



## **TRIP REPORT**

**December 10-17, 2010**

## Contents

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
II. INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES .....	4
III. ITINERARY .....	4
IV. FINDINGS.....	8
A. Water Resources and Purification .....	8
B. Community Meeting.....	9
C. Aquaculture .....	10
D. Energy/Electrification .....	12
E. Health.....	13
F. Scholarship Program .....	15
G. Preschool/Kindergarten.....	16
H. Fishing Co-op.....	17
I. Community Garden.....	18
J. Women's Jewelry Co-op .....	19
V. CONCLUSIONS.....	20
Appendix I: Pictures.....	23
Appendix II: New Contacts .....	26

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Baja Project team visited El Barril from December 11-16, 2010. This trip was the first trip with the new consultants from the first year IR/PS class. The primary focus of the trip was to advance the current projects (kinder, scholarships, aquaculture, and garden) and to conduct the second annual community meeting at La Mancha.

The community meeting was another great success and was very well received by the community. The Baja Project, lead by Chef Pete, prepared a feast of chicken tamales and guided the community through a needs assessment after introducing the new consultants to the community. The meeting was well attended and the shared conversations produced feedback on current projects and identified additional needs.

This trip also proved quite successful for the aquaculture project. Manuel Maldonado, the government official who has been assisting with the aquaculture project from Guerrero Negro was able to make a trip to the community and meet with the majority of the aquaculture group which hopes to continue to move in the direction of a pilot project and has almost completed all the steps necessary to register as a legal entity.

The kinder is also progressing quite nicely. The Baja Project was very pleased to see the new table and chairs for the teachers, along with a second bookshelf, first aid kit, and the preparations for the installation of the door. The students and teachers (Zaira and substitute Isis) have new winter uniforms, and the dedication of both teachers and students show in their work. In order to show their appreciation, the teachers and parents moved up the holiday celebration so that the Baja Project could participate in the festivities with the kindergarten.

Furthermore, scholarship disbursements were made to the three student recipients. The Baja Project also followed up on the solar panels that were installed in the community and the recipients of those units are very pleased with the apparatuses. The Team also met with the Health Committee to discuss future collaborative projects and the possibility of soliciting assistance from the clinic in San Quintin which sends the mobile clinic. The fishing coop is seriously considering the purchase of a truck, the sewing coop has a new member, and one of the women's jewelry coops is back in operation. The electrification project is close to testing a pilot to determine appropriate monthly fees, and the assistance of the Baja Project has been requested. And lastly, a completely new approach is being taken on the garden. Two community members approached the Baja Project with an entrepreneurial spirit to run it as a business with startup assistance from the Baja Project. The dried rows were tilled and ready for a fresh start.

Overall, the trip was very busy and extremely productive. The new consultants adapted very well to the community and were very well received by the adults and children alike. The Baja Project was able to meet with the individual groups and also the community as a whole, which was very beneficial for introducing the new consultants. On the whole, the current projects are progressing nicely and mostly at the will of the community. New projects were also identified, primarily related to community health, the garden, and the re-operating women's jewelry coop. The Baja Project is quite pleased with progression of projects and the potential for future collaboration with El Barril.

## **II. INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES**

The December 2010 trip was the first with the new consultants. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Amanda was unable to make the trip, but the trip was a wonderful opportunity to introduce the first years to the community and the individual leaders. Following the success of the previous December trip, the Baja Project facilitated a community meeting to assess current projects and identify additional needs/opportunities. Following up on current projects was also an effective way for the second years to introduce the first years to the various projects currently established within the community.

## **III. ITINERARY**

### **Friday, 10 December**

7:00am: Team meets at Bread & Cie for breakfast

8:00am: Team arrives at Thrifty to add Mexican insurance to the rental cars

8:30am: Team begins the trip south

1:00pm: Team stops in San Quintin for lunch

4:30pm: Team checks into the Desert Inn

6:00pm: Dinner

7:00pm: Team plays pool and talks about Baja

8:30pm: Second Years meet to discuss administrative divisions for First Years

9:30pm: Everyone gets ready for bed

### **Saturday, 11 December**

8:00am: Breakfast at Hotel Desert Inn

9:00am: Team departs Catavina

12:00pm: Team arrives in Guerrero Negro and stops for lunch

1:00pm: Pete, Amy, and Natalie go grocery shopping in Guerrero Negro and Jarrod, Ayal and Tenille go to pharmacy to pick up first aid supplies

2:00pm: Team departs Guerrero Negro for El Barril

2:45pm: Flat tire

3:30pm: Team continues onto El Barril

5:45pm: Team drives through El Barril and arrives at La Mancha

6:15pm: Team talks with Lino about community updates

7:00pm: Team eats dinner

8:30pm: Team members retire to rooms

### Sunday, 12 December

7:30am: Breakfast

8:30am: Team heads to the community

8:45am: Team checks out garden

9:00am: Team stops to talk to Profe Ivan and see the primary school and kindergarten

11:00am: Team visits with community members and sees output of functioning jewelry coop

