



**Border Environment  
Cooperation Commission**

# **2003 Annual Report**

**Working Together for a  
Better Quality of Life Along the  
U. S.-Mexico Border**

## **The Border Environment Cooperation**

**Commission (BECC)** is an international organization created by the governments of the United States and Mexico with a mission to help conserve, protect and enhance the environment along the U.S.-Mexico border region. Its functions include assisting, developing and certifying environmental infrastructure projects, incorporating innovative concepts of sustainability and public participation concepts. Once certified by BECC, a project may qualify for funding from the North American Development Bank (NADB) or from other sources requiring such certification.

For purposes of BECC's work, the border region is defined as the area within 62 miles of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico, although both governments have agreed to the expansion of this geographic coverage on the Mexican side of the border. Areas of involvement by the BECC include projects related to water pollution, wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste management, hazardous waste, water conservation, hookups to water and sewer systems, waste reduction and recycling, air quality, transportation, clean and

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efficient energy, and municipal planning and development, including water management.

BECC's operating budget is funded by contributions from the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat), in the case of Mexico, and from the U.S. Department of State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additionally, BECC manages the Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP), which is funded with contributions from EPA.

On the cover: The BECC works in partnerships with different agencies to piece together solutions to the environmental infrastructure needs of the border.



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## Record Number of Project Certification

The BECC certified 25 environmental infrastructure projects in 2003, a record number, with an estimated construction investment of \$812

## Overview of Achievements for 2003

million. The BECC, now in its eighth year of operations, achieved significant progress in 2003 by successfully streamlining many of its processes to improve the quality of services it provides to border communities. The certification of 75% of the water conservation projects eligible for funding through the North American Development Bank's (NADB) Water Conservation Investment Fund (WCIF), demonstrates these streamlining efforts and the BECC's ability to provide and expedite response to the most urgent environmental needs on the border. The development and certification of

project for the community of Del Rio, Texas and for a regional facility located in Las Cruces, New Mexico. BECC also advanced projects of the new sectors, included in the expansion of its mandate, by certifying a comprehensive street-paving project that addresses serious air quality problems linked directly to unpaved streets in five communities in the state of Baja California. The remaining 15 projects certified during 2003 relate to water conservation and will be partially funded through NADB's WCIF. These projects are part of the binational efforts to implement urgent water conservation measures in irrigation districts along the water basins shared by the U.S. and Mexico, mainly the Rio Grande and the Colorado River.

Tangible improvements in the project development process, another important milestone for 2003, was due in part to the implementation of the BECC's state-of-the-art Project Management Procedures Manual and its detailed systematic



water conservation and street paving to improve air quality and water resource management products have been one of the BECC's most important achievements.

Seven of the certified projects in 2003, address water and wastewater service needs in the communities of Matamoros, Tamaulipas and Mexicali, Baja California in Mexico, La Feria and Marathon, Texas, Bisbee and Somerton, Arizona, and Seeley, California in the U.S. Two projects for solid waste management were certified including a

approach to project development. The manual defines specific duties, responsibilities and tasks during each phase of development giving the BECC staff a quality control management blueprint for activities such as contract reviews, consulting services control, documents control, and procurement follow-up, ensuring compliance with BECC's criteria and procedures.

The Rapid Assessment Process (RAP) is another tool that reached full implementation in 2003, allowing a more efficient timetable for development

of projects. By the end of 2003, 51 projects have been processed through the RAP resulting in the development of individual project strategic plans and a streamlined incorporation into the BECC Project Development pipeline.

### **Quality Assurance**

BECC fulfills the high expectations of the communities and other stakeholders who participate in the process by guaranteeing optimum levels of quality and uniformity in project development. In 2003, the Quality Assurance Department continued applying rigorous standards to achieve the high level of efficiency and results required for each project. It provided guidance to all departments within BECC for implementation of the Project Management Procedures Manual and the Technical Assistance Manual, including workshops and staff training. More than 90 quality review reports related to 40 projects were prepared for 2003.

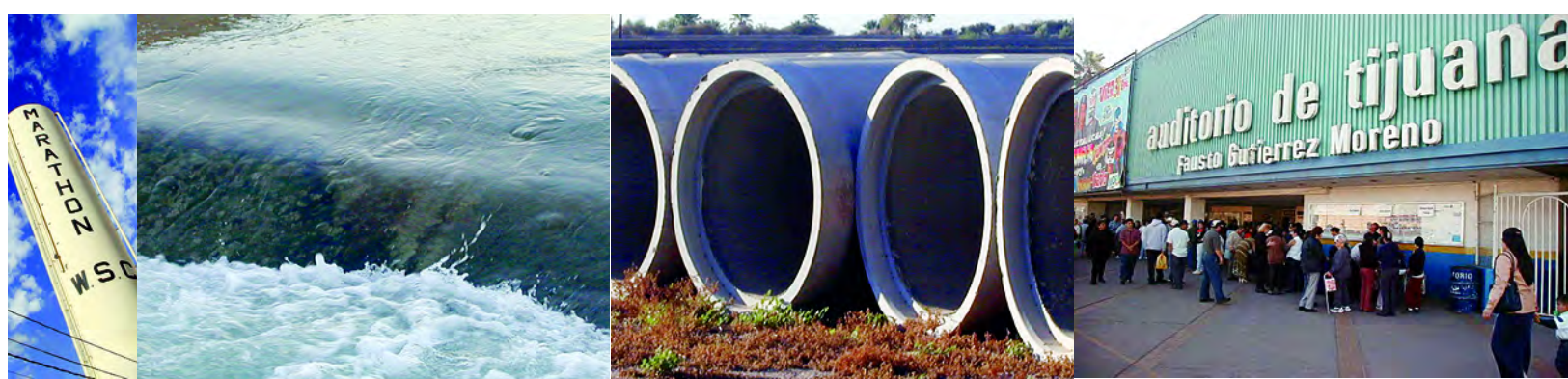
demonstrate that quality standards have been met. The required gap analysis, the complete implementation of corrective measures and the hiring of expert consultants to assist with expediting the ISO 9001:2000 certification process were achieved in 2003.

### **Technical Assistance**

In 2003, BECC provided \$2.5 million in technical assistance funds to 24 communities. The studies range from initial assessments of community conditions to several final design efforts.

### **Solutions for Scrap Tire Management**

The BECC expanded its role into broader initiatives to address one of the most serious border region environmental problems by co-sponsoring the First Binational Forum on Scrap Tires. The forum was held in coordination with



The Quality Assurance Department began an internal audit designed to initially verify compliance with the processes, stages and instructions contained in the Project Management Procedures Manual and to ultimately ensure continued improvement in the quality, consistency and reliability of the BECC project development process.

BECC also continued the process of obtaining certification in the ISO 9000 quality management program, which ensures that established procedures precisely describe planned activities and

the Secretariat of Urban Development and the Environment of the State of Chihuahua, the municipality of Juarez, the regional offices of Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources and Environmental Attorney General's Office, Environmental Defense, the Center for Environmental Resource Management at the University of Texas at El Paso, NADB, and The Northern Border Research Institute. The objectives of the forum included:

- Understanding and sharing experiences on scrap tire management in border municipalities
- Understanding private sector efforts in the area of comprehensive management and disposal of scrap tires
- Analyzing the legal, tax and commercial framework of scrap tire management and identifying legislative reform to improve scrap tire management
- Measuring the magnitude of the scrap tire problem and promoting private-public partnerships for developing effective solutions

The BECC also contracted the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) to provide an overview of the scrap tire problem on the border and provide alternatives for addressing it within the context of BECC's certification process. The preliminary report entitled Scrap Tire Disposal and Recycling Options will help BECC identify and pursue the most feasible ways to reduce scrap tire stockpiles in cities such as Ciudad Juarez and Mexicali, among others.

