

# Protecting Children's Environmental Health in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region

January 27 – 28, 2016

## Speaker Bios



**Jared Blumenfeld**  
**Regional Administrator**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Mr. Jared Blumenfeld was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as EPA Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest in November 2009. EPA Region 9 is home to more than 48 million people in California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and 148 tribal nations.

Mr. Blumenfeld has spent two decades on the front lines of protecting the environment both at home and internationally. His priorities at EPA include strong enforcement, environmental justice, protecting and restoring our air, land and waters, building strong federal, state, local and tribal partnerships, and taking action on climate change.

Mr. Blumenfeld has made hearing directly from elected tribal leaders a priority and has personally visited more than 80 reservations to understand their on-the-ground challenges.

Before becoming Regional Administrator, Mr. Blumenfeld was the Director of the San Francisco Department of the Environment where he spent eight years as the primary environmental decision-maker for the city. Jared helped to initiate many landmark environmental laws that became part of the municipal Environment Code. These included San Francisco's ban of plastic bags, a 2020 zero waste goal, LEED Gold building standards, and an overarching precautionary principle framework.

Mr. Blumenfeld's environmental leadership includes chairing the first United Nations World Environment Day hosted by the United States - Green Cities: Where the Future Lives (2005), overseeing the Treasure Island Redevelopment Authority, and directing international initiatives to protect eight million acres of wildlife habitat. He is a founder of the Business Council on Climate Change, an organization that unites businesses around the challenge of climate change. Mr. Blumenfeld has worked for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Mr. Blumenfeld received his law degrees at the University of London and the University of California, Berkeley.



**Jeremy Bauer, MS**  
**Border Environmental Health Coordinator**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9**

Mr. Jeremy Bauer has over 13 years of professional experience in community environmental education and promotion, collaborative leadership, and environmental public health. He has overseen the development of environmental health risk assessments and risk reduction analyses. He has written many winning proposals both on the non-profit side procuring grant funding as well as on the corporate side as an environmental compliance consultant winning work with government and private sector clients. Currently, Mr. Bauer coordinates the U.S. EPA's environmental health efforts along the U.S.-Mexico Border in California-Baja California and Arizona-Sonora. In his role, he designs environmental health-related capacity-building workshops, reviews and provides feedback on project proposals for EPA-funded grants, and serves as technical representative for implementation of environmental health-related grants.

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**Orlando Cabrera-Rivera**  
**Program Manager, Environmental Quality and Climate Change**  
**Commission for Environmental Cooperation**

Mr. Orlando Cabrera-Rivera is the Manager of the Environmental Quality and Climate Change Program at the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). He is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation and delivery of North America-wide environmental initiatives and capacity building efforts under CEC's cooperative work program related to air quality, climate change, pollutant releases and transfers registers (PRTR) systems and environmental health. Mr. Cabrera-Rivera has a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology from the Department of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master of Science in Land Resources Management from the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison.

**Fabiola Estrada, MS**  
**Project Officer/Life Scientist**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9**

Ms. Fabiola Estrada graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Molecular Environmental Biology and minors in Spanish and Education. She received a master's degree in Industrial Hygiene from the University of Washington. Ms. Estrada joined the U.S. EPA at the Region 3 Pesticides Office in Philadelphia, and transferred to Region 9 in 2006 where she manages pesticide grants for state and tribal programs. In addition to being the lead for the regional Spanish-language pesticide safety outreach effort, Ms. Estrada is the Regional School Integrated Pest Management Coordinator. For the past couple of years, she has focused on partnering with multiple agencies to ensure that farmworkers know about their protections under the Worker Protection Standard and how to prevent pesticide exposure in the workplace and at home.



**Ruth Etzel, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Office of Children's Health Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Dr. Ruth Etzel is the Director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection. During 20 years as a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, she served in a variety of public-sector leadership positions including: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Founding Chief of the Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch), U.S. Department of Agriculture (Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Risk Assessment), and U.S. Indian Health Service (Research Director at the Alaska Native Medical Center).