12:00pm: Team returns to La Mancha for lunch

1:30pm: Team meets to prepare meeting invitations and discuss logistics

3:00pm: Team heads to town to continue introductions and hand out community meeting invitations and scholarship/kinder disbursements

5:30pm: Team returns to La Mancha

6:00pm: Ayal starts to prepare dinner

7:00pm: Team eats dinner with Lino's family

8:00pm: Clean up

8:30pm: Team prepares to retired

### Monday, 13 December

7:30am: Breakfast

8:15am: Amy, Natalie, and Tenille head to town to meet with Zaira at the kinder

8:30am: Amy, Natalie, and Tenille meet with Zaira and Isis in the kinder

9:30am: Baja Group gives a mini English lesson to the primary school students

10:30am: Team tours through town showing First Years the ice house, fishing boats, community dump, etc.

11:45am: Arrive at La Mancha for lunch

12:30pm: Jarrod, Ayal, Amy, and Natalie meet with Aquaculture Group at La Mancha

2:45pm: Baja Group heads to town

3:00pm: Jarrod and First Years meet with Fishing Coop and Tenille disburses scholarships

3:30pm: Baja Group meets with women at Sewing Coop Workshop

3:45pm: Amy, Natalie and Amy play with kids at la cancha while Ayal and Jarrod meet with Facundo and Ivan about the garden

5:00pm: Baja Team stops by Chela's to set up meeting with Health Committee

5:30pm: Team returns to La Mancha and visits with Lino and family

7:00pm: Team eats dinner with Lino and family

8:00pm: Team talks with Lino and family about community and Pete starts to prepare tamales

10:00pm: Teams starts to retire

### Tuesday, 14 December

7:15am: Breakfast

7:45am: Jarrod, Ayal, Amy, Natalie, and Tenille go to the garden to work with Facundo and Pete stays at La Mancha to prep tamales

9:00am: Team returns to La Mancha

9:30am: First Years and Jarrod work on Aquaculture guide for Manuel while Tenille and Pete prepare for community meeting

12:00pm: Tenille goes to town for Maseca for tamales and others eat lunch

1:00pm: Tenille returns with Maseca and Pete and Natalie and Tenille prepare tamales while Jarrod, Ayal and Amy work on aquaculture

2:30pm: First batch of tamales start cooking

5:30pm: Ayal, Amy, and Jarrod meet with Manuel Maldonado about aquaculture

6:00pm: Tenille goes to the campo to pick up those who need a ride to the community meeting

6:30pm: Community meeting begins with introductions, then food, then meeting

9:30pm: Community meeting ends and cleanup begins

10:00pm: Jarrod and Ayal meet with Manuel Maldonado

11:00pm: Team retires

### Wednesday, 15 December

7:30am: Breakfast

8:45am: Pete, Ayal, Amy, Natalie, and Tenille go to Posada at the kinder

10:00am: Jarrod meets with Manuel and Ramon about aquaculture

12:00pm: Team returns from Posada

1:00pm: Natalie, Jarrod, Ayal and Amy join aquaculture meeting

3:00pm: Amy and Jarrod go to Nicolasa's to meet about places solares

3:30pm: Ayal, Natalie, Pete and Tenille go to deliver tamales and flour

4:00pm: Jarrod meets with Agustin and the rest of the group meets with the Health Committee at the clinic

5:30pm: Baja Team has dinner with Gallo and family

9:00pm: Team returns to La Mancha to visit with Lino and family

10:30pm: Team begins to pack for departure and go to bed

### Thursday, 16 December

7:00am: Breakfast

8:00am: Head through the campo to take photos of solar panels

8:30am: Depart community

11:30am: Jarrod, Ayal, and Amy meet with Manuel Maldonado at his office and Pete, Natalie and Tenille work on trip report

12:00pm: Team departs Manuel's office

5:30pm: Team arrives at Hotel La Villa in San Quintin

6:00pm: Dinner at Los Tacos Poblanos

7:00pm: Team returns to hotel

#### Friday, 17 December

7:00am: Breakfast

8:30am: Team departs San Quintin

11:15am: Lunch in Ensenada

1:50pm: Arrive at Otay border crossing

4:30pm: Turn in rental cars to Thrifty

### **IV. FINDINGS**

#### **A. Water Resources and Purification**

*Summary of prior progress:*

During the previous trip, the Baja Project had the scare of the dirty water test that had to be retaken; however, the group was pleased to find out that the community had collectively put forth money to buy a new generator for the well pump.

*Trip Objective: Confirm that the dirty tube that was previously used to disburse purified water is no longer be used and that a new one (if used) is being properly stored.*

The Baja Project has three key updates with respect to water in the community.

The first update concerns worries from the last visit to El Barril, namely the potentially fouled well. Fortunately, the concerns over well contamination have been assuaged.

Second, the community water tower is starting to show signs of disrepair; specifically a large crack was discovered but is not yet leaking water. During Manuel Maldonado's recent visit to the community, he acted as representative for several different government offices, thus he inspected the water tower and will be helping El Barril with its request to the government for a repair or replacement.

