

Grounding

Mission

The International Border Community Steering Committee is dedicated to improving air quality in San Ysidro and Otay Mesa and protecting public health through advocacy, education, community engagement, research, and helping to shape programs, policies, and planning that advance environmental justice.

Objective

To significantly improve community health outcomes through measurable and meaningful actions towards clean air.

Values

- **Advance Environmental Justice:** Eliminate environmental health disparities through the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in environmental health policies, research, and programs and ensuring equal access to a healthy environment.
- **Improve & Protect Public Health:** Ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to attain their highest level of health by addressing historical and contemporary injustices impacting air quality and eliminating preventable health disparities caused by air pollution.
- **Be Good Neighbors:** Actions taken to improve air quality in the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa communities should not negatively harm their neighbors in Tijuana or other communities but should result in mutual air quality and health benefits.
- **Seek Opportunities for Collaboration:** Include community members, all appropriate U.S. and Mexican agencies, and other interested stakeholders in ongoing collaboration efforts to ensure successful implementation of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP).
- **Ensure Transparency & Accountability:** Provide updates on CERP strategy implementation and associated monitoring data and use the International Border Steering Committee forum to bring public agencies to the table to ensure transparency and accountability on measures that are within their role and responsibilities to implement.
- **Meaningful Community Engagement:** Ensure opportunities for the International Border Steering Committee and community members to meaningfully shape policies, plans, programs, and budgets by clearly presenting the information and setting aside time to provide input that leads to the improvement of air quality in Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, and the broader bi-regional community.
- **Measurable Impact:** Strategies implemented should lead to measurable emission reductions and/or mitigate impacts particularly for those most sensitive to air pollution. Monitoring and data analysis should be informed by community priorities to measure the effectiveness of CERP implementation.

Goals

- **Community Care:** Protect children, elderly, chronically ill, and other groups that are vulnerable to air pollution exposure.
- **Passenger Vehicles:** Reduce passenger vehicle idling at the Port of Entry and through the community in San Ysidro by improving traffic circulation, and transit and pedestrian infrastructure and options.
- **Heavy-Duty Vehicles:** Reduce emissions and emission exposure from heavy-duty trucks traveling to and from warehouses in Otay Mesa and beyond to protect the health of people living along truck routes (i.e., California State Route 905) on both sides of the border.
- **Other Sources:** Reduce emissions from Border Patrol activity on the west-side of San Ysidro, freight trains going through the heart of San Ysidro, and the Brown Field Municipal Airport in Otay Mesa and Aeropuerto Abelardo L. Rodriguez in Tijuana.
- **Cross-Border:** Reduce emissions and odor from sources in Tijuana such as sewage in the Tijuana River, burning of trash, and industrial-related activities.