



Permanent Forum of
**Binational
Waters**



*water
unites us*

From Vision to Action:

FIVE YEARS WORKING FOR WATER RESILIENCE **IN THE** **US-MEXICO BORDER**

MAY 2025





Join us to celebrate our 5th anniversary

In 2025 our community celebrates the fifth anniversary of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters, a project born out of the dream and determination of two visionaries who shared the same goals: to build a network of water professionals and academics that would outlast changes in administrations. A group who ultimately will become the institutional memory that would not just respond to a one-crisis, but that would have a lasting impact on our shared resources and the community.

These two minds came together – one in California, armed with the expertise in water management throughout the border, and the other in Texas, carrying the vision and deep understanding of the urgent need for water resiliency along the US-Mexico border.

What started as a shared dream has grown into a powerful force that fosters sustainable water solutions, research, innovation and networking. Together, they overcame the distance and, through hard work, collaboration and community building, we have achieved the unthinkable: establishing a strong organization, capable of continuing to grow, hosting respectful discussion about difficult topics, and ultimately transforming lives and how we think about our shared water resources. This anniversary is not



Rosario Sánchez



Samuel Sandoval

only a celebration of the time that has passed, but also of the vision, the shared effort and the strength of the collaboration between a group of people with a common passion and willingness to transform an idea into a reality. As we celebrate, we reflect on the progress we have made in advancing water sustainability, cooperation, communication and equity advocacy in the US-Mexico border.

This report celebrates our accomplishments, shares the impact of our work, reinforces our mission, values and identity, and outlines our vision for the future. We are deeply grateful to our team, members, partners, donors, volunteers, and communities for their untiring commitment to ensuring water security across the U.S and Mexico borderlands.



What We Believe, What We Have Built

Mission

The Permanent Forum of Binational Waters is dedicated to foster a network of water professionals and to share reliable science communication in order to address water security, improving water quality, and promoting sustainable water management practices in the US-Mexico border region, recognizing water as a vital resource for the well-being of communities and ecosystems.

Values and Identity

Collaboration: Building bridges across borders to solve shared challenges

Equity: Ensuring that all communities have access to the resources they need

Sustainability: Promoting long-term solutions to water management and security

Innovation: Using science and technology to drive impactful changes

Empowerment: Amplifying local voices and fostering community-driven initiatives

Socialization of science: Offering a variety of science communication tools, like water conservation infographics, webinar, guides, and advertising events



What we have accomplished

In the past five years, the PFBW or “Binational Waters” has achieved significant milestones in addressing our mission. We would like to share some key highlights with you.

1. Initiatives and Impacted Communities

Through community engagement and advocacy, the PFBW focuses on empowering stakeholders in the community to act in water conservation and sustainability through workshops, webinars, coffee breaks, science talks, research projects, town halls, and direct participation in advocacy campaigns.



800 beneficiaries

They serve as a dynamic open space for experts from the U.S. and Mexico to connect, share, and discuss the science of water issues in an easy language.



350 beneficiaries

This initiative brings to light the potential water solutions that address the biggest water challenges along the U.S.-Mexico border, creating a platform where new research can be shared.



600 beneficiaries

This program, formerly named Women in Science, highlights the important role that women play in water science and policy. Through a series of interviews, educational campaigns, and networking opportunities, we have highlighted the work of women in both countries to take leadership roles in water management issues.

Open Mic (1,800 views)

Our Open Mic program brings experts from different topics of the water field to discuss their views and perspectives on the subject and binational implications.

Mythbusters (10,500 views)

Our Mythbusters are a way to raise awareness on various myths surrounding the binational water community and to get the facts right.



2. Scientific Binational Collaboration

Through partnerships with universities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, private entities and public institutions, the Forum has developed scientific reports and scientific publications to support the decision-making process.

Transboundary Aquifers Pilot Program



Thanks to the collaboration of a binational scientific team of researchers, the first phase of the project of the Allende-Piedras Negras/Maverick Transboundary Aquifers successfully produced four deliverables.

The knowledge and information collected has proven to be highly useful and beneficial, already impacting 271,410 people

1. Project website
2. Executive report: Main data, gaps, and research needs
3. Executive report: State of Affairs
4. Synthesis report on water supply and demand. Knowledge of the physical conditions of groundwater and aquifers in the study area.

One Coast one Community



Data Sharing and Water Quality Monitoring System. In partnership with Proyecto Fronterizo and San Diego Foundation, the Forum initiated the development of a citizen-science driven water quality monitoring system for the Tijuana-Rosarito-San Diego-Coronado coastal area.