Third, the community member in charge of maintaining El Barril's water filtration system, Agustín, requested a meeting with the Baja Project. Jarrod met him at the water system to hear his concerns. The first item he brought up was the need for a *tinaco chico*, a



small water tank that holds approximately 400 liters, which would facilitate community access to water when Agustín is not around to operate the generator/pump.

He then turned to issues regarding the maintenance costs of the filtration system versus the current pricing mechanism for water. There are two items worth mention here: Agustín operates the water system *pro bono* and the current pricing of water does not factor in community savings for contingency expenditure. Therefore, water prices do not reflect the labor costs of the operator or the risk of system failure, though Agustín does charge enough to cover the cost of new filters and diesel (usually, assuming all pay). As of June, he increased the price of a *garafón* (a 200-liter container) from 70 to 120 pesos, but says that the whole pricing system needs to be revamped. In response to these concerns, Jarrod asked Agustín to keep a running log over the next few months prior to the Baja Project's next visit to the community. In the log he will document, by date, water consumption based on the number of containers sold (3 primary sizes), diesel consumption and corresponding prices, and the replacement cost for new filters. Armed with this information, the Baja Project hopes to help devise a better pricing mechanism for these costs. In the meantime, the Baja team will help Agustín research replacement costs for key components of the filtration system that could shut down the system. These items include the Sterilight UV filter, the membrane, and the SilverIce controller. It is important to determine the components' useful life and respective prices.

There also exists other ignored questions: How much water does the well really have left? And, How much would it cost to survey/drill for a new one? Rumor has it that there is ample water left, but the Baja Project has not seen any scientific reports on the subject thus far.

*Future Objectives:*

Research the costs of replacement parts for the purification system and consider options for helping Agustín devise a more adequate billing schedule.

## **B. Community Meeting**

*Summary of prior progress:*

A community wide meeting was held during the December 2009 trip, and due to the meeting's success and consequent projects that came from ideas at the meeting, it was decided upon to have another community meeting.

*Trip Objective: Hold a community wide meeting in order to 1) introduce the new Baja Project members, 2) promote a sense of fraternity between the community and Baja Project, 3) discuss project development accomplished in the last year and 4) discuss new community needs and solutions to those needs.*

The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9pm. There were approximately fifty adults in attendance and fifteen children and youth. After a brief

introduction of the new Baja Project members, we split the attendees into seven groups in order to discuss three main questions: 1) What are the main needs of the community? What do you worry about most? 2) Which projects of the Baja Project have been the most successful and most helpful for El Barril? 3) If it were 2012, what types of changes would you like to see in your community?

A Baja Project member accompanied each group, and the main discussion points at each table were written down. The following is a summary of the most important discussion points:

#### Community Needs

- Health Needs: more medicine, more frequent medical care, an expansion of the health clinic to include shade, waiting room and bathroom
- Communication: antenna for cellular phones or at least a public phone
- Potable Water: system of tubes so potable water can reach the Kinder; more frequent access to potable water
- Access to home-use water system: additional system of tubes in order to reach all of the homes (6-7 families don't have home access to water)
- Schools: a computer lab for the secondary school and a playground with toys for the primary school
- Coops: trainings in Business Administration; program of Seguro Social for the fishermen; new, more industrial sewing machines for the sewing co-op

#### Current Projects:

- Kinder: latrine and fence around the school
- Community Court and Playground: fence around the premise
- Electrification

The meeting was a success with great attendance, cooperation, and idea sharing.

#### *Future Objectives:*

Continued communication between the community and Baja Project in order to move forward on some of these major needs, especially communication, electrification, the water system, and school projects.

### **C. Aquaculture**

#### *Summary of prior progress:*

During the October 2010 trip, the Baja Project team met with Los Callos del Golfo (LCG) in order to assess their progress in registering as a formal and legally binding *Sociedad de Producción Rural (SRP)* or Rural Production Society. Unfortunately, for lack of all relevant SRP paperwork and documentation, the group was unable to complete registration at that time. As a result, the process was stalled, meaning they would have

to wait sixty days to reregister. Still, opportunities for government funding will be available, even with this delay.

*Trip Objectives: Meet with, and support, LCG aquaculture group; Meet with Manuel Maldonado from the Baja California's Fishing and Aquaculture Office (SEPESCA) to plan the next steps; Present the group with a pared-down set of financials for an aquaculture pilot project aimed at farming Mano de León scallops and/or Japanese oysters.*

Despite past setbacks, the December 2010 trip was met with concrete progress during the first meeting of the trip with members of LCG. The Baja Project received news that the initial registration process was completed and signed by many members of the group. In all, the LCG cooperative now consists of 14 members. Currently, the remaining LCG members are required to sign the SPR constitution, which is being finalized by a notary located in Guerrero Negro, by mid February 2011. LCG plans to meet in late January to finalize their internal directives, which will govern LCG's decision-making process, as well as equity issues and citation measures.

