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Binational Environmental Justice Champions to be Recognized on April 14

Environmental Health Coalition to celebrate cross-border communities at Awards Celebration

SAN DIEGO, March 22, 2016 – Environmental Health Coalition, the only binational environmental justice organization in the San Diego/Tijuana region, announces its 2016 Awards Celebration: *One People, Una Frontera*. EHC believes that environmental issues such as poor air quality, polluted neighborhoods and lack of open community space transcend borders. On April 14, the event will celebrate individuals and groups that have dedicated their lives to building a healthy, unified San Diego/Tijuana region.

This year's awardees include:

- **Spirit of Justice Award:**
 - These government agencies worked to confine more than 42-tons of lead-contaminated waste from a Tijuana battery plant. This award recognizes their leadership and steadfast commitment to the health and safety of our neighborhoods.
 - SEMARNAT
 - EPA Region 9
 - **Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins:** As the leader of the California Assembly, Speaker Atkins received a perfect score for environmental justice bills in 2015. Her own bills created seats on the California Air Resources Board for environmental justice representatives and directed new resources from penalties to be directed to impacted communities.
- **Environmental Justice Champion Award:** From producing powerful documentaries to ensuring healthy development practices on the Alamar River, these awardees display unparalleled professional effort and commitment to equitable, balanced development in cross-border communities.
 - The Rodriguez Griswold Family
 - Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre
 - Enrique Medina
 - Ana Elena Espinoza
 - Saúl Guzmán
- **Healthy Neighborhoods/Barrios Saludables Awards:**
 - These groups have offered opportunities for concerned Tijuana citizens to get involved in their communities. Their advocacy and organizing efforts

have led to toxic site cleanups, preservation of declining natural space and a strengthened concept of environmental justice in the border region.

- Consejo Consultivo Para el Desarrollo Sustentable
 - Tijuana Calidad de Vida
 - Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental
 - CICEA Papalotzin
 - Red de Ciudadanos para la Mejora de las Comunidades (RECIMEC)
 - Colectivo Chilpancingo
 - Jóvenes Pro Justicia Ambiental
- **Neighborhood leaders:** 28 adults and youth will be recognized for their outstanding civic engagement in the struggle for healthy neighborhoods.

[Pacifica Companies](#) presents EHC's annual event at the [Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation](#) from 6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m on Thursday, April 14, with a VIP Reception from 5:00-6:30pm. The event expects a sold-out crowd of more than 400 attendees including San Diego dignitaries, event sponsors, business and community leaders, community members and long-time friends of EHC. Additional sponsors include Tijuana Duty Free, UETA Duty Free, IBEW, and San Diego Airport Authority. [Click here for a full list of event sponsors.](#)

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets to *One People, Una Frontera*. For event questions, email giulianas@environmentalhealth.org. For more information on EHC's cross-border work, please visit www.environmentalhealth.org.

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION: Founded in 1980, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) builds grassroots campaigns to confront the unjust consequences of toxic pollution, discriminatory land use and unsustainable energy policies. Visit us online at <http://www.environmentalhealth.org>.