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## **Governor Susana Martinez Celebrates Opening of Expanded Santa Teresa Port of Entry and Welcomes 15 New Jobs to Border Region**

*Newly expanded port supports increased growth and border trade*

SANTA TERESA – Governor Susana Martinez joined Chihuahua Governor César Duarte and other government officials today at a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the expanded Santa Teresa Port of Entry. The expansion will help support increased commercial and passenger vehicle crossings at the Port of Entry. With the expansion, the Santa Teresa Borderplex region has significantly enhanced its role as a growing international trade center.

Governor Martinez also welcomed a new metal recycling company, CMP, to the area. CMP is expected to create as many as 15 jobs in Chaparral.

“The Santa Teresa and Chihuahua region is one the most vibrant, fastest growing areas along the U.S./Mexican border,” said Gov. Martinez. “It was no coincidence that this port was on our radar for an expansion. Union Pacific is nearing completion of its rail facility. Several other companies have also recently located to the Santa Teresa Borderplex region.”

“With the cooperation of the State of Chihuahua, and my friend, Governor Duarte, we expect this area to continue to grow and create jobs for New Mexicans,” said the Governor.

In 2012, the Santa Teresa Port of Entry experienced a record amount of commercial crossings. A total of 81,339 vehicles went through the Port of Entry, which is 13 percent higher than the previous record. In the same year, New Mexico led the country for growth in exports by exporting \$3 billion worth of goods, including \$617 million to Mexico.

“These improvements will help U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) efficiently process the growing traffic volume at this important crossing,” said David Higgerson, acting CBP director of Field Operations in El Paso. “CBP officers at the Santa Teresa port stand ready and will continue to provide the highest service at this first class facility.”

The expansion project, which began in the summer of 2011, doubled the number of primary vehicle inspections lanes and added an additional cargo lane. The \$11.1 million project also enhanced the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol inspection areas. Inspection areas have improved lighting and port security. An on-site dog kennel has also been added at the crossing.

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