



Via Teleconference

AGENDA
VALLEJO SISTER CITY
COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – 4:30 p.m.

JUNE 21, 2021

Elissa Shanks-Stewart,
Chairperson
Vernon Williams III, Vice Chair
Emma del Rosario
Diana Dowling
Karen Lowe
Norma Placido
Pelton Stewart

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE JUNE 21, 2021 SISTER CITY
COMMISSION MEETING

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This AGENDA contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The posting of the recommended actions does not indicate what action may be taken. If comments come to the Sister City Commission without prior notice and are not listed on the AGENDA, no specific answers or response should be expected at this meeting per State law.

Pursuant to the Government Code Section 54954.3 (The Brown Act), members of the public shall be afforded the opportunity to speak on any agenda item of interest to them provided they are first recognized by the presiding officer. The public is encouraged to call into the meeting well ahead of when they wish to speak to address the Commission. When you wish to speak, click on the "Raise Hand Button" or Press *9 if calling by phone. Staff will then move you into the virtual speaker's seat and unmute your microphone when it's your turn to speak. If calling by phone, please press *6 to unmute yourself. Please note the clock begins when you are unmuted, so you must be prepared to speak when called upon.

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AGENDA City of Vallejo Sister City Commission

JUNE 21, 2021

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Report from Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Secretary to the Commission
- B. Report from Council Liaison to the Vallejo Sister City Commission
- C. Report from Chair to the Vallejo Sister City Commission

5. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Due to the current Shelter at Home Order and in conformance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-30, the City of Vallejo has opted to hold the Sister Cities Commission meeting via teleconference. Any interested members of the public desiring to communicate with the Sister Cities Commission as part of the Public Comment Regarding Consent Calendar Items may do so via ZOOM (<https://ZoomRegular.Cityofvallejo.net>) or via phone, by dialing (669)900-6833. Meeting id: 914 0075 0676 followed by # sign. Press *9 to digitally raise your hand when you wish to speak. Press *6 to mute/unmute your microphone.

For additional instructions on how to speak during public comment, please visit, www.cityofvallejo.net/publiccomment. Each speaker is limited to three minutes pursuant to Vallejo Municipal Code Section 2.02.310. Requests for removal of Consent Items received from the public are subject to approval by a majority vote of the commission. Items removed from the commission will be heard immediately after approval of the Consent Calendar and Agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: By motion, approve the Minutes for the April 19, 2021, Vallejo Sister City Commission Regular Meeting.

B. Approval of Agenda

6. OLD BUSINESS

Due to the current Shelter at Home Order and in conformance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-30, the City of Vallejo has opted to hold the Sister Cities Commission meeting via teleconference. Any interested members of the public desiring to communicate with the Sister Cities Commission as part of the Public Comment Regarding Old Business may do so via ZOOM (<https://ZoomRegular.Cityofvallejo.net>) or via phone, by dialing (669)900-6833. Meeting id: 914 0075 0676 followed by # sign. Press *9 to digitally raise your hand when you wish to speak. Press *6 to mute/unmute your microphone.

For additional instructions on how to speak during public comment, please visit, www.cityofvallejo.net/publiccomment . Each speaker is limited to three minutes *pursuant to Vallejo Municipal Code Section 2.02.310*.

- A. **Accept final draft of new procedures for selection of Friendship City and Sister City**
- B. **Review revisions of timeline on when a Friendship City becomes a Sister City**

7. NEW BUSINESS

Due to the current Shelter at Home Order and in conformance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29 30, the City of Vallejo has opted to hold the Sister Cities Commission meeting via teleconference. Any interested members of the public desiring to communicate with the Sister Cities Commission as part of the Public Comment Regarding New Business may do so via ZOOM (<https://ZoomRegular.Cityofvallejo.net>) or via phone, by dialing (669)900-6833. Meeting id: 914 0075 0676 followed by # sign. Press *9 to digitally raise your hand when you wish to speak. Press *6 to mute/unmute your microphone.

For additional instructions on how to speak during public comment, please visit, www.cityofvallejo.net/publiccomment . Each speaker is limited to three minutes *pursuant to Vallejo Municipal Code Section 2.02.310*.

- A. **Review process for MOUs for all Sister Cities**
- B. **Copies of MOUs in binders in Sister Cities Room**
- C. **Clarification of Sister City – Sister County relationship**
- D. **Business Cards for Commissioners**
- E. **Review Ensenada packet for elevation to Sister City status**

8. REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES – COMMISSIONERS WILL PROVIDE IF THEY HAVE ANY UPDATES

- A. **Committee Reports**
 - 1. Trondheim, Norway
 - 2. Baguio City, Philippines
 - 3. Bagamoyo, Tanzania
 - 4. Jincheon, South Korea
 - 5. La Spezia, Italy
 - 6. Akashi, Japan

- i. Mr. Ryo Aono's service with the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco is coming to an end. The successor is Mr. Yusuke Shimada.
- ii. In discussions with the Akashi counterpart to reignite pen pal activity.

B. Friendship Cities Subcommittee Reports

- 1. Ensenada, Mexico – Ensenada packet is ready for review to elevate to a Sister City status.
- 2. Muju, South Korea
- 3. Ennery, Haiti
- 4. Rota, Northern Mariana Islands (U.S. Commonwealth)
- 5. Zanzibar, Tanzania
- 6. Seven Generations Inner Tribal Council

9. NEXT REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING: August 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT

I, Erik Rzomp, Executive Assistant to the Mayor do hereby certify that I have caused a true copy of the above notice and agenda to be delivered to each of the members of the Vallejo Sister City Commission, at the time and in the manner prescribed by law and that this agenda was posted at City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo CA at 5:00 p.m., June 17, 2021.

Dated: June 17, 2021

Erik Rzomp, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

**SISTER CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BY TELECONFERENCE
APRIL 19, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shanks-Stewart at 4:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Shanks-Stewart, Commissioners del Rosario, Dowling, Lowe, Placido and Stewart

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Williams

City Staff Present: Executive Assistant to the Mayor Rzomp, Councilmember Liaison Verder-Aliga appeared on screen at 5:51 PM

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Report from Executive Assistant to Mayor, staff to Sister City Commission.

B. Report from the Council Liaison to the Sister City Commission.

C. Report from Chair to the Vallejo Sister City Commission.

Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Rzomp was attending his first Sister Cities Commission meeting and introduced himself.

Council Liaison Verder-Aliga, reporting later in the meeting, had nothing to report since the commission has been on hiatus since the pandemic.

Chair Shanks-Stewart asked that the agenda be approved with flexibility to allow for Vice Mayor Verder-Aliga to join the meeting late and provide a report. out of order. The Chair submitted a written report which was included with the agenda packet and is included with the minutes.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: Commissioner Lowe requested heading for agenda item 8A. Committee reports be changed to Sister Cities Committee Reports. By unanimous consensus of the Commission, approval of the agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: By motion, approve the Sister City Commission minutes for the Special meeting of February 24, 2020, Sister City Commission.

Action: Approved minutes.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Accept final draft of new procedures for selection of Friendship City and Sister City

Final draft of new procedure not yet complete. Commissioner Lowe will bring the final draft to the next regular meeting in June.

B. Review revisions of timeline on when a Friendship City becomes a Sister City

Timeline revisions to be reviewed at June meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review MOU for all Sister Cities

Each Committee chair is responsible for reviewing their own city's MOU and bringing it to the Commission's attention when an update or revision is required.

B. Approval of Friendship City/Cities in Afghanistan

The Commissioners voted unanimously to entertain the interests of the City of Parun in the County of Nuristan in Afghanistan when and if a letter is received.

C. Confirmation of Committee and subcommittee chairs

Sister Cities Committee Chairs

1. Trondheim, Norway – Commissioner Lowe
2. Baguio City, Philippines – Commissioner Placido
3. Bagamoyo, Tanzania – Commissioner Stewart
4. Jincheon, South Korea – Vice Chair Williams
5. LaSpezia, Italy – Chair Shanks-Stewart
6. Akashi, Japan – Commissioner Del Rosario

Friendship Cities Subcommittee Chairs

1. Ensenada, Mexico – Commissioner Del Rosario
2. Muju, South Korea – Vice Chair Williams
3. Ennery, Haiti – Chair Shanks-Stewart
4. Rota, Northern Mariana Islands (U.S. Commonwealth) -Commissioner Stewart
5. Zanzibar, Tanzania – Chair Shanks-Stewart
6. Seven Generations Inner Tribal Council – Commissioner Dowling

D. Expenditures – gifts for officials, visiting delegations, permanent banners, equipment

Discussion around purchasing gifts as needed or keep a stock for unexpected visitors. Discussion included purchasing from local artisans and to let commissioners know what is being purchased in advance. Motion by Commissioner Stewart to investigate and purchase gifts for only the mayors or head of delegation as necessary, permanent banners and maybe equipment. Seconded by Commissioner Lowe. Motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

A. Sister City Committee Reports

1. Trondheim, Norway – Commissioner Lowe reported good wishes to get through pandemic from her contact Paul Ligda. No other communication from contact on reestablishing exchange. Commissioner Lowe's family still willing to be a host. With the help of the Sister Cities Association, trying to get relationship back on track.
2. Baguio City, Philippines– Commissioner Placido requested funds in the amount of \$2000 to replace the donated plaque on the replica Golden Gate Bridge and to repaint. Plaque wording has faded. The Chair confirmed this expenditure is within the authority of subcommittee to make. Commissioner Placido made a motion to spend the \$2000, Commissioner Stewart seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Bagamoyo, Tanzania – Commissioner Stewart submitted a report as an agenda attachment and is included in the minutes.
4. Jincheon, South Korea – Vice Chair Williams absent, no report from him. Commissioner Stewart reported on a bell that Jincheon is planning to gift to city. The city will need to build a pagoda to put it in. Commissioner Stewart is working with GVRD to identify a location.
5. La Spezia, Italy – Chair Shanks-Stewart had communication with contact at Christmas time. They are locked down due to pandemic. Commissioner delRosario was concerned because we have not heard anything since sending the affirmation.
6. Akashi, Japan – Commissioner Del Rosario submitted a report as an agenda attachment and is included in the minutes. Commissioner Del Rosario confirmed she has names of new leadership in Akashi. Commissioner Stewart reported on repair status of Akashi gift clock. Funding via purchase was approved by City Manager's office, but repair vendor does not accept purchase orders. Since a long time has passed since last estimate, the vendor has been contacted for a request for an updated quote. Chair Shanks-Stewart has a list of new contact personnel in Akashi. Email was forwarded to secretary. Commissioner del Rosario to send updated list of Vallejo's elected officials

B. Friendship Cities Subcommittee

1. Ensenada, Mexico - Commissioner Del Rosario submitted a report as an agenda attachment and is included in the minutes. The commission is looking to pursue Ensenada as a Sister City. Commissioner del Rosario is working on a

subcommittee with community members and commission members.

2. Muju, South Korea - Vice Chair Williams absent, no report
3. Ennery, Haiti - From Chair Shanks-Stewart, Shantelle Brumfield from the Sister Cities Association submitted a request to the Links Foundation to get a substantial amount of money to get plumbing.
4. Rota, Northern Mariana Islands (U.S. Commonwealth) - Commissioner Stewart submitted a report as an agenda attachment and is included in the minutes. Official visit to be led in March 2022 by Congressman Thompson's assistant Mel Orpilla.
5. Zanzibar, Tanzania – comments on Tanzania in the Chair's report, attached
6. Seven Generations Inter Tribal Council – Commissioner Dowling was assigned to this subcommittee. Commissioner Stewart will help Commissioner Dowling come up to speed.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE: June 21, 2021 4:30 P.M. by Teleconference

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion of Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Items for the June regular meeting:

- Copies of all MOUs in binders in Sister City Room
- Discuss clarification of sister city - sister county relationship – Commissioner Pelton said he would start looking into Bagamoyo and who to contact at Solano County.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

ELISSA SHANKS-STEWART, CHAIR

ATTEST:

ERIK RZOMP, SECRETARY

ELEVATE ENSENADA

ENSENADA, BC, MX AS A VALLEJO SISTER CITY, 2021

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-END-

ELEVATE ENSENADA

ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO AS A VALLEJO SISTER CITY, 2021



Ensenada is a coastal city in **Mexico**, the third-largest in Baja California, 78 miles south of San Diego on Baja California Peninsula. **Ensenada** has emerged as a cruise ship destination, aerospace center, and a jumping-off point for Valle de Guadalupe, a local wine region. Ensenada's diversity as a city is in part attributed to Spanish, **Russian**, and American influences.



Sister City Commission



ELEVATE ENSENADA

ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO AS A VALLEJO SISTER CITY, 2021

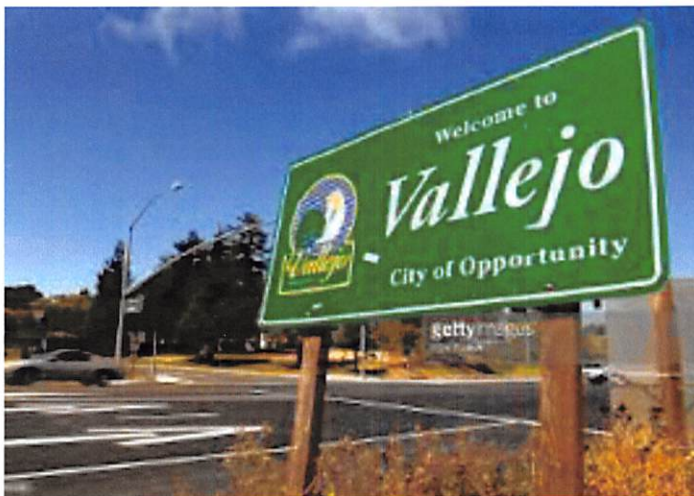
Sister Cities International (SCI) -



Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. President Eisenhower reasoned that people from different cultures could understand, appreciate, and celebrate their differences while building partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

Mission: To promote peace through
mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation
one individual, one community at a time.

Vallejo Sister Cities - Trondheim, Norway;
Akashi, Japan; La Spezia, Italy; Baguio, Philippines;
Bagamoyo, Tanzania; Jincheon, So. Korea



City of Vallejo
CA, U.S.A.



La Mision, Ensenada,
BC, Mexico

Delegacion La Mision,
Ensenada Baja CA,
Vallejo Friendship Cities



Vallejo Sister City Commission Charter

Vallejo Sister City Commission Chapter

2.38 Sister City Commission

2.38.010 - Creation and Membership.

2.38.020 - Purposes.

The purpose of the sister city commission shall be:

- A. To plan and recommend to the city council a sister city program.
- B. To stimulate and sustain participation in and community support for an approved sister city program

2.38.030 - Duties.

The duties of the sister city commission shall be to:

- A. Conduct research on Vallejo's sister city or cities and their respective country or countries, existing and proposed;
- B. Establish and maintain liaison with Sister Cities International;
- C. Promote the following activities between Vallejo and its sister city or cities:
 - 1. Relationships and events between cities;
 - 2. Visitor exchange and tour groups and exchange of information, gifts, and articles of cultural and informative value; and
 - 3. Formal and friendly relations between such groups as schools, youth organizations, clubs, chambers of commerce and churches.
- D. Maintain a roster of participants interested in correspondence and maintain a translation committee;
- E. Evaluate relationships with current sister cities and make recommendations to city council; and
- F. Record deliberations and decisions adequately to reveal considerations significant to such decisions.

ELEVATE ENSENADA

ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO AS A VALLEJO SISTER CITY, 2021

The Dream . The Vision

In alignment with President Eisenhower's 1956 White House conference on citizen diplomacy, we envision Ensenada as a hub for peace and prosperity as a Vallejo sister city which would complement our current Vallejo Sister Cities. We appreciate our different cultures and celebrate our commitment to our diplomatic partnerships with all our sister cities. The Sister Cities International, Vallejo Sister City Commission and the Vallejo Sister City Association are instrumental in the development and strengthening of the diplomatic bond and partnership based on cultural, educational, trade exchanges and humanitarian services. Our "person to person" interaction in carrying out the mission and vision of President Eisenhower energizes us in doing the right things and doing them well as "citizen diplomats", especially during our international collaborative, diplomatic visits.

The Commitment

Our commitment to the values demonstrated by Vallejo Sister City Commission, Vallejo Sister City Association and Sister Cities International in Washington DC, in promoting peace, respect, cooperation and humanitarian efforts will always be the heartbeat by which we as an organization live by, act on and share with our Sister Cities, such as Ensenada, worldwide. We, Vallejo Sister City officers and members are committed to be a part of this endeavor, in making the new Vallejo-Ensenada Sister City relationships grow in numbers, create new ideas, projects or programs, and give guidance when necessary, in implementing policies, and practices. We together will "Connect Globally and Thrive Locally".

A committed group of Citizen Diplomats from Vallejo visited La Mision, Ensenada, BC in 2017 to witness first-hand the work of the people of La Mission Educational Day Care, providing care and education to the families and children of the community. It was during this visit with our Vallejo Citizen Diplomats, when the Ensenada Director of International Affairs handed a Letter of Intent to become a sister city, signed by Ensenada Mayor Marco Novelo, to the following Vallejo Sister City Officers: Vallejo Sister City Commissioner Pelton Stewart, Vallejo Sister City Association Vice Chair Dinah Villanueva Ryan, Vallejo Sister City Ensenada Committee Chair Emma del Rosario Cordova, Vallejo Jincheon, South Korea Chair William Kim, and Vallejo Sister City Member Ravi Shankar

ELEVATE ENSENADA

ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO AS A VALLEJO SISTER CITY, 2021

The Mission

On June 9, 2015, Emma del Rosario Cordova, was sworn in as a Commissioner with the Vallejo Sister City Commission. Commissioners are charged with creating a sister city program as required by Chapter 20.38.020. Emma focused on youth empowerment and humanitarian programs that could impact the lives of all people, both young and old. In February 2017 Vallejo Sister City Association received a letter of inquiry from Delgado Ariel Sanchez of La Mision, Ensenada MX inquiring about the City of Vallejo and the Vallejo Sister City Organization. In October of 2017, we received a visit from the Director of Open Arms, Heidi Elizarraraz, who wished to learn more about the Vallejo Sister City organizations. She was accompanied by Mrs. Martha Camacho. Mrs. Camacho, a Vallejo resident, was born in Mexico and serves as a youth director at Church on the Hill, a church that regularly sends youth on humanitarian missions to La Mision. Mrs. Camacho and Heidi Elizarraraz serve as Vallejo's liaison to La Mision, Ensenada, Mexico. Vallejo Sister Cities has partnered with the community from Church on the Hill led by Pastor Scott Peterson and the Vallejo Hispanic-American Community led by Mina Loera - Diaz while pursuing a sister city relationship with La Mision, Ensenada.

In June 2017, the five Vallejo Citizen Diplomats made their first visit to the Cities of Ensenada to meet with the Director of International Affairs, Jared Gutierrez. He introduced us to the City of Ensenada's culture, schools and City Officers. It was during this visit that the letter of intent was presented to and accepted by the visiting officials from Vallejo Sister City, Association. On July 29 to August 6, 2019, the Vallejo delegation traveled a second time to Ensenada and La Mision to continue the Sister City process. The VSCA Ensenada team, led by Emma del Rosario Cordova, continues to work toward completion of the process to "ELEVATE ENSENADA" as a Sister City of Vallejo.

How it all came about!
Emma del Rosario Cordova

VSC Commission - Pelton Stewart, Chairman

Vallejo Sister City Association - Yolanda Kim, President

Thank you for receiving our letter of Friendship in order to become Sister Cities.

La Mision is a town located 1 hour south of the border between Mexico and the United States with a population of about 5000 inhabitants.

