

October 19, 2026

Dr. David J. Diner
Principal Investigator
Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols (MAIA)
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109

cc: Karen Yuen, Mission Applications Lead; Sina Hasheminassab, Deputy Principal Investigator

Subject: Request for Inclusion of San Diego County Border Region in MAIA Satellite Scan Schedule

Dear Dr. Diner,

On behalf of the International Border Community Steering Committee (IBCSC), we are writing to request inclusion of the San Diego County border region in the MAIA satellite scan schedule. The IBCSC was established in 2022 under the California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) and is supported by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD). Our committee has completed a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) in 2023 and is actively developing a Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) to address air quality challenges in the International Border Communities of San Ysidro and Otay Mesa.

The International Border Community faces unique and complex air quality challenges due to its location at the busiest land border crossings in the Western Hemisphere. Our region ranks in the 100th percentile statewide for traffic burden and the 95th percentile for PM_{2.5} exposure, with CalEnviroScreen identifying San Ysidro as a disadvantaged community facing disproportionate environmental burdens. Specific sources of concern include: idling passenger vehicles and heavy-duty trucks at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa ports of entry, with over 1.3 million vehicle crossings monthly at San Ysidro alone; late-night freight train operations through the heart of residential San Ysidro; aerosols from untreated sewage and wastewater in the Tijuana River; emissions from the Portside community and shipping port operations; and cross-border pollution transport from industrial activities in Tijuana. This multi-source, transboundary pollution landscape presents exceptional challenges for air quality monitoring and management.

MAIA's multi-angle satellite imagery capabilities would be particularly valuable for understanding air quality in our border region. While SDAPCD operates fixed ground-based monitoring stations at locations such as Donovan State Prison and San Ysidro Fire Station #29, MAIA data would provide critical spatial coverage across the entire border area that ground sensors cannot achieve. The ability to characterize different aerosol types from multiple concurrent sources, such as vehicles, heavy-duty trucks, river pollution, and cross-border industrial emissions, would help us understand the complex interactions between these pollution sources. Additionally, MAIA's capacity to track

pollution transport patterns across the international border would complement our existing monitoring network by filling spatial gaps and providing regional context for local measurements. This comprehensive spatial understanding is essential for developing effective, community-driven air quality improvement strategies.

We respectfully request that the San Diego County border region be included as a secondary target area in MAIA's scan schedule. Based on our preliminary discussions with you, we understand that monthly scans would be feasible and would minimize disruption to MAIA's primary mission targets while providing valuable temporal resolution for our community planning needs. We emphasize that we are not requesting an immediate epidemiological study, but rather seek data availability for future community-driven regional studies and air quality planning efforts that have yet to be defined. The goal is to ensure this data resource is available when our community is ready to utilize it for local analysis and decision-making.

Our request is specifically limited to inclusion in the scan schedule and access to data through JPL's standard data portal procedures. We want to emphasize that this would not require additional work from JPL beyond adding our region to the existing scan schedule. We defer to JPL's expertise in determining the optimal scan area boundaries to appropriately capture the border region's air quality dynamics. Regarding duration, we respectfully request inclusion for as long as reasonably feasible within MAIA's mission schedule and primary objectives. We are prepared to provide any technical specifications, boundary coordinates, or additional information that would be helpful for implementation.

Access to MAIA data would directly support our CERP implementation and enable evaluation of air quality strategies during critical milestone years (2029 and 2034). This aligns with our community's environmental justice goals and commitment to measurable, data-driven air quality improvements. The spatial coverage provided by MAIA would enable our community to better understand pollution patterns, inform future emission reduction strategies, and track progress toward cleaner air in one of California's most disproportionately burdened border communities.

Thank you for considering this request and for the time you have already dedicated to discussing this opportunity with our team. We appreciate your ongoing coordination with Karen Yuen and Sina Hasheminassab, and we remain available to provide any additional information that would support this request. We look forward to the possibility of partnering with JPL to advance air quality monitoring and environmental justice in the International Border Community.

Sincerely,

International Border Community Steering Committee
Community Air Protection Program
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District