XXVI

Border Governors Conference
Conferencia de Gobernadores Fronterizos

JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN THE BORDER STATES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UNITED STATES OF MEXICO ON EMERGENCY AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Governors of the States of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas in the United States of America (USA) and the Governors of the States of Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Sonora and Tamaulipas in the United Mexican States (Mexico);

WHEREAS the United States of America and the United Mexican States share a common border and both peoples have cultural and familial links, and have a history of cooperation in times of crisis;

WHEREAS emergencies and disasters know no borders and can cause injury and loss of human life, property damage, environmental degradation, and have negative impacts on the economy and the infrastructure of the affected regions;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the state governors to protect their people and to provide the necessary help and relief during emergencies and disasters;

WHEREAS the exchange of technical knowledge, operational information and experience are critical elements for the protection of lives and goods;

THEREFORE WE PLEDGE our intentions to:

- Design cooperation projects within our own jurisdictions, to study, research and provide technical training in risks and natural disasters in order to develop procedures and techniques for the prevention, mitigation and preparation of response and rebuilding efforts in cooperation with the appropriate authorities of each country and in accordance with applicable internal legislation.
- Design agile communication strategies to apply in the event of emergencies and disasters, in accordance with each country's internal legislation.
- Share information and experience as to civil protection.
- Promote future activities of emergency and civil protection.
- Promote among the appropriate authorities, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between both nations that permits adopting prevention policies and expedites the response to all types of emergencies, and natural disasters on both sides of the border..

The cooperation, to which this Joint Declaration refers, shall be carried out by the Border States, coordinating with the appropriate authorities in each country, and strictly adhering to their jurisdictions and in accordance to what is established in the Treaties in effect between the Governments of the United States of America and the United Mexican States.

The parties acknowledge that this Joint Declaration is not intended to create any legally binding rights or obligations, and will not be enforceable in any court of law in the United States of America or the United Mexican States. The parties commit themselves in good will to implement this Joint Declaration to the fullest extent practicable, subject to any changes in policy that they may adopt.

Signed in Universal City, California on this 15th day of August, 2008. Ten copies in English and Spanish, both versions being equally valid.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	POR LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER Chair Governor, State of California	JOSÉ NATIVIDAD GONZÁLEZ PARÁS Co-Presidente Gobernador, Estado de Nuevo León
JANET NAPOLITANO Governor, State of Arizona	JOSÉ GUADALUPE OSUNA MILLÁN Gobernador, Estado de Baja California
BILL RICHARDSON Governor, State of New Mexico	JOSÉ REYES BAEZA TERRAZAS Gobernador, Estado de Chihuahua
RICK PERRY Governor, State of Texas	HUMBERTO MOREIRA VALDÉS Gobernador, Estado de Coahuila
	EDUARDO BOURS CASTELO Gobernador, Estado de Sonora
	EUGENIO HERNÁNDEZ FLORES Gobernador, Estado de Tamaulipas