Once the entire group has signed the finalized SRP constitution and internal directives, they move onto the next stage of the process – requesting relevant permits and government funding. For the permitting process, LCG will need to petition for a *Permiso de Acuacultura de Fomento* (permit for the development of aquaculture). This is much more than a simple form. It is a comprehensive document that will, for all intents and purposes, be LCG's business plan - complete with a feasibility studies and an environmental impact statement. Ramon Castellanos, the group member with an extensive academic background in biology, seems up to the challenge of working to satisfy these requirements. Additionally, Manuel Maldonado (SEPESCA), who visited El Barril during our trip, has offered training programs to support LCG with the environmental impact statement.

In a meeting with Manuel Maldonado at La Mancha, the Baja Project revised figures in Annie and Greg's cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of aquaculture, including other possible organisms and infrastructure technologies. The team was able to create an analysis for a project for two organisms - Mano de León scallops and Pacific oysters – using 200,000 seeds for each as an initial test; rather than the 2 million in the initial CBA. The team was also able to look at different mechanism options for farming oysters and Mano de León including different caging, each with varying labor requirements, risk factors, and costs (see floating upweller system, lantern nets, *costales*, and long-line system with cages). Though this updated project needs additional research and fact checking, the financials still indicate the project's profitability.

The following day, the team met again with Mr. Maldonado and nine associates from LCG. Rather than moving onto concrete project details (preferred infrastructure, organisms, etc), much of the meeting was spent discussing LCG's organizational structure and revising their SRP constitution. The Baja Project was anxious to begin eliciting concrete project decisions, i.e. preferred means of production, scale, type of

organism, etc; however, until the group is better organized and informed, big decisions such as these will have to wait.

Some issues concerning the cost-benefit analysis were discussed, including farming different varieties of scallops: *Pinna rugosa* (Calico Scallop), *Pinna tuberculosa* (Pen Shell Scallop) and *Atrina maura* (Sea Shell Scallop). Furthermore, details regarding salaries for experts, security and workers were discussed, though nothing was finalized.

Lastly, the group discussed key points to be agreed upon in the upcoming months. The first included fixing small errors in the LCG constitution (mostly incorrect birth dates and birth cities of members). Second was to formalize their intentions of working in aquaculture in the specific locations near El Barril, both in the local office and federal office. Third was to balance their books and to purchase necessary office equipment (computers and printers). Fourth included adding details for their 2011 business plan, with the help of Baja Project, and creating a logo. Lastly the group agreed to have another meeting with all LCG members on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 to follow up on all necessary paperwork and finalize their internal directives. The members present all signed on their agreements and it seems that they are much more organized and focused than witnessed on prior trips by the Baja Project Team.

#### *Future Objectives:*

The Baja team hopes to provide the LCG team with an updated cost-benefit analysis, including all items discussed in the meetings and highlighting the differences in costs for given infrastructure and organisms. Sensitivity analysis and scenarios will also be included. The Baja team also plans on continuing to work with Manuel Maldonado as well as LCG associates to help them complete their formalized request to work in aquaculture as well as specific permits to farm the various species discussed above.

### **D. Energy/Electrification**

#### *Summary of prior progress:*

In the October 2010 trip, the team was pleased to see that the installation of the government-funded central generator and electric grid was nearly complete. The community was also organizing to design a payment system. During the trip the team also presented the community with a low-cost solar lighting system available through Ilu-Mexico. The team explained the system requirements and gauged interest. In the interim between trips, two test systems were provided to Carina and Marco Antonio, residents who did not have any previous lighting in their home, to verify if they worked properly in El Barril and would hold up to severe weather.

*Trip Objective: Verify the functionality of test systems. Measure community interest in purchasing full-priced systems. Facilitate any pricing discussions concerning the community electrical grid.*

The Baja Project is pleased to report that both Marco Antonio and Carina's systems appear to be functioning properly. With the help of Luis, both systems have been installed on an angled platform on each recipient's roof to face due south as properly specified. Also, both recipients eagerly reported that the systems were able to function through the night on a single charge, much to the delight of Marco Antonio's family and their newborn baby. They also reported that the systems were easy to maintain and operate and also provided sufficient light to illuminate the house.

Given these recommendations, the Baja Project again assembled the community to gauge renewed interest in purchasing the systems. The team was careful to specify that the systems would be guaranteed at the full purchase price, approximately \$180 per unit, and that any contingency funding provided by the Baja Project would have to be negotiated at a later date. The community remained receptive to the units despite the increase in costs.

Regarding the community electrical grid, the government has provided the community 140L of diesel to operate the generator in the first month. The community hopes to use this gift to test the systems requirements in order to establish a monthly price per resident. However, these tests have not been executed as the majority of families have yet to purchase the cables necessary to rig their individual household to the grid. Lino has informed us that the community set a deadline of 2 weeks for each member to purchase the equipment so that they can begin with the tests.