Dr. Etzel is the founding editor of *Pediatric Environmental Health* (a 3rd edition was published by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2012). This influential book has helped train thousands of doctors who care for children about how to recognize, diagnose, treat, and prevent illness in children from hazards in the environment. She has worked extensively with international organizations to educate health professionals about environmental health and to build their capacity to conduct environmental investigations. From 2009 to 2012, Dr. Etzel served as the Senior Officer for Environmental Health Research in the Department of Public Health and Environment at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Dr. Etzel has a broad background in public health, with specific training and expertise in pediatrics, preventive medicine, and children's environmental health. After completing a residency in pediatrics, she became a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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**Robert Guerrero, MBA**  
**Chief, Office of Border Health**  
**Arizona Department of Health Services**

Mr. Robert Guerrero serves as the Chief of the Office of Border Health for the Arizona Department of Health Services and functions as the primary liaison and point of contact between the Arizona Department of Health Services and the public health authorities in the State of Sonora. In addition, Mr. Guerrero is the ADHS Director's Delegate to the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, the U.S.-Mexico Border Governors Conference's Health and Emergency Management Worktable, and the Arizona-Mexico Commission's Health Services Committee. As the Director's delegate, Mr. Guerrero works closely with public health authorities in all ten of the states on the U.S.-Mexico Border and with both federal governments.

The Office of Border Health actively participates across the broad spectrum of public health activities in the Arizona-Sonora Region. The activities include binational epidemiological surveillance, binational public health prevention services, and binational behavioral health services. Within the Office of Border Health are the Border Infectious Disease Surveillance Program and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission's Arizona Outreach Office.

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**Aminata Kilungo, PhD**  
**Director of Research and Development**  
**Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc.**

Dr. Aminata Kilungo holds a Ph.D. in Soil, Water and Environmental Science, and Microbiology from the University of Arizona. She is the Director of Research and Development at Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. (SERI) and has over 9 years of experience working with underserved communities in the field of environmental science, environmental health, water quality and monitoring, and pollution prevention. Her work focuses on finding sustainable solutions to minimize environmental impacts, engaging the targeted communities in the process, and improving overall quality of life. She works with communities in the Tucson metropolitan area, along the Arizona-Mexico border and in Sub-Saharan Africa. Some of her research work includes: pollutant mapping and analysis to determine potential hazardous air pollutants hot spots along the Arizona-Sonora border; home assessments to identify potential health risks and hazards in the Tucson metropolitan area; development of technology to instantaneously detect microbial contamination in drinking water; and chemical and microbial well water quality assessment and well design comparison studies in Tanzania. Dr. Kilungo also has experience working as a consultant and was previously a contractor for the U.S. Army managing the Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management Systems programs. Dr. Kilungo is currently working on the evaluation of environmental health status along the Arizona-Sonora border region, funded by Border Environmental Corporation Commission (BECC) in coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

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**Stanley Maloy, PhD**  
**Dean, College of Sciences**  
**Professor of Biology**  
**San Diego State University**

After earning a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the University of California at Irvine, Dr. Maloy did postdoctoral work in Genetics at the University of Utah, then joined the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign faculty in 1984 where he was promoted through the ranks to Professor and Director of the Biotechnology Center. In August, 2002 he moved to San Diego State University as founding Director of the Center for Microbial Sciences and Professor of Biology.

Dr. Maloy is Past-President of the American Society for Microbiology, the oldest and largest single life science membership organization in the world. He has had numerous roles at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, teaching the summer course in Advanced Bacterial Genetics from 1990-1995, the advanced graduate course in Microbial Pathogenesis at the Watson Graduate School from 2002-2006, and was co-founder of the international symposium on Microbial Pathogenesis and Host Response. He has taught numerous international courses and organized many international scientific meetings. He is the author of several books, and has won multiple awards for teaching. He has consulted for large companies and small, biotech start-up companies, served on the Scientific Advisory Board of several companies, and as Chief Scientific Officer of Vaxiion Therapeutics. He served as chair of the NIH MBC1 Study Section and as an advisor for many national and international scientific agencies.

Research in his lab focuses on bacterial physiology, genetics, genomics, and the evolution of microbial pathogens.



