	Deputy Secretary of Intergovernmental Representative Relations, California Member Environmental Protection Agency

Number of Committee Members Listed: 31

Narrative Description

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board reports to the President and the Congress; it does not report to the EPA. Therefore, its recommendations implicitly apply to EPA as well as other federal and state agencies. The Good Neighbor Environmental Board expected outputs from fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2025 are to hold approximately eight official meetings and transmit a series of four comment letters, including the publication of two comprehensive reports to the President and the Congress. The comment letters will address timely and relevant issues that arise between issuance of the board's annual report. The overall outcome measures are threefold: The long-term outcome is to improve the environment, health and safety conditions of the communities along the U.S. border with Mexico. This outcome will be achieved by providing timely, useful advice to the President (via the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality) on environmental and infrastructure issues along the border. The medium-term outcome is to help shape and redefine environmental policies that contribute to the desired long-term objectives. The short-term outcome is to provide a forum for open dialogue between board members, border communities, and the U.S. public on the most important environmental issues facing the border region. Prior to fiscal year 2025 and in consultation with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the GNEB's work plan previously consisted of the following charge topics for this year's reporting period: 1—Challenges to drinking water availability and potential technological solutions to improve access and

resilience in communities within the U.S.-Mexico border region; 2--The capacity of border cities to manage environmental infrastructure challenges; 3--A review of the La Paz Agreement – past and present – with recommendations for future collaboration between the U.S. and Mexico—Arizona border region; and, 4—community resiliency to confront severe weather events in the border—El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM, and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Region. The series of charge topics will target critical environmental challenges and provide recommendations for effective federal, state, local/county, tribal and community cross coordination of services and resources. The GNEB supports both EPA’s mission and the Administrator’s priorities. It also promotes the protection of human health and the environment by providing advice and recommendations on how the federal and the border state governments can most effectively leverage its resources for maximum environmental protection along the U.S. border with Mexico. Through the balanced point of views comprising its membership and the networks the members maintain, the GNEB is positioned to strengthen and build partnerships across the border region with multiple local, state, and business/industry stakeholders, federal agencies and tribes as well as Mexican sister agencies. Subsequently, the GNEB is poised to pivot for the undertaking of new charge topics and will continue to work in consultation with the White House Council on Environmental Quality to develop and select relevant environmental matters of importance that further advance the Administration's priorities.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
Other

☐☒

Outcome Comments

Increased understanding of the role of binational cooperation in addressing environmental challenges along the U.S.-Mexico border. Although the board advises the U.S. President, its mission is to examine environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S.-Mexico border. Since environmental issues in the region span the international boundary, solving problems and identifying opportunities through binational cooperation has become a major thread that is woven throughout the board's advice/recommendations.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None

☐

Unable to Determine

☒

Under \$100,000

☐

\$100,000 - \$500,000

☐

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000

☐

\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

☐

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

☐

Over \$10,000,000

☐

Cost Savings Other

☐

Cost Savings Comments

The recommendations the board makes tend to call for broad institutional and policy changes that should be taken by numerous federal and state agencies that have environmental and infrastructure programs in the U.S. - Mexico border region. In some cases, the recommendation is in the form of cooperation and partnerships between the United States and Mexico. This process often is incremental and takes place over a long time frame and therefore is difficult to measure.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

353

Number of Recommendations Comments

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in conjunction with the board,

selects the topics for its annual report to the President and the Congress. Topics and level of specificity of recommendations varies widely, but in general cover actions related to major environmental concerns including air, water, energy, and waste as well as cross-cutting actions including collaboration and communication. Earlier reports tended to have many recommendations in numerous areas. More recently, reports have focused on a single topic, thereby allowing the board to be more specific in its recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

60%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Because the board's recommendations are broad, involve multiple partners, and are submitted with the recognition that full implementation will take multiple years, will occur incrementally, and should be based on sustainability, it is difficult to determine an exact percentage of its recommendations that have been fully implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

40%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The board's annual reports are widely distributed throughout various federal agencies, the border state governments of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, as well as numerous other organizations in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Increasingly, those who help to shape U.S. environmental policies are referring to the board's work during their deliberations and their on-the-ground projects to improve environmental quality in the border region. Board members from participating federal and state agencies regularly report out on progress being made within their respective agencies.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

On behalf of the President, the chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality who serves as the President's environmental advisor will provide a formal response to GNEB's advice and recommendations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Action Comments

As stated above, it is difficult to draw a direct line between the board's recommendations and actions taken within the federal governments and the governments representing the four border states. However, the board's advice and the background information it provides to support its advice increasingly are being referenced by media, academic institutions, businesses, government programs, and other organizations.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

Not Applicable