The town is divided by a river, and around you can enjoy a beautiful mountain scenery where the practice of rock climbing is very famous. At the west side of the town we have the very famous "Playa La Mision" where you can enjoy activities such as surfing, horseback riding, fishing and ultralight rides. The beach also has a variety of hotels and restaurants, among them are "La Fonda hotel, restaurant and spa", "Poco Cielo hotel and restaurant", "The Light House Restaurant" and "La Mision hotel and restaurant".

La Mision is a place that has a wonderful charm, the people from the community are very warm, friendly and helpful, and they always make you feel at home. Anyone who visits the town, hardly wants to leave.

The village has two kindergartens, 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high school, and 1 high school. The average education in Mexico is only seventh grade, but now with the facilities of the junior high and high school in our town, we have seen that the level of education has risen.

There are several organizations in our town; one of them is Open Arms, which is well known by the people in the town. It is a ministry in charge of keeping the families of La Mision together by providing free childcare to more than 60 children. They are not only caregivers, but they also help families through parenting classes; provide medical, dental and psychological care; house building projects for the families of the town; they had implemented an adult school program where the people can finish their elementary and junior high school education; they also have a special space called "The Cave" for the teens that graduate from the daycare program. In this place they help them with their homework, speak the word of God so the teens can build a relationship with Him and provide them healthy recreation games. They have a youth center called "High Voltage" where young people from the town gather every Friday afternoon to hang out, play and enjoy a good time with each other and be safe off the streets listening to the word of God. Additionally, they provide microloans to families for their small businesses and a safe place to leave their children while they go to work. They also have a church in their facilities, where the families of children in the daycare and the people from the community can have a spiritual growth and development.

Open Arms priority is to care for the families before a child is abandoned, and that all the people from La Mision know the gospel of Jesus.

Approximately 100 people from the city of Vallejo has visited us in the past year. Their passion to serve and help the families of Open Arms and the community inspires us to continue to provide help to the community.

When Emma del Rosario Cordova contacted us to ask if we wanted to be part of this sisterhood between the city of Vallejo and La Mision, we could not say no, because we saw it as a great opportunity to further help families in our community together. We know that God has great things for La Mision and with your help we believe these things will be possible.

Here are some of the projects that we could work together: youth exchange programs, travel packages for groups, where they can do some kind of community service to the people of the town and to Open Arms; help the families in developing or in poor circumstances; house building projects, food and clothing distribution; provide health care classes, clean parks and streets, participate in recreational activities for children and youth, promote sports and exercise, provide support and training to help people to start their businesses and / or improve the ones they already have; and make a evangelization campaign so that all people can know Jesus.

It is an honor and a privilege to have been nominated to be part of this sisterhood between the City of Vallejo and the village of La Mision.

Together we will achieve more.

At your service.



Ariel Sánchez
Delegado del poblado La Mision



C. Adolfo Ariel Sánchez Pérez
Delegado Municipal de La Misión

ariel_sanchezp@hotmail.com
Tel. 155-0361
155-0143



Carret. Libre TJ - ENS
KM 65.5 "La Misión"



Cities Seeking Cities – Debrief

City: La Mision, Ensenada.

State/Province: Baja California

Country: México

Member Organization Primary contact: Heidi Elizarraraz

Phone: 559-303-2965

Email: heidi@openarmsmexico.org

CSC Contact: Emma del Rosario Córdova

Phone: 707-552-9154

Email: eadelros101@gmail.com

Member Organization Affiliation:

Date of Debrief: 7/13/2015

Time: 8:30 AM

City Overview

Population: 5000

Density:

Area:

Weather: 65°-80°

Predominant languages in the community: Spanish.

Diaspora populations/culturally distinct communities: None.

Neighboring cities/countries: Playas de Rosarito 20 min. north and Ensenada 30 min. south.

Main industry: Agriculture.

Number of primary schools:

Number of colleges/universities: 0

- 3 primary schools, 1 junior high school, 1 high school, 3 kindergartens.

Tourist attractions/points of interest:

-Playa La Mision

-Poco Cielo

-Wine country

-The Light House Restaurant

-La Fonda hotel, restaurant and spa

-La Mision hotel and restaurant



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

The extent of government interest in your Sister City organization:

100 %

The extent of private groups/affinity organizations interest in the city pairing:

One: Open Arms Childcare Ministries.

Awards or recognitions the city/sister City organization has received:

None.

Personal testimony (helpful information for sister City pairing):

La Mision is a place with a wonderful charm, the people from the community are very warm, friendly and helpful, and they always make you feel at home. Anyone who visits the town, hardly wants to leave.

Cities Seeking Cities Interest

What spurred interest for city pairing?

Approximately 100 people from the city of Vallejo has visited us in the past year. Their passion to serve and help the families of Open Arms and the community inspires us to continue to provide help to the community.

What does your city have to offer to a potential Sister City?

Youth exchange programs, travel packages for groups, where they can do some kind of community service to the people of the town and to Open Arms; help the families in developing or in poor circumstances; house building projects, food and clothing distribution; provide health care classes, clean parks and streets, participate in recreational activities for children and youth, promote sports and exercise, provide financial support and training to help people to start their businesses and / or improve the ones they already have.

Other areas beyond the previous specific interests your city would be willing to pursue?

The following interest for example:

- ☐ Virtual cultural exchanges, festivals and activities.
- ☒ Organizing global travel exchanges
- ☒ Youth / student exchange programs
- ☒ Supporting developing communities
- ☒ Humanitarian projects
- ☒ Economic partnership / business development / trade delegations
- ☐ Virtual classroom partnerships
- ☐ Municipal governance exchanges
- ☐ Hosting Annual / regional conferences



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

Regional Interest:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Any | ☐ Southern Africa | ☐ Central Asia |
| ☐ Central America | ☐ Northern Africa | ☐ East Asia |
| ☐ South | ☐ Middle East | ☐ South Asia |
| ☐ Caribbean | ☐ Western Europe | ☐ Oceania |
| ☐ Western Africa | ☐ Eastern Europe | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ Eastern Africa | ☐ Northern Europe | |

Primary regional interest:

Top 3 countries of interest:

1.

Geographic interest (ex: mountain / coastal towns):

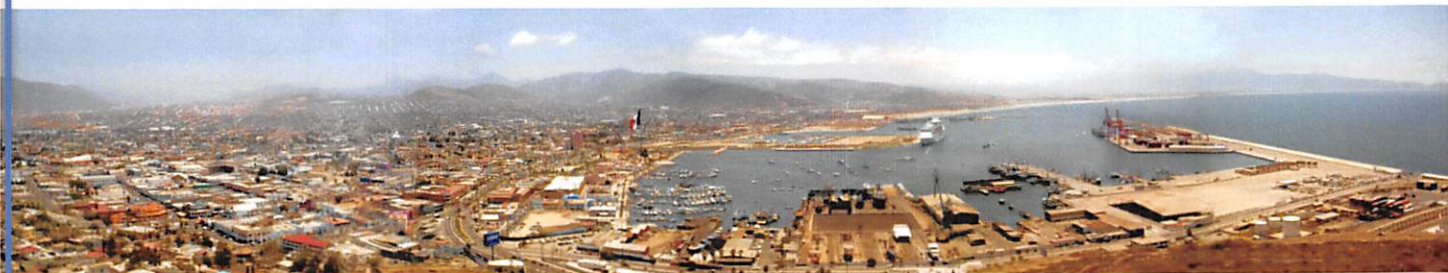
Any specific cities your Sister Organization has in mind or previously researched:

Why do these particular cities stand out for your Sister City organization?

Aspects to avoid when researching potential pairings that could hinder the pairing process:

Any pertinent information missed in the previous sections?

Introducing Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico



Cityscape

Ensenada is predominantly a mid-rise building beach city. The only [high-rise](#) building within its city limits is the [Villa Marina Hotel](#), though new buildings and resorts in northwestern Ensenada such as Entremar, La Costa, and Viento add to the city's skyline and form the majority of the city's highrise buildings. Emblematic sites representative of Ensenada such as the Civic Plaza (or Plaza of the Three Heads as commonly known to locals), containing sculptures of Mexican heroes Benito Juarez, Venustiano Carranza and Miguel Hidalgo, the enormous Mexican flag ([bandera monumental](#)), and the [malecon](#) - and Naval cruise terminal are found on and near the coast of the bay. Several marinas including Ensenada Cruiseport Village, Hotel Coral & Marina, Punta Morro Resort are located on the city's coast. The

Flora and fauna

Many of the terrestrial or marine species inhabiting the surrounding the Greater Ensenada area in the Baja California islands are unique. [Guadalupe Island](#), off the coast of the city, is one of the best places in the world for observing the [great white shark](#).^[citation needed] The island has been a wildlife sanctuary since 1975.

The city's offshore is host to an array of [aquatic mammals](#) including the [gray whale](#), the [Guadalupe fur seal](#) and [California sea lion](#); terrestrial mammals include various squirrel species, [otters](#), the [ring-tailed cat](#), [coyote](#), [bobcat](#), and [puma](#).^[citation needed]

[Bird](#) species include [hawks](#), [pelicans](#), [roadrunners](#), and various [waterfowl](#) and oceangoing species.

Fish include [tilapia](#), [rainbow trout](#), [leopard shark](#), and the [great white shark](#)

Ensenada is backed by small mountain ranges. Proximity to the Pacific and a warm [Mediterranean](#) latitude create mild year-round weather. The rainy season during the winter is short and the area is prone to prolonged droughts, which can threaten its grape harvests. The National Park, [Constitution of 1857](#), is nearby as are also the Sierra de Juarez and San Pedro Martir National Park, which maintain one of the best astronomical observatories in the country.

Ensenada History

At the time the first European explorers arrived in the region, the [Yuman](#) people inhabited the region. Yuman tribal groups such as the Kiliwa, Paipai and [Kumeyaay](#) still exist. These semi-nomadic indigenous people lived in the bay area and interior valleys of the [Sierra de Juárez](#) and [San Pedro Mártir](#). The Kumeyaay had a village where the city is seated on, which was called Pa-tai.^[5]

[Bahía Todos Santos](#), which Ensenada now borders, was first reached by sea by the Spanish explorer [Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo](#) on the vessels El Salvador and Victoria. The city was founded September 17, 1542 under the name San Mateo.^{[6][7]} In 1602, while mapping the coast of [the Californias](#) in search of safe harbors for returning Spanish [galleons](#) from [Manila](#) to [Acapulco](#), [Sebastián Vizcaino](#) renamed the city to Ensenada de Todos Santos.^[6] Ensenada means "bay" or "cove".

The first permanent settlement was established by the [Jesuits](#) during the 17th or 18th century. After the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1768, the [Dominicans](#) took over the representation of Europe in what is now Ensenada. In 1805, [José Manuel Ruiz Carillo](#) obtained permission to establish himself in Ensenada, being appointed governor of Baja California and building in Ensenada a house that survived until the final part of that century, despite being briefly taken by [William Walker](#), the self-declared "president" of the [Republic of Lower California](#), in 1853–54.^[8]

In 1882, Ensenada was designated the capital of Baja California, and attempts at developing the area were made by the English [Mexican Land and Colonization Company](#). These were interrupted by the [Mexican Revolution](#), which left the area devastated. In 1915, the capital was transferred to [Mexicali](#), and in 1930, the population of Ensenada was only 5,000.^[9] During the early part of the twentieth century, the city's name was shortened from Ensenada de Todos Santos to Ensenada, a change made in order to avoid confusion with [Todos Santos](#) in [Baja California Sur](#).^[8]

The twentieth-century development of Ensenada was assisted by [prohibition](#), which sent [Americans](#) and [Canadians](#) south of their border in search of [entertainment](#) and [alcohol](#), developing first [Tijuana](#), then [Rosarito](#), and finally Ensenada as tourist destinations. The [Hotel Riviera del Pacífico](#) was opened in 1930, briefly placing Ensenada on the international glamor map and was visited several times by [President Miguel Aleman](#), international artists and political personalities; yet unlike the [Hotel del Coronado](#), it was never a sustained success (despite giving rise to the claim that the [Margarita](#) was invented there). It really flourished only in the early 1950s, at which time Ensenada's population had risen to 20,000. The hotel finally closed in 1964. It was later reopened as a [cultural center](#) and [museum](#).^[9] By this time, other hotels had opened, and the population and economy of Ensenada had grown and diversified towards their present status.

On January 26th, 2007, [Pope Benedict XVI](#) created the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Ensenada](#) with territory taken from the Archdiocese of Tijuana and Mexicali Diocese, making it a [suffragan diocese](#) of the Metropolitan Church of Tijuana.^[citation needed]

Ensenada (Spanish pronunciation: [\[enseˈnaða\]](#)) is a coastal city in [Mexico](#), the [third-largest](#) in [Baja California](#). Lying 125 kilometres (78 mi) south of [San Diego](#) on the [Baja California Peninsula](#), it is locally referred to as La Cenicienta del Pacífico, "The [Cinderella](#) of the Pacific".^[2]

One of the first settlements founded in [the Californias](#), Ensenada has emerged as a cruise ship destination, aerospace center, and a jumping-off point for [Valle de Guadalupe](#), a local wine region. It is said that the first [Vitis vinifera](#) made it to the region's [San Ignacio Mission](#) in 1703, when [Jesuit](#) Padre [Juan de Ugarte](#) planted the first vineyards there.

Situated on the coastline of [Bahía de Todos Santos](#), the [Port of Ensenada](#) is an important commercial, fishing, and tourist port, its also the most visited tourist port in the Pacific, with more than 700 thousand cruise passengers a year. The city is home to a navy base, army base, and [Ensenada Airport](#), a military airfield.

Ensenada is the municipal seat and cultural and commercial center of [Ensenada Municipality](#), one of five into which the state is divided. As of 2020, the municipality had an estimated population of 557,430.^{[3][1]}

Scuba diving and snorkeling are excellent in the La Bufadora area, and surfing is best north of town at San Miguel Beach, immediately after the toll road ends. Ensenada's downtown waterfront area is generally rocky, but good beaches for swimming are a few miles south of town at Estero Beach and a bit farther at Punta Banda.

Kayaking is popular around La Bufadora, where sea caves and sea lion rookeries exist, and around uninhabited Todos Santos Island, five miles offshore. Look for great camping, trout fishing and wilderness getaways at Laguna Hanson, a little-known, mountain-and-pine escape east of Ensenada. And there are two excellent golf courses, one north and one south of the city. And there are two excellent golf courses, one north at Bajamar and one south of the city at Baja Beach and Tennis Club.

The resident intellectual and university communities bring a different flavor to this diverse city than to other Baja towns, and here a Pro-musica choral ensemble and the Cuban Ballet School are widely supported. Spanish missionaries and groups of Russian settlers brought native vines to the area and then settled, leaving their mark on the cultural mix. Today, there are Russian museums, jail museums and a historic gambling casino to explore. Ensenada also boasts Baja's oldest bar, *Hussong's* (011-52-646-178-3210), one of the most famous drinking establishments in the world. Claims the current owner: "Ain't never charged a cover charge in 110 years, and ain't gonna start now!"

Accommodations

Places to stay run the spectrum, from \$8-a-night campsites to \$130-a-night resort suites. There are probably more camping sites and RV camps near Ensenada and on the highway between Rosarito and Ensenada than any other destination on Baja's Pacific Coast.

Restaurants

Choose from fabulous fish and shrimp tacos and seafood cocktails at inexpensive stands near the fish market, or award-winning French food with impeccable service at several restaurants. Standouts on the upscale-but-not-outrageously-priced side are the award-winning El Rey Sol (011-52-646-178-1733) and the two wine restaurants in the restored Santo Tomas Winery.

Don't miss

Sample Baja's fine wines at the downtown Santo Tomas Winery. Both its wine cafe, La Esquina (011-52-646-178-3557), and its gourmet wine restaurant, La Embotelladora

Hydrography

There are no rivers in the city, only [surface runoff](#) streams that flow when there is large amounts of rainfall.

Ensenada has one natural fresh water body, the Lagunita pond, located to the north of El Ciprés military air field, and which has ecological importance.

[10]

Tijuana is big-city hype and hustle, and Rosarito is beach-town easy, Ensenada is something in between. It's a college town, a thriving port, the center of Mexico's wine-growing industry and a commercial fishing center.

The bustling harbor is one of Mexico's fastest growing seaports, and fishing is big business here, from tuna boats the size of tankers to a sportfishing fleet diverse enough to satisfy any ocean angler. But the harbor also hosts an endless armada of international cruise ships, and Ensenada has long been known as Baja's "Love Boat" port.

Ensenada's main downtown area is as tourist-friendly as Mexico gets. The city's merchandise selection is extensive, and most tourist-related shopping is concentrated along a single street -- Boulevard Lopez Mateos. Just a block from the waterfront, this walkable shopping section attracts mostly cruise passengers and day trippers who browse for an afternoon. Many of Tijuana's top stores have Ensenada branches on Lopez Mateos.

But there's far more to do here than shop. Ensenada is the heart of Mexico's wine country, and nine wineries in Baja's "Bordeaux Belt" of sheltered valleys near Ensenada produce almost 90 percent of Mexico's wines. The scenery -- picturesque vineyards surrounded by mountains -- alone merits a trip to Ensenada.

Inexpensive tours and tastings are offered six days a week by several Guadalupe Valley and Ensenada wineries, and the mid-August wine festival, sponsored by the area's Wine Brotherhood, is one of Baja's most popular annual events.

Be sure to check out the popular sportfishing pier area in the heart of downtown. A pair of sea lions (Claudia and Pancho) have been known to leap from the water to the pier to snap a fish from your fingers. Pelicans, hoping for a handout, waddle through the adjacent Mercado Negro, Baja's oldest and largest fresh fish market, where you'll find everything from whole, fresh sharks to brilliant parrot fish. Bring a camera.

The Pacific coast's best deep-fried shrimp tacos are cooked up fresh at colorful stands surrounding the pier. Sit on a stool in the sunshine and enjoy a few, while mariachis serenade you. And while you're there, tour the harbor and see the resident tuna fleet and flotilla of visiting yachts. Small motorboats, with guides, can be rented by the hour for under \$15. Sign up on the spot.

And by all means, make the half-hour drive south to Baja's famous "blowhole." Thunderous La Bufadora, one of only three continuous sea spouts in the world, can shoot a geyser-like spray 60 feet in the air. A quaint village of curio shops has sprouted around the spout and makes for pleasant shopping. Try a juicy mango-on-a-stick or buy a bag of decadent, hip-swelling churros, deep-fried on the spot.



Fresh fish at Ensenada's fish market, the *Mercado*

Maritime industry

The Port of Ensenada has a large influence on the civic economy. Ensenada is home to the only deep-water port in the state of Baja California and on the Baja California Peninsula. The port is part of standard shipping routes that directly link it with the Mexican cities of [La Paz](#), [Manzanillo](#), [Mazatlán](#), [Acapulco](#) and [Lázaro Cárdenas](#); the American cities of [San Diego](#), [Long Beach](#) and [Los Angeles](#); the Guatemalan city of [Puerto Quetzal](#), the Chilean city of [Valparaíso](#), the Japanese city of [Yokohama](#), and the city of [Hong Kong](#). Ensenada is where the [Fender](#) standard series guitars and basses are produced.

Culture

Ensenada's diversity as a city is in part attributed to Spanish, [Russian](#), and American influences. Spanish missionaries and [Russians](#) settlers began the growth of the wine industry in the city.^[22] Reminiscent of this time period are Russian museums in the city.

The city is known for its festivities and laid-back atmosphere, the city hosts many events including the Wine Harvest Festival (Fiestas de la Vendimia) and Ensenada Carnival. The Wine Harvest Festival celebrates the wine harvest season and in the city and nearby Guadalupe Valley, a series of events takes place.

