



Joint Public Advisory Committee
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto
Comité consultatif public mixte

9 July 2001

Ms Janine Ferretti
Executive Director
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Dear Ms. Ferretti:

Following the Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 01–02, held on 27–29 June in Guadalajara, Jalisco, and in accordance with Article 16(5) of the North America Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), please find attached information provided by the *Colectivo Ecologista Jalisco*, the *Instituto de Derecho Ambiental* and the *Sociedad Amigos del Lago de Chapala* regarding environmental problems in Lake Chapala.

During its meeting, JPAC also received a variety of concerns from the public about the urgent situation at Lake Chapala, including:

- the drastic and continuing decline in the water levels of the lake; and
- the threat this poses to biodiversity, including to migratory birds, and the resulting negative impacts on the livelihoods and economies of the region's residents who depend on Lake Chapala.

JPAC believes that immediate action should be taken as Lake Chapala and the ecosystems it supports are under extreme stress.

JPAC therefore recommends that the Secretariat prepare a report under NAAEC Article 13, or another appropriate vehicle, on Lake Chapala to assist in its recovery.

Sincerely,

Liette Vasseur
JPAC Chair for 2001

c.c. CEC Council members
Colectivo Ecologista Jalisco
Instituto de Derecho Ambiental
Sociedad Amigos del Lago de Chapala
JPAC members