The project is in process of expanding its scope for phase two. Currently impacting around 8,725 beneficiaries

1. Manual with the visual identity of the Project materials
2. Project reports and educational materials, landing page and website content, in English and Spanish
3. Three monitoring sites along the coast of Tijuana with necessary equipment and infrastructure for effective data collection on coastal erosion
4. A centralized platform for data sharing on water quality, visualization of results and community engagement

5. An educational online course (English and Spanish) that enhances understanding of water quality management and binational scale and coastal erosion management in the Tijuana River Basin titled: Water and Ecosystems in the Tijuana-San Diego Region

Identification of recharge zones and vulnerable areas near the Monterrey Metropolitan Area



A technical report on water resources, vulnerable zones and recharge areas in the Monterrey Metropolitan Zone was produced with collaboration with Tecnológico de Monterrey and Terra Habitus, A.C.

Potential impact of around 5,200,000 beneficiaries. Currently looking for funding for Phase 2 of the project.

A scientific publication regarding this project is currently submitted for a peer-reviewed Journal (Water Sources and recharge areas in the Monterrey Metropolitan Zone).

Binational Groundwater Task Force (BGTF)

An initiative originated at the US- Mexico Transboundary Aquifers Conference held in October 2020, to identify priorities and develop a plan to assess current challenges related to transboundary aquifers in the US-Mexico border region. It is integrated by a group of 12 experts from both sides of the border.

The group has developed a dataset of the 11 transboundary aquifers between Mexico and the United States to be published by the end of 2025.

Report: “Fact Sheets of ten transboundary aquifers between Mexico and the US: basic hydrological facts and risks”.





3. Building Bridges Across Sectors: Sponsorships, Partnerships and Collaborations

Collaboration is at the core of our work. Over the past five years, the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters has built a strong and diverse network of allies committed to advancing water resiliency efforts along the US-Mexico border. By fostering strategic partnerships across sectors,

we are able to amplify our impact, integrate diverse perspectives, and co-create solutions that are innovative, inclusive, and grounded in science. Below are some of the key allies that have joined our forces to turn shared challenges into lasting change.

Partnerships/Collaborations				
AQUOSMIC	Universidad Autónoma de Baja California	Texas Children in Nature	Tecnológico de Monterrey	Southwest Research Institutet
Rio Grande Study Research Center	Rosenberg Water Forum	Texas Water Foundation	Environmental Law Institute	Women in Water Diplomacy Network
Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua	Arizona State University	Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental	Coast Snap	International Association of Hydrogeologists

Grants and Donations



Sponsorships





From Knowledge to Action: Education and Communication in Motion

4. Educational Resources

Binational Institute



This initiative focuses on developing educational resources, course development to socialize science and communicate effectively with different audiences.

The objective is to raise awareness about water scarcity and water quality issues through social capacity building, effective communication, and the importance of binational cooperation in shared water resources.

Three online courses are currently available impacting 196 beneficiaries

Water and Ecosystems in the Tijuana-San Diego Region (English and Spanish)

This course provides guidance through the essential concepts of water quality and pollution.



Rio Research Roundup (English and Spanish)

This course offers a unique opportunity to participate in teacher-led and student-led teams, collect real-world data, and explore the rich ecosystem of the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo.

Transboundary Waters (English)

An approach to understand water issues across transboundary river/aquifer basins. Describes the underlying concepts behind sharing waters, legal and theoretical principles and techniques.

5. Media and Outreach Impact

Our digital presence has been an essential tool for outreach and community building.

Engaging Audiences Online: Events and Programs

40 virtual events and programs (available in our YouTube channel in English and Spanish)

A Growing Community of Opportunity

With 263 members and counting, the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters offers a dynamic platform for collaboration and fundraising.

Members can submit grant proposals through the Forum, form their own binational teams, and benefit from flexible overhead arrangements tailored to each project.

Website and Social Media Growth (from 2024-2025)

- ◆ Website: 487% increase
- ◆ Instagram: 47% increase
- ◆ Facebook: 30% increase
- ◆ YouTube: 20% increase
- ◆ LinkedIn: 35% increase

Media Presence

The growing relevance of the PFBW in cross-border water issues has been reflected in the increasing attention from national and international media.

Through strategic communication and timely dissemination of information, Binational Waters has positioned itself as a key voice in the public discourse on water sustainability and cooperation between Mexico and the United States.

