

## SURVEY QUESTIONS

**1) From your agency's point of view, what regulations can be reduced to improve communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments within the Texas-Mexico border region?**

N/A

**2) What are the main trade issues between the United States and Mexico that you have identified as having an impact (both positive and negative) on your agency or your area of work?**

The demand for affordable housing, infrastructure necessary to support housing and viable communities, and demand for health and social services increases as trade between the United States and Mexico grows. This impacts ORCA through continued demand for Rural Health and Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) funds for a variety of health and infrastructure needs, such as water, wastewater, street improvement, and community centers as well as planning grants. ORCA provides extensive technical assistance to local officials as border communities seek to address their community development needs.

**3) Having studied the flow of commerce at ports of entry between this state and Mexico, including the movement of commercial vehicles across the border, what actions would you establish to aid that commerce and improve the movement of those vehicles?**

ORCA has not conducted a study regarding flow of commerce at ports of entry at this time.

**4) How do you work with federal officials to resolve transportation issues involving infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to allow for the efficient movement of goods and people across the border between Texas and Mexico?**

ORCA works with local officials to improve transportation issues by funding street and drainage projects in low-to-moderate income communities in the Texas border region. This allows for the safe and efficient movement of people to and from affected communities.

**5) How does your agency work with federal officials to create a unified federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs?**

ORCA is not involved in the federal process for streamlining border crossing needs at this time.

**6) Has your agency identified problems involved with border truck inspections and related trade and transportation infrastructure? What are those? What solutions/recommendations does your agency propose?**

ORCA has not identified problems involved with border truck inspections and related infrastructure at this time.

**7) How do you work to increase funding for the North American Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater facilities?**

ORCA actively participates in an inter-agency workgroup with representatives from several state and federal agencies, including the North American Development Bank, which provide funding for water and wastewater facilities projects. Through this dialogue, ORCA is able to collaborate with the North American Development Bank and other agencies in order to ensure the maximization of resources and the effective and efficient implementation of infrastructure projects.

**8) Has your agency explored the sale of excess electric power from Texas to Mexico? What are your findings?**

ORCA has not explored the sale of excess electric power from Texas to Mexico at this time.

**9) Has your agency identified any areas of environmental protection that need to be addressed cooperatively between Texas and the Mexican states? If so, which are those areas and what type of protective measures need to be taken?**

N/A

**10) Has your agency identified common challenges to health care on which all border states can collaborate? If so, what are those challenges and how can all border states collaborate to overcome them?**

N/A

**11) Has your agency developed any recommendations to address border challenges in general? If so, what are they [them]?**

ORCA actively participates in the State Agency Advisory Roundtable on Border/Mexican Affairs ("Advisory Roundtable") led by the Office of the Secretary of State. As a member of the Advisory Roundtable, ORCA has been involved in the development of recommendations to address border challenges through collaboration with the Colonia Resident Advisory Committee (C-RAC) as provided by Senate Bill 1202 (79<sup>th</sup> Regular Session). This resulted in a comprehensive report entitled the *Coordination of Colonia Initiatives and Services to Colonia Residents* as well as the report *Tracking the Progress of State-funded Projects that Benefit Colonias* (SB 827).

**12) What programs and services does your agency offer to border communities?**

See response to question 15.

**13) What are some regulatory and/or legislative recommendations to eliminate duplication and combine programs and services?**

ORCA recommends maintaining interagency dialogue and the Advisory Roundtable in order to eliminate duplication of services.

**14) Please share any considerations from your agency regarding the effect of policies instituted by the federal government impacting the border region?**

N/A

**15) Please give a brief summary of all your agency's activities related to the Border and/or Mexico?**

The following include the agency's activities related to the Border.

- Community Development & Community Development Supplemental Fund: Water, sewer, street paving, drainage, accessibility activities for persons with disabilities, fire protection, health clinics, shelters, community/ social service center, etc.
- Disaster Relief/ Urgent Need Fund: Sewer, water, housing, and roads for disaster recovery and urgent water or sewer needs caused by sudden infrastructure failure.
- Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program (CEDAP) Fund: Sewer and water connections to Texas Water Development Board EDAP projects
- Colonia Construction Fund: First-time water and sewer, housing activities, street paving and drainage, etc.
- Colonia Comprehensive & Area Planning: Planning activities to assess need and develop strategies to address those needs.
- Colonia Self-Help Centers (Administered by Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs): Self-help centers established to address the needs of colonia residents, including access to a safe, suitable home.
- Texas Small Towns Environment Program (Tx STEP): Water and wastewater activities performed by volunteer/ self-help labor.