As one of the international organizations chosen to participate in four multi-media, geographically focused workgroups assigned to gather input on the border region's key environmental issues, the BECC facilitated the New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua and the Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo León-Tamaulipas workgroups. In addition, BECC provided critical support for the complex logistical arrangements required for the first National Coordinators Meeting, held in December in Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

### Sharing Experiences

Organizations from around world continue to express interest in learning more about BECC operations and how this unique model for international environmental collaboration can help identify solutions for problems in other regions.

In 2003, the BECC presented an overview of its framework for developing binational water and sanitation projects to a delegation from the Israeli-Palestinian Citizen's Exchange Program on Shared Basins, the second mission from the Middle East to visit the BECC. Organized by the U.S. State Department, the event was designed to share knowledge gained from the U.S.-Mexico experience in border water management and cooperation.

BECC management placed emphasis on the Commission's structural characteristics and the mechanisms and procedures that enable environmental cooperation between Mexico and the United States. BECC explained the factors that allow for effective and mutually beneficial programs such as teamwork from three levels of government in two countries and, most important, the direct participation of communities through citizens' organizations. The delegation was particularly interested in the BECC's ability to coordinate strategies with various levels of government and civil society.



Tire recycling is one of the major issues for the Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste work group for Border 2012

Jerry Clifford and Maria Teresa Bandala Medina, National Coordinators for Border 2012 representing EPA and Semarnat, exchange opinions

### Border 2012

BECC plays an important supportive role in the Border 2012 Program, launched by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat). The Border 2012 Program is aimed at addressing environmental and human health needs along the border region.

## Unique Approach and Overall Achievements

The BECC enters its 9th year of operations as a linchpin of U.S.-Mexico border cooperation, addressing the needs for border environmental infrastructure through the unique composition of its Board of Directors and its highly qualified and integrated bi-national staff. In 2003, the BECC strengthened its capacity to identify and develop environmental infrastructure projects by integrating the invaluable perspective of local governments and communities into the broader planning and funding strategies at the federal level.

Charged with two primary tasks, the BECC provides technical assistance and support in the development of environmental infrastructure projects and certifies that those projects qualify for funding from the NADB or other financial institutions. To fulfill these responsibilities, the BECC has established a process that ensures that a project not only targets a specific environmental infrastructure need, but also incorporates public participation and ensures strong sustainability.

The environmental and human health issues that the BECC addresses affect the quality of life of more than 12 million people in the border region. Problems experienced on the border include limited natural resources, water, air and soil pollution, as well as the lack of strategic planning and adequate infrastructure development. As a result of the efforts of the BECC and its development partners, the border region has benefited from an unprecedented level of environmental infrastructure investment.

Creating a unique model for international cooperation, the BECC has labored to establish strong partnerships at all levels of government and

has included participation from the general public in a coordinated approach to leverage funding, accomplish regulatory compliance, protect public health, and develop long-term solutions.

## Project Development

The BECC's comprehensive approach to developing projects to be submitted for certification applies five highly innovative certification criteria that improve on the traditional aspects of technical and financial viability while giving careful consideration to the social and environmental aspects of the project.

Accordingly, BECC projects integrate a full range of essential concepts including: Use of proven and non-polluting technology with low operating and maintenance costs; a viable and

balanced financial structure; endorsement of the project by the community through active participation and transparency in consultations and information dissemination; and the effective application of sustainable development principles.

Furthermore, BECC facilitates the compliance of a project with the requirements and specific rules established by binational, federal, state and local agencies.

The certification process is divided into seven critical phases shown in a flow chart in the following page. Several of these segments are developed concurrently, thus reducing the timeframe required for certification.

# BECC: A Successful Model for Environmental Infrastructure Development



“One of the NAFTA's outstanding achievements is the work carried out by the BECC and NADB. When the results of the work of these institutions began to be seen, many people changed their views and realized that there is a genuine interest in the improvements of border communities.”  
—Solomon Ortiz,  
U.S. Congressman

# The Project Development Process, Which Leads to Certification

## 1 .Application for Project

**Ce r t i f i c a t i o n** :Application reviewed for compliance with BECC basic eligibility criteria.

## 2 .Rapid Assessment Process

**( R A P )**Project analyzed for existing environmental and human health indicators; technical assistance and institutional strengthening needs; and an appropriate project approach, funding strategy, and timeline for certification.

## 3 .Procurement of Technical

**A s s i s t a n c e** :BECC develops coordinated scopes of work and procures the required Technical Assistance services through the BECC's Simplified Contract Ordering Agreement (SCOA).

## 4 .Planning & Environmental

**A s s e s s m e n t s** :Develop technical studies to determine solutions to community needs by conducting alternative analyses considering cost, environmental impact and sustainability and complete environmental review and clearance requirements.

## 5 .P u b l i c P a r t i c i p a t i o n &

**F i n a n c i a l F e a s i b i l i t y** :Define the financial structure required to implement the proposed project and facilitate community participation through steering committees, presentations to local organization and public meetings.

## 6 .Final Design of Project:

Strict quality control is maintained, value engineering is applied when necessary.

## 7 . Certification

Project complies to required criteria, BECC Board of Directors certifies project at quarterly public meetings.

As of December 31, 2003, BECC has certified 95 environmental infrastructure projects, 63 in the U.S. and 32 in Mexico for a total estimated construction investment of \$2.3 billion.

## Technical Assistance

Border communities struggling to identify resources for essential infrastructure usually lack the financial and technical support required to undertake even the planning and development phases of a project. The Technical Assistance Program is intended to assist communities to advance their projects from the conceptual stage through final design. Technical assistance can be granted for:

- Environmental Assessments (EA)
- Technical, economic and financial feasibility studies
- Preliminary and final design studies
- Evaluation of social and sustainability aspects of a project
- Public participation programs



ISO 9000 initiative being reviewed at a staff training

The BECC's Technical Assistance Program is funded through contributions from the EPA and through BECC's operating budget. Monies provided by the U.S. EPA fund the Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP), which is used for water and wastewater projects. Assistance for the development of other types of environmental infrastructure projects can be provided with funding from administrative funds of the BECC or



from the Project Development Program of the NADB.

As of December 31, 2003, BECC has provided more than \$30.47 million in technical assistance to 214 projects in 125 communities from which \$19.23 million have been provided to U.S. communities, while \$11.23 million have been used for communities in Mexico.

## Public Participation

One of the BECC's most significant contributions to the development of environmental infrastructure in the border region has been the public participation process, which is focused to gain broad community endorsement on the projects. Guided by active, local steering committees, this systematic process ensures the transparency of project information, public review of project decision-making, the involvement of local organizations, and the presentation of project information at required public meetings. The BECC's public participation program guarantees that affected communities have been

- Contact local organizations,
- Provide public access to information
- Conduct at least two public meetings within the area impacted by the project.

This strategy comprehensively evaluates and documents the community's understanding and support for the specific project, reaching well beyond the project development process. The BECC's public participation program has become a powerful tool that communities can use to achieve transparency and valuable public input in any decision-making process. For some communities, this new framework for public participation has improved the manner by which community development, in general, is envisioned and promoted.