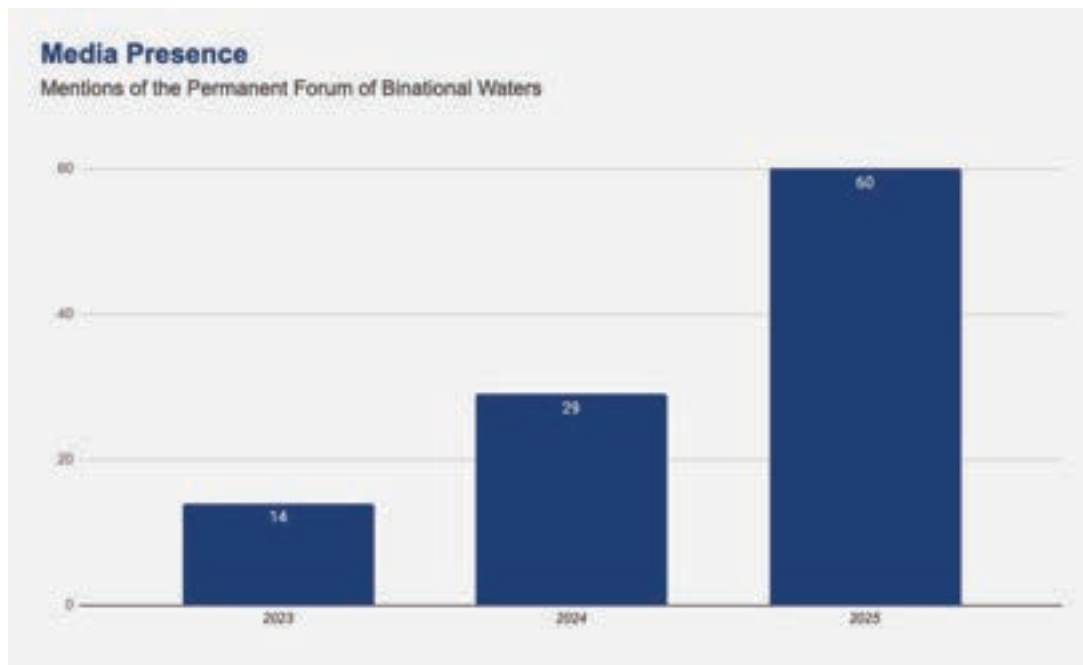
Key Highlights

- ◆ 43 news articles published across 28 prominent media outlets
- ◆ Featured by major outlets such as: CNN, Newsweek, Vanguardia, Zeta, Uniradio, El Sol de Tijuana, and the San Diego Union-Tribune

Most covered topics include

Water quality monitoring across the US-Mexico border

- ◆ Updates and analysis on the 1944 Water Treaty Minutes
- ◆ Groundwater detection and studies between Texas and Coahuila





Shaping the Future: Innovation, Growth, and Binational Vision

6. Growth Potential

Research and Consultancy Services

Specialized Research and Consultancy services designed to help governments, NGOs, institutions and private organizations confront issues like climate change, water efficiency, water scarcity, and complex water borders.

Binational Working groups

17 working groups on: Groundwater, Transboundary issues, Laws and Public Policy, Institutions and Administrative Systems, Wildlife and Environmental Conservation, Surface-Groundwater Interactions, Geology and Hydrogeology, Urban Development, Land Use Change, Water Management, Climate Change, Modeling and Spatial Analysis, Social and Economic Systems, Surface Water, Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Quality, and Public Health.

Shared Water News

News sharing activities, Forum's events, programs, and achievements.

"Water Unites Us" Binational Store

Created in 2024, our virtual store offers unique products that celebrate the importance of water while supporting our mission. Every purchase helps fund our organization's

efforts and raises awareness about water conservation and access.

Where we are headed

As we move into the next five years, we are committed to deepening our impact and expanding our reach. Our strategic goals include:

1. *Strengthening Programs and Services:*

- ◆ Expanding our outreach to more stakeholders and communities across the border.

2. *Strengthening Binational Collaboration:*

- ◆ Advocating for stronger bilateral collaboration on water resource management.
- ◆ Enhancing our partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and community-based organizations and private entities to amplify our scale and scope.

3. *Sustainability and Growth:*

- ◆ Securing sustainable funding through grants, corporate partnerships, and individual donations.
- ◆ Exploring innovative funding models to ensure long-term financial stability.

7. Financial Overview

Our financial health is crucial to sustaining our programs and impact. Over the past five years, we received **\$275,345.00 USD** from donations, grants and contracts, which we have strategically used to maximize results.

Our annual fixed expenses amount to around \$45,000.00. In 2024 and 2025, we attained the 2024 and 2025 Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of transparency and accountability a nonprofit organization can achieve.

In the future months, due to recent budget cuts under the current federal administration, the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters may be facing significant financial challenges to meet its fixed expenses, including essential program costs. With no active income sources, we are at risk of reducing or pausing critical services.

We are actively seeking funding and exploring new fundraising efforts to ensure we can continue serving our community. We welcome any support or ideas to help us sustain our mission during this difficult time.

How can you Help

As we move into the next phase of our journey, your support is more vital than ever.

Here are ways you can make an impact:

- ◆ Donate: Your contribution helps us to foster water conservation and sustainability workshops and research projects.
- ◆ Volunteer: Get involved by donating your time and skills to support our initiatives.
- ◆ Purchase our “Water Unites Us” products: Shop with purpose and make a difference—because water unites us all!
- ◆ Develop joint research projects and attract funding to be performed by the working groups of the Forum.
- ◆ Spread the Word: Share our mission with your networks to increase awareness and drive action.



Donate [Here](#) to support our work

On behalf of the entire team at the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters, we thank you for your commitment and support over the past five years. Together, we have made a significant impact, and we are excited to continue working towards a sustainable and equitable water future for the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Here's to another five years of progress and partnership!

Rosario Sanchez

Director

Permanent Forum of Binational Waters



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th
Anniversary

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