

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AIR QUALITY
COMITE CONSULTIVO CONJUNTO PARA EL MEJORAMIENTO DE LA CALIDAD DEL AIRE
CD. JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA / EL PASO, TEXAS / SUNLAND PARK, NEW MEXICO

ONE BASIN RESOLUTION

México

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WHEREAS the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico air basin (The Paso del Norte Air Basin) was established by the governments of the United States of America and the United States of México to promote measures which improve the air quality of the region, and

WHEREAS the Paso del Norte Air Basin, though considered by the JAC to be a common and unified air basin, is actually comprised of the three separate administrative jurisdictions governed by El Paso County and the State of Texas; Doña Ana County and the State of New Mexico; the Municipality of Juárez; and the State of Chihuahua and the federal government of México; each of which is subject to separate nonattainment classifications under the NAAQS and the NOM (Norma Oficial Mexicana) by their respective governments; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, within the United States the jurisdictions of El Paso County and Doña Ana County comprise separate areas of nonattainment under provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act, and

WHEREAS one of the most fundamental principles of our partnership is that we are all in the same air basin, albeit divided by three separate jurisdictions and three separate monitoring, management and control programs, accordingly

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Joint Advisory Committee respectfully requests, from our respective municipal, state and federal governments, their assistance, in terms of funding; priority; expertise; and in overcoming the legal, regulatory, institutional, technical, and fiscal obstacles that stand in the way of a unified air basin; to:

1. Accurately define the physical scope of the air basin, rather than use the existing administrative and political boundaries;
2. Standardize the monitoring, forecasting, and data collection and dissemination within the air basin;
3. Develop a standardized and accurate emissions inventory for the air basin; and
4. Unify the respective air quality standards and management and control programs.

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Advisory Committee further requests that, as an interim step to achieving a unified air basin, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency consider designation of the United States portion of the Paso del Norte Air Basin, specifically El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as an interstate air quality control region under provision of section 107 or other pertinent sections of the Clean Air Act.

Given under our hand as National Co-chairs of the Joint Advisory Committee, this 26st day of August, in the year 2002.

Sergio Sánchez, SEMARNAT

William Luthans, USEPA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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