

## USEPA Region 6

### US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program

# Prioritization Process

**for Selecting Projects Located in New Mexico, Texas, Chihuahua, Nueva Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas**



# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Project Prioritization Process

### ◆ Highlighted Process Changes

- Conduct an initial call for applications resulting in ranked projects list, followed by an open application cycle, evaluating applications on a periodic basis and integrating those into the ranked list.
- Provide on-line “smart” application with sponsor, prompting required fields and types of responses.
- Conduct one-step application evaluation with priority categories integrated into ranking parameters.
- Overall ranking parameter modifications and updates.
- Manage on-line application status lists available for public view – Under Development (selected); Pre-Selected; Ranked Application Pool (Wait-list); Rejected/Ineligible

# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Initial Eligibility Filter

### Program Eligibility Filter

- ◆ **Project Types:** Community drinking water and/or wastewater infrastructure
- ◆ **Project Objective:** Address an existing human health or environmental condition related to inadequate infrastructure or the absence of access to proper water and/or wastewater service.
- ◆ **Project Location:** 100 kilometers north/south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Projects located in Mexico must provide a US-side benefit.
- ◆ **Project sponsor must** (at time of selection or anytime during development):
  - Be in compliance with funding program requirements for any active BECC or NADB project. Project sponsors located in Mexico must also be in compliance with any CONAGUA funding or administrative requirements.
  - Demonstrate financial need through an affordability analysis conducted by BECC/NADB.

# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

### Ranking Parameters – 100 points

- ◆ **Environmental / Human Health Objective – 30 pts**
- ◆ **Project Development Status – 25 pts**
- ◆ **Institutional Capacity Documentation – 15 pts**
- ◆ **Degree of US Benefits – 10 pts**
- ◆ **Sustainable Development Component – 10 pts**
- ◆ **Cost per Connection – 10 pts**

# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

### ◆ Environmental and Human Health Objective – 25 pts

Immediate or  
Direct impacts  
to Public  
Health

- 30 pts – Health impacted by no access to DW; Exposure to untreated WW due to surface discharges, the absence of treatment or inadequate on-site disposal; addresses US-declared public health emergency.
- 25 pts – DW non-compliance for primary water quality standards; Acute and/or chronic issues due to waterborne contaminants in DW supported by an epidemiological report or formalized study.

Immediate adverse  
environmental  
effect or potential  
health effect

- 25 pts – Major WW collection/treatment deficiencies not attributable to lack of O/M which causes a threat to environment and/or human exposure to untreated sewage.
- 20 pts – DW outages/intermittent service due to insufficient capacity in water treatment or distribution system; Non-compliant WW effluent quality to US impaired water bodies; Non-compliant WW discharges impacting ESA-listed species.

Reduces risks  
to health and  
environment

- 10 pts – DