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Subject: Governor's Radio Address: "Mexico: Good Neighbors, Strong Partners, Great Friends"

Hi, this is Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with another California Report.

This week, I want to talk to you about building a bright future for our state by working with the states and nations that are bordering California.

And nowhere is this partnership more important than with our southern neighbor, Mexico.

We share strong cultural ties, common ideals and a healthy relationship that creates opportunities for both of us.

This is why it was so wonderful this past Monday to have Baja California's Governor Elorduy visit us here in Los Angeles to accomplish some of these goals that affect our education, our economy and our environment.

First, let me talk about education, because the quality of education today sets the stage for everything we can achieve tomorrow. That's why I was so pleased when the Governor and I visited with students and teachers of Porter Middle School and with their new sister school in Baja.

We saw two classes linked by videoconference where the students talked back and forth, shared ideas and improved their language skills. These are the first two sister schools but we are going to expand this program to as many schools as possible so more children from California and Mexico can learn from each other.

As we find new ways to bring the leaders of tomorrow together we are also working hard to solve the challenges we face today, challenges like expanding our economy.

That's why it's important to speed up the movement of goods across our border and build new economic partnerships like the one we're creating in high tech, between our Silicon Valley and the **Silicon Border**, or the steps we're taking to bring California solar technology to Baja to help them meet their energy needs.

All of this trade is a big boom for our economy and last year California exports to Mexico increased by 16 percent.

And as we thrive with economic prosperity, we also need to protect our environment and work together for clean air, clean water and clean energy because pollution doesn't stop at the border.

On all these issues we are going to continue to build a framework for success and strengthen the bond between California and Mexico as good neighbors, as strong partners and great friends.

Thank you very much for listening.



Transcript of September 24, 2005 Weekly Radio Address:

Hi, this is Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with another California Report.

Yesterday I visited Baja, Mexico and spent some time with Governor Elorduy and other officials to discuss issues that are important to California and Mexico.

I love Mexico. I have traveled there many times before, making movies there, enjoying their great tourist destinations. I always have a fantastic time and I always look forward to my next visit. And now as governor it's an honor for me to do my part to strengthen the great friendship that we have with our neighbors to the South.

California and Mexico are kindred spirits, and enjoy a very special relationship with a shared border, strong cultural ties and a regional partnership that benefits both of us.

Mexico is our number one trading partner and I am proud that we have increased trade with Mexico by 16 percent last year alone.

Our trade relationship supports as many as 200,000 California jobs and generates nearly \$160 billion for our economy.

And every day we are creating more goodwill and good fortune between us.

- We will continue to support each other's tourism industries; in fact, last year alone 3.7 million Mexican travelers visited our state.
- We are building more SENTRI lanes on the border to fast-track the movement of people and commerce in both directions.
- And then there is the **Silicon Border**, a high-tech industrial park in Baja, to attract manufacturing operations that will expand both our economies.

By working together we can continue to strengthen our relationship and meet all the challenges we face.

These challenges include undocumented immigration, protecting the environment, stopping drug and human trafficking and improving education and public safety in communities on both sides of the border.

These are problems that we will face together and we'll solve together.

I believe the future holds unbelievable promise for us. I saw this promise when I met with a group of college students from California and Mexico, participating in a college exchange program in Mexicali.

These students are learning together and someday will work together, making the California-Mexico partnership even stronger and more dynamic.

I have great faith in what we can achieve whether it is trade, immigration, the environment, health care, education, disaster relief, and much more.

California and Mexico share the same future. And we will raise prosperity and the quality of life in our region by embracing that future together.

Thank you.