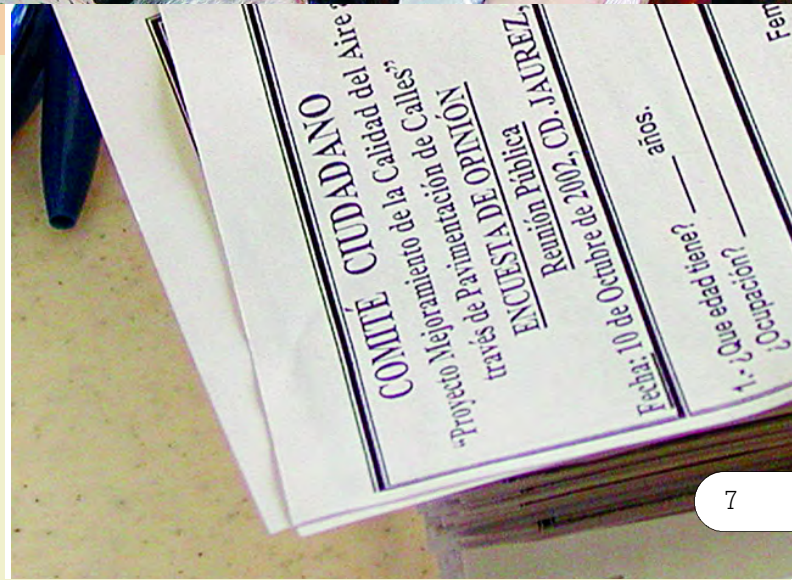
Public participation process in action



informed of the most important aspects of each project, such as cost, technology, and benefits to human health and the environment.

To assure efficient community participation, the BECC helps the project sponsor prepare a plan that includes strategies to:

- Set up the local steering committee



## Sustainable Development

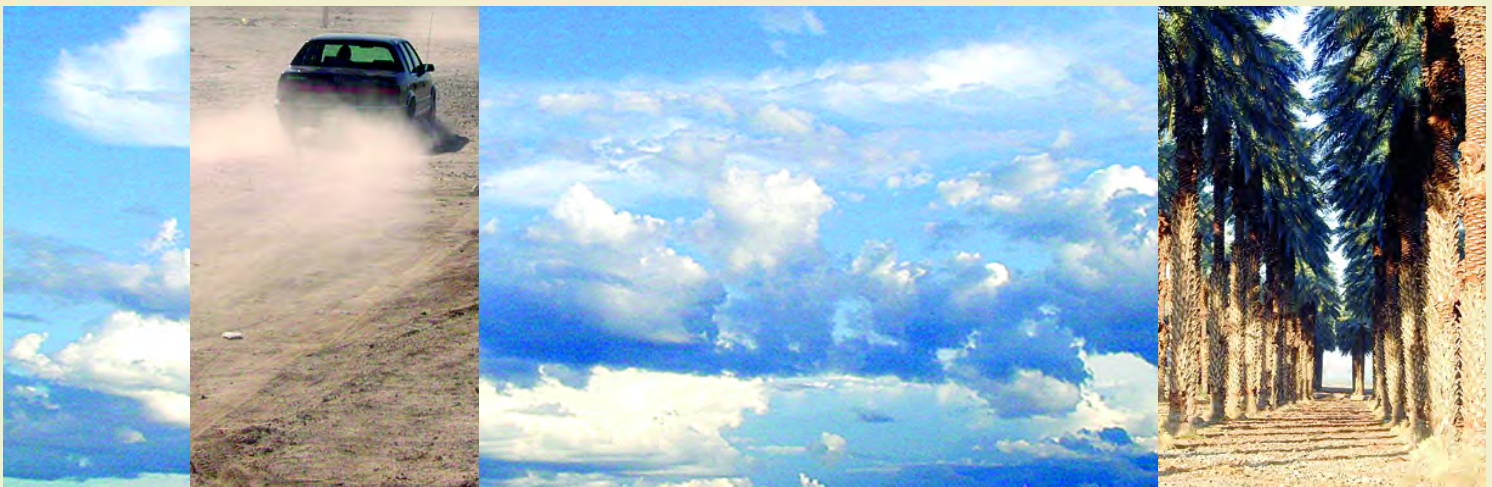
Sustainable development, an immediate, tangible and practical component of every BECC project, applies long-term holistic, practical and feasible solutions to pollution problems along the border. As a further refinement of the concept of sustainability, the BECC has established guidelines that incorporate the following sustainable development performance indicators into every project:

- Energy efficiency (both conservation and renewable energy)
- Selection of alternatives according to community affordability
- Institutional strengthening of the operating utilities,
- Water conservation and reuse
- Planned or installed water/wastewater treatment capacity
- Pre-treatment of industrial discharges
- The reduction, reuse and recycling of solid waste
- The closing of uncontrolled municipal dumpsites.

manual for successfully accomplishing the tasks necessary to meet the objectives of sustainable development.

The application of sustainable development criteria begins with an assessment that pinpoints a community's specific problems. Once this evaluation is completed, two workshops are held with consultants and a technical committee made up of members of the project's steering committee. The purpose of these workshops is to clearly define the environmental problems that must be targeted and, based on predetermined indicators, identify alternative solutions.

The BECC continues to analyze new methods to ensure the highest level of sustainability in every project it certifies. A concept currently applied by the BECC—ZERI (Zero Emissions Research Initiative)—advocates the reprocessing of production waste resources. Through this method, eliminated waste with little or no value becomes a value-added resource for a secondary component.



BECC has also developed an instruction booklet designed to facilitate the understanding and implementation of sustainability principles by communities, project sponsors, consultants and the general public. In this publication, the compliance process is detailed in a step-by-step instructional

## Projects Certified During 2003



The replacement and lining of canals help eliminate water losses.

## Project for Improvements to the Water and Wastewater Systems in Marathon, Texas

Consisting of the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant and collection system and the expansion of the existing water distribution system, the project will improve the environmental and human health conditions in this community. The wastewater system improvements will reduce the risk of aquifer contamination caused by inadequate wastewater treatment capacity and the existence of cesspools and privies.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
Texas Community Development Program (TCDP)/(Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Service Corporation (MWS&SSC) Matching Funds	315,415	18
NADB-Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)	1,229,150	70
NADB-Loan	210,000	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754,565</b>	<b>0</b>
BECC Technical Assistance (TA)	208,000	

The project will improve environmental and human health conditions by allowing for more efficient management, transportation and disposal of the community's solid waste. The project also will help minimize illegal dumping throughout the county.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) Equity Investment	627,788	24
NADB- Solid Waste Environmental Program (SWEP)	700,000	26
NADB-Loan	1,327,787	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,655,575</b>	<b>0</b>
BECC-TA	56,883	

## Project for Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Operation Improvements for Del Rio, Texas

The project, presented by the City of Del Rio, will improve environmental and human health conditions by allowing more efficient management and disposal of the community's



## Expansion of the Solid Waste Landfill Improvements to the Transfer Station and Equipment Replacement for The City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, New Mexico

The regional project, managed by the South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA), involves expansion of the municipal solid waste landfill with the creation of a second cell, improvements to the transfer station and the replacement of operation and maintenance equipment.

solid waste. The project, expected to limit the need for additional land by doubling the service life of the landfill, involves the purchase of a compactor and the construction of a new cell.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
NADB- SWEP	500,000	24
Certificates of Obligation	1,404,000	69
City Contribution	139,000	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,043,000</b>	<b>0</b>
BECC-TA	30,000	

## Comprehensive Street Paving and Air Quality Project for the State of Baja California

The project proposes to pave the streets in the cities of Ensenada, Mexicali, Rosarito, Tecate and Tijuana.

