



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between the**  
**SOUTHWEST CONSORTIUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND POLICY (SCERP)**  
**and the**  
**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)**  
**for**  
**COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**  
**pertaining to**  
**BINATIONAL RESEARCH ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER**

**I. PURPOSE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between SCERP and the USGS to further their respective missions and to enhance interaction and cooperation on research and policy programs. Both parties agree through this MOU to work together to establish collaborative research, education, and funding opportunities.

**II. MISSION DEFINITIONS**

The USGS was created by Congress in the Organic Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 394, 43 U.S.C. 3 1 (b)) which provided for the classification of the public lands and the examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the National Domain. The mission of the USGS is to provide the Nation with reliable, impartial information to describe and understand the Earth. This information is used to minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; enhance and protect the quality of life; and contribute to wise economic and physical development.

SCERP was created by the U.S. Congress in October 1990 legislation that stated the consortium was to "initiate a comprehensive analysis of possible solutions to the acute air, water quality, and hazardous waste problems that plague the United States-Mexico border region." SCERP carries out its mission through a cooperative agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SCERP is a collaboration of five U.S. and five Mexican universities located in all ten border States. The five American universities are Arizona State University, New Mexico State University, San Diego State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, and the University of Utah. The Mexican universities are El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juárez, Instituto Tecnológico y de

Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, and Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. SCERP promotes, supports and encourages binational cooperation in research, training, and capacity building in science, technology, engineering and public health. Furthermore, SCERP applies research-based information, insights and innovations to current and emerging environmental, ecological and human health issues in the Mexico-U.S. border region.

### III. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is entered into under the USGS Organic Act of March 3, 1879, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 31 et seq., and under 43 U.S.C. 36c which bestows permanent authority to the USGS to "prosecute projects in cooperation with other agencies, Federal, State, and private." SCERP is a not-for-profit environmental research and policy collaboration with the authority to enter into agreements to further their mission. The sponsored research offices/foundations of the various universities serve as fiscal agents for SCERP.

### IV. SCOPE

Collaboration and regional capacity building is critical to effective binational research and implementation of solutions. SCERP has received a Cooperative Agreement award from the EPA for the project entitled "Border Environmental Issues" and, the USGS, through congressional appropriation, is conducting the USGS U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health Initiative. To advance their respective projects, SCERP and the USGS agree to the following collaborative elements:

1. Both parties agree to support the mission of the other as much as possible within and through their respective programs.
2. The USGS and SCERP will collaborate, when appropriate, on holding workshops, providing technical assistance, and facilitating the transfer of technology in areas of mutual interest.
3. Both parties agree to develop and implement an annual collaborative program plan and to be guided by SCERP's Management Committee of representatives from its universities and by the USGS Border Strategy Team. Annual plans may consist of one or more of the types of collaboration identified in number 2 above, as needs dictate.
4. Both parties will be responsible for developing and submitting annual reports on program progress to their respective governing bodies.

### V. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

This MOU defines the general terms upon which the USGS and SCERP will cooperate. Performance under the terms of this MOU is subject to the-availability of funds and personnel resources through each Party's respective funding procedures. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the USGS and SCERP will be handled in

accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

**VI. EFFECTIVE DATE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION**

This MOU shall take effect upon the date of the last signature and shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. This MOU may be modified at any time upon joint written approval and may be reviewed annually or at the request of either of the Parties. This MOU may be terminated at any time by mutual written agreement of the Parties, or by either Party upon 90 days written notice to the other Party.

**VII. POINTS OF CONTACT**

The following individuals will be the Points of Contact for this MOU:

**SCERP**  
D. Rick Van Schoik  
SCERP Managing Director  
San Diego State University Research  
Foundation  
5250 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, California, 92182-1913  
(619) 594-0568  
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**USGS**  
James Stefanov  
Deputy Director, Texas Water Science  
Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
8027 Exchange Drive  
Austin, TX 78754-4733  
(512) 927-3543  
Fax: (512) 927-3590  
[iestefan@usgs.gov](mailto:iestefan@usgs.gov)

Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party in writing in the event of a change in the designated Point of Contact.

**X. APPROVALS**

**SOUTHWEST CONSORTIUM FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND  
POLICY:**

*(Original Signature on File)*  
Dr. Paul Ganster  
SCERP Chair

May 10, 2006  
Date

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY:**

*(Original Signature on File)*  
Dr. Patrick Leahy  
U.S. Geological Survey

May 3, 2006  
Date