

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Good Neighbor Environmental Board

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### 1. Department or Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 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 05/26/2022 05/26/2024

### 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

7 USC SECTION 5404, EO  
12916 and EO 13811

### 13. Effective Date

09/12/1994 Continuing

### 14. Committee Type

### 14c. Presidential?

Yes

### 15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

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

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next

FY FY

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**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 representatives from USDA and other appropriate U.S. Government agencies; from the state governments of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas; 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 as a hybrid (virtual and in-person) format. The board held two virtual and one hybrid meetings in

FY2023.

**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

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Aguirre, Paloma	12/09/2022	12/15/2025	Mayor, City of Imperial Beach, CA, Tier 1	Representative Member
Barcenas, Alejandro	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Community Services/Public Works Director, City of Nogales, Tier 1	Representative Member
Beavers, Rebecca	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Climate Policy Specialist, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Becker, Kathryn	12/15/2022	12/15/2025	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
Ganster, Paul	07/01/2015	12/15/2023	San Diego State University, Institute of Regional Studies Director	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
Hinojosa, Jose	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, General Manager	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
King, James	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	New Mexico State University, Dept.of Civil Engineering, Researcher/Graduate Advisor	Representative Member
Kirschner, Richard	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Youth Representative/Advocate, Southwest Border States, Tier 1	Representative Member
Lee, Erik	12/14/2018	12/15/2023	North American Research Partnership, Interim Board President	Representative Member
Lopez, Mario	12/14/2018	12/15/2025	External Affairs Manager, Semptra Infrastructure, Tier 1	Representative Member
Marruffo, Joaquin	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	Environmental Justice Coordinator, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Tier 1	Representative Member
McNeece, John	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	University of California-San Diego, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, Senior Fellow for Energy and Trade	Representative Member
Mia, Riazul	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	City of Laredo, Assistant City Manager	Representative Member
Micklin, William	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	Leaning Rock Water Corporation, Chief Executive Officer; Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians	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	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	Borderlands Restoration Network, Conservation Director	Representative Member
Niermann, Jonathan	01/11/2022	12/15/2025	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	12/15/2025	Sustainability and Environmental Programs Director, U.S. Dept of Homeland Security, Office of Chief Readiness Support, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Range, Brent	12/16/2023	12/15/2025	Program Manager Inter-Agency Borderland Coordinator, U.S. Department of the Interior, Tier 1	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Roose, Rebecca	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	New Mexico Environment Department, Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Administration	Representative Member
Roy, Rob	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Director, Environmental Protection Office, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, Tier 1	Representative Member
Sangster-Begay, Christy	03/14/2024	12/15/2025	Director, Department of Environmental Protection, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tier 1	Representative Member
Suarez, Carlos	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, State Conservationist/Director	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Sweedler, Alan	12/14/2018	12/15/2023	Clean Energy Alliance, Sustainability Advisor/Board Member	Representative Member
Vandervoet, Prescott	01/11/2022	12/15/2023	Vandervoet and Associates, Inc., Co-Owner/Operator	Representative Member

## Number of Committee Members Listed: 40

### Narrative Description

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board reports to the President; 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 outputs from October 2022 to September 2023 are three official meetings, an advice letter and a full report to the President. Additionally, there may be comment letters on timely issues that arise between issuance of

annual reports. The overall outcome measures are threefold: The long-term outcome is to improve the environment and health conditions of the residents who reside 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 the Administration's environmental policies that contribute to the desired long-term outcome. The short-term outcome is to open a dialogue between board members, border communities, and the U.S. public on the most important environmental issues facing the border region. The board also provides a transparent and open process for active and meaningful public participation. The GNEB supports both EPA's mission and the Administrator's priorities. It supports the protection of human health and the environment by providing 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 diverse nature of its membership and the networks the members maintain, the GNEB is able to strengthen and build partnerships across the border region with multiple local and state stakeholders, federal agencies and Mexican sister agencies, as well as Tribes. To accomplish this task, the GNEB will continue to work closely with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in the development and selection of relevant topics for future reports. The GNEB's charge for 2024 will be determined soon in consultation with CEQ. The charge will align with the President's "Build Back Better" Infrastructure Framework strategic plan. During the two years under its new charge, the board will issue an advice letter this year and produce the 21st GNEB comprehensive report later next year. The charge topic will target critical environmental challenges and provide recommendations for effective federal, state, local/county, tribal and community cross coordination of services and resources.

**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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 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?**

0

**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

The Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the President's environmental advisor, provides a response letter to the board's recommendations on behalf of the President.

### 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