During the trip, the team helped devise a payment scheme based on the 140L/month estimate provided by the government. This Excel based sheet was left with Lino to modify as the testing is completed. The group incorporated lessons from previous experience with devising the water payment scheme and incorporated the costs of transportation, labor, savings for repairs and fuel price rises in the mechanism that will hopefully help the community realize the full price of operating the generator.

#### *Future Objectives:*

The Baja Project will continue to aid the community in devising a pricing mechanism once the preliminary tests have been completed. Additionally, the Baja Project hopes to make solar units available to all interested parties and will work with Insight Access to finalize any arrangements.

## **E. Health**

#### *Summary of Prior Progress:*

Prior progress on health and work with the health committee include the health survey of all residents of El Barril to better understand their health needs. Efforts have been made to create a partnership between the Baja Project and the PRIME program at UCSD.

*Trip Objective: Meet with the new members of the community Health Committee, investigate new information about the health truck and set objectives for future trips.*

The Baja Project met with five of the eight committee members on Wednesday, December 15 in the health clinic to talk about current committee progress, continued needs, and also the status of the mobile clinic. Attendees included the committee president and representatives of first aid, sanitation, reproductive health and health education.

It was established that the health truck is sent from the Secretary of Health in Mexicali but that the health professionals servicing the community are from the Health Center of Vicente Guerrero, a subdivision of San Quintín. The truck's most recent visit was fifteen days before our trip and the truck stayed for two days instead of just a few hours. According to the committee members, the health professionals visited the schools, gave health education sessions and received patients. The committee also manifested that the truck would not return until March, as explained by the health professionals in the last visit. The committee members expressed their doubts about having the truck come so infrequently, especially since when the truck does arrive it is very limited with medicine and supplies, given that El Barril is usually the last stop in the mobile clinic route.

Other topics discussed in the meeting were women's health and also reproductive health information sessions for the youth of the community. The committee members explained that the doctors who come with the health truck have not been doing regular pelvic exams and most women do not take it upon themselves to see a private doctor outside of the community. Lack of privacy in the health clinic also deters women from wanting to receive the exam in the community. It was suggested that these exams take place in the home of each woman; however, the committee members also strongly suggested the petition for an expansion of the clinic, which could include a waiting room and other measures allowing for more patient privacy. The committee members also suggested reproductive health sessions for the youth. However, the committee has been hesitant to give information sessions in the school on such a sensitive topic so the Baja Project agreed that together with the health committee that the two would collaborate on a reproductive health workshop during the Spring 2011 trip.

Lastly, the Baja Project did an inventory of available medicine at the health clinic and medicines that are usually in short supply are the following: flu medication, pain and fever relievers and medicine for gastritis, diabetes and high blood pressure.

*Future Objectives:*

The objective for the Spring 2011 trip will be to collaborate with the health committee to organize and execute a reproductive health workshop for the youth of the community. The Baja Project will also meet with the health committee to discuss any progress with the health truck and if possible already have established a form of communication between the health truck, Baja Project and the community. Another ongoing goal is to continue building a partnership between Baja Project and the PRIME program.

## **F. Scholarship Program**

### *Summary of Prior Progress:*

During the previous trips, scholarship funding disbursements were made to the three recipients: Johnny, Anahi, and (Marceli) Zurisiday. Johnny has two years remaining to complete his *prepa* education in Constitución, Anahi is continuing her secondary school studies, and Zurisiday has enrolled in secondary school in Guerrero where her mother currently lives to be closer to medical services.

*Trip Objective: Make the second round of disbursements and collect receipts from all families participating in the scholarship program. Also, confirm plans to re-enroll for Marco Antonio.*

For the December 2010 trip, the Baja Project made the scheduled disbursements to all enrolled students. Additionally, the team collected receipts from the parents. To our disappointment, only Anahí was in town over break to discuss her current academic progress, both Johnny and Zurisiday were away, as they attend class outside El Barril, and would not be returning until the semester ended after Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Moreover, given the timing of the trip, the team was unable to verify student grades as the semester had yet to be finalized. When the Baja Project returns in early spring, the consultants hope to verify each recipients' grades and converse with them about how to improve the program.

Additionally, the team again worked with both Iván (primary) and Alfonso (secondary) to discuss ways in which the Baja Project can help improve the education system in El Barril. During the visit, the team was able to preview the Encylomedia software used in the primary school that was truly impressive, and in some way, more advanced than the technology used at UCSD. The Baja Project received a demonstration of the English language program that allows professors who may not be fluent English speakers to teach basic English through a series of interactive lessons on a touch-screen whiteboard and projector system. These lessons are equipped with audio-visual segments that make education fun. As a supplement to this, the Baja Project spent one morning in the primary school helping present an English lesson.

Unfortunately, for both the students and the Baja Project, the secondary professor, Alfonso, again will be reassigned, and a new professor will be rotated in beginning in January. This will be the third teacher in a little over a year for the student. Several parents have expressed concern over this, as students are often more unruly with new professors, and there is a significant adjustment period. Several parents have planned to aid the transition by speaking with the parents, students, and professor prior to the start of the new semester.