This project will reduce concentrations of particulate matter, improving environmental and health conditions in the state of Baja California.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
Grants		
Federal and State Contributions	33,360,000	55
NADB-Loan	25,000,000	41
Residents' Contribution	2,810,000	4
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>61,170,000</b>	

## Opportunity to Solve Chronic Health Problem in Baja California

Proximity to the U.S. and economic globalization converted Baja California during the past 25 years into a dynamo of economic growth and a magnet for investment and people.

The population of the state multiplied by five in 20 years, from half a million in 1980 to 2.48 million, according to the 2000 census. This accelerated rate of growth, in a state where only 45% of the roads have any kind of pavement, has left the residents of Baja California literally choking in the dust.

The unpaved streets release massive quantities of microscopic dust particles seriously affecting the respiratory health of the population.

The particulates released by the unpaved streets are directly responsible for the high incidence of eye and nasal irritation and respiratory illnesses, such as asthma, affecting the state's population. One of every four family members suffers a respiratory ailment.

The unpaved roads of Mexicali, for example, release 53,000 tons of dust into the atmosphere annually. Tijuana follows with 23,000 tons, and proportionally similar quantities of particulates are released into the atmosphere in Rosarito, Ensenada and Tecate.

The project proposed by the state's Secretariat of Infrastructure and Urban Development (SEDUE) and certified by the BECC will drastically reduce

concentrations of particulate matter in the atmosphere, improving environmental and health conditions in the state by paving 1116 miles of roads. In five years, the streets in the cities of Ensenada, Mexicali, Rosarito, Tecate and Tijuana are expected to attain compliance with environmental guidelines.

This project has received strong support from the state governor and the mayors of the cities, and overwhelming popular approval from the affected residents. An intensive process of public information about the proposed Baja California paving project drew more than 800 persons to two public meetings in each city. In addition, 5,804 surveys were filled out in the five cities, which demonstrated a 93 percent public acceptance of the project and its costs.

Sofía Orozco, better known as doña Chofi in Rosarito where only 55 percent of the streets are paved, expressed a typical reaction: She was delighted that the project will directly benefit her great-grandson, who suffers from asthma. And she was equally delighted that, for first time, in her 82 years, her opinion was sought regarding the approval of a project that implied a cost to the community.



Mexicali's unpaved roads release 53,000 tons of dust into the atmosphere annually.



Steering committee sponsors from the Baja California State gather for the certification of their project

Similar expressions of support were heard at public hearings in Ensenada, Tijuana, Mexicali, and Tecate where the paving project was overwhelmingly viewed as an "opportunity" to solve a chronic health problem that has led to an increasing number of respiratory illnesses including asthma and diminished pulmonary function.

This program in Baja California is a clear example of the kind of projects that the BECC and the NADB are addressing that create a strong link between environmental conditions and public health.

## Water and Wastewater System Improvements Project For Seeley, California

The project consists of improvements to the water treatment plant, the water distribution system and the wastewater pumping system, as well as the construction of a wastewater treatment plant.

The project will provide for water and wastewater treatment systems that will comply with applicable quality standards and will improve the environmental and human health conditions for the residents of this community.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) - Rural Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	1,645,167	75
	500,000	23
USDA—Rural Development Loan	44,000	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,189,167</b>	
BECC-TA	250,879	



Wastewater treatment plant in Seeley, California

## New River Clean-Up Project In Mexico Baja California (Brcemain And The Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant)

The project involves the construction of a wastewater treatment plant and installation of a forcemain and lift station. The lack of modern wastewater infrastructure has caused multiple environmental and public health problems for the community, primarily because of the wastewater discharges to the New River. The proposed project will provide adequate wastewater conveyance and treatment systems.



Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
NADB-BEIF	7,511,872	28
Mexicali's State Commission for Utility Operation (CESPM)	7,511,872	28
National Water Commission (CNA)	5,726,128	22
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)-Loan	5,726,128	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,476,001</b>	
BECC-TA	110,687	

## Project for Construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant for Somerton, Arizona

Consisting of the construction of a wastewater treatment plant to replace the existing lagoon system, the project will improve environmental and human health in the community, ensuring compliance with state wastewater treatment standards. The plant also will eliminate seepage from lagoons into groundwater.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
NADB – BEIF	3,675,353	45
City of Somerton	32,000	1
<b>Loan Component</b>		
	4,400,000	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,107,353</b>	<b>100</b>
BECC-TA	691,922	

## Wastewater System Improvements Project for Bisbee, Arizona

The project consists of the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, installation of a forcemain and a conveyance main and replacing or rehabilitating the most deteriorated sections of the collection system. It will contribute to the improvement of environmental and human health conditions in this community, by providing wastewater collection and treatment systems that comply with applicable state standards. The project will help eliminate the risk of contamination due to uncontrolled wastewater discharges.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
NADB-BEIF	10,213,000	35
USDA—Rural Development	3,050,000	10
City of Bisbee Contribution	2,000,000	7
<b>Loans</b>		
USDA Rural Development Loan	3,050,000	10
Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance & Authority	11,250,000	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,068,000</b>	
BECC-TA Grant	469,115	
Transition Funds—BEIF	1,110,187	



Bisbee proved to be one of the richest mineral sites in the world, producing nearly three million ounces of gold and almost 4 million tons of copper, not to mention the silver, lead and zinc that came from these rich Mule Mountains. By the early 1900s, this Old West mining camp was the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco.

In addition to its own historical significance, the area is well known for its scenic attractions and special events, including concerts, fine arts shows, and retirement opportunities. The City currently serves as a hub to other tourist attractions in the area. This, combined with the mild weather, makes it a popular place for tourists and seasonal residents. An estimated 1,500 tourists and winter residents visit the area each day.

Even with its historical background and attractive tourist landscapes, Bisbee is facing a serious sanitation problem. Generally, the existing wastewater collection systems in Old Bisbee are in poor condition. They were constructed in the early 1900's, and are past their useful life. Problems include: undersized, deteriorated pipes, sections of pipe at grades too steep or too flat, root intrusion, sediment, significant numbers of reported back-ups and sanitary sewer overflows, and improper location of manholes, among other problems.

These problems will soon be solved with the Wastewater System Improvements Project undertaken by the city.







## Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Project for Matamoros, Tamaulipas

The project, presented by the Junta de Aguas y Drenaje (water and sewer utility), involves various improvements to water and wastewater collection and treatment systems.

The lack of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure has caused multiple environmental and human health problems in the community, from the pollution of nearby bodies of water to digestive diseases. The project addresses these problems by providing adequate water, wastewater collection and treatment, and rainwater collection systems.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
CNA	12,500,000	16
State of Tamaulipas	6,250,000	8
City Of Matamoros	3,125,000	4
Matamoros Water Utilities JAD [Water and Waste Water Utilities] (operating funds)	3,125,000	4
NADB - BEIF	33,000,000	44
Works Funded By Mexico (CNA)	8,000,000	11
<b>Loans</b>		
NADB - Low Interest Rate Lending Facility (LIRF) -Loan	10,000,000	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 76,000,000</b>	<b>100</b>
BECC - TA	600,000	

## Matamoros: Cleaner and Healthier City

Matamoros is a thriving industrial city of 394,000 residents in the northeastern part of the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Although its population is expected to increase by 50% in the next 15 years, this metropolitan area, located 23 miles upstream from where the Rio Grande discharges into the Gulf of Mexico, has already outgrown its water and wastewater infrastructure.