**Andrea Manion**  
**Environmental Protection Specialist**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Ms. Manion has over 15 years of experience in grants management, providing oversight to ensure proper expenditure of funds to achieve positive environmental results while managing relationships with recipients. Currently, she serves as Panel Chair of EPA R9's *Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreements* and the *Environmental Justice Small Grants* where she reviews, comments on, and ranks eligible proposals. Ms. Manion currently serves as the project officer for a FY15 EJ small grantee—a role she sought out—in order to fully understand the EPA grant process from another perspective. A volunteer in the Peace Corps from 2010 through 2012, she helped found a Grants Committee, which provided feedback to volunteers to promote feasible project planning, successful grant proposals, and effective project implementation — thereby encouraging sustainable partnerships. Prior to joining EPA, Ms. Manion was the Grants Director for The Sierra Club Foundation for 14 years where she managed a \$47 million annual grant making budget. As a volunteer, Ms. Manion serves as Vice President for Community Awareness and Treatment Services where she oversees the agency's growth in serving the chronically homeless population by providing safe and accessible services. Ms. Manion has a Masters in Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco and a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation Biology and Environmental Science from Michigan State University.

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**Dan Meltzer, MPH**  
**Research Associate**  
**California Environmental Health Tracking Program**

Mr. Dan Meltzer is a research associate with the California Environmental Health Tracking Program (CEHTP). CEHTP is a program of the Public Health Institute in partnership with the California Department of Public Health and is primarily funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. The program works to make environmental health data and information publically-available through the development of a web-based data query system, state-of-the-art data displays, and innovative web tools and services for communities, governments, academia, and private partners. Mr. Meltzer's focus primarily involves geospatial data and GIS, and he has worked on projects relating to water quality, air quality, traffic, and other environmental hazards. He received his public health master's degree in 2015 from the University of California, Berkeley.

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**William Ngai, MD, MPH**  
**Public Health Medical Officer**  
**Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment**  
**California Environmental Protection Agency**

Dr. William Ngai received his Medical Degree from the New York University School of Medicine and his Masters of Public Health from the University of California Los Angeles School of Public Health. Postgraduate training consisted of an internship in internal medicine at the Veterans Administration Hospital of Long Beach - University of California Irvine, a residency in nuclear medicine at the University of California San Francisco, and a residency in occupational and environmental medicine at the University of California San Francisco. He is board certified in occupational and environmental medicine.

After practicing in the emergency department at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Martinez, Dr. Ngai practiced general medicine and occupational medicine in Oakland for thirteen years. From 1998, he practiced occupational medicine at the Mills-Peninsula Hospitals in Burlingame and San Mateo and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation until 2003. He has held his current position of a Public Health Medical Officer in the Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, a department in the California Environmental Protection Agency, since April 2000.

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**Luis Olmedo**  
**Executive Director**  
**Comite Civico Del Valle, Inc.**

Mr. Luis Olmedo is the Executive Director of Comite Civico del Valle, an organization located in Imperial Valley whose mission focuses on addressing environmental health related problems in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. A community activist who advises local, regional, and state programs on environmental health issues affecting Imperial County and Eastern Coachella Valley, Mr. Olmedo is a member of various state and national networks that focus on environmental policy and regulation. His organization has partnered with academic and research institutions to expand environmental research in Imperial County who published studies on Border Asthma and Allergies, Perchlorate Biomonitoring, and Agricultural Burning. He is currently partnering with San Diego State University and California Department of Public Health on air monitoring and asthma.

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**Nancy Palate**  
**Health Educator**  
**California Department of Public Health**

Ms. Nancy Palate is a health educator in the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB) of the California Department of Public Health. Ms. Palate has a B.S in Communication Science from the University of Phoenix and is currently a post graduate student of Instructional Science and Technology in California State University Monterey Bay. She has worked as a promotora in the Bay Area for over 12 years. In EHIB, Ms. Palate works alongside a team of scientists who do investigations on the impact that some hazardous sites or releases may have on the health of communities in California.

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**Cyrus Rangan MD FAAP FACMT**  
**Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment**  
**County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health**

Cyrus Rangan M.D. FAAP FACMT graduated from Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1995 followed by a clinical residency in General Pediatrics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, graduating in 1998. He then completed a fellowship in Medical Toxicology at the University of California, San Diego Medical Center in 2000. He is board-certified in Pediatrics and Medical Toxicology. Dr. Rangan is Director of the Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He investigates community reports of environmentally related illnesses or disease clusters and provides expert consultation and education to hospitals and other impacted professionals about medical issues in toxicology, "HazMat", epidemiology, and environmental health. Dr. Rangan serves as Director of the Los Angeles Area Medical Toxicology Education Program for the California Poison Control System. He provides lectures and media support for hospitals, healthcare groups, health agencies, and schools. Dr. Rangan is also an attending physician and Consulting Toxicologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and an instructor at the USC/Keck School of Medicine.