Typical food in Ensenada consists of [fish tacos](#), which originated in the city,^[citation needed] shrimp tacos, and [ceviche](#). These dishes are usually accompanied by avocado and salsa. Another dish characteristic of the port city is [carpaccio](#). The city's Mediterranean climate allows for the cultivation of grapes and olives, which in turn make wine and olive oil, respectively. Development of such foods complement Spanish, Italian, French, and Mexico dishes in Ensenada.^[clarification needed]

Sports

Baja 500 in 2008



Ensenada maintains no professional sports teams in association football, basketball, or baseball, but is known for its water sports. The city has sports fishing venues, and swells that are known for drawing professional surfers.^[23] In addition to its water sports scene, the city is known for a place of biking, both cycling and motorsport varieties. The 80 kilometres (50 mi) Rosarito-Ensenada bike race ends in the city. The Baja 500, which starts and ends in the city, and Baja 1000 – both races that take their names from their distance in miles – are motorsport races that begin in the city.^[23] It is also the birthplace of the tennis player Raúl Ramírez.

Transportation

The Port of Ensenada is an international [deepwater port](#) and the city's major water port. It maintains commercial, industrial, and tourist terminals. In addition to the port, the coast around Bahia de Todos Santos is dotted with numerous [marinas](#), including Marina Baja Fiesta, Marina Cruiseport Village, Marina Coral, and Marina Baja Naval with docking facilities for pleasure craft and commercial and sport fishing vessels.^[24] In order to comply with United States cabotage laws, many cruise ships operating between Pacific ports in the U.S. call at Ensenada en route.

The city lies at a crossroads of major federal highways on the Peninsula that lead to the northern centers of [Los Angeles](#), San Diego, and Mexicali and south to [Cabo San Lucas](#) and [La Paz](#). The junction occurs at the meeting of [Federal Highway 1](#) and [Federal Highway 3](#). The main roads of the city include Bahia de La Paz and Lazaro Cardenas, northwest bound, and southeast bound roads.

Sister cities

Ensenada has three [sister cities](#) as designated by Sister Cities International,^[26] including relations formalized between other cities.^[27]

City	Country	Year
Parlier		
Redondo Beach		
Riverside		

Ensenada Municipality

Country	Mexico
State	 Baja California
Municipal seat	Ensenada
Largest city	Ensenada
Municipality established	29 December 1953 ^[2]
Government	
• Municipal president	Armando Ayala Robles (MORENA)
Area	
• Total	19,526.8 km ² (7,539.3 sq mi)
Population (2020)	
• Total	443,807 ^[1]
Time zone	UTC−8 (Northwest (US Pacific))
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (Northwest)
INEGI code	1
Website	(in Spanish) Ayuntamiento de Ensenada

Itinerary of the June, 2017 Visit to Ensenada and La Mision

Tuesday 27

Arrive to Tijuana City	Open Arms will provide transportation for the group
Departure - Arrive	
Community Work at Open Arms	Community Work at Open Arms building foundation.
Departure - Arrive	
Dinner	Heidi will provide a Suggestion for the group.
Departure - Arrive	

Wednesday 28

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast at la Mision	Heidi will provide a Suggestion for the group.
9:00 - 10:00	Departure - Arrive	
10:00 - 11:00	UABC and Science Institutes	UABC will show us the different areas for their students and provide a guided tour.
11:00 - 11:30	Departure - Arrive	
11:00 - 11:30	Museum El Caracol	The Museum is an space to grow and discover, a place for the Children in our City to start their imagination and learn, the direction of the museum will provide a tour for our guest.
11:30 - 12:00	Departure - Arrive	

Thursday 29

9:00 - 9:30	Departure - Arrive	
9:30 - 10:30	Breakfast at Cocina de Doña Estela	Named the best Breakfast in the world, we will enjoy the delicious and simplicity of this place
10:30 - 11:00	Departure - Arrive	
11:00 - 12:00	Winery visit	Let's taste some Baja Wines to complete our Experience in Ensenada.
12:00 - 5:00	Departure - Arrive	To SD Airport



Ensenada
XXII Ayuntamiento

June 28, Ensenada, B.C.

Dear Mayor Bob Sampayan
City of Vallejo, California

On Behalf of the City of Ensenada, I would like to express our intention to become Sister Cities with the City of Vallejo, Ca.

It is my pleasure to confirm this during the visit and ceremony of the City Delegation.

Our cities have much in common, and we look forward to grow our mutual relationship, promoting good will between our communities in accordance to the Sister Cities Association.

Sincerely

Marco A. Novelo
Mayor

Letter of Intent Presentation Awarded to Vallejo Sister City Commission,



Vallejo Ensenada Team 2017 -



Ensenada
XXII Ayuntamiento

Ceremony of Sister City intention Letter deliver by Ensenada to Vallejo, Ca.

Lugar : Estancia Infantil Open Arms, 4:00 - 5:30 PM

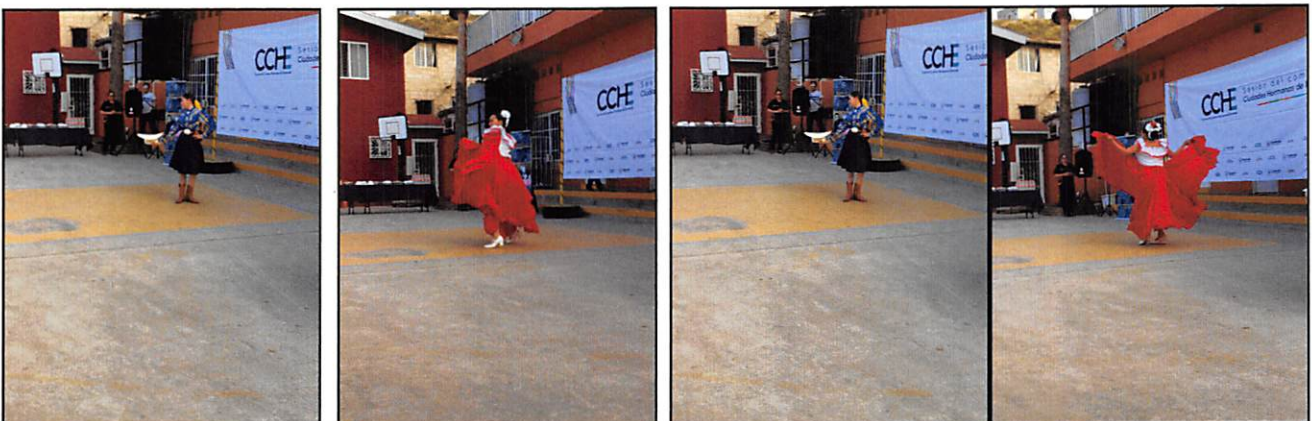
Program

- 4:00 - 4:10 - registration
- 4:10 - 4:15 - Welcome Message for Jared Gutierrez, Director of International Affairs for the City of Ensenada.
- 4:15 - 4:20 - Remarks by Sister City representative Emma del Rosario
- 4:20 - 4:25 - Story of a Citizen Diplomat by Ravi Shankar
- 4:25 - 4:30 - Remarks in behalf of Vallejo City Mayor by Pelton Stewart
- 4:30 - 4:35 - Message on behalf of Ensenada City mayor by Armando Espinoza, Director of Regional Development and Delegations.
- 4:35 - 4:40 - Picture of the sing letter agreement.
- 4:40 - 5:30 - Cultural presentation by Delegation La Mision

Gift Presentation Vallejo Art Walk, 2017



Cultural Dance Presentation by La Mision Middle School



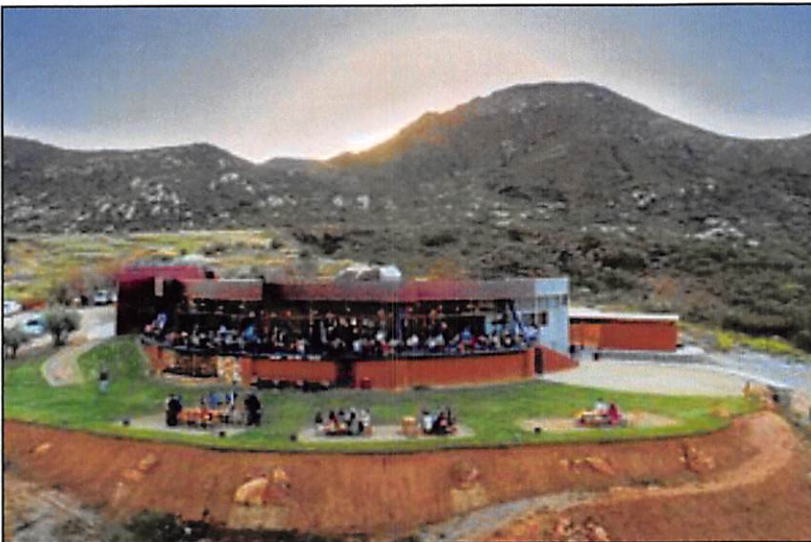
Common Interest Between Ensenada and Vallejo

Grape Vineyards and Wineries

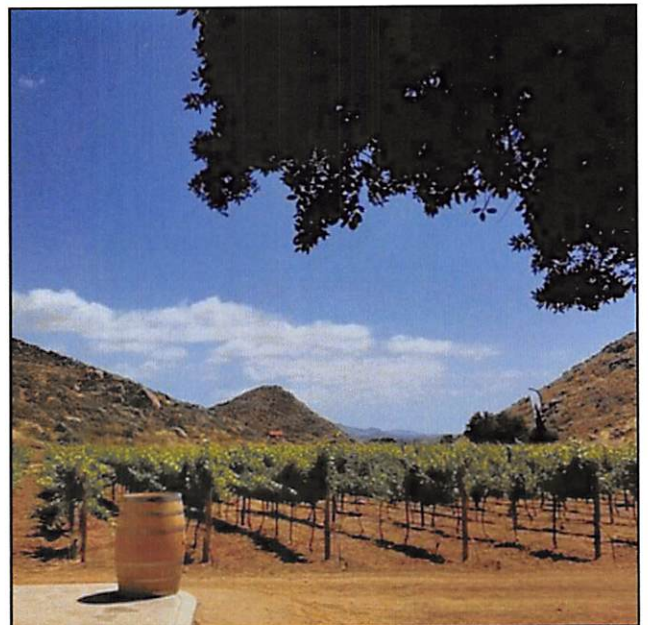
**Vallejo is surrounded by Wineries
& Vineyards**



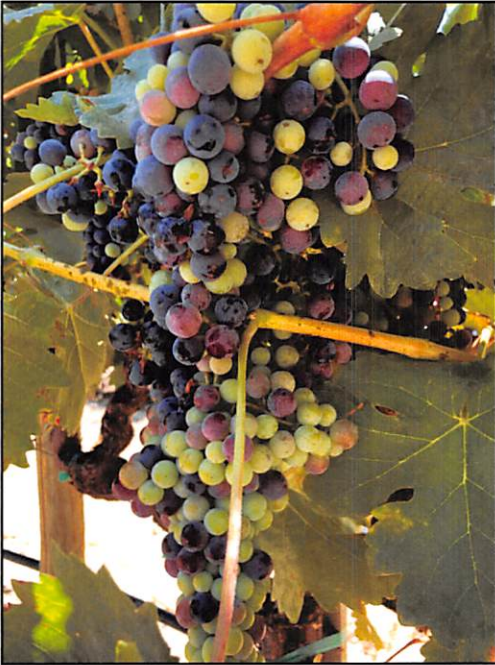
**Vino Godfather
Winery**



**Valle de Guadalupe
The Wine Country of
Ensenada**

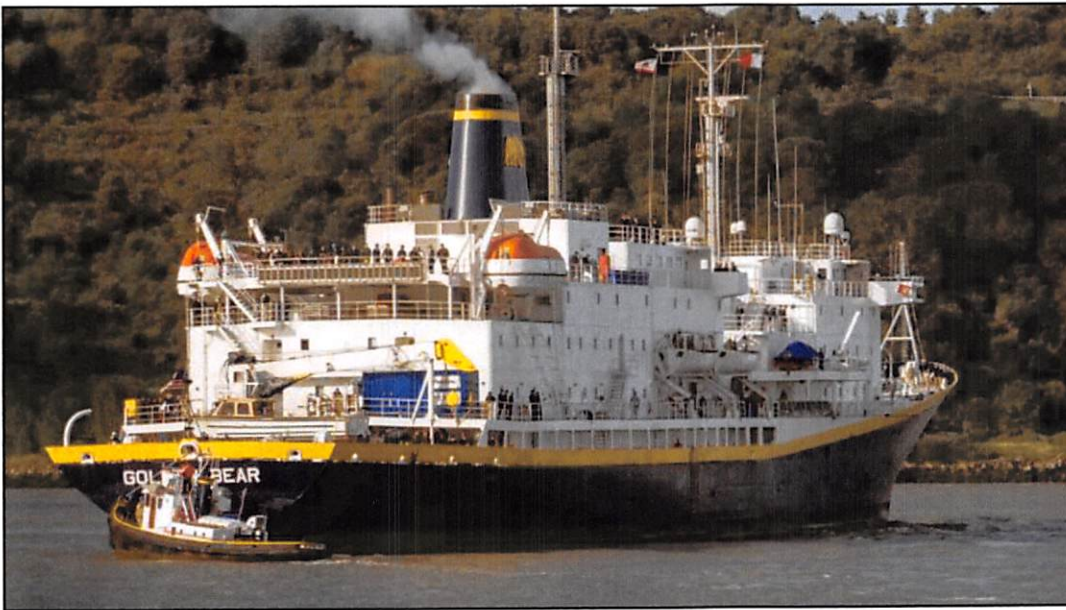


Decantos Vinicola



Common Interest Between Ensenada and Vallejo

College & University Educational
Opportunities



California State University Maritime Academy

The only maritime
academy on the
United States
West Coast.

- Bachelor's
Degree
- Master's
Degree

UABC

**Marine Science
Institute for
Oceanographic
Research**



Common Interest Between Ensenada and Vallejo

Tourism

La Bufadora



A marine geyser or blowhole located on [Cape Punta Banda](#). It is one of the largest blowholes in North America.



Golden Gate Bridge
41 miles from Vallejo



Common Interest Between Ensenada and Vallejo

Shipbuilding and Seafaring



Productos Procesados Repair & Reuse



Mare Island Shipyard

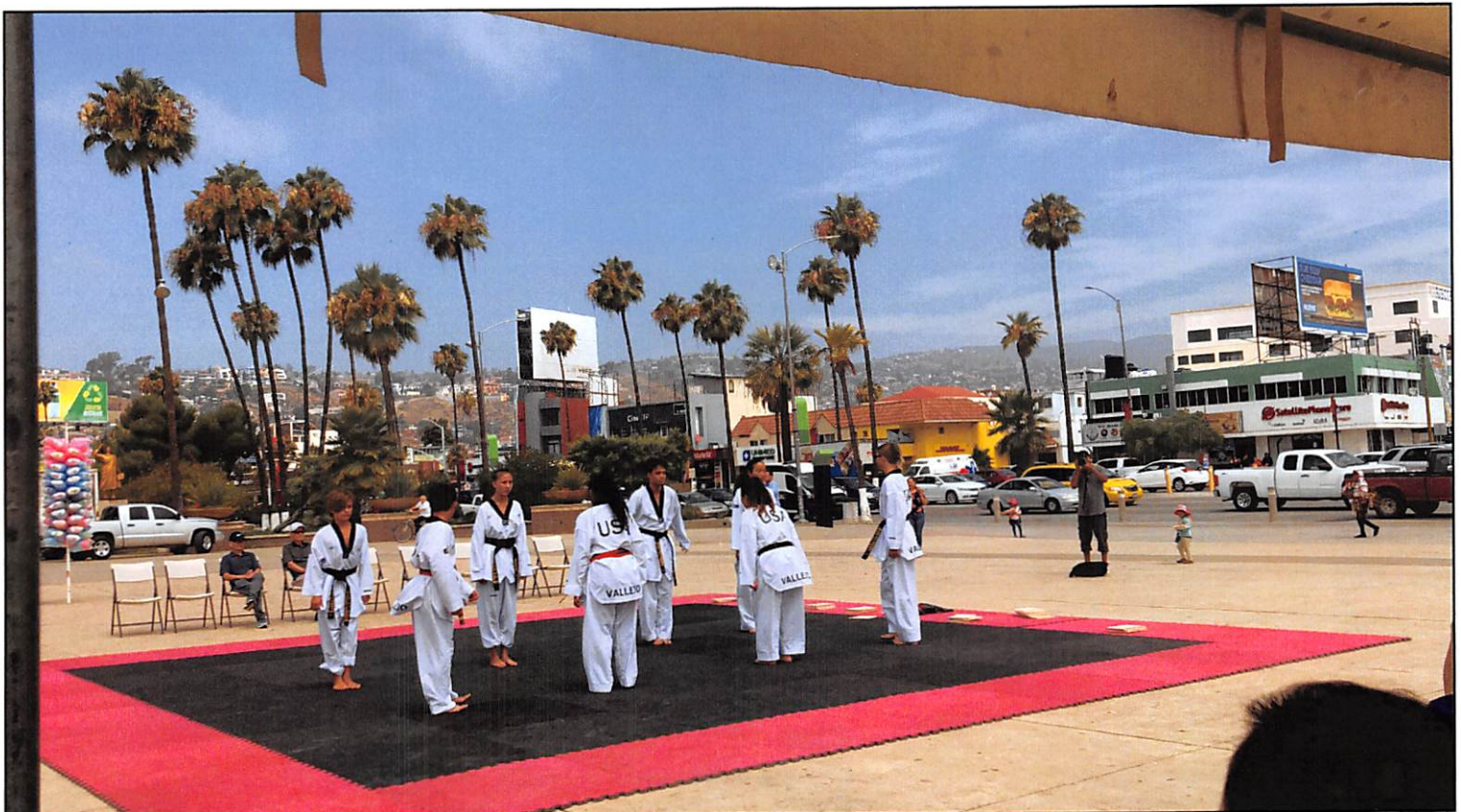
- Repair and Reuse
- Ferry Docks
- Passengers' water transport within the Bay Area



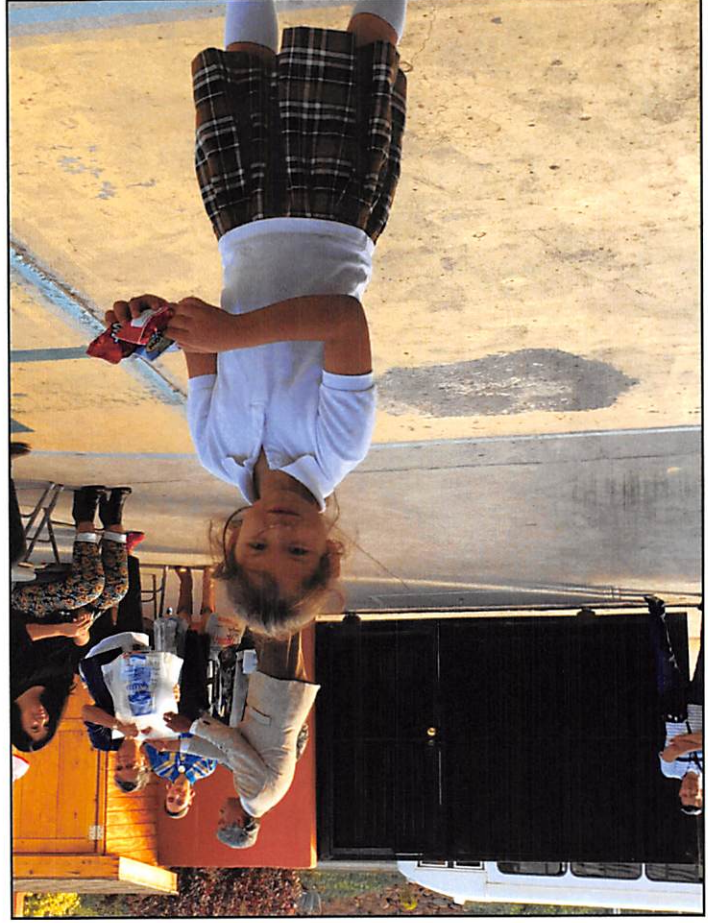
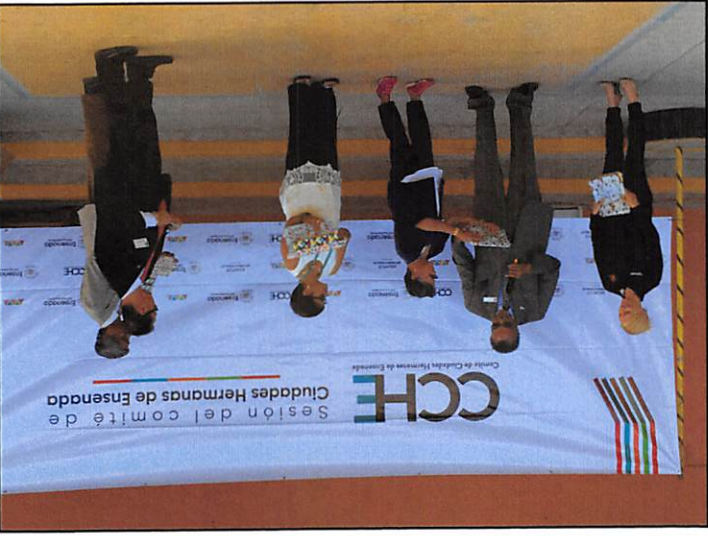
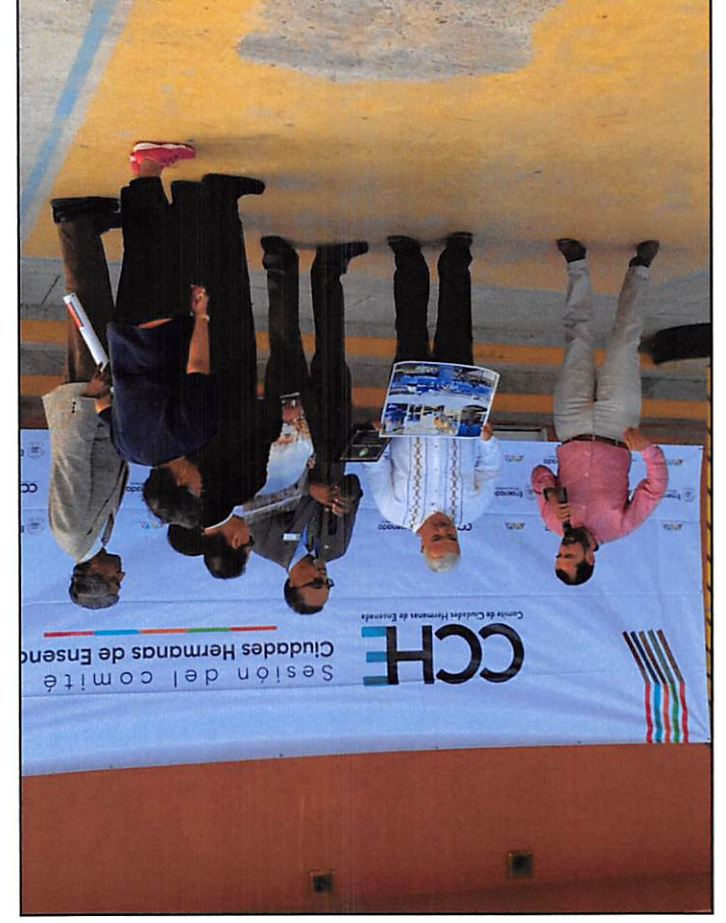
Common Interest Between Ensenada and Vallejo

Sports Cultural Exchange

Vallejo WmK Taekwondo
Instituto Cardenas Taekwondo



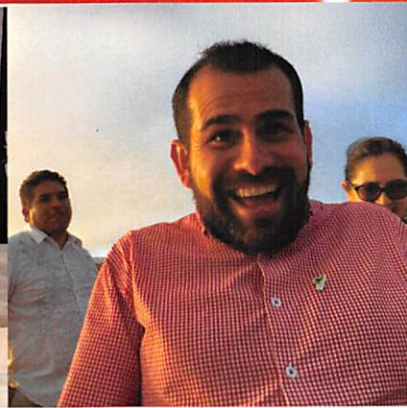
The Gift Distribution
Vallejo Sister City Association
La Mission, 2017



Ensenada Municipal Council Members & La Mision, Ensenada, Vallejo Delegates



Vallejo Ensenada Team
Pelton Stewart, Ravi Shankar,
Dinah Villanueva, William Kim
Emma del Rosario Cordova



Ensenada Director of
Foreign Affairs
Jared Gutierrez



Heidi Elizarraraz, OA
Director
Lindzee Creech
Abril Fonseca - np

Municipal Gate and Delegado
Ariel Sanchez 2017
With VSCA Ensenada Team



Mayor
Ariel
Sanchez

Chief of
Police
and Heidi

VSCA Ensenada & La Mision Trip Daily Itinerary

July 29, 2019 – August 6, 2019

Day	Date	Time	Event & Location
1	Monday 7/29/2019 UA Flight #555 SFO	8:05 AM 9:40 AM 12:00 PM	- Depart to San Diego - Arrive San Diego - Office of the Mayor - Meet and greet Home stay host families - Welcome Reception by Ensenada
2	Tuesday 7/30/2019 Ensenada	11:00 AM	- Breakfast with Host family - Taekwondo Practice (Indoors) - Delegation to Review Articles of Resolution Agreement - Lunch - Free Time
3	Wednesay 7/31/2019 Ensenada		- Breakfast with Host family - Tour and Sightseeing - Historical Sites for Education - College and Museums
4	Thursday 8/1/2019 Ensenada	12:00 Noon	- Breakfast with Host family - Youth with Arts and Language Summer Classes
5	Friday 8/2/2019 Ensenada		- Breakfast with Host family - Shopping and Tour - Adios Reception by VSCA
6	Saturday 8/3/2019 Ensenada To La Mision		- Breakfast with Host family - Taekwondo performance at Ensenada Plaza - In the afternoon travel to La Mision La Mision to host Welcome Reception and VSCA delegation to present with gifts.
7	Sunday 8/4/2019		- After Breakfast, Taekwondo Lessons and presentation of Taekwondo Uniforms

1

	La Mision		- Serve at Open Arms
8	Monday 8/5/2019	9:00am	- After Breakfast - Taekwondo Lessons - Serve at the Village School - Serve at Open Arms - Farewell Dinner Reception
9	Tuesday 8/6/2019	9:00am 3:22 PM	- After Breakfast, will be transported to San Diego by Ensenada Staff - Depart to SFO from San Diego via United #580

Ensenada Tour Visit

VALLEJO SISTER CITY COMMISSION

VALLEJO SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, BLAST PROJECT

Visits La Mision, Ensenada, Mexico
For Diplomacy, Cultural Education &
Humanitarian Experience



Ensenada - Our Host City, July 29 - Aug 2

The Vallejo Sister City delegation will travel to Ensenada and La Mision, Mexico to continue the process of developing their sister city relationship. The goal of this visit is to strengthen the cultural and historical roots that unite the two cities and its citizens. This visit will encourage commerce and business opportunities to enhance trade partnership. Cultural exchange is demonstrated through homestay, sports demo and visits to historical sites. Vallejo's young sports citizen diplomats will interact with the local national Taekwondo team by performing together at one of the city's plaza, "Ventana del Mar Plaza."

DONATE!
Help to
change a life!

La Mision - Humanitarian, Aug 3 - Aug 6



**Servant Leadership
Center**

The Vallejo students and adult citizen diplomats will bring together their energy and roll up their sleeves to work at OPEN ARMS. This organization provides free childcare to more than 75 kids. Their mission is to care for families before a child is abandoned. Some of us will volunteer at the cafeteria, read books to the children and assist in some minor repairs to the facility. We will also visit with the Village of "Delegado Municipal de La Mision". The village has 2 kindergartens, 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high and 1 high school.



Meet and Greet, 2019
Mayor Marco Novelo



VSCA Officers in
Mayor Novelo's waiting room
Mayor's waiting room

Mayor Marco Novelo
presenting a gift to
Commissioner Elissa
Stewart and William Kim
VSCA President

Briefings on Benefits of Homestay Ensenada Lyons Club Representatives



Sports Exchange Teaching Techniques of Taekwondo, 2019



The Beautiful Children Of Open Arms & Taekwondo Masters

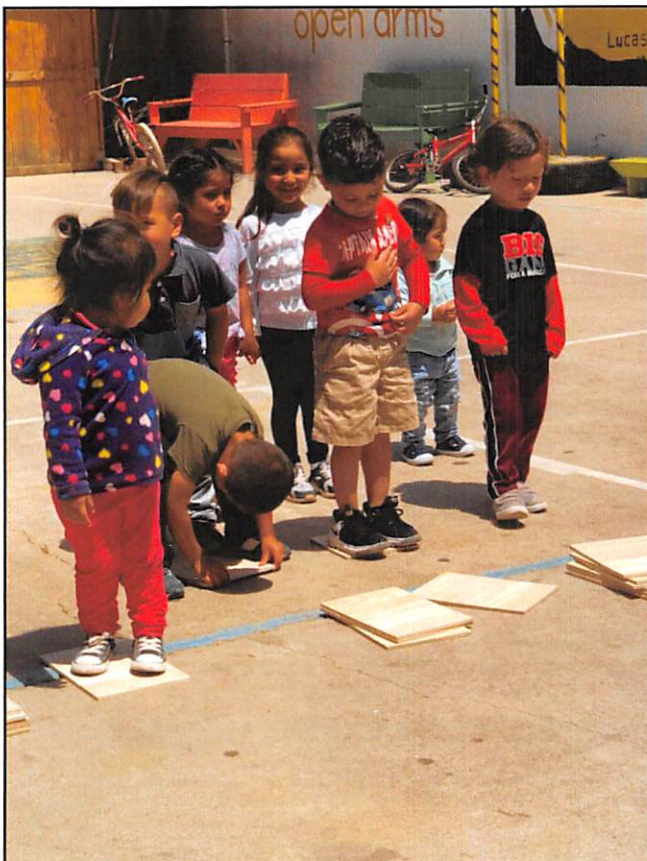


Open Forum
What is Climate Change?
What Can You Do About It?



Participants:
Vallejo Delegates, Ensenada Youth, College Students

2019 Ensenada Visit
Vallejo and Ensenada
Educational Exchange



Children
of OA
sharing
their
stories
about
being a
student
of the
school
Open
Arms.



Vallejo Youth Leadership
Picking Up Plastic Bottles and Trash at the
La Playa Beach as a Result of
Climate Change Discussion, 2019



Ensenada Newly Elected Mayor
Armando Ayala Robles
Presidente Municipal Electo de Ensenada

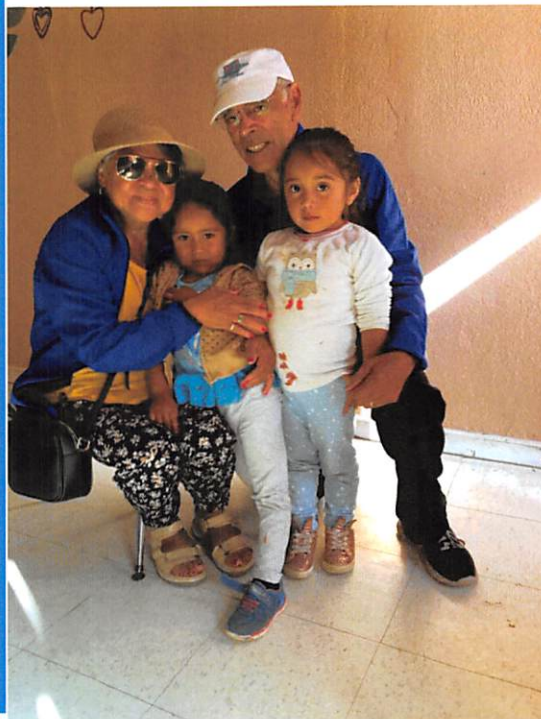


Open Arms Staff and Vallejo Delegates, 2019

Person to Person Interaction with La Mision, Ensenada Nationals



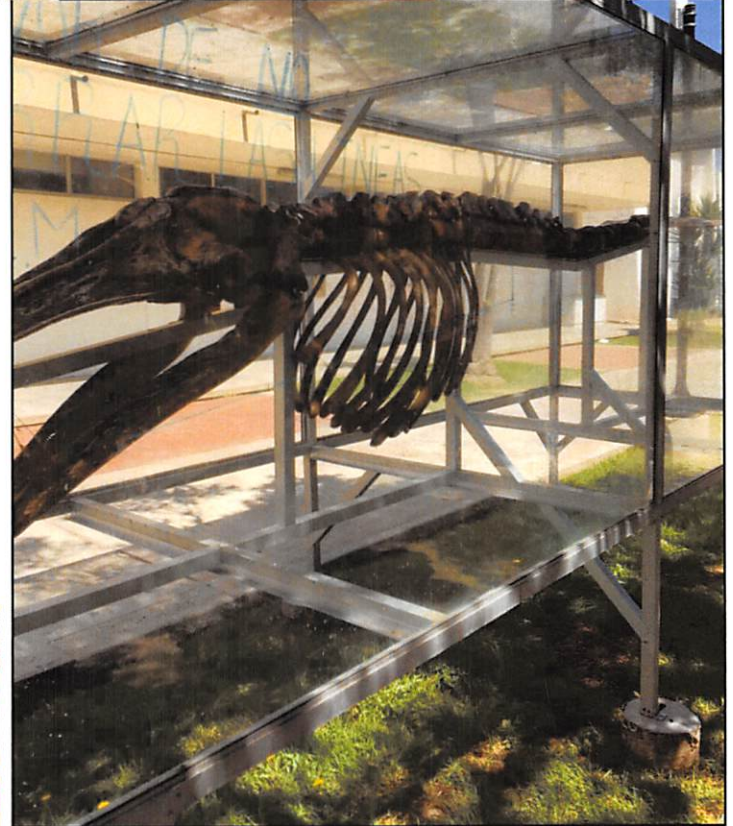
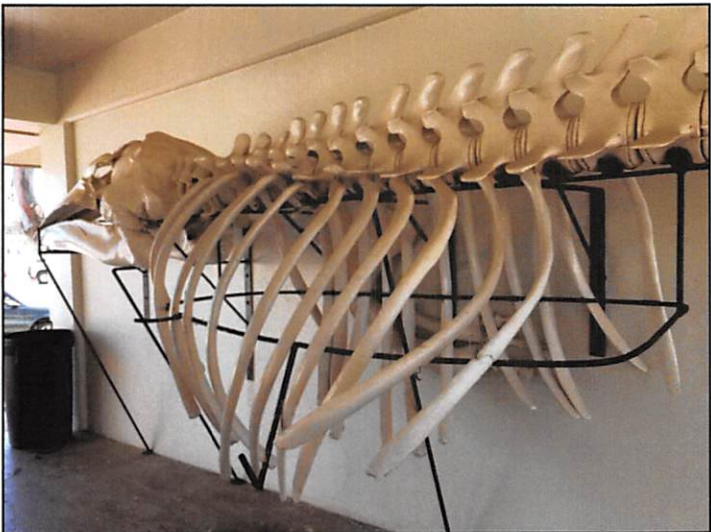
Sister City
Officers with
Open Arms
Newly
Sponsored
Girls



VSCA Humanitarian Project, 2019
OPEN ARMS
La Mision, Ensenada, Mexico



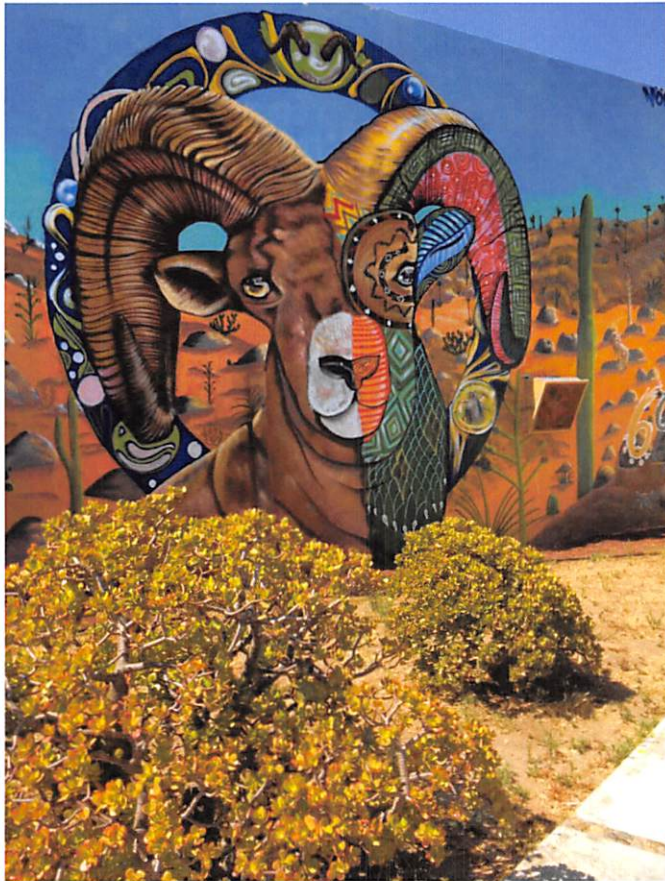
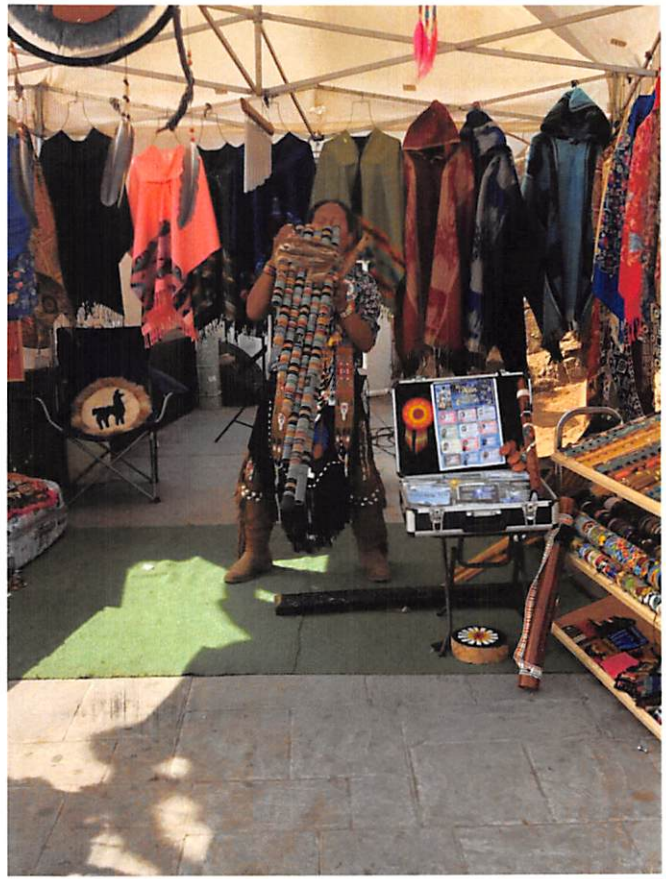
UABC Campus Visit
with Sr. Adalberto Avelar Garcia
Vallejo Sister City Guests



Whale carcasses on display as
part of Universidad Autonoma,
Baja California

Oceanographic Research

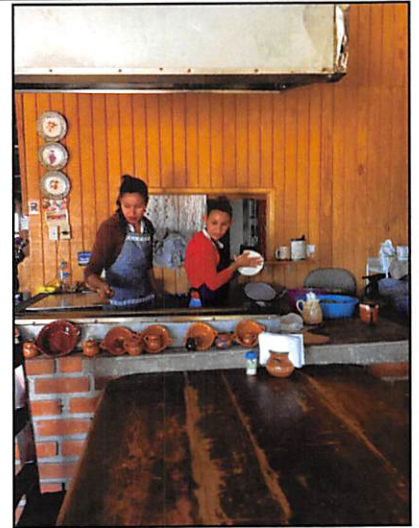
Ensenada's Pride of Historical Arts



Culinary Cultural Exchange in 2019

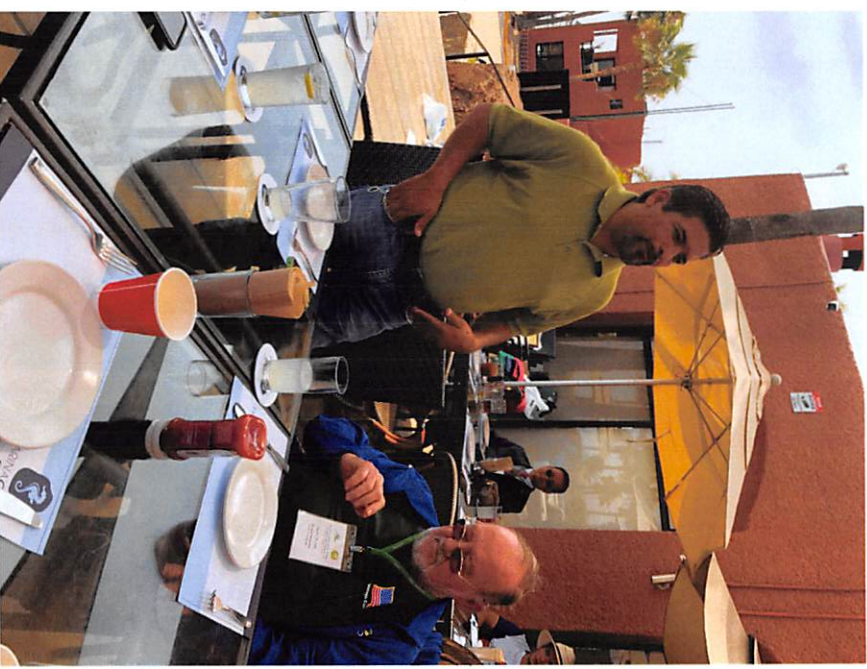


Food As An Ambassador of Peace



Saying goodbye is hard to do.

Our last day with our
Homestay Sponsors and
Ensenada Friends.





From: Open Arms Admin <info@openarmsmexico.org>

A Gift to Ensenada
Mural of Various
Professions in Vallejo
Miro Salazar, Artist

Vallejo Commission
Chair, Elissa S. Stewart
Gives VSCA Jacket
to
Mr. Rudy Mellado P.G.A.

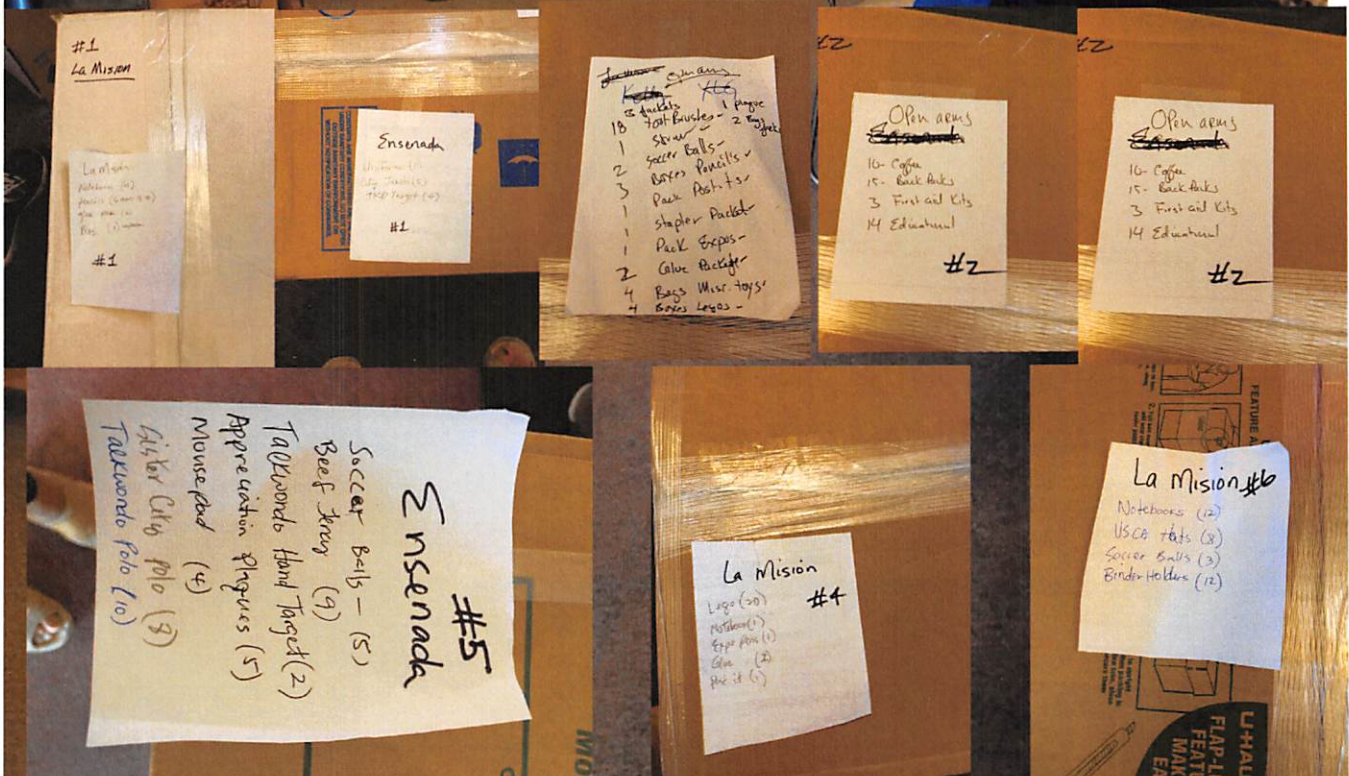


Ensenada's Pride in Historical Arts
Kitchen decorated with
Mexican Motifs tiles



VSCA Humanitarian Project, 2019

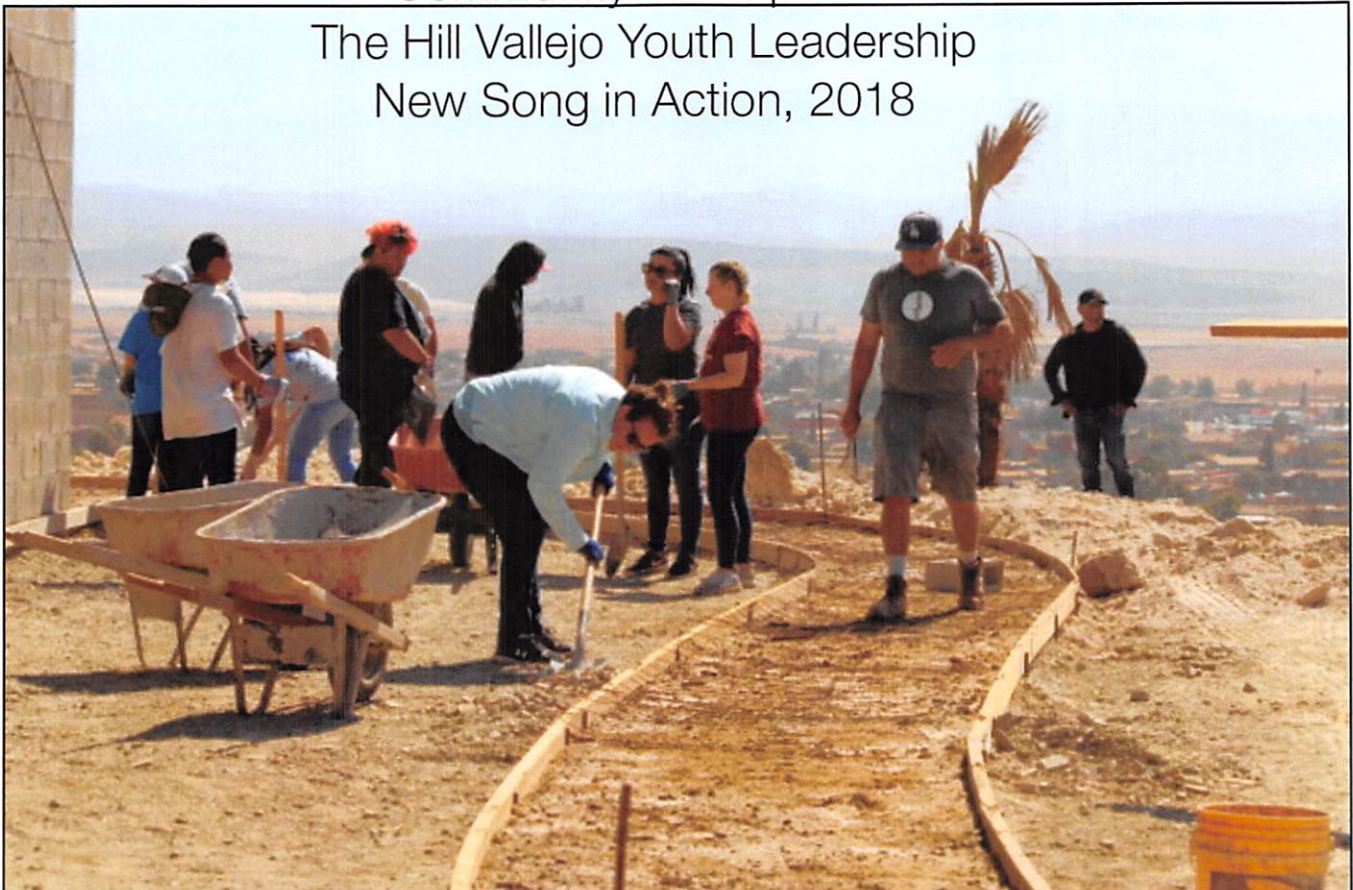
18 Boxes of Children's Books, Sports Goods,





Community Participation

The Hill Vallejo Youth Leadership
New Song in Action, 2018





Ensenada Mayor Marco Novelo
Visited Open Arms during the visit of The Hill Vallejo, 2018



OA Kids
presenting
their
Song



List of Volunteers Involved with Ensenada Sister City Functions in 2017, 2019 To Current Year, 2021

1. Ensenada Municipal Office - Director of Foreign Affairs
Jared Gutierrez - Director
Adalberto Avilar Garcia
Ensenada Lyons Club
2. Open Arms - La Mision
Heidi Elizarraraz - Director
Lindzee Creech -
Abril Fonseca
3. Vallejo Sister City Association - Ensenada Committee'
Emma del Rosario, Chair
Yolanda Kim
William Kim
Pelton Stewart
Christy Gardner
Ravi Shankar
Israel Delgado
Dinah Villanueva Ryan
4. Vallejo Sister City Commission
Emma del Rosario, Commissioner for Ensenada
5. Communities Involved
The Hill Vallejo - Pastor Scott
New Song Vallejo - Martha Camacho



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITY AGREEMENT Ceremonial



Whereas, the cities of Ensenada and Vallejo share similar goals of international cooperation, mutual prosperity, and world peace; and

Whereas, they believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two cities; and

Whereas, they place similar values on cultural understanding, training, youth leadership, exchanges to educate citizens, environmental stewardship and valuing our diversity; and

Whereas, they will identify activities, common to all, that can generate new initiatives to further nurture economic, social, and cultural relationships; and

Whereas, the purpose of this relationship is to increase economic development, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities, technical exchanges for both cities, and to increase awareness of both cities as being High Tech Business & Corporate, College & University networking; and

Whereas, both cities are committed to mutual support for organizing and developing the experiences, common activities, and future programs of the Sister City relationship on the basis of previous agreements of mutual cooperation and directions set forth by this declaration;

Now, Therefore, We, the Mayors of Ensenada and Vallejo, do believe that this pact will further contribute to the cause of world peace and to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of Mexico and the United States and our two cities; and

Further, we affix our signatures and our city seals on this declaration to establish our relationship as Sister Cities.

Armando Ayala Robles,
Alcalde del Municipio de Ensenada

Robert H. McConnell,
Mayor, City of Vallejo

Date _____

Date _____



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL
SISTER CITY AGREEMENT
Activity Specific



Delegacion La Mision, Ensenada, Baja California, Republic of Mexico and the City of Vallejo, California, USA in accordance with the sister cities movement, do hereby agree to promote, support, and encourage exchanges and cooperative activities between the citizens of each community.

These exchanges and activities shall be based on shared goals of economic development, cultural understanding, and improved municipal governance and administration.

In pursuit of these shared goals, our cities shall

- Encourage study abroad programs between our respective universities
- Explore cooperation and exchange between local development agencies, chambers of commerce, and tourism departments
- Perform inbound/outbound University, College and high school exchanges
- Provide support for exchanges of art and cultural products between our respective museums and galleries
- Prioritize municipal exchanges in the areas of transportation management and water management, economic development, cultural awareness

The aforementioned activities are to be organized and managed by a "sister city committee," that will represent the respective cities. A periodic report of progress and of programs developed may be provided to each city government as deemed necessary.

In all activities each side will endeavor to ensure mutual benefit for each city, and shall draw on its institutions, social organizations, and citizens to promote cooperation. All activities shall also be subject to availability of resources and yearly budgets, and each party understands that this agreement does not constitute a financial commitment on behalf of the cities.

The agreement has been made in two forms, one in English and one in Spanish each one being equally authentic.

We hereby pledge to cooperate with each other as Sister Cities on this

_____.

Armando Ayala Robles,
Alcalde del Municipio de Ensenada

Robert H. McConnell,
Mayor, City of Vallejo

Date _____ Date _____



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL
SISTER CITY AGREEMENT
Narrative



In order to strengthen relations and provide mutual benefit to their communities Robert H. McConnell, Mayor, City of Vallejo and Armando Ayala Robles, Alcalde del Municipio de Ensenada, do hereby join their respective cities in a Sister Cities relationship as part of Sister Cities International.

With the goals of prosperity, cultural understanding, and exchange, the two parties shall explore opportunities to cultivate closer relations with one another through cooperative activities in the areas of economic development, cultural exchanges, educational opportunities at the University, College and K-12 levels, technical exchanges,

Each party shall seek to identify other areas for collaboration, and, in all activities, work for the benefit of both communities. The parties will establish bilateral working committees ("Sister City Committees") to implement this agreement and propose specific activities and means of collaboration, as well as monitoring and evaluation of those activities. The committees will report to each of the parties' representatives whenever appropriate, and at least once a year.

Recognizing the importance of strong and diverse economies, We will encourage our respective chambers of commerce and business communities to foster exchanges of entrepreneurs and business enterprises in areas such as tourism, commerce, and import/export assistance.

Many residents of Vallejo trace their ancestry to Mexico including Ensenada, and over the years they have made many visits and built many friendships. With this agreement we hope to build on this common heritage and these existing relationships to reinforce the strong ties that bind our two communities. We hope to build on preexisting relationships built between their respective communities, and acknowledge that these previous exchanges and personal friendships along with the benefits they have brought to each community have served as a foundation for this agreement. We also acknowledge the strong expatriate community of Hispanics currently living in Vallejo as a motivator in deepening the ties between these two communities.

Therefore, by affixing our signatures on behalf of our respective communities, we declare Vallejo, California U.S.A. and Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico Sister Cities, on this _____.

Armando Ayala Robles,
Alcalde del Municipio de Ensenada

Robert H. McConnell,
Mayor, City of Vallejo

Date _____

Date _____



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ACUERDO DE COLABORACION CEREMONIAL



Considerando que, el Delegacion La Mision, Ensenada Baja California y ciudad de Vallejo comparten objetivos similares de cooperación internacional, prosperidad mutua, y de paz mundial; y

Considerando que, creen que es en su interés colectivo de expandir y fortalecer lazos entre ambas ciudades; y

Considerando que, tienen valores sobre VALORES, por ejemplo, entendimiento cultural, entrenamiento, liderato de jóvenes, intercambios para educar a ciudadanos, administración ambiental, etc.; y

Considerando que, van a identificar actividades, comunes a todos, que puedan generar nuevas iniciativas para más promover relaciones económicas, sociales y culturales; y

Considerando que, el objetivo de esta relación es de mejorar el desarrollo económico, intercambios culturales, oportunidades educativas, intercambios técnicos, etc. SEAN ESPECIFICOS O GENERALES COMO QUIERAN para ambas ciudades, y de aumentar el conocimiento de las dos ciudades de ser [SIMILITUD NOTABLE, por ejemplo productores textiles, centros de investigación agrícola, ciudades portuarias, etc.]; y

Considerando que, ambas ciudades son prometidas al apoyo mutual para organizar y desarrollar las experiencias, actividades comunes, y programas futuros de la relación entre las ciudades hermanas sobre el fundamento de acuerdos anteriores de cooperación mutua e indicaciones descritos en esta declaración;

Ahora, por lo tanto, los alcaldes de Ensenada y Vallejo creen que este acuerdo va a contribuir a la causa de la paz mundial y al desarrollo de relaciones amables entre la gente de Mexico y los Estados Unidos y nuestras dos ciudades; y

Además, fijamos nuestras firmas y nuestros sellos de nuestras ciudades sobre esta declaración para establecer nuestra relación como ciudades hermanas.

Armando Ayala Robles
Alcalde de Ensenada, Baja California
Fecha _____

Robert H. McConnell
Mayor, City of Vallejo
Fecha _____



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ACUERDO DE COLABORACION ACTIVIDADES ESPECIFICAS

Delegacion La Mision, Ensenada, Baja California y la Ciudad de Vallejo, según el movimiento de las ciudades hermanas, aceptamos de promover, apoyar e animar intercambios y actividades cooperativas entre los ciudadanos de cada comunidad.

Estos intercambios e actividades estarán basados sobre los objetivos compartidos de desarrollo económico, entendimiento cultural, y una gobernanza municipal y una administración mejorada.

En busca de estos objetivos compartidos, nuestras ciudades van a

- Promover programas de estudios al extranjero entre nuestras universidades respectivas;
- Explorar una cooperación y un intercambio entre agencias de desarrollo local, salas de comercio y departamentos turísticos;
- Ejecutar intercambios de escuelas secundarias entrantes y salientes
- Aportar apoyo para intercambios de arte y productos culturales entre nuestros muros y galerías respectivas
- Priorizar intercambios municipales en los áreas de gestión de transporte y de gestión de agua

Las actividades ya mencionados serán organizadas y gestionadas por un cuerpo formal de miembros o un comité de "ciudades hermanas" que representaran ambas ciudades. Un informe periódico de progreso y de programas desarrollados puede ser provisto a cada gobierno de la ciudad cuando está considerado necesario.

En todas actividades, cada lado intentará de asegurar el beneficio mutuo para cada ciudad, y se basará sobre sus instituciones, organizaciones sociales, y ciudadanos para promover la cooperación. Todas actividades estarán también sujeto a la disposición de recursos y presupuestos anuales, y cada lado entiende que este acuerdo no constituye como un compromiso financiero de parte de las ciudades.

Este acuerdo fue hecho en dos formas, un en inglés y un en español y cada acuerdo es igualmente auténtico.

Nosotros prometemos de colaborar juntos como ciudades hermanas en esta fecha_____.

Armando Ayala Robles
Alcalde de Ensenada, Baja California
Fecha_____

Robert H. McConnell
Mayor, City of Vallejo
Fecha_____



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ACUERDO DE COLABORACION DISCURSO

Para fortalecer relaciones y proveer un beneficio mutual a sus comunidades Robert H. McConnell, Mayor, City of Vallejo y Armando Ayala Robles, Alcalde de Ensenada, Baja California nos juntamos a estas ciudades en una colaboración de ciudades hermanas.

Con los objetivos de prosperidad, entendimiento cultural, e intercambio, los dos lados explorarán las oportunidades para cultivar relaciones más íntimas entre ellos a través de actividades cooperativas en las áreas de el desarrollo económico, intercambios culturales, oportunidades educativas en universidad y la escuela preparatoria, intercambios técnicos, etc.

Cada parte buscara de identificar otras áreas para más colaboración, y, en todas actividades, trabajaran para el beneficio de ambas comunidades. Las partes establecerán comités bilaterales (Comités de Ciudades Hermanas) para implementar este acuerdo y sugerir actividades específicas para la colaboración, y también el monitoreo y la evaluación de estas actividades. Los comités informaran a los representantes de cada parte cuando está apropiado, y por lo menos anualmente.

En reconocimiento de la importancia de fuertes y diversas economías, las partes promocionarán las salas de comercio respectivas y comunidades de negocio para fomentar intercambios de empresarios e empresas en áreas como el turismo, el comercio, y asistencia de importaciones y exportaciones.

Muchos de los ciudadanos de Vallejo rastrean sus linajes a Mexico, incluso La Mision y a lo largo de los años visitaron y construyeron muchas amistades. Con este acuerdo, queremos construir sobre esta herencia común y estas relaciones existentes para fortalecer los lazos fuertes que conecta a nuestras comunidades, o Las partes quieren construir sobre relaciones establecidos entre sus universidades respectivas y reconoce que estos intercambios anteriores y amistades personales, con los beneficios que cada comunidad aporte sirve como un fundamento para este acuerdo. Las partes reconocen también la gran comunidad expatriada de Hispanics viviendo en Vallejo como un motivador para continuar y fortalecer los lazos entre ambas comunidades.

Por lo tanto, en fijando nuestras firmas de parte de nuestras comunidades respectivas, declaramos que Vallejo, California, U.S.A son Delegacion La Mision, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico HERMANAS, en esta _____.

Armando Ayala Robles
Alcalde de Ensenada, Baja California
Fecha _____

Robert H. McConnell
Mayor, City of Vallejo



PO BOX 6605 Chula Vista, CA 91909 Phone: 559-303-2965
Email: info@openarmsmexico.org

May 10, 2021

Dear Vallejo Sister City Association-

It is my privilege to write this letter of recommendation to continue the friendship and hopefully soon to become sister cities with Ensenada Baja California.

I am the Founder of Open Arms Childcare Ministries, an organization working on the ground in La Mision, a small part of Ensenada, where Vallejo Sister Cities, and The Hill Church, in Vallejo have been associated with us for some several years now. We strive to keep children off the streets and out of orphanages.

In 2017, the Officers of Vallejo Sister Cities came to Open Arms La Mision with the Ensenada Director of International Affairs and its city officers. It was on the grounds of Open Arms where the Letter of Intent signed by Mayor Novelo, was presented to the Vallejo Commissioners expressing the desire to be sister cities with The City of Vallejo. Since then, we have established a good relationship with the offices of the City Mayor and the City of Vallejo.

We strongly believe in the mutual benefits of becoming sister cities with Vallejo. They are always looking to help and find mutual beneficial activities for the people of Ensenada. The community of La Mision and Open Arms honors them and their commitment to La Mision, Ensenada. We strongly hope that the friendship of these two great cities will soon become sister cities.

I look forward to seeing what is in store for both Ensenada and Vallejo through this incredible organization. Thank you for all you do and will continue to do for Open Arms and the people and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heidi Ep", is positioned above the printed name.

Heidi Elizarraraz

Founder



Vallejo Sister City Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 3364, Vallejo, California, 94590-0366

Dear Pastor Heidi Elizarraraz,

Greetings! As you read this letter, I hope that all is healthy and well with you and you loved ones.

As you may know, we are in the process of submitting to the Vallejo Council members the request to officially establish the City of Ensenada, Mexico, as a Vallejo sister city. We, as supporters of the Vallejo Sister City Commission and Association, are committed to establish educational and cultural exchanges, in sports, culinary, humanitarian assistance and business trades. We also seek to strengthen our community relations with the goals of prosperity and cultural understanding and exchanges in the areas of economic development, educational opportunities, and technical exchanges for the benefit of our City of Vallejo and our soon to be sister City of Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico,

Your written recommendation is requested in support of Vallejo Sister City peace initiative elevating the current friendship relationship to a sister city relationship with the City of Ensenada, BC, Mexico. This initiative will continue to strengthen the Vallejo Sister City's mission in promoting peace and understanding with Ensenada's national citizens and friends through person to person cultural interaction during our international visits and collaborations. This cultural interaction with our Vallejo citizens and its 24% Latino-American demographics would be a meaningful experience. While the Vallejo City's diverse cultural appreciation is a conduit of peace for unity and collaborations, we will exchange and integrate cultural knowledge, peace and unity in diversity. We believe in making well known Vallejo's diverse culture with our new Ensenada friends and colleagues.

We believe that together we can express our wishes and make known our desire to make Ensenada our sister city with the Vallejo Council members.

Your response is an important part as a supporter of our mission. Kindly respond to this email if you are in agreement to this endeavor.

We will be looking forward to your written support as requested.

Thank you.

Emma del Rosario Cordova
VSC Commissioner for Akashi, Japan
VSCA Akashi Committee Chair
Ensenada Friendship City Chair

"My passion is powered by His might that will never run dry".
"Do it right the first time."
Passionate. Empowered. Focused.

Sister Cities: Trondheim, Norway • Akashi, Japan • La Spezia, Italy • Baguio, Philippines • Bagamoyo, Tanzania • Jincheon, South Korea. Affiliated: Sister City International, Washington, D.C.

Supporters Who Endorsed Ensenada to be a Vallejo Sister City

As a member of the Ensenada Ad-hoc committee and in total support of VSCA Commissioner Emma del Rosario's mission and vision, I strongly recommend an accelerated process to reach the goal to establish an official Sister City relationship with the City of Vallejo and Ensenada Baja California in 2019-21. The vision to promote a lasting peace and understanding through people to people and to provide the mission that includes Citizen Diplomacy for Cultural and Educational exchanges as well as the Economic and Humanitarian Assistance as founded by President Eisenhower, we believe are the bedrock for a strong people relationship.

Our 24,000+ Latino/Spanish speaking people in Vallejo deserve this collaboration and we need to involve the Vallejo Chamber, the Hispanic Chamber and any/all Churches/Temples/Mosques/Synagogues doing humanitarian work to chip in! Focus on this initial goal and initiative will life both communities to new heights and boost citizen diplomacy!

From: Ravi Shankar.

Emma, I am happy to endorse this endeavor. Ensenada and Vallejo will mutually benefit in a sister cities relationship. Good work.

From: Robert Cordova

March 20, 2021

Dear Mrs Emma Cordova,

I vote yes and I will support the purpose of The Vallejo Sister City Association to make Ensenada, Mexico to be a sister city.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Analynn de Dios

Hi Emma-

Exciting news that things are progressing! Yes, I am in agreement with this endeavor. I know it will help the City of Vallejo, Ensenada, La Mision (a part of Ensenada) and Open Arms.

Heidi Elizarraraz
Executive Director & Founder



On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 12:51 PM Omar Garcia<omarglara69@gmail.com> wrote:
Recibido gracias Heidi

El mar., 16 de marzo de 2021 10:59 a. m., Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org> escribió:
Delegado Omar-
Aqui esta la carta que le mencione. Lo traduje en google translate, asi que no sera perfecto.
Por favor en solo poner.

Yo apoyo este esfuerzo de hacer Ensenada y Vallejo ciudades hermanas.



Vallejo Sister City Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 3364, Vallejo, California, 94590-0366

Saludos! Al leer esta carta, espero que todo esté bien para usted y sus seres queridos.

Como sabrán, estamos en proceso de presentar a los Concejales de Vallejo la solicitud para establecer oficialmente la Ciudad de Ensenada, México, como ciudad hermana de Vallejo. Nosotros, como partidarios de la Comisión y Asociación de Ciudades Hermanas de Vallejo, estamos comprometidos a establecer intercambios educativos y culturales, en deportes, gastronomía, asistencia humanitaria y oficios comerciales. También buscamos fortalecer nuestras relaciones con la comunidad con las metas de prosperidad y entendimiento e intercambios culturales en las áreas de desarrollo económico, oportunidades educativas e intercambios técnicos para el beneficio de nuestra Ciudad de Vallejo y nuestra próxima Ciudad hermana de Ensenada, Baja. California, México.

Se solicita su recomendación por escrito en apoyo de la iniciativa de paz de Ciudad Hermana de Vallejo que eleva la relación de amistad actual a una relación de ciudad hermana con la Ciudad de Ensenada, BC, México. Esta iniciativa continuará fortaleciendo la misión de la Ciudad Hermana de Vallejo en la promoción de la paz y el entendimiento con los ciudadanos y amigos nacionales de Ensenada a través de la interacción cultural de persona a persona durante nuestras visitas y colaboraciones internacionales. Esta interacción cultural con nuestros ciudadanos de Vallejo y su demografía latinoamericana del 24% sería una experiencia significativa. Si bien la apreciación cultural diversa de la ciudad de Vallejo es un conducto de paz para la unidad y la colaboración, intercambiaremos e integraremos el conocimiento cultural, la paz y la unidad en la diversidad. Creemos en dar a conocer la cultura diversa de Vallejo con nuestros nuevos amigos y colegas de Ensenada.

Creemos que juntos podemos expresar nuestros deseos y dar a conocer nuestro deseo de hacer de Ensenada nuestra ciudad hermana con los concejales de Vallejo.

Su respuesta es una parte importante como partidario de nuestra misión. Responda amablemente a este correo electrónico si está de acuerdo con este esfuerzo.

Esperamos su apoyo por escrito según lo solicitado.

Gracias.

Emma del Rosario Córdoba
Comisionado de VSC para Akashi, Japón
Presidente del Comité VSCA Akashi
Cátedra Ciudad Amistad Ensenada

"Mi pasión está impulsada por Su poder que nunca se agotará".
"Hazlo bien la primera vez."
Apasionado. Empoderado. Centrado.

Sister Cities: Trondheim, Norway • Akashi, Japan • La Spezia, Italy • Baguio, Philippines • Bagamoyo, Tanzania • Jincheon, South Korea. Affiliated: Sister City International, Washington, D.C.

66

List of Supporters Elevating
Vallejo-Ensenada Friendship Cities
To Vallejo-Ensenada Sister Cities



Name of Supporter	Signature	Email Address	Organization
1 Leticia Marcela Kim		Marcela.Kim@outlook.com	
2 Luz de Maria Salazar		" "	
3 Luz de Maria Rodriguez		" "	
4 Graciela Salceda		No Email	
5 Miluski Wozan		nadoski.wozan@ymail.eu	
6 Enriquet Tannis		tanniquet@gmail.com	
7 Jethro Manas	J.M.	Jethro.Manas@mitacdemex.com	
8 Jussara Manas		jussara.manas@gmail.com	
9 Vincent (Luis) Manas		vincent.manas@gmail.com	
10 Jaime Manas		jmanas@gmail.com	
11 Corlie Tappin		corlietappin@gmail.com	
12 Juliana Becerra		Juliana.Becerra@gmail.com	
13 Tobias Becerra		Tobias.Becerra@gmail.com	
14 Ramon Becerra		ramon.kibecerra@gmail.com	
15 REGINA BRISENO		reginabriseno@gmail.com	
16 ANDREA CANDELA RIO		acandelario92@gmail.com	
17 Niko Talosig		no email	
18 Noli Norio		Noli Norio	Thank you Emma for your passion and spreading cultural and ambassadorship between our Cities. I support your effort. After all Mexico is our next door neighbor!
19 Jacob Bagta		Jacob Bagta	
20 Elsa Cadenas		Convas Cadenas	
21 Harley Rebaja		hrabaja@gmail.com	
22 Nathaniel Sampa		nsampa@gmail.com	
23 MELISSA MONTE		MELISSA-MONTE@outlook.com	
24 TONI ROSE HIDALGO		TONIROSE.HIDALGO@GMAIL.COM	
25 LEANN ANTOS		lmanteras@gmail.com	Mei Gomez Realtor
26 Monica Hernandez		no email address	
27 Catherine Akala		Catherine.chan71@gmail.com	
28 SHIRLEY COMILANG-MAEN		shirley.comilang@yahoo.com	(PRIMERKA)
29 ORVILLE MAEN		orvillemaen1972@gmail.com	
30 Mike Costa		michael.Costa71@gmail.com	

[illegible]

I support

Mark Anthony Porter, CRPC®

Private Wealth Advisor| Associate Vice President

Porter, Ritchie & Associates

A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

An Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

Dear Emma,

It would be a great idea and a feasible one to endorse
"Elevate Ensenada" !

Nadine Goodban

Thank you Emma for your passion and spreading cultural and
ambassadorship between our
Cities! I support your effort. After all Mexico is our next door
neighbor!

Mel Gomez

Realtor

A t e n t a m e n t e

Ing. Elsa Margarita Ramírez Amao
Regidora Integrante del XXIII Ayuntamiento de Ensenada, B.C.



ENSENADA
XXIII AYUNTAMIENTO
"EL COMPROMISO ES DE TODOS"

REGIDORES

Ensenada, B.C., 12 de abril del 2021.

Oficio: EMRA/020/2021.

Asunto: Ciudades Hermanas

EMMA DEL ROSARIO CÓRDOBA
COMISIONADO DE VSC PARA AKASHI, JAPÓN
PRESIDENTE DEL COMITÉ VS CA AKASHI
CÁTEDRA CIUDAD AMISTAD ENSENADA
P R E S E N T E.-

Anteponiendo un cordial saludo y derivado de las pláticas que hemos sostenido respecto de la importancia que tiene el fortalecimiento de las relaciones entre las comunidades a través del Programa de Ciudades Hermanas, cuyo objetivo es generar un mayor acercamiento entre las ciudades del mundo, logrando así intercambios culturales, económicos y sociales.

A través de la presente me es grato extenderle que cuenta con mi apoyo ante esta iniciativa de paz de Ciudad Hermana Vallejo, que permitirá elevar la actual relación de amistad con nuestra bella ciudad de Ensenada, Baja California. Sin más por el momento me despido de Usted.

A T E N T A M E N T E

ING. ELSA MARGARITA RODRÍGUEZ AMAO
REGIDORA DEL XXIII AYUNTAMIENTO DE ENSENADA, B.C.

C.c.p. Archivo



1



Carr. Transpeninsular 6500 A, Ex Ejido
Chapultepe, Ensenada B.C. 22785



ensenada.gob.mx

**Spanish Endorsement from the
New Mayor of La Mission, Ensenada BC., Mexico
Mayor Omar Garcia**

On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 12:51 PM Omar Garcia <omarglara69@gmail.com> wrote:
Recibido gracias Heidi

El mar., 16 de marzo de 2021 10:59 a. m., Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org> escribió:
Delegado Omar-
Aqui esta la carta que le mencione. Lo traduje en google translate, asi que no sera perfecto.
Por favor en solo poner.

Yo apoyo este esfuerzo de hacer Ensenada y Vallejo ciudades hermanas.

Aqui esta la carta: (el adjuntado esta en ingles)

El 9 de marzo, el Comité de Ensenada tuvo una reunión sobre el tema anterior. El Comité trabajó para continuar con la preparación del "Paquete de Recomendación y Aprobación" para la Amistad de Ensenada con la Ciudad Hermana de Ensenada. Este paquete debe ser presentado a los Concejales de la Ciudad de Vallejo para su revisión y aprobación. El Comité también trabajará para obtener endosos y recomendaciones de la ciudadanía y organizaciones cívicas de Vallejo, así como de la ciudadanía y organizaciones cívicas de Ensenada.

El paquete estaba listo para su revisión con los Comisionados el 17 de junio de 2019, pero luego de la revisión final por parte de los Comisionados, se devolvió para incluir la sección de "Comentarios públicos" que se requería.

El 9 de marzo, el Comité planeó y decidió buscar la participación de algunas organizaciones de Vallejo y simpatizantes de Vallejo para respaldar el cambio que eleva el estatus de Amistad de Ensenada a Ciudad hermana de Ensenada. Hemos comenzado a planificar previamente una carta preparada para nuestros seguidores y enviamos algunas el martes 10 de marzo solicitando su apoyo y respaldo por escrito. México ha sido notificado para terminar su parte indicando el apoyo de los ciudadanos de Ensenada y de la organización cívica también. Pedimos a los miembros de la junta de VSCA que nos ayuden a reunir el respaldo del Vallejo Lyons Club, la Cámara de Comercio Hispana, los dueños de negocios hispanos y otros grupos deportivos hispanos y grupos de danza mexicana en las celebraciones de nuestra ciudad. Le enviaré la carta preparada para su lectura.

Este paquete completo con los aval públicos por escrito de Vallejo y Ensenada será entregado al Ayuntamiento para su revisión a más tardar el segundo trimestre o antes. Se espera que el Ayuntamiento avise de su aprobación para el tercer trimestre.

Tenga en cuenta: Dimos la bienvenida a Israel Delgado como nuestro invitado y recién llegado a nuestra reunión el martes pasado.

La próxima reunión del Comité de Ensenada será el 13 de abril a las 11:00 a.m. Se anunciará la ubicación.

Emma del Rosario Córdoba
Comisión de la Ciudad Hermana de Vallejo, presente
Asociación de Ciudades Hermanas de Vallejo, Miembro del BOD

Heidi Elizarraraz
Executive Director & Founder

info@openarmsmexico.org

www.openarmsmexico.org

559-303-2965



OFFICIAL TIMELINE | PRESENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT



April 28, 2021

Dear friends at the Vallejo Sister City Association, Inc.,

It is my privilege to write a letter of recommendation in support of elevating the friendship relationship between the Vallejo Sister City Peace Initiative and the Delegacion de La Mission, Ciudad de Ensenada, BC, Mexico. I wholeheartedly believe that both cities have gained great benefit through the person to person interaction during this initial friendship status and that now is a good time to enhance this opportunity to grow in this collaborative effort by becoming sister cities.

As you may know, The Hill Vallejo has for many years developed strong relationships with our friends in Ensenada largely through our work with Open Arms, who's mission is to keep families together and provides many basic services that support and sustain healthy children and their families. Over the years, we have sent teams of adults, teens and children to volunteer in a variety of ways. This opportunity to provide humanitarian aid has resulted in providing meaningful interaction between cultures and supports the initiative of peace and unity. We have learned so much through this relationship. Our efforts are not limited only to the campuses of Open Arms, but to the residents and leadership of Ensenada.

We will continue to make these trips in the years to come and look forward to developing new relationships and strengthening our existing friendships.

I look forward to hearing about the success of your endeavor of adding Ensenada to Vallejo's Sister City family!

All the best,

Scott Peterson
The Hill Vallejo

210 locust drive | vallejo, ca 94591
phone 707.644.4451

thehillvallejo.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sergio Cruz Hernández** <direccion.fcays@uabc.edu.mx>

Date: Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 7:22 PM

Subject: Re: Interes a elevar status

To: Israel Delgado <israel@vallejoproject.org>

CC: Alejandro Jimenez Hernandez <ajimenez20@uabc.edu.mx>

Que tal Israel, antes que nada te envío un afectuoso saludo en espera de que todos se encuentren bien de salud. Tal como lo hemos conversado vía telefónica, para la Facultad de Ciencias Administrativas y Sociales es de gran valor establecer acciones de vinculación con entidades nacionales e internacionales, con la intención de realizar actividades académicas con nuestros alumnos y que nuestros profesores lleven a cabo labores académicas de investigación, aunado al interés por mantener actividades de extensión de la cultura y los servicios de la universidad.

Dada la relevancia de la propuesta que nos haces, estamos muy interesados en poder establecer una relación institucional con distintos sectores de Vallejo; por lo anterior la Dra. Mónica Lacavex Berumen, Vicerrectora del Campus Ensenada de la UABC me comenta que con gusto escuchamos la presentación de su proyecto para estimar los pasos a seguir de manera formal.