Lacking wastewater treatment facilities, Matamoros - sister city of Brownsville, Texas - dumps raw wastes directly into the Rio Grande through open-air drains and canals, provoking multiple environmental and health problems,

including the pollution of nearby bodies of water and the proliferation of digestive diseases.

Although 88% of the population enjoys potable water, an estimated 37% water is lost in distribution. Wastewater lines serve 77% of the residents, but these lines are in critical need of expansion and rehabilitation. The number of reported occurrences of intestinal illness in Matamoros has increased by 50% to 47,645 cases since 1999, testifying to the urgent need to establish a wastewater treatment system.

This substandard, inadequate water and wastewater service, comes at a high cost to public health and to the pocketbooks of those least able to afford the expense – families like that of Miguel Angel Becerra Castillo, an employee at Cepillos de Matamoros, one of some 120 maquiladoras operating in the area.

Becerra, the family's sole wage earner, his wife, Reyna, and their two children live in El Roble, a colonia that lacks potable water, drainage, electricity, paved streets, and sidewalks.



Miguel Angel Becerra Castillo and his family

Their continuing challenge is scraping together money to pay for potable water and regular draining of the home's latrine.

On his maquiladora wages, Mr. Becerra must regularly pay \$1.09 for each 20-liter bottle of purified water, \$1.82 for every 200-liter drum of clean water, and \$22.87 to have the latrine emptied. When it rains, the unpaved streets

become impassable mud pits for the service trucks, and drinking water is unavailable for purchase at any price.

The project presented by the city's public water and sewer utility, Junta de Aguas y Drenaje (JAD), and certified by the BECC, proposes to alleviate the dire situation in Matamoros by providing adequate systems for potable water, rainwater collection and wastewater treatment.

A citizens steering committee, representative of the community's diverse residents, and the JAD held more than 120 meetings with local organizations, distributed over 5,000 flyers and brochures, and explained the scope and cost of the project on numerous local radio and television programs.

Citizen steering committee member and engineer Francisco Javier Martinez explained that the project gives Matamoros a unique opportunity to satisfy the vital needs of the community with a well-designed and well-executed water and wastewater system.

As a result of the BECC's intensive public information effort, followed by two major public hearings, the two-stage project has been accepted by residents as essential to the economic future of this border city and for the wellbeing of its growing population.

Father Ruben Becerra-Ruiz expressed the community's sense of need and urgency this way: "Thirst is a basic human need - we all feel it. This is a time for fraternity. We have to work together and transcend ideologies, credos, and issues of class and gender to confront these problems and satisfy our need for water. The approval of this project is urgently needed."

Exit polls after the two BECC-required public meetings for the project reflect strong majority support for the project. At the second meeting, a standing-room-only crowd of some 500 persons heard the JAD describe the project's technical scope, location, the problems it intends to correct, and the approximate cost.



El Roble is colonia that lacks potable water, drainage, electricity, paved streets, and sidewalks.

Mario Zolezzi Garcia  
Mayor of Matamoros,  
Tamaulipas

"That these projects must be of the highest quality has long been recognized as a priority by the association of civil engineers and the chamber of commerce," Martinez said. "The importance of these projects, designed under guidelines of international institutions with the participation of Mexican engineers, has no precedence in our city."

According to city Mayor Mario Zolezzi Garcia, "the water and wastewater project is of maximum importance for our city. It will guarantee that Matamoros will be a cleaner city over the next 25 years and will offer a better quality of life for our children."

Water is a resource which plays a critical role in all aspects of life, from ensuring the existence of precious ecosystems, to economic and social

# Water Conservation Projects

development throughout the world. In fact, it is the resource with the greatest impact on every community's ability to achieve sustainable development.

The challenges faced by governments today in terms of striking a balance between the finite water resources that are available and providing the services demanded by their populations, requires the adoption of policies and programs for water conservation that will translate into a more sustainable use of this vital resource.

One of the most effective water conservation measures can be found in efforts to modernize

water scarceness problems faced along the principal water basins that impact the border region, primarily the Rio Grande, the Colorado River, and the Río Conchos in northern Mexico. Recent water shortages in these regions have caused numerous negative impacts both for agricultural and urban uses.

The BECC has played an important role in this strategy, helping to develop and certifying water conservation projects, thus assisting the projects' sponsor to access grant funding from the NADB's Water Conservation Investment Fund (WCIF). BECC played an important role in this effort by participating in the development of the required criteria to prioritize water conservation projects seeking certification and subsequent financing by NADB. Furthermore, BECC has already certified 16 water conservation projects in record time, including the project for technical improvements and modernization of irrigation



technology used for agricultural activities, by far the most water intensive human activity. More than 70% of the water extracted in the world is for agriculture use, and agriculture is frequently associated with changes in the quality of the water in aquatic ecosystems due to the construction of dams and irrigation canals.

Consistent with these facts, over the past two years the U.S. and Mexican governments have worked to develop strategies to address the serious

district 005 located in Delicias, Chihuahua, certified in 2002. During 2003, 15 of these water conservation projects were certified representing a total investment of US\$66.94 million.

Without a doubt, its successful involvement in the water conservation effort has been one of the BECC's most important accomplishments. The certification in a single year of 75% of the water conservation projects, eligible for NADB's WCIF financing, demonstrates the flexibility of

the BECC processes for contributing to solutions to the most urgent border needs and priorities.

## **B e n e f i t**

Water conservation measures will make more water available for growing crops, for human consumption, and for municipal use. This water savings will partially offset scarcity during droughts. Similarly, the region's growing population will be able to endure for longer periods and face the risks represented by illnesses related to the unhealthy conditions brought about by the lack of water.

Other indirect benefits can be seen, for example, in a project for New Mexico, where, in addition to the water savings, the general public will benefit from better air quality, since there will be fewer aerosols and suspended dust particles in the atmosphere, by reducing herbicide use to eliminate weeds in open lateral canals replaced now by pipeline. In addition, the likelihood of water pollution

The replacement and lining of canals as well as the replacement of the slide-gate structures of main canals help eliminate water losses in conveyance and in turn allow timely and accurate water deliveries. Similarly, the installation of pipes may contribute to reducing the risk of drownings and other public safety and health problems.

The construction of bypass canals to provide direct delivery of water for critical uses and the installation of a pilot seepage recovery system for the main canal of an interconnecting system will serve to eliminate losses caused by seepage and evaporation, thereby achieving substantial water savings.

Other tasks are related to flow measurements and will reduce the losses caused by spills in canals and seepage, thereby saving water and energy due to reduced pumping. The installation of a flow measurement and telemetry system at water diversion points to control and monitor deliveries;



will be reduced, since the new pipeline canals will be protected from illegal trash dumping.

## **D e s c r i p t i o n o f t h e p r o j e c t s**

Although the overall goal for water conservation projects is the same, each project may include distinct components to achieve that ultimate goal. These components range from canal lining to water delivery monitoring systems. Following are some brief descriptions of these various tasks.

replacement of open channel laterals with pipes; and the installation of a telemetry system will improve the regulation of water supply in irrigation districts.

Finally, the components of some of projects include the replacement of aged and deteriorated pumping plants and the expansion of the existing reservoir storage to improve operational efficiencies.

