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# Environmental Health Coalition honors activists



(/staff/hieutran-phan/) By Hieu Tran Phan(/staff/hieutran-phan/) | 3:03 p.m. April 13, 2016



Diane Takvorian is executive director of the National City-based Environmental Health Coalition. / photo by Nelvin C. Cepeda \* U-T

Dozens of people and groups from Tijuana and San Diego County will be honored Thursday by the Environmental Health Coalition for their ecological activism.

Founded in 1980 and based in National City, the nonprofit Coalition tries to help lower-income neighborhoods across the San Diego-Tijuana mega-region reduce air pollution, minimize exposure to toxic substances such as lead and asbestos, create buffer zones between factories and homes, and preserve parks and other open spaces.

Its awards celebration this year is titled “One People, Una Frontera.”

The honorees are:

\*Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, whom the organization credited with championing “environmental justice” causes for this region when she served as Assembly speaker. In particular, the Coalition thanked her for creating seats on the powerful California Air Resources Board that are reserved for leaders of groups like it.

\*Region 9 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources for collaborating to prevent the spread of 42 tons of lead-contaminated waste from a battery plant in Tijuana.

\*A half-dozen individuals spotlighted for their work to promote eco-friendly development along and near the Alamar Creek, which is part of a system of creeks and streams within the 1,750-square-mile Tijuana River watershed. The Alamar starts in the United States, runs through Mexico and then crosses back into the U.S. before emptying into the Pacific Ocean.

\*Seven advocacy groups and 28 adults and youths praised for their various projects to promote healthier and cleaner neighborhoods on both sides of the border.

About 400 people — elected officials, business executives, community representatives and others — are scheduled to attend the event, which is set for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation in southeastern San Diego.

For more information about the Coalition and the awards gala, go to [environmentalhealth.org](http://environmentalhealth.org).



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