### *Future Objectives:*

The Baja Project will continue with the current disbursements of scholarships as scheduled. The opportunity exists to help both the primary and secondary teachers develop English lessons as both expressed interest in having the team present in class. Moreover, neither professor has received workbooks from the government, a fact that makes preparing lessons and assigning homework more difficult. Potential investment could be made in improving English resources, as both professors feel the curriculum both important for long-term success and seriously underfunded in El Barril, compared to their other teaching posts.

### **G. Preschool/Kindergarten**

#### *Summary of Prior Progress:*

During the past trip in October 2010, the Baja Project was very pleased with the organization and order of the kindergarten under the direction of Zaira. During that same trip, Zaira had requested that Isis be her substitute to cover for her when she leave town for monthly trips to Guerrero Negro for groceries. Tenille approved this and stated that the money was to be divided by themselves. Money was left for a first aid kit, door, and table for the school.

*Trip Objective: Provide Zaira the \$100 stipend for kindergarten needs and check up on the status of the kinder itself.*

Upon arriving in the community, the Baja Project stopped at the kinder on Sunday and was very pleased to see that it has been well maintained with a new table, chairs, and a bookshelf. It also had a water dispenser for the children and a small rug. The classroom was decorated for Christmas and neatly organized.

The following day, Tenille, Natalie, and Amy met with Zaira and Isis. Upon arrival to the kinder, it was noted that a generator was running and music was playing. The teachers were dressed in red sweatsuits with the name of the school adorning the back of the uniform and their names on the front. The children arrived with matching uniforms, all of which were made by the women's sewing group. The children performed as a marching band with instruments made by Zaira. While the children entertained the group, Zaira spoke to Tenille about some questions she had.

First, Zaira was uncertain if she would be receiving full pay for the month of December given that two weeks are Christmas vacation. Tenille assured her that in the approved proposal, \$400 was budgeted for each month of the school year, including December, and that she should expect a full paycheck. The second issue was seeking a clarification of work day expectations. Apparently there was uncertainty as to whether Zaira was to work the same as Ivan, the primary teacher, or follow the school calendar set forth by SEP. Presumably both would be the same, but Tenille stated to Zaira (and later to Luis) that Zaira should work the same days as Ivan (so school days coordinate for parents with children in primary and kinder). The caveat is that if Ivan is not working for something not school related, then Zaira is expected to work. The attendance book shows very clearly the days in which absences occur for students and teacher alike.



While the Baja Project was in El Barril, Zaira's husband was preparing the doorway and making it ready to install the door. Also during the trip, the teachers and parents worked together to prepare food and a posada. The event was originally scheduled for Friday, but they decided to move it up to Wednesday to honor the collaboration of the Baja Project consultants. On Wednesday morning, the children and mothers gathered in the kindergarten with the Baja Project and shared food and drinks, the children beat a piñata, the group welcomed Santa who brought gifts and candy for the children (from Rancho El Barril), and everyone watched the children participate in a gift exchange. Overall, it was a great event for the consultants to interact with the community and enjoy the success of the kinder.

Lastly, Zaira and Isis both expressed interest in becoming certified as kindergarten teachers. Tenille spoke with Ivan to find out more details about the certification process. Ivan stated that the woman in charge of CONAFE (the non-profit organization which provides rural education to communities not supported by the Ministry of Education) lives next door to him in San Quintin. Unfortunately, the last time he was home, she was not, but he intends to talk to her extensively over Christmas. Apparently there are a couple of trainings that take place in San Quintin that the women would need to attend to become certified. Tenille asked Ivan to investigate the costs associated with the trainings along with upcoming possibilities. The Baja Project believes that this would be a great investment in the community and for these women.

#### *Future Objectives:*

Correspond with Ivan to verify costs and dates of trainings. Once the information is obtained, confirm interest and ability of Zaira and Isis to attend trainings, and prepare a proposal to help cover costs of the training and associated costs (lodging, transportation, etc.).

## **H. Fishing Co-op**

#### *Summary of Prior Progress:*

The fishing coop has been working with the Baja Project to come up with more sustainable and profitable ways to operate. Since fish buyers from Ensenada and Tijuana arrive in El Barril inconsistently, infrequently, and without notice, the fishing coop members usually only fish during the few days that the buyer truck is in town. If the coop had a truck-load of packaged fish filets waiting for the buyers when they arrived to El Barril, it is likely that the buyers would come more often and coop members would generate more income. However, it is expensive to fuel the generator for the fishing coop's government-donated ice house. Therefore, the freezing and packaging center has not been in operation since the Mexican government donated it a few years prior. Another idea presented to the Baja Project by the fishing coop was the purchase of an ice truck that would transport fish from El Barril to the markets in Ensenada and Tijuana. Coop members and the Baja Project had discussed doing a new cost-benefit analysis of such an investment.