**Yuma Valley Canal System Improvement Project**  
**Yuma County Water Users' Association, Arizona**

The water conservation project primarily includes lining approximately 25 miles of irrigation canals to prevent

# Water Conservation Projects

water loss through seepage at a cost of \$6.16 million, funded through a \$3.01 million grant from the NADB's Water Conservation Investment Fund (WCIF) and a contribution by the Yuma County Water Users' Association.

**Water Conservation Project, Imperial Irrigation District, California**

The water conservation project primarily includes lining approximately 23 miles of irrigation canals to prevent water losses through seepage. The project's cost, approximately US\$5 million, is funded through a \$2.5 million grant from the NADB's WCIF and a cash contribution by the Imperial Irrigation District.



**Water Conservation Project for Bard Water District, California**

The water conservation project includes canal lining in the district's service area at a cost of approximately \$8.05 million, funded through a \$4 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, and through bonds issued by the Bard Water District, cash and in-kind contributions by the District, and contributions by the Quechan Indian Nation.

**Water Conservation Improvements Project, Hidalgo County Irrigation District #6, Texas (Mission)**

The water conservation project includes renovation of approximately 9 miles of existing lining in the District's main canal, replacement of existing slide-

gate structures on the main canal, expansion of the existing reservoir storage and installation of a telemetry system to improve regulation of the water supply in the District and reduce losses from spills and canals.

Funding for the \$3 million project is through a \$1.5 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, a cash and in-kind contribution by the Hidalgo County Irrigation District #6 and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Main Canal Replacement Project for Brownsville Irrigation District**

The water conservation project involves replacing the District's main canal with pressure pipeline at a cost of \$2.35 million provided by a \$1.17 million grant from NADB WCIF, a cash contribution by the Brownsville Irrigation District and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Canal Lining, Pipeline Installation, Flow Measurement, Telemetry and Water Delivery Project for Harlingen Irrigation District Cameron County #1, Texas**

The water conservation project includes canal lining, pipeline installation, flow measurement, telemetry and water delivery. The \$3.56 million cost of the project is funded through a \$1.78 million grant from NADB's WCIF, a cash contribution and short-term loan by the Harlingen Irrigation District Cameron County #1, and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Canal Lining and Pipeline Installation Project For Hidalgo County Irrigation District #1, Texas**

The water conservation project includes canal lining and pipeline installation at a cost of \$5.77 million to be funded through a \$2.88 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, a cash contribution, a short-term note and in-kind contribution by the Hidalgo County Irrigation District #1 and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Project for Improvements to The Wisconsin Canal Irrigation System, Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2, Texas**

The water conservation project includes several improvements to the Wisconsin Canal irrigation system at a cost of \$1.67 million to be funded through a \$600,000 grant from the NADB's WCIF, a cash and in-kind contribution by Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2, and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Project for Improvements to The Lateral "A" Canal, Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2, Texas**—The water conservation project includes improvements to the district's Lateral "A" Canal. The cost of the project, \$3.37 million, will be funded through a \$586,343 grant from the NADB's WCIF, a cash and in-kind contribution by Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2 and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Pipeline Installation Project For Elephant Butte Irrigation District, New Mexico**—The water conservation project includes replacing existing open irrigation laterals with aluminized steel pipeline in the District's three main irrigation systems at a cost of \$8.49 million, funded through a \$4 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, and in-kind contribution by the Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

**Project for Improvements To The Irrigation Water Distribution System, Cameron County Irrigation District #2, Texas (San Benito 2nd Project)**—The Cameron County Irrigation District # 2 requested BECC certification for an interconnecting canal system in the district. The U.S. \$4.32 million cost of the water conservation project is funded through a \$1.8 million grant from the NADB's WCIF and cash and in-kind contributions by the Cameron County Irrigation District # 2.

**Project for Replacement of River Pumping Plant Cameron County Irrigation District # 2 Texas (San Benito, First Project)**—The water conservation project includes replacing the existing pumping plant to improve efficiency. The cost of the project, approximately U.S. \$11 million, is funded through a \$4 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, a cash contribution by the Cameron County Irrigation District # 2, and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Water Conservation Improvements Project, Hidalgo County Irrigation District #6, Texas**—The water conservation project includes renovating approximately nine miles of lining of the District's main canal, replacing slide-gate structures on the main canal, expansion of the reservoir storage and installing a telemetry system to improve regulation of water supply and reducing losses from canal spills. The \$3.48 million project is funded through a \$1.5 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, cash and in-kind

contributions by the Hidalgo County Irrigation District # 6 and a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**Water Conservation Improvements Project, Delta Lake Irrigation District #2, Texas**—The water conservation project includes construction of a bypass canal along the eastern edge of Delta Lake to provide direct delivery of water for critical uses, installation of a pilot seepage recovery system for the main canal, installation of a flow measurement and telemetry system at water diversion points to control and monitor deliveries, and the replacement of open channel laterals with pipes. The \$7.12 million project is funded through a \$3.56 million grant from the NADB's WCIF, cash and in-kind contributions by the Delta Lake Irrigation District, a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office and a grant from the Texas Water Development Board.

**Main Canal Replacement For Valley Municipal Utility District # 2, Brownsville Texas**—The project includes replacing the District's main canal with a pipeline in order to reduce evaporation and seepage losses.



Total cost for the project will be approximately \$2.45 million, to be funded through a \$1.09 million grant from the NADB's WCIF and a cash contribution by the Valley Municipal Utility District # 2.

**Pipeline Installation Project For Bayview Irrigation District # 11, Bayview Texas**—The water conservation project includes the replacement of existing dilapidated concrete and earthen-lined canals with reinforced concrete pipe. The \$1.42 million project is funded through a \$637,548 grant from the NADB's WCIF and cash and in-kind contributions by Bayview Irrigation District # 11.

## Water and Wastewater Improvements Project in La Feria Texas

The project, consisting of several improvements to the water and wastewater systems in a primarily agricultural area that encompasses eight colonias, includes upgrading the water treatment plant, constructing a new wastewater treatment facility, new water distribution lines and new wastewater collection systems. These improvements significantly reduce environmental and human health risks associated with the lack of adequate water and wastewater treatment services.

Funding Source	Amount (US \$)	%
<b>Grants</b>		
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)- Economically Distressed Area Program (EDAP)	5,144,359	29
TWDB - Clean Water State NADB-BEIF	4,959,624	27
<b>Loans</b>		
Revolving Fund	385,000	2
NADB-LIRF	7,710,376	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,199,351</b>	
BECC-TA	440,000	

## La Feria in One Word Unity

La Feria, Texas, is a growing city proud of its history, its strong sense of unity and the high quality educational system it provides its children. The future well being of this vibrant community, however, is seriously threatened by substandard water and wastewater treatment systems. In this mainly agricultural area in the lower Rio Grande valley, Christmas means tamalada-making and feasting on tamales in an atmosphere of community and good cheer. This past holiday

season, however, some tamales were served with a lethal side dish – hepatitis.

The Cameron County Health Department confirmed 15 cases of hepatitis-A after the Christmas holidays, the county's epidemiologists told the Brownsville Herald in January 2004. The disease is spread by "oral-fecal" transmission in areas of poor hygiene. Family members who use the same kitchen can pass it to others "so everyone starts getting sick after the holidays."

