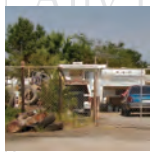


BUILDING SUSTAINABLE HOUSING ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER: INSIGHTS FROM TECATE, BAJA CALIFORNIA



Any brief overview of the demographic and economic forces propelling change in the U.S.-Mexico border region around the city of Tecate reveals that this is a region that is under tremendous pressure of change. The editor of *El Bordo, Retos de Frontera*, a website where numerous scholarly articles are presented by academics and investigators, (Ungerleider Kepler, undated), describes the rationale for this effort as follows: “Creemos que existe una gran necesidad, aquí en la frontera norte de nuestra nación, de estudios y trabajos serios de investigación que puedan esclarecer y/o cuestionar la compleja realidad socio-económica y política que estamos viviendo. Por tanto, lo que pretendemos es fomentar la discusión, el debate y el diálogo en torno a los problemas que nos conciernen como académicos y fronterizos.” (We believe that a major necessity exists, here on the northern border of our nation, for studies and serious works of investigation that are able to clarify and/or question the complete socio-economic and political reality [in which] we are living. Certainly, what we propose is to foment discussion, debate, and dialogue regarding the problems that concern us as academics and inhabitants of the border.

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There are implications of these changes for the quality of housing and the quality of life enjoyed by residents in the U.S.-Mexico border and a window of opportunity to set in place regulation, guidelines, incentive and assistance to protect what a city such as Tecate enjoys currently. There are additional forces related to culture