*Trip Objectives: To follow up on past discussions of the ice truck and to continue to facilitate dialogue between the fishing coop and the Baja Project, allowing members to express coop needs.*

The Baja Project visited the fishing coop ice house/packaging center built by the Mexican government a few years prior to see its condition. Discouraging to the first years, it looked abandoned, unsanitary, and dysfunctional. There were rat droppings everywhere, machine parts on the floor, and the freezer had a rancid smell.

After visiting the center, the Baja Project met with the coop president, Josue, and the coop treasurer, Juan Alberto Castro. The Baja consultants were informed that these members were part of the new fishing coop directive that changes every three years. With this new directive, it seems as if the coop is taking the steps needed to advance its business. Juan Alberto informed the Baja Project group that he had just arrived to El Barril from a trip to purchase a used 1992 6-wheel ice truck in Ensenada. The coop should have it by March, as it will cost them 160,000 pesos total (40,000 pesos per month for 3 months plus a down payment).

Juan Alberto expressed concern that the fish buyers in Ensenada and Tijuana are like the Mafia -they can pay the coop whatever they want because the coop needs the buyers more than the buyers need the coop. The buyers pay less than market price to the coop and the coop has no other option. They asked the Baja Project consultants if they could find other buyers, perhaps in the U.S., that would pay market prices and maintain regular contact with the fishing coop.

Also, Juan Alberto said that the new directive and many of the members hadn't received adequate training on the packing of the fish filet and requested the Baja Project help them find those resources. They want to use the freezing and packing center, but need the education on how to first.

#### *Future Objectives:*

Once the fishermen get their truck, the fishing coop hopes to expand its scope and scale of production. The Baja Project will continue to support the coop in its goals, especially with concern to the buyer dilemma and the freezing and packing training. The Baja Project will research possible buyers for the coop and the practicality of using a buyer in the U.S. It is possible that if the Baja Project is able to find a buyer in the U.S. that the same buyer might be interested in the aquaculture group's products. There is also discussion in uniting the fishing coop and aquaculture group's resources (i.e. the freezing and packing center and the ice truck).

## **I. Community Garden**

#### *Summary of prior progress:*

In the last trip in October 2010, the team discovered that the garden had not been taken care of over the summer and all signs of vegetation seen in June had disappeared. After Professor Arturo was relocated, Iván (the primary school teacher) took over the responsibilities of caring for the garden.

*Trip Objective: The team hoped to speak with Iván and other community members to decide the future of the garden, including who will be responsible for its care and if a salary will be required to incentivize the job.*

On the first day in town, the team found the garden in the same state as it was in October. The Baja Project did notice a couple of lemon trees growing, but the rows as well as the rest of the garden were completely dry.

On our second day, the Baja team met with Facundo and Iván to discuss the next steps. Both men were happy and motivated to take care of the garden. They were intent on not receiving a salary, though requested funding assistance for seeds and other tools such as a small tent to protect certain crops from weather changes. Iván has also planned a trip to San Quintín where he plans on purchasing the necessary materials.

Both men are eager to grow sufficient fruits and vegetables to sell to the community at market (or slightly below market) prices. They are also contemplating recruiting a few interested students to help with the upkeep while teaching them about the process.

On the third day, following the previous conversations, the team met Facundo at the garden and assisted him in re-tilling the land in preparation for the upcoming work.

*Future Objectives:*

The Baja Project team is awaiting a formal request from Iván for the purchase of the necessary materials. The group will continue to support both men to ensure that the garden will be used to its full potential. If this current project succeeds, both Iván and Facundo intend to expand the space for more crops.

## **J. Women's Jewelry Co-op**

*Summary of Prior Progress:*

Although at one point the Baja Project had interested in helping the women's coop to market their jewelry outside of El Barril, due to a split in the group, there has been lower production of jewelry and a halt in production of other art, such as the wooden lamps and business card holders. The Baja Project hasn't reported on the women's coop since April 2010 due to a lack of activity on behalf of both divisions of the coop (in part due to Claudia's absence). Claudia's husband, Delfino, had medical issues and they had to move to Guerrero Negro where he would have better access to medical facilities.

*Trip Objective: To visit with women from both groups in order to maintain continued support for their business endeavors.*

Claudia returned to El Barril. She has been working with a small enterprise women's group from out of town that meets regularly and teaches its members how to package and market their products better. According to Tenille, the packaging of her jewelry looks better from the last time she saw them. She asked us to help her create a catalog

of her jewelry, which is one of the assigned homeworks by the small enterprise women's group.

Claudia mentioned that the other women's group wasn't active, nor did they have official documents recognizing them as a coop in Mexico. Other than the sewing coop, Claudia's group is the only other women's coop.

The second jewelry group, led by Lupita, continues to be idle because of a lack of materials and the absence of Lupita. Lupita has recently returned to the community, and the group continues to ponder the location of their under-construction workshop. According to Chela, one of the group members, the jewelry group is in constant contact with CONANP and may be able to acquire additional resources.

And lastly, Ofelia continues to make her bags out of chip bags. One of her recent works consists of a huge shoulder bag which took her three months to complete. She has also started color coordinating her works to produce items of uniform color. She still is only selling to people in the community (and the Baja Project, of course).