Te agradezco de antemano el interés en establecer un proyecto de colaboración y me reitero a tus órdenes. Seguimos en contacto para definir el día y la hora de la videollamada. Saludos.

Atentamente

Dr. Sergio Cruz Hernández

Director

Facultad de Ciencias Administrativas y Sociales UABC Ensenada

Bld. de Los Lagos s/n Fracc. Valle Dorado

Ensenada, B. C. 2289



El jue, 15 abr 2021 a las 16:14, Israel Delgado (<israel@vallejoproject.org>) escribió:
Buenas tardes Checo,

Gracias por tomar mi llamada esta mañana sobre el apoyo a nuestra propuesta para elevar la relación de amistad a ciudad hermana entre Ensenada y Vallejo. Por favor, mándanos un correo si esta interesado por fomentar el desarrollo económico de nuestras ambas comunidades me despido y quedo a su disposición.

Sinceramente,

From: Abril Fonseca
Subject: La Mision SCI Application
Date: July 14, 2015

Hello Emma.

My name is Abril Fonseca.

I work with Heidi Elizarraraz at Open Arms. I'm helping to fill the SCI application but there are a few things that I do not understand how to complete.

Can you please check and tell me if the things that I have are correct ?
The things in red, I don't know if we are supposed to fill that part or someone else.

I have attached the app.

Many thanks.
Blessings.

El 12 de junio de 2017, 15:56, Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org> escribió:

Hola Sr. Guitierrez-

Recibio usted los otros documentos que le mande???

Aqui esta el nuevo acuerdo que se hizo por el Alcade de Ensenda, si va a poder asistir.

Tenemos uno igual para Ariel Sanchez, Delegado de La Mision.

Gracias,
Heidi Elizarraraz

El 15 de junio de 2017, 12:18, Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org> escribió:
Buenos Dias-

Me parece muy bien todo. Creo que hablas ingles verdad? Emma del Rosario es mi contacto directo con los de Vallejo CA. Su email es: emma.delrosario@comcast.net

Ella no habla español, pero es mi contacto para este proceso.

Lo que entiendo es que necesitamos hacer un contrato nuevo con ambos el Alcade Novelo y Delegado Sanchez en el mismo documento, en vez de tener dos contratos? Es correcto?

Gracias por todo tu ayuda en este asunto. El alcalde Novelo va a poder estar en la junta el 28 de Junio??? Un representante de Hermanas Cuidades de Korea también va a venir con los de Vallejo! Que emoción.

Si gustas corresponder con Emma Del Rosario personalmente, esta muy bien por mi. En realidad ellos saben todos los planes, yo solo con su enlace.

Gracias,
Heidi

Heidi Elizarraraz
Executive Director & Founder

From: Asuntos Internacionales <asuntosinternacionalesens@gmail.com>

Date: 2017-06-13 18:16 GMT-07:00

Subject: Re: Spanish version of Partnership Agreements

To: Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org>

Cc: delegacion <delegacionlamision@hotmail.com>

Apreciable Heidi y Ariel

Muy buenas tardes

estaremos encantados de recibirles, nada nos pone mas contentos que ver como la comunidad de Vallejo en California nos apoya.

Nuestro mayor interés es que la comunidad de La Mision pueda desarrollar su máximo potencial, en este caso es importante llevemos a cabo el tramite correcto para este evento, por lo tanto me gustaría compartirle los siguientes comentarios y recomendaciones:

- El programa de Ciudades Hermanas es un programa reconocido por la ONU y en nuestro país es observado por la SRE, por lo que es responsabilidad del Municipio a través del Alcalde y la oficina de Asuntos Internacionales el acordar e impulsar cualquier hermanamiento dentro o fuera del país.

- por esta razón debemos solicitar que se realice una nueva redacción donde se corrijan las figuras participantes, siendo el Alcalde Marco A. Novelo y el Delegado junto a él , quienes firmen con sus cargos correctos, esto dará un efecto seriedad al documento.

- Una de las cosas que más nos apremian, es citar al comité de Ciudades Hermanas de la ciudad para considerarlos en esta decisión y procedan a respaldar esta relación para así proveer de mayores herramientas a la comunidad.

Por lo anteriormente expuesto, es mi recomendación que escriban cuanto antes a las autoridades de la Ciudad en Vallejo Ca. para que procedan a realizar contacto directo e iniciemos el programa para su evento y este sea todo un éxito.

Les envió un fuerte abrazo y quedo a sus ordenes

Jared Gutierrez

Director de Asuntos Internacionales.

XXII Ayuntamiento de Ensenada, Baja California

<image005.jpg>

ELEVATE ENSENADA

ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO AS A VALLEJO SISTER CITY, 2021

2017-06-13 18:16 GMT-07: 00 International Affairs <internationalaffairsens@gmail.com>:

Appreciable Heidi and Ariel

Good afternoon

We will be delighted to welcome you, nothing makes us happier than seeing how the Vallejo community in California supports us.

Our greatest interest is that the community of La Mision can develop its maximum potential, in this case it is important that we carry out the correct procedure for this event, therefore I would like to share the following comments and recommendations: The Sister Cities program is a program recognized by the UN and in our country it is observed by the SRE, so it is the responsibility of the Municipality through the Mayor and the Office of International Affairs to agree on and promote any twinning within or outside the country.

- For this reason we must request that a new wording be made where the participating figures are corrected, being the Mayor Marco A. Novelo and the Delegate with him, who sign with their correct positions, this will give a serious effect to the document.

- One of the things that most urge us is to summon the city's Sister Cities committee to consider them in this decision and proceed to support this relationship in order to provide more tools to the community.

For the aforementioned, it is my recommendation that you write as soon as possible to the authorities of the City in Vallejo Ca. so that they can proceed to make direct contact and start the program for your event and this is a success.

He sent them a big hug and I am at your command

Jared gutierrez

Director of International Affairs.

XXII Ensenada City Council, Baja California

From: Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org>
Subject: Fwd: Spanish version of Partnership Agreements
Date: June 15, 2017 at 12:22:27 PM PDT
To: Emma del Rosario <emma.delrosario@comcast.net>

Emma-

This is the email that Jared Gutierrez emailed me.

It looks like he is the guy we should have been taking with the whole time. He does everything with International Relations for Ensenada and is very familiar with the sister cities. It looks like he is asking to have the Ens Mayor and Delegado Ariel Sanchez on the same document, as La Mision is part of Ensenada. I originally thought that they were separate "cities" but it doesn't look like it.

In the email I just sent out to you, him, and the La Mision delegate, I asked him to explain if I was correct about having both Ens and LM reps on the same document for signing. But I am pretty sure this is what he means.

I hope this isn't a big problem since the Vallejo Mayor already signed. I asked him to contact you directly in English. You can copy and paste the email below into Google Translate and get the gist of the email!

Heidi
Heidi Elizarraraz
Executive Director & Founder



info@openarmsmexico.org
www.openarmsmexico.org
559-303-2965
PO Box 6605
Chula Vista, CA 91909

From: Emma Del Rosario [mailto:emma.delrosario@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 8:53 PM
To: Shakarra McGuire <smcguire@sistercities.org>
Cc: Emma del Rosario <eadelros101@gmail.com>
Subject: Partnership Agreements between three cities

Dear Ms. McGuire,

Kindly advise what we have to do to accomplish the right partnership between Vallejo, CA and La Mision/Ensenada, Mexico. The explanation of the La Mision/Ensenada relationship is in Spanish below.

I look forward to resolving this matter because we are leaving on June 27. Should the Certificates be changed accordingly? Please note that both Mayors are gonna be at the signing of the agreements.

Thanks.

Emma del Rosario Cordova
Vallejo Sister City Commission, present
Vallejo Sister City Association, BOD Secretary

"My passion is powered by His might that will never run dry".

"Do it right the first time."

Passionate. Driven. Focused.

Jun 16, 2017 at 1:21 p.m.

Dear Shakara,

Below is the translation of the

"Good afternoon

We will be happy to welcome you, nothing makes us more happy to see how the community of Vallejo in California supports us.

Our greatest interest is that the community of La Mision can develop its maximum potential, in this case it is important to carry out the correct procedure for this event, therefore I would like to share the following comments and recommendations:

- The Sister Cities program is a program recognized by the UN and in our country is observed by the SRE, so it is the responsibility of the Municipality through the Mayor and the Office of International Affairs to agree and encourage any twinning inside or outside the country.
- for this reason we must request a new wording to correct the figures involved, with Mayor Marco A. Novelo and the Delegate with him, who sign with their correct charges, this will give a serious effect to the document.
- One of the things that most compel us to do is to call the city's Sister Cities Committee to consider them in this decision and proceed to support this relationship to provide greater tools to the community.

For the above, it is my recommendation to write as soon as possible to the City authorities in Vallejo Ca. so that they proceed to make direct contact and initiate the program for your event and this is a success.

He sent them a big hug and stayed at his command

Jared Gutierrez

Director of International Affairs.

XXII City Hall of Ensenada, Baja California

June 19, 2017

Re: Spanish Version of Partnership Agreement

To Jared Gutierrez

CC: Emma del Rosario Cordova, Heidi Elizarraraz, maestro_2098@hotmail.com,
delegacionlamision@hotmail.com

Dear Jared,

First of all, we want to thank you for your kindness regarding your email we received from Ms. Heidi Elizarraraz, our liaison, in helping us with the direction and processes we should take in establishing our sister city relationship, correctly. We will do the necessary changes on the partnership documents to indicate the correct titles of the town and parties' signatories in the implementation of the charges between:

"Delegacion La Mision, Ensenada, Baja California and the City of Vallejo".

For your information, I attached the letter of acceptance from Mayor Ariel Sanchez to the invitation offered by one of our volunteered Commissioner Emma del Rosario. Our citizens in Vallejo go to La Mission yearly to assist Open Arms with their needs.

Please see below the link where you can find all about Vallejo and its profile.

<http://www.cityofvallejo.net>

Secondly, we are excited to be a part of your Cities to benefit all of us including our Hispanic population and our 24 percent Hispanic ancestry in our demographics. The DRAFT of the partnership agreement is also attached to ensure we have it correctly before we send same to Washington for final drawing.

We look forward to a good relationship and celebration first in La Mission, Ensenada, Mexico, second, upon your visit to Vallejo, CA USA. Thank you once again.

Emma del Rosario Cordova

Vallejo Sister City Commission, present

Vallejo Sister City Association, BOD Secretary

"My passion is powered by His might that will never run dry".

"Do it right the first time."

Passionate. Driven. Focused.

On Jun 19, 2017, at 1:10 PM, Asuntos Internacionales
<asuntosinternacionalesens@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Emma

First I would like to thank you for all the support that you have given to our community. Your friendship one of the reasons that hold together many families and offer a better future to our region.

We are really happy to hear about the intentions of the sister partnership with La Mision and we will bring all our support to warranty the success of the program. However, our City rules it's Sisters City Program by a Committee form by government and citizens Organisms, so I have to make sure they vote in favor for this, that's why I am calling for an extraordinary session this week so we can be ready for the 28 of June.

I am hoping we can have the requirements that are needed in order to complete the agreement:

- Official Letter accepting the request of friendship, send by Delegado Ariel Sanchez.
- City Profile of Vallejo, Ca.
- Contract directed to Delegacion La Mision, Ensenada Baja California, this will be sign by Mayor Marco A. Novelo.

Again please feel free to contact me at any moment with any questions.
Send you all the best!

Jared Gutierrez
International Affairs Director
City of Ensenada, Baja California.
<PIE DE PAGINA.jpg>

On Tue, May 2, 2017 at 3:29 PM, Emma Del Rosario <eadelros101@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Heidi,

Hello! Thank you for confirming the period of June 29 to July 6, as our scheduled visit to La Mision, Mexico. We also received the visitor's packet giving us information about your work bringing families together, creating homely atmosphere for children as you prevent child abandonment in the City of La Mision. Your organization is a strong arm reaching out to the needs of the Cities you serve giving them education, dental and medical assistance and of course most importantly, the Love you show them. We salute you for doing so. Our Citizens of Vallejo, have expressed interest on having Open Arms as our diplomatic liaison in creating the City to City, people to people relationship with our citizens including Vallejo Sister City Commission and Vallejo Sister City Association.

In our Vallejo Sister City Commission's meeting last week, we discussed about our trip to La Mission, Mexico. Our visit period of 7 days, will probably be 3days/2nights within that time frame. The Commission Chairman Pelton Stewart, Commissioner Emma del Rosario Cordova and maybe **two/three** more officers will be visiting the City and your Organization. As you probably know, the Sister City Commissioners meet on a bimonthly basis to discuss our activities.

Regarding the trip to La Mision, our primary objective is to meet your organization and the City Mayor of La Mision, Ariel Sanchez in order to formally establish our Friendship City relationship. We also want to discuss how we can collaborate to bring about development and diplomacy to La Mision. These include cultural and educational exchanges, business opportunities and humanitarian to the La Mision. Mayor Ariel Sanchez will be introduced to the Commissioners and guests as we dialogue what binds us together as Friends. He will sign the the attached documents committing to engage to the objectives. Thereafter, Vallejo will invite Mayor Sanchez to come to City of Vallejo to meet with our Mayor Bob Sampayan. Both Mayors will seal the Friendship City as they commit to explore and bring about our objectives relative to Cultural and Educational exchanges, Economic Development and Humanitarian exchanges in bringing PEACE and PROSPERITY to both of our Cities. In doing so, we partner with the citizens of Vallejo, its churches, businesses, schools and of course the City of Vallejo as a whole.

We look forward to hearing from you to finalize our travel plans to meet with Mayor Ariel Sanchez.

Sincerely yours,

Emma del Rosario Cordova
Vallejo Sister City Commission - Present
Vallejo Sister City Association - Secretary

From: Emma del Rosario

May 3, 2017

CC: Lindzee Creech, Pelton Stewart, Yolanda Kim

Subject: Friendship City with La Mision, BC

Hello Heidi,

Thank you for your reply.

I will confer with everyone who are joining us to visit your City about the exact dates. We also plan to purchase our airline tickets so it is important for us to pick the date. Since July 4th is a very busy day for us here in the USA and our organization, I would suggest that we do our travel plan to arrive in La Mission on June 27. I will email the details including transportation and accommodation soon as I got everyone's input .

Should the Mayor need help on his visa, we can assist on sending him an invitation to come to Vallejo. However, we can talk about that when we get there.

The Spanish translation has been requested from SCI two days ago and I will send same to you as soon as I get it.

Thanks.

Emma

"My passion is powered by His might that will never run dry".

"Do it right the first time."

Passionate. Driven. Focused.

On May 3, 2017, at 9:20 AM, Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org> wrote:
Good morning Emma-

Thank you so much for getting back to us about your visit to La Mision. We look forward to having you and members of the Vallejo Sister Cities down in Mexico with us this summer.

I will talk with our Mayor Ariel Sanchez about your visit and show him the documents you sent to be signed. On the first page of the document, it says that the agreement is in both English and in Spanish, however, only the English document was attached. Do you have the Spanish document I could give him, since he only speaks Spanish? Hopefully, by the time he is invited to Vallejo, he will have his Visa to cross the border to come and visit. He is working on these legal papers currently to make this happen.

Also, please confirm with us your exact dates in the time frame you gave us, as we also have other visiting church groups here. June 29th to July 1st we have a group in La Mision as well as at our other campus in Camalu. If those are the only dates in the 7 day span you can make it, we will make something work, however July 1st -July 6th would be better. Could you please confirm the exact 3 days/2 nights you plan to be here as soon as possible? And your lodging plans, please?

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity between our two cities.
Blessings,
Heidi

Heidi Elizarraraz
Executive Director & Founder
info@openarmsmexico.org
www.openarmsmexico.org
559-303-2965

PO Box 6605
Chula Vista, CA 91909

On Jun 24, 2017, at 8:57 AM, Emma Del Rosario <eadelros101@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Mr Jared Gutierrez,

It was a real pleasure to have talked to you yesterday afternoon. I believe our meeting will be something that we all will remember for a long time. New friendship, specifically with Delegacion La Mision, and Ensenada Baja California, bonded by the same objectives and purpose will surely be a lasting relationship.

We have drafted an agenda last week, that of course can be revised, if not revised already, based on your requirements and approval, as follows:

June 27th - Tour of Open Arms Children's Care, One day cultural immersion experience with Hispanic Nationals & its Children

June 28th

Welcome - Heidi Elizarrarazz, Open Arms Founder and Sister City Liaison

Remarks by Sister City International Representative - Dinah Villanueva Ryan

National Anthem USA

Remarks in behalf of Vallejo City Mayor - Pelton Stewart, Chairman of Vallejo Sister City Commission

Remarks - Programs of Vallejo Sister City Commission - Emma del Rosario Cordova, Chairman, VSCC Mexico/Japan

Story of a Citizen Diplomat on Sports Culture and Economic Entrepreneurship - William Kim, Chairman, VSCA So. Korea

Story of a Citizen Diplomat on Vallejo Sister City Association Engagement - Ravi Shankar, Board of Directors, Member

National Anthem Mexico

Remarks by Delegado La Mision - Ariel Sanchez

Cultural Exchange Presentation - La Mision Open Arms Kids (tentative)

Remarks by Alcalde de Ensenada Baja California - Marco A. Novelo (tentative)

Reading of Partnership Agreement - Spanish Jared Gutierrez, English Emma del Rosario Cordova

Signing of Agreements (tentative)

Final Remarks - Jared Gutierrez, Director of Foreign Affairs

Memorabilia and gift giving

Tour of Ensenada Baja California

Reception - Lunch

Reception - Formal Dinner given by Vallejo Sister City Commission

June 29 - Continue the tour and off to the border/ airport

Mr. Pelton Stewart, Chairman of Vallejo Sister City Commission, will act in behalf of Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan.

As you know the agenda is not in its final form, please revise as you please and availability of Ensenada Baja California attendees. Please advise of any change.

From: Emma Del Rosario <eadelros101@gmail.com>

Subject: La Mision Agenda

Date: June 24, 2017 at 6:24:10 PM PDT

To: Emma del Rosario <eadelros101@gmail.com>

Cc: Pelton Stewart <peltonstew@gmail.com>, Wmk Taekwondo <wmktkd@gmail.com>, Dinah Villanueva-Ryan <dinahlvryan@gmail.com>, William Kim <nctaunited@gmail.com>, Ravi Shankar <ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com>

Reply-To: Emma del Rosario <eadelros101@gmail.com>

Dear All,

Reference is made to the email below showing the tentative agenda of our visit.

The Director of International Affairs of Mexico called my cell phone last night to affirm their participation with our visit in La Mision. He was really excited about our interest to assist their small "delegacion" in relation to Sister Cities' objectives and purpose. He indicated that Vallejo not only will have the Delegacion La Mision but also the Municipality of Ensenada Baja California as sister. He is aware of the fact that our citizens of Vallejo have been sending many quests to La Mision yearly as part of humanitarian exchange. He committed to the success of our visit and will do every thing he can to make it a successful and memorable visit. His team will take us to the different business sites like wineries, ports, and the beautiful points of interest they have. I got so turned on and I was smiling from ear to ear as he spoke. All I can say was, Thank you! Wow! Great! wonderful! etc. On the other hand, some of you may wonder as I shared and explained to Brenda B, about Ensenada Baja California's role in the international relationship of their "Delegacion". Ensenada is in-charge of the international affairs of each city under its jurisdiction. The Dept. of International Affairs is sitting in the Ensenada municipality. So in the SCI City directory, Ensenada will have its fourth city as sister city in California, representing their jurisdiction over La Mision. That said, we will be contacting Ensenada Baja California for any Sister City visits and events we want to bring to La Mision including Ensenada in this case. Let us look forward to a fun, enjoyable and safe visit. Bring your English/Spanish dictionary, or translate google friend, cameras etd.