La Feria got its name from an annual festival that celebrates a friendly encounter hundreds of years ago between natives and a few explorers. Since then, the settlement has burgeoned to a community of 7,000 persons, expected to grow by another 40 percent by 2025. However, no improvements have been made in 30 years to La Feria's overloaded water and wastewater treatment systems. A state environmental and health study determined in 2001 that the city was in violation of the Texas Commission on



Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulations, and that the situation "could be considered dangerous to the health and safety of the people who live in the community." In five of the eight colonias that surround the city, open sewage,



human excrement, garbage, untreated wastewater and other improperly discharged organic wastes were found left in the open, exposed to flies and other disease carriers. Open surface privies and overflowing septic tanks exist side by side with water wells.

"I've seen a lot of growth. A lot of kids, new families and a lot of people who are moving back who had left," said La Feria school district employee Sandra Ruiz, a member of the residents' steering committee appointed by the city to inform the community of the costs and benefits of a water and wastewater improvement project.

The project certified by the BECC will significantly reduce the environmental and human health risks associated with the lack of adequate water and wastewater services by upgrading the water treatment plant and constructing a new wastewater treatment facility, new water distribution lines and new wastewater collection systems.

every meeting here at City Hall," said Mary Garcia. "A lot of people were very negative at first, but they left saying they were for it 100 percent." That sentiment was echoed by steering committee member Steve Brewer, "A lot of us feel good about the project," he said. "It's been a sacrifice to go to the meetings, after we get off from work, but we know it's a good project. . .we know it's good for the community – our friends and neighbors know La Feria needs it."

Bishop Ronaldo Ortiz, a 20-year resident and president of the steering committee, said that the case of a specific family suffering from chronic ill-health that came to light during the 2001 study motivated the community to commit itself to fight for its own good health. Exit polls taken at the public hearings indicate that the majority of the people of La Feria favor the project. There were also 30 letters of support for the project from residents, businesses and local



La Feria's delegation headed by the Mayor Carlos Cantu and the BECC's staff at the project certification.



La Feria, Texas, is a growing city proud of its history, its strong sense of unity, but especially of its high quality educational system.

About 300 residents attended six public hearings, which are a key feature of the BECC project development process. "I have attended

organizations. "You can characterize the community of La Feria in one word -- unity," Ortiz said.

In eight years of activities, the BECC has contributed to significant and measurable progress in the development of environmental infrastructure on the U.S.-Mexico border. Although the

## Future Perspectives

achievements have been many, the BECC believes that additional opportunities exist to more effectively improve the quality of the environmental and health conditions in the border region. The following fundamental issues have the potential to further enhance the BECC's ability to effectively carry out its mission.

### Improvements to the BECC/NADB Process

In 2001, the governments of the United States and Mexico agreed to several modifications to the BECC-NADB process, including the creation of a single Board of Directors to oversee both institutions, as opposed to the current independent Boards. Additionally, both organizations' jurisdiction on the Mexican side of the border would be expanded from 62 miles to 183 miles. Improved financing opportunities for border infrastructure projects is also included in the reforms. Efforts to implement these measures are moving forward.

In another step of the BECC-NADB reform process, both federal governments have initiated the Business Process review of the institutions with two fundamental goals: The first, making the process for designing, developing, approving, financing and implementing environmental infrastructure projects in the U.S.-Mexico border region more efficient and easier on communities and other project sponsors and second, improving the efficiency of BECC and NADB and increasing their value added to this process. The Business Process Review will also provide a plan that the new single Board of Directors for BECC and NADB can use to evaluate the performance and measure the results of each institution. This Business Process Review began in late 2003 and is expected to be finalized in 2004.

The BECC will continue to work with all stakeholders involved in the Business Process Review to maximize the benefits of measures designed to take the BECC's work to an even higher level of efficiency.

### Project Funding

In spite of the significant progress already achieved by the BECC, the organization also faces critical challenges related to the available level of funding which is essential to effectively implement projects are still to be certified.

Expectations for project certification have been high ever since the BECC's inception. Because of the need to increase the number and quality of certified projects, the BECC adopted several key measures, beginning in 2000, to streamline its process by incorporating various quality assurance mechanisms. However, after three years of improved efficiency and the consequent increase in certified projects, there is a serious shortfall of grant funding for the construction of many of those projects.

The most serious shortfall relates to grant funding from the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), established by EPA and managed by NADB for water and



10-year-old José Issac, who suffers from hydrocephalia since birth, helps when water delivery trucks arrive.

wastewater projects. The importance of this fund to the project development process is paramount, because the lack of water and wastewater services continues to be the most immediate environmental infrastructure problem on the border. Of the 95 projects certified by BECC as of December 31, 2003, 65 relate to water and

wastewater. Approximately \$480 million in grants for construction financing has been committed through the BEIF.

The BEIF makes water and wastewater infrastructure projects affordable for communities throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region by combining grant funds with loans or guaranties for projects that would otherwise be financially unfeasible. When originally established by EPA, the level of funding appropriated by the U.S. Congress for the BEIF was \$100 million per fiscal year, yet funding has decreased over the past several years to the critically low level for the second year in a row of only \$50 million for fiscal year 2004, and \$50 million projected for 2005.

This decrease in funding will cause a backlog in the development and construction of priority projects in both large and small border communities. BECC is working with its partners to develop strategies for addressing the anticipated shortfall in grant funding.

With the funding provided through the BEIF program, the BECC and NADB have made great strides in addressing the technical and financial

challenges faced by border communities over the past few years. Without a full \$100 million appropriation from the BEIF for fiscal year 2005, it will be difficult to maintain continuity in

the effort to address basic infrastructure needs along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Now, more than ever, it is critical for all stakeholders to reinforce their commitment to environmental health and sustainable development along the border. The level of funding made available

for border projects should reflect this commitment to the needs of the border region in a more timely and efficient manner. The BECC is firmly committed to do its part in addressing this serious challenge.

## Strategic Planning

Despite many successful actions to improve environmental health and sustainable development along the border, the BECC believes that additional progress can be achieved if a comprehensive bi-national strategic plan is developed for the region. This need, too, was identified by the U.S. General Accounting Office in a published study on the existing environmental infrastructure challenges on the border.

BECC envisions a strategic plan that includes the following aspects:

- A detailed needs assessment that provides a complete view of the current environmental conditions on the border. BECC has already initiated this effort.
- A strategy to prioritize resources to address specific problems from a regional perspective, with the participation of federal, state and local agencies.
- The establishment of quantifiable goals with precise objectives so that progress can be measured.

Because of its mission and record of successful programs in the border region, the BECC is ideally positioned to contribute to the coordination of a Bi-national Strategic Plan that identifies actions, stakeholders and resources, to address from a specific as well as a broad perspective, the environmental infrastructure needs of the region.

The BECC has already initiated several actions that can contribute to a border-wide strategic plan, including a more focused strategy to prioritize project development on the Mexican side of the border.



Veronica stays close to her house in one of the impoverished colonias that lack water/wastewater treatment and paving.

**BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION**  
**2003 Board of Directors**



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 Environmental Protection  
 Agency  
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 State Representative  
 Reynosa, Tamaulipas

Dr. Jorge Bustamante  
 Northern Border Research Institute  
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Mexico

# BECC Staff Director

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Fernando R. Macias  
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Javier Cabrera  
Deputy General Manager

# Project Development Assistance Program—PDAP

## Balance Sheet - As of December 31, 2003 - U.S. Dollars

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Banks	1,856
Account Receivables PDAP Authorized Grants	12,191,518
Value added Tax to Recover	29,635
Others Account Receivables	842

**Total Current Assets** **12,221,995**

#### Fixed Assets

Computer Equipment	15,928
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**Total Assets** **12,239,779**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

Account Payable	248,554
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#### Equity

Funding Exercised	(26,708,775)
PDAP Equity Contributions	38,700,000

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** **12,239,779**

### Combined Statement of Revenues & Expenditures in Fund Balances

For the Seven & 6 Months Ending December 31, 2003

	Actuals 10/97-12/03	Grant Amount	
		Authorized	Unexpended
<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
Others Income	244,509		(214,874)
EPA Reimbursements	26,508,482	38,700,000	12,191,518
<b>Total Source of Funds</b>	<b>26,752,991</b>	<b>38,700,000</b>	<b>11,976,644</b>
<b>EPA Reimbursements allocation</b>			
Personnel Expenses	4,229,950	4,307,376	77,426
Office & Computer Equipment	62,904	79,603	16,699
Supplies & Incidentals	12,726	12,726	-
Special Consultant	603,123	807,729	204,606
Public Participation	200,258	285,341	85,083
Consultants	21,614,396	33,207,225	11,592,830
<b>Total EPA reimbursements</b>	<b>26,723,356</b>	<b>38,700,000</b>	<b>11,976,644</b>
VAT to Cover	29,635		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>26,752,991</b>		
Others assets—net	44,216		
<b>Contracted Funds</b>			
Consultants—Technical Assistance Unpaid	—		(5,751,607)
	<b>26,708,775</b>	<b>38,700,000</b>	<b>6,225,037</b>

# Balance Sheet **As of December 31, 2003 - U. S D o l l a r s**

## **ASSETS**

### Current Assets

Cash & Short-Term Investment	457,643
Accounts Receivable-United Mexican Status Appropriation	1,017,668
Accounts Receivable—Others	133,383
Prepared Expenses	19,468
Total Current Assets	<u>1,667,666</u>
Fixed Assets (Furniture & Equipment—net)	<u>137,601</u>

### **Total Assets**

**\$1,805,267**

## **LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY**

### Current Liabilities

Contribution Advances-United States of America	293,000
Other Account Payables	323,719
Total Current Liabilities	616,719

### Fund Equity (Excess of Revenues over Expenditures)

Results from Previous Years	837,828
Current Year (Revenues Over/(Under) Expenses	350,720
Total Fund Equity	<u>1,188,548</u>

### **Total Liabilities & Fund Equity**

**\$ 1 , 8 0 5 , 2 6 7**

Note: The financial statements were audited by Deloitte & Touche. The audited financial statement is available on our website [www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org).

# Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Charges in Fund Balances

**Year Ended December 31, 2003 - U.S. Dollars**

## **REVENUES**

Contributions – United States of America	\$ 2,068,866
Contributions – United Mexican States	1,750,000
Others	<u>130,368</u>
	3,949,234

## **INTEREST - NET**

15,042

## **OTHER INCOME -NET**

10,178

## **Total Revenues**

3,974,454

## **EXPENSES**

Wages & benefits	2,540,088
Travel expenses	135,646
Public meetings	69,040
Technical assistance and professional fees	328,892
Other expenses	<u>550,068</u>

## **Total expenses**

3,623,734

## **EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES**

350,720

## **FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR**

837,828

## **FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR**

**\$ 1,188,548**

Note: The financial statements were audited by Deloitte & Touche. The audited financial statement is available on our website [www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org).



# Border Environment Cooperation Commission

## Partner Agencies — Canada



### North American Development Bank

(International Organization)  
203 S. St. Mary's, Suite 300  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
(210) 231-8000  
[www.nadb.org](http://www.nadb.org)



### U. S State Department

2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
(202) 647-4000  
[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)



### State Water Resources Control Board

Cal/BECC Coordinator  
Border Affairs Unit  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
1001 I Street, 17th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
(916) 341-5250  
[www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov)



### California Environmental Protection Agency

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### Arizona Department of Water Resources

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Phoenix, AZ 85004  
(602) 417-2400  
Long Distance within Arizona:  
1-800-352-8488  
[www.water.az.gov/adwr](http://www.water.az.gov/adwr)



### Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Phoenix Main Office  
1110 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 771-2300  
1-800-234-5677  
[www.adeq.state.az.us](http://www.adeq.state.az.us)



### Environmental Protection Agency

Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460  
(202) 272-0167  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



### Commission for Environmental Cooperation

(International Organization)  
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Bureau 200  
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H2Y 1N9 Canada  
(514) 350-4300  
[www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org)



### New Mexico Environment Department

Main Offices  
New Mexico Environment Dept.  
P.O. BOX 26110  
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Santa Fe, NM 87502-0110  
(505) 827-2855  
1-800-219-6157  
[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)



### Texas Water Development Board

Stephen F. Austin Bldg.  
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1700 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78711-3231  
Tel: (512) 463-7847  
[info@twdb.state.tx.us](mailto:info@twdb.state.tx.us)  
[www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us)



### Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087  
12100 Park 35 Circles  
Austin, TX 78753  
(512) 239-1000  
[ac@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:ac@tceq.state.tx.us)  
[www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)



### International Boundary and Water Commission

United States Section  
4171 North Mesa, Suite C-100  
El Paso, TX 79902-1441  
1-800-262-8857  
[www.ibwc.state.gov](http://www.ibwc.state.gov)



### U. S Department of Treasury

1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
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General Information:  
(202) 622-2000  
[www.treas.gov](http://www.treas.gov)



### USDA/Rural Development



#### New Mexico

6200 Jefferson St. NE, Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 761-4950

#### Texas

Federal Building, Suite 102  
101 South Main St.  
Temple, TX 76501  
(254) 742-9700

#### California

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Davis, CA 95616-4169  
(530) 792-5800

#### Arizona

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### Office of the Texas Secretary of State

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James E. Rudder Bldg.  
Austin, TX 78711-2887  
(512) 463-5600  
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# Border Environment Cooperation Commission

## Partner Agencies — Mexico



### Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores



Ricardo Flores Magón N° 2,  
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México, D.F., C.P. 06995  
(555) 063-3000  
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### Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Públicos



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### Gobierno del Estado de Sonora



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(662) 212-0001, 212-0051  
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### Comisión Estatal de Aguas y Saneamiento de Coahuila



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### Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología de Tamaulipas



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### Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales



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### International Boundary and Water Commission



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### Secretaría de Infraestructura Urbana y Ecología de Sonora



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### Comisión Nacional del Agua



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### Dirección General de Ecología de Tijuana



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### Comisión Estatal de Aguas en Baja California



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### Junta Central de Agua y Saneamiento del Estado de Chihuahua



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### Secretaría de Desarrollo Social



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### Border Environment Cooperation Commission



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EPA officials join in recognizing the successful tenure of Oscar Ramirez at the BECC's annual public meeting in December 2003. From left to right: Gilbert Tellez, Environmental Engineer, region 6; Jane Moore, Deputy Director, Office of Wastewater Management, EPA Headquarters; Oscar Ramirez, Former Deputy Director, Office of Water Quality Protection, region 6; Miguel Flores, Director of Office of Water Quality Protection, Region 6; Vinh Nguyen, BECC/NADB Program Manager, Headquarters, and Jerry Clifford, Deputy Assistant Administrator, the EPA's Office of International Affairs.

## **Our Mission**

The Border Environment  
Cooperation Commission  
identifies, supports, evaluates,  
and certifies affordable  
environmental infrastructure  
projects, as a binational team,  
to improve the quality of life  
for the people in the  
U.S.-Mexico border region,  
now and in the future in an  
open public process.



**Border Environment Cooperation Commission**