#### *Future Objectives:*

The Baja Project will continue to help the women develop marketing strategies that will expand their sales. Specifically, the Baja Project will help Claudia create the catalog. Research into various computer programs for making said catalog will be completed before the next visit in April. Claudia will have all the jewelry she wants to show in the catalog ready.

## **V. CONCLUSIONS**

The December 2010 trip to El Barril was a success. The first trip for the new consultants was very productive and well-received by the community. The first years integrated wonderfully in the community and were quick to get up to speed on the various projects with much enthusiasm to progress them. The second years were successful in setting up meetings with the various groups throughout the community in order to ensure that a smooth transition takes place between the two consultant groups. Overall, the Baja Project was very pleased with the productivity of the trip.

As previously stated, the kindergarten continues to be a great success. The teachers and the parents appear to be working together to ensure the young children are being stimulated, and to some surprise, the kinder teachers state that they have not had any major behavioral problems with the students. The most help the Baja Project can provide at this point is in the certification of the teachers.

Furthermore, the scholarship program continues to be very appreciated by the community recipients. The selected youth are dedicated to their studies and their families can use the additional income. The three recipients seem to be very grateful for the support.

To great contentment, the aquaculture group has made some forward progress on their own between the two Baja trips. A very productive meeting took place in the presence of government official Manuel Maldonado and the majority of the group associates. It has been a long time coming, but such an in depth project needs to move forward at the pace of the group, and at this point it looks like it will continue to progress.

The meeting with the fishing coop also proved productive. They have been assertive and have investigated the prices of some refrigerated trucks. They are also pondering export to the US. The latter is something the Baja Project can help investigate. Also, Manuel Maldonado met with the fishing coop and together they constructed a plan to repair the ice house and spoke of the benefits of utilizing it for export.

The Baja Project also met with the newly appointed Health Committee. Many of the members are new to the committee as of a month ago. Collectively they seem to be motivated to improve the state of health in the community. Of most concern to the committee is the lack of a blood sugar apparatus. It was also brought to the Baja Project's attention that women do not receive annual exams as they had in the past. The committee believes that this is partly due to the lack of privacy in the clinic and the short amount of time that the mobile clinic is in the community. Aside from a collaborative effort by the committee and the Baja Project to solicit from the government basic medications and perhaps an occasional reversal of the mobile clinic route to allow the truck to arrive to El Barril first rather than last, the Health Committee expressed interest in conducting a sex education lesson in the secondary school. Overall, there is definitely potential for joint projects in the future.

Additionally, the electrification project appears to be approaching a pilot stage. There may be potential for the Baja Project to help the community set a monthly fee for the project. The community has also considered merging the water system with the electrification project in which the water pump would be run off the community generator. Furthermore, Agustin (the one in charge of the purified water) approached Jarrod and proposed increasing the purified water fee in order to start a savings account for system repairs and maintenance beyond that of replacing the filters. This is another potential opportunity for the Baja Project to aid the community.

As for the garden, Ivan and Facundo approached the Baja Project with an entrepreneurial idea generated by themselves. They proposed that they start from scratch and have the right to sell anything they produce to the community. They did not want pay only some assistance for startup materials. The Baja Project helped till the rows that existed previously to start preparing the land for a fresh start. It was also recommended to Ivan and Facundo that they speak with Angelica who previously spoke to the secondary students about proper cultivation times and soil treatment.

Lastly, one of the primary goals of the trip was the community meeting. The second annual gathering of the community at La Mancha was another great success. Not only did the Baja Project get to treat the community to American-made tamales, but the community also had the opportunity to collectively express their priorities. The meeting also provided Lino with a platform to talk about the electrification project with the entire community. Overall this was a great opportunity to introduce the first years to the community and interact in a way that allows the community to guide future projects. The Baja Project is very pleased with the success of this event and encourage future generations to continue this two year tradition.

In conclusion, this trip was a very busy one. However, the Baja Project was very pleased with the progress the community has made on their own and in between trips. Potential exists for future collaboration in a variety of projects, and the adaptation of the new consultants is very promising. Overall the trip was a great success on many levels.

## Appendix I: Pictures



*Kinder uniforms*



*The piñata at the kinder posada*



*One of the test solar panel positioned on one of the community homes*



*Making tamales for the community meeting*



*Community meeting at La Mancha*



*Prepping the garden*





*One of the aquaculture meetings*

## **Appendix II: New Contacts**

### **Water Store in Ensenada**

Equipos Purificados de Agua – Calle Lazaro Cardenas in Ensenada, Baja Norte, Mexico: This is the store in which replacement parts can be purchased for the purified water system in El Barril.

### **San Quintin Clinic**

Centro de Salud in Vicente Guerrero community in San Quintin: this is the health clinic from which the mobile clinic leaves to head to El Barril when it receives word from Mexicali. Sometimes Maria de Jesus receives emails in advance informing El Barril that the mobile clinic is arriving.