With regards to our speaking parts, I want to suggest that we limit ourselves to 3 minutes to share. We can make it concise, clear and focused. Suggested topics as follows:

Pelton will read the Congratulatory letter. and share a brief history of VSCA and six sisters. Dinah SCI performance around the world.

Emma- upcoming/current programs basketball, educational programs benefitting our cities, future visits from our sister city except Jincheon to be shared by Wm Kim

Ravi - Please introduce Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting which is a good city program and VSCA involvement in Vallejo.

Wm Kim- you know what to include in you topic.

Yolanda suggested that I eliminate the US National Anthem and replace it with me introducing the delegates. After gift giving we will take gazillion photos .

Thank you. Let me know if you have any questions.

Emma

October 8, 2017

Emma del Rosario Cordova <emma.delrosario@comcast.net>

Heidi Elizarraraz, VSCA Liaison to La Mision, Ensenada, Mexico

To: William Kim <nctaunited@gmail.com>, Ravi Shankar <ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com>, Pelton Stewart <peltonstew@gmail.com>, "dinahlvryan@gmail.com" <dinahlvryan@gmail.com>, Yolanda Kim <wmktd@gmail.com>, Marvin Fruth <marbosan@comcast.net> Cc: Emma del Rosario Cordova <emma.delrosario@comcast.net>

Hello!

In connection with Heidi's visit to Vallejo, I thought of checking the website pertaining to Open Arms' needs where we as instruments of peace, understanding, cooperation and kindness, exercise VSCA humanitarian objective.

During our visit in La Mision on June, 2017 we saw the children's swing play park that the ground is covered with beach sand. We know that this material is hazardous specially to the eyes as little kids fall and roll on the ground as they play. This need caught our eyes and felt that we can help them make this ground covered with better material. Heidi mentioned that the lowest estimate to fix the cover with better material is \$8,000. We were the first group to commit to help in the construction of a softer ground cover. Among other things, we all know, doing construction work is beyond our physical capability as dedicated philanthropies and volunteers. We agreed to help them in a capacity, that we know, we can accomplish without much difficulty.

As suggested by our Chair Pelton Stewart, we would like to encourage everyone to join us to help start raising \$4,000 as our share to help towards this expense. I have committed to give \$500 to start the fund rolling. If we all pitch in, we can give her a \$1,000 check upon her visit tomorrow as our first installment. Although we still have to mention this effort in our VSCA meetings, the gesture of personal check giving can also start and Open Arms will issue a receipt for our tax purposes. I believe we can make this happen.

As the Chair of Ensenada Committee, I, sincerely, thank everyone who will come and listen to Heidi's report tomorrow at our friends' venue, The Hill and Zio Freado.

Praying and looking forward to see you all tomorrow at both Venues.

Thank you.

<https://openarmsmexico.org/about/>

Emma

Sent from my iPad

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Passionate. Driven. Focused.

To: Jared Gutierrez

Subject: Planning for youth diplomats' to visit Ensenada, La Mision and Camalu

Date: September 20, 2018

Dear Mr. Jared Gutierrez,

Greetings to you my friend Jared!

We are starting to plan for a trip to Ensenada with some of our youth diplomats in July or August timeframe. If that timeframe is good, I will continue the plan. Otherwise, please advise.

We want to experience the Mexican culture with regards to homestay, history, colleges, youth exchange, culinary, and games.

Please help me with planning this visit. I will email you more about the this.

Thank you, Jared.

Emma

Sent from my iPad

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January 30,2019

To: Pelton Stewart, Ravi Shankar, William Kim, Yolanda Kim, Robert Cordova

Subject: Meeting Agenda

Just to remind you of the meeting this morning at WMK OFFice at 10:00A.M.

Agenda:

- BLAST Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange Trip
- Visit Acceptance from Ensenada Director Jared Gutierrez
- Date schedule of the trip July 29 Aug. 7 confirmation
- Itinerary and activities
- Budget items development and finalization for grant request.
- Adjourn 11:30
-

C u all this morning.

Emma

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El vie., 15 feb. 2019 a las 7:55, Emma del Rosario (<emma.delrosario@comcast.net>) escribió:

Dear Jared,

Greetings from me in Vallejo!

Forgive me if I am becoming a pest to you!

Since I have not received your response as input to complete our dialogue regarding the planned itinerary of our visit in August, I am just concerned about going forward rescheduling the visit or redoing the education on national heritage travel visit objective, or revising the plan altogether. Either way, I kindly need your input to continue with our plan to benefit our Hispanic American youth diplomats.

Please help me get this visit going in any shape or form that will fit your schedule and/or meet your concerns.

Hope everything is Ok with you.

Thank you and God bless!

Sincerely yours,

Emma

Sent from my iPad

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On Feb 15, 2019, at 2:39 PM, Asuntos Internacionales <asuntosinternacionalesens@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Emma

I am sorry we haven't answer as you need, I promise we will work faster on this.

Today we have a meeting between the key members of the committee to determine what are the best ideas for that week our initial idea will be:

- Have a reception for the delegation with the Sister Cities Association and the Mayor Marco Novelo.
- Organize host families with rotary and lions club for the guest that need it.
- We will work with the sports direction of the city the program to include the 10 students in the summer activities so they can exchange experiences with other kids. for the 5 non sports we will include them in arts and culture summer camp activities so they can choose from the classes of their interest, all of them will have other student to exchange culture and languish at all time.
- During the weekend we are working on a Tae kwon do presentation between local and our guest student at the "ventana al mar" plaza, to encourage other kids to learn about the this discipline.

Please know that we are very involve and interested on your visit and the thinks we can achieve of this exchange with our Vallejo Sister City friendship.

Let me know what can we do in order to keep moving forward to this.

Regards.

<firma.png>

El mar., 12 mar. 2019 a las 9:21, Primary (<emma.delrosario@comcast.net>) escribió:

Dear Jared,

Hello! How are you? Thank you for your well thought plan for the Vallejo visit.

Our Ensenada committee met and we are excited to be there with your ideas.

- Meeting Mayor Novelo and the sister city association will be great. Thank you!
- Homestay will also give a good experience to all of us, interacting with new friends of Hispanic culture. Since we will be the guardians to our students while traveling, the adults would like to stay with their students during homestay. I believe we will learn more about each other's culture as we interact. I will send you the list of travelers and their bios for matching purposes as you vet the homestay sponsors from Rotary and Lions Club members. Thanks.
- The taekwondo demonstration is exciting and the summer camp activities as well. The participation of all the Vallejo students will add new understanding of the Mexican history, heritage and roots of its culture. This is an important process in reconciling the differences of cultural diversity in a diverse city like ours and learn to appreciate those differences
- We also would like to talk about our desire to start the process towards having Ensenada as our Vallejo Sister City. For your info Vallejo demographic population includes 24% Hispanic ethnicity.
- Our committee meet every other week for now, then every week as we get closer to the event date.

Thank you again for your effort to make a difference in our communities by providing education to our future Hispanic citizen diplomats.

Best regards,

Emma

From: emma.delrosario@comcast.net

Date: May 15, 2019 at 10:59:27 PM PDT

To: Jared Gutierrez <asuntosinternacionalesens@gmail.com>, Heidi Elizarraraz <heidi@openarmsmexico.org>

Cc: Emma del Rosario Cordova <emma.delrosario@comcast.net>

Subject: Re: Update on Vallejo visit to Ensenada

Reply-To: Emma del Rosario Cordova <emma.delrosario@comcast.net>

Dear Jared,

Greetings from the rainy, not sunny California. The weather here has been so cold and it seems like winter has not left yet.

We had a meeting yesterday and the following are our planned programs and the number of travelers who will participate on this trip. These activities are plans that can be adjusted to fit Ensenada and Open Arms schedule. Our itinerary is divided into two parts. 1. Ensenada visit 2. Open Arms

- July 29 Depart SFO A.M, Arrival time is still TBD.
- Number of taekwondo athletes 7, ages 13 to 17 years of age
- Number of non athletes 4 ages 14 to 16 years of age
- Number of adult 8
 - Rose Kim, Coach
 - Victoria Kim, Coach
 - Victoria Grace, Middle School Teacher
 - William Kim, Taekwondo GM, VSCA Vice-President
 - Yolanda Kim, VSC Member, Past President, William Kim's wife
 - Marv Fruth, VSCA Property Manager, Child Chaperone
 - Ravi Shankar, VSC Member of the BOD, Child Chaperone
 - Emma del Rosario-Cordova, Ensenada Committee Chair, VSC Commissioner, Child Chaperone
 - Robert Cordova, Member of BOD, Emma's husband, Child Chaperone
 - Kenji Ichikawa, VSCA Member, Child Chaperone
- Total travelers 21
- Reception with Mayor Novelo and Staff sponsored by Ensenada

- Gift giving by Vallejo guests. Please provide us a list of Mayor's staff in-charge of the Program
- Homestay - The group with bold asterisks would like to stay in a hotel. The rest will homestay with athletes
- Vallejo athletes will perform taekwondo at the plaza, Ventana
- Ensenada athletes will perform taekwondo, at the plaza
- Vallejo athletes and Ensenada combined will perform taekwondo. at the plaza
- All would like to tour the City of Ensenada. Will join local programs for education
- "Adios" reception sponsored by Vallejo VSC

August 2 - Transfer to Open Arms. VSC guests will provide humanitarian services, gifts and taekwondo lessons to Open Arms

August 7 flight back to US

We can adjust our program as we see fit. I can input the itinerary in a calendar, time schedule format once we finalize.

Thanks Jared for your help. I hope I covered them all..

Emma

To: Primary <emma.delrosario@comcast.net>

Subject: Re: Update on Vallejo visit to Ensenada

Here are some of the kids' photos with stories...You are also welcome to use any of the photos we post on social media for your flyer.

I will be looking for your missions packets so we can start planning in detail!

On Thu, May 16, 2019 at 7:34 AM Primary <emma.delrosario@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Heidi and Lidzee,

Our schedule to visit Open Arms is shown on my email below addressed to Jared, as mentioned for August 2 through August 7. I hope by now the check for the deposit has been mailed and been received by OA. I would like to invite you to be with us when we visit with Mayor Novelo to support your projects in a more formal way with Vallejo Sister City as your partner on July 29 our date of arrival. The dates are not yet concrete but we are working to finalize it with them. Please let me know what you have for us to do. We plan to have a 3-morning taekwondo demonstration or self defense with OA kids, ages 13-17. Our famous GM taekwondo guru will be with us.

We also are working to produce the flyer to raise funds for the trip, so I need you to please help me with some pictures of the children you may have with their stories. i will include them on the flyer. Please send them to me immediately as soon as you have them. Thank you!

Looking forward to work with you once again right on the site of OA. Our team is ready to work roll their sleeves to provide help. Please pray for this trip and our fund raising. Thanks.

Emma

Sent from my iPad

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On May 6, 2019, at 11:38 AM, Asuntos Internacionales
<asuntosinternacionalesens@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Emma

We are working with the agenda and confirmation for your visit this upcoming July-August, we hope to have more information about the guest soon, so we can start assigning the right homes for them.

Thank you so much and we'll be on touch.

<firma.png>

June 25, 2019

Subject: June 26th Ensenada Meeting Rescheduled

To: Elissa Shanks Stewart, Yolanda Kim, William Kim, dinahlvryan, Ravi Shankar, Marvin Fruth, Robert Cordova, Victoria Grace

Hi All,

Our scheduled meeting for June 26th is being reschedule to July 3rd, Wed., 10:00 A.M. at sister city room. As a reminder listed below are some activities we have yet to review and accomplish:

1. The finalization of our itinerary is pending awaiting response from the Director of Foreign Affairs who was sick last week to input Ensenada's planned activities while we are in Ensenada.
2. Purchase of Group insurance -
3. Completion of waiver forms - Anyone who has not signed the form please submit it to either Yolanda Kim or Emma del Rosario
4. Completion of gift purchase for the schools.
Please purchase a personal gift for your homestay sponsor.
5. Shipment of boxes to Ensenada by July 16 - Instruction will come from Ensenada to save \$ \$ on shipment costs. Open Arms is separate.
6. Passport needed at the border - Please make sure you passport has 6 more months to go before traveling for Mexico
7. Final payment TBD by the team, awaiting input from Ensenada.
8. Orientation

Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Emma

On Jan 30, 2019, at 1:19 AM, Emma del Rosario
<emma.delrosario@comcast.net> wrote:

Just to remind you of the meeting this morning at WMK Office at 10:00A.M.

Agenda:

- BLAST Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange Trip
- Visit Acceptance from Ensenada Director Jared Gutierrez
- Date schedule of the trip July 29 Aug. 7 confirmation
- Itinerary and activities
- Budget items development and finalization for grant request.
- Adjourn 11:30

-

C u all this morning.

Emma

Sent from my iPad

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From: Ravi S ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Invitation: Presentación Proyecto "Ciudades Hermanas Vallejo-Ensenada". @ Fri Apr 23, 2021 10:30am - 11:30am (PDT) (ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com)
Date: April 21, 2021 at 10:16 AM
To: Sergio Cruz Hernandez checoch@uabc.edu.mx
Cc: Emma del Rosario Cordova emma.delrosario@comcast.net, aavelar@uabc.edu.mx, Alejandro Jimenez Hernandez ajimenez20@uabc.edu.mx, monical@uabc.edu.mx, Miriam Alvarez Mariscal miriam3@uabc.edu.mx

Thank you...

If this is in Spanish, I am not of much help.

Ravi

On Apr 21, 2021 9:29 AM, "Sergio Cruz Hernandez" <checoch@uabc.edu.mx> wrote:

You have been invited to the following event.

Presentación Proyecto "Ciudades Hermanas Vallejo-Ensenada".

When Fri Apr 23, 2021 10:30am – 11:30am Pacific Time - Los Angeles [more details »](#)

Joining info Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/bxb-emn-w-akp

Join by phone
(US) [+1 650-597-3836](tel:+16505973836) (PIN: 708627334)

Calendar ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com

Who

- Sergio Cruz Hernandez - organizer
- monical@uabc.edu.mx
- Miriam Alvarez Mariscal
- aavelar@uabc.edu.mx
- ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com
- Alejandro Jimenez Hernandez
- emma.delrosario@comcast.net

Hola que tal, de parte de la Vicerrectora del campus Ensenada de la UABC, les compartimos esta invitación para reunimos por videollamada, para que presenten el proyecto de ciudades hermanas Vallejo-Ensenada; y comentar las formas en que UABC podría participar.

Proponemos el siguiente orden del día:

1. Presentación de los asistentes
2. Presentación del proyecto "Ciudades Hermanas Vallejo-Ensenada"
3. Comentarios y preguntas
4. Posibles rutas de colaboración
5. Fin de la reunión

Gracias y buen día.

Going (ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com)? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email at the account ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com because you are subscribed for invitations on

From: Emma Del Rosario emma.delrosario@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Our Friday Meeting
Date: April 21, 2021 at 12:46 PM
To: Adalberto Avelar Garcia Rojas aavelar@uabc.edu.mx
Cc: Israel Delgado israel@vallejoproject.org



Hola Muy Gusto Senor Adalberto Avelar Garcia Royas!

Greetings! I am excited to see again and hopefully some will join us in this meeting.

The topic we want to share with you and some of your colleagues is to fulfill a requirement that a group of Ensenada nationals are supportive of the goals of Sister Cities International and Vallejo Sister Cities. We have requirements that we had met as Friendship Cities. That year in 2017 when we visited the UABC college and Jared helped us and showed us around introducing Ensenada and our hearts were captured by the children of Open Arms. That was the initial introduction to Ensenada. Jared presented to the Vallejo Officers the Letter of Intent that Ensenada wanted to be Sister City with Vallejo. We are now in the stage to "Elevate Ensenada" as an official Sister City with Vallejo. This means that our relationship would be a full-blown sisterhood relationship that will have a life of longevity, committed to the terms of the agreement that will be signed by our Mayors. You will be invited to come to Vallejo, as the Covid 19 restrictions are eased or lifted and/or Vallejo will visit Ensenada.

I am sending you the draft articles of the Agreement so that we can start reviewing it and it can be part of our discussion. This draft will be revised to say Ensenada Sister City. Thank you for your participation, mi amigo Adalberto!

By copy of this email to Israel, kindly read the Spanish version and if there should be any change please advise. Thank you so much.



Ensenada La
Mision...ish.pdf

Sincerely yours,

Emma

Emma del Rosario Cordova
VSC Commissioner for Akashi, Japan
VSC Commissioner for Ensenada, MX
VSCA Akashi Committee Chair
VSCA Ensenada Friendship City Chair

"My passion is powered by His might that will never run dry".
"Do it right the first time."
Passionate. Empowered. Focused.

On Apr 21, 2021, at 9:33 AM, Adalberto Avelar Garcia Rojas <aavelar@uabc.edu.mx> wrote:

My dearest friend Emma,

How are you? I am happy that I will see you and Ravi on Friday!!

Do you already have a specific idea on what you want to collaborate with UABC?

Thanks
Adalberto

From: Ravi S ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Invitation: Presentación Proyecto "Ciudades Hermanas Vallejo-Ensenada". @ Fri Apr 23, 2021 10:30am - 11:30am (PDT) (ravi.pb.vallejo@gmail.com)
Date: April 21, 2021 at 12:29 PM
To: Checo Cruz Hernández checoch@uabc.edu.mx
Cc: Israel Delgado israel@vallejoproject.org, Emma del Rosario Cordova emma.delrosario@comcast.net



Thank you ... Israel Delgado called me to confirm that translation is available where necessary.

I am excited at this late but important step in our conversations. Be glad to attend.

To help all parties, I am sharing the following highlights of my 2017 and 2019 visit to Ensenada:-

- a. *Motivated, friendly and helpful city officials, winery owners, university administrators, Lions Club, Rotary Club Reps, Chamber of Commerce officials ...*
- b. *Personable and warm welcome and participation by more than 6 Host Families (Jered and family) ... It can be extended to others available now in 2021-22*
- c. *Business Owners like Restaurants, Travel AGencies and Individual Entrepreneurs/Contractors*
- d. *Students from High Schools and University that can form very strong cultural, social, sports, Arts projects to advance mutually in the future*
- e. *A strong mayor-to-mayor commitment: Mayor (Presidente) AYALA was very gracious to make time and meet Vallejo Delegates in 2019; Mayor McConnell has been travelling to Ensenada for Thanksgiving holidays for many years and is personally keen on doing everything he can to strengthen this Sister City relationship == Both have a tremendous commonality of Port/Waterfront Access, Wineries, Culture*
- f. *Personally, I see small but significant teams of Delegates, Students, BusinessPersons exchanging actively their plans and future projects in Ensenada, in Vallejo aligned with the SCI goals and Sister City objectives beyond 2021-22. This shall build tremendous friendships, increase travel and trade, sponsor students to study and civic staff to get trained and contribute to the overall PEACE & FRIENDSHIP between our great cities/cultures.*

best,
With Peace & Gratitude, Namaste!

*"GROW Veggies/Fruits for your body, FLOWERS for your mind, heart and soul ...
PLANT TREES for planet Earth and the Next Generation. COMPOST - Recycle"
Help spread UNITED ACV - SERVE your community*

Agenda Item 4. C

Vallejo Sister City Commission
Report of June, 2021

June 15, 2021 is the official re-opening of California after the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. Millions are vaccinated and people are happy to visit with family and friends once again!!

The Sister City Commission is excited to review the packet for Ensenada, Mexico in preparation for a vote in August to move it to Sister City status. Thanks to Commissioner del Rosario and her committee for their perseverance in this effort.

On Friday, June 18, 2021, we are scheduled to host a Welcome Reception for Mrs. Ronda Pierce, SCI Country Representative for Tanzania and member of the SCI Board of Directors. Mrs. Pierce is in the Bay Area visiting relatives. I met her when I attended the SCI International Conference in Aurora, Colorado in 2018. Thanks to Commissioner Pelton Stewart for organizing this reception.

In peace,
Elissa Shanks Stewart, Chair