

**Arizona and Sonora Governors' Statement regarding the:
Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy
Border Governors Conference, Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, September 2007**

Communities in the states of Sonora and Arizona face common challenges presented by living in an arid region. As stewards of these regions, community leaders in both states must manage resources - both human and natural - and understand and use new science and technologies to effectuate sound regional policy.

The universities of Arizona and Sonora are uniquely equipped to meet these challenges. To this end, we recommend establishing the Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy, a collaborative regional initiative that is aggressive, focused, goal-oriented and closely connected to the private sector, with the aim of creating an economic advantage for the region.

The Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy will create a public-private partnership that connects the research communities of all three Arizona universities with their counterparts in Mexico to inspire the region's best research minds to focus on our biggest challenges: our water resources, energy requirements, and the technologies needed to sustain them in the region.

The Institute will take a regional, problem-solving approach that uses the best practices of all participants, and will build upon and take advantage of existing organizations such as the Arizona Water Institute, the Decision Center for a Desert City (DCDC) and the Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA) and others. We will also create a public-private partnership, enlisting industrial partners to create a competitive advantage for the region.

Under the auspices of the Arizona-Mexico Commission and the "Comisión Sonora-Arizona" the Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy aims to become the premier source for collaborative and applied research and innovative social engagement in the Arizona-Sonora Region.

The Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy will encompass the top academic and research institutions in both States. In Arizona, this effort will be primarily coordinated by the Arizona Water Institute with the support of Arizona's three universities, Arizona State University (ASU), Northern Arizona University (NAU) and University of Arizona (UA). In Sonora, this effort will be coordinated by the Consejo Estatal de Ciencia y Tecnología de Sonora and will include Tecnológico de Monterrey Campus Sonora Norte (ITESM), Colegio de Sonora (COLSON), Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo (CIAD), Instituto Tecnológico de Sonora (ITSON) and Universidad de Sonora (UNISON) among others.

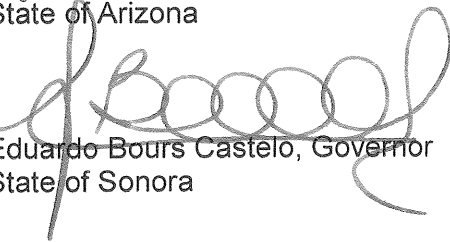
Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) strongly supports the principle of binational collaborations of this kind. SFAz will review competitive proposals derived from this Institute and will fund proposals with high merit and industry support. Additional funding will be sought by all interested parties with other institutions in Mexico and the United States.

Action Items:

- (1) The signatories below recommend the immediate establishment of the Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy (the Institute).
- (2) The Institute should develop reports and an action-oriented strategic plan by January 1, 2008 to respond to the urgent need.
- (3) Collaborative projects from concerned entities should be proposed to the Institute by May 1, 2008.




Janet Napolitano, Governor
State of Arizona

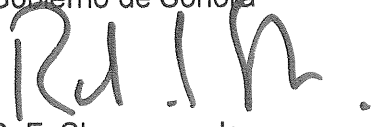


Eduardo Bours Castelo, Governor
State of Sonora

WITNESSES



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