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**Jeff Scott, MPP**  
**Director**  
**Region 9 Land Division**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Mr. Jeff Scott leads EPA Region 9's Land Division which covers a number of both traditional and multi-media programs. The Division is responsible for the hazardous waste, underground storage tank, and zero waste programs under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Division also protects the public and empowers communities by preventing exposures to toxic compounds regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), and by implementing the Pollution Prevention Act, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the Region's Environmental Education and Children's Health programs. In addition, the Land Division focuses on environmental and human health activities in underserved and disproportionately burdened communities such as the US-Mexico border area, the outer Pacific islands, and on tribal lands, including cross-program consolidated grants to the Pacific islands and the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act. Mr. Scott has long been a champion for pushing holistic multi-media approaches to addressing environmental issues. Mr. Scott has served in a number of senior executive and management positions in his over 30 years at

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EPA Region 9 and in Headquarters. He has served as director of multiple divisions in Region 9. In 2003, he also served as Director of the Office of International Environmental Policy in the EPA Headquarters Office of International Affairs. Mr. Scott grew up primarily in southern California in the city of Redlands. He received his master's degree in public policy from the University of California at Berkeley. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Cum Laude from the University of California Irvine with bachelor's degrees in both economics and social ecology.



### **James M. Seltzer, MD**

**Visiting Professor, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
University of California, Irvine**

James M. Seltzer, MD is a Board-certified Allergist/Immunologist. After earning his undergraduate degree in Biology, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Seltzer was awarded a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He completed a residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and a fellowship in Allergy & Immunology at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine. Dr. Seltzer is a Fellow of The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology (AAAAI), The American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology (ACAAI), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). For 27 years Dr. Seltzer practiced Allergy/Immunology in southern California; he founded the Clinical Research Institute, Inc., a free standing multi-disciplinary clinical research facility and served as its medical director. While Professor of Medicine at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, Dr. Seltzer was appointed Co-Director of the PEHSU (Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit) program, a network of experts in children's environmental health. Dr. Seltzer relocated to Massachusetts five years ago and assumed the post of Clinical Director, Division of Allergy and Immunology, Reliant Medical Group. Having recently returned to southern California, Dr. Seltzer now serves as Visiting Professor and consultant at the University of California, Irvine Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Dr. Seltzer has been a consultant to industry and to government (e.g., U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Indoor Air Quality division of the US Environmental Protection Agency). He is a well-known speaker and moderator on topics such as asthma and how the environment affects respiratory health, including programs sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Dr. Seltzer served as chairman of the Indoor Environment Committee of the ACAAI, and also served as Chairman of the Environmental Control and Air Pollution Committee and the Environmental Medicine Committee of the AAAAI. In 2008, the AAP appointed Dr. Seltzer to its National Executive Council of the Council on Environmental Health. He was also elected to the Board of Regents of the ACAAI in 2009 and served as a board member for the Massachusetts Allergy & Asthma Society and the New England Society of Allergy. Dr. Seltzer has extensive experience serving as a medical-legal consultant, including as an expert for litigation and is the author of numerous publications in the fields of environmental medicine, allergy, immunology, and asthma.

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**Diane Takvorian, MSW**  
**Executive Director**  
**Environmental Health Coalition**

Ms. Diane Takvorian has led the struggle for social and environmental justice for over 30 years. She is Executive Director and co-founder of Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an environmental justice organization based in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Founded in 1980, EHC works to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution through efforts that create a just society.

EHC's community organizing and policy advocacy work with disenfranchised communities have eliminated many health risks and enabled thousands of residents to develop into community leaders. Ms. Takvorian has served on international, national, state, and regional advisory boards. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to the Joint Public Advisory Committee for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. In 2008, Ms. Takvorian received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her "creative and inspirational leadership benefiting the people of California." She is also a cofounder of the California Environmental Justice Alliance.

Ms. Takvorian holds a Master of Social Work degree with an emphasis on public policy and community organizing.

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**Lisa Villarroel, MD, MPH**  
**Medical Director**  
**Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control**  
**Arizona Department of Health Services**

Dr. Lisa Villarroel serves as the Medical Director for the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control for the Arizona Department of Health Services. She received her Bachelors in Biology at Princeton University and her Doctor of Medicine at Northwestern University before getting her Masters in Public Health and becoming board certified in Family Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to her work at the health department, she is an assistant professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and a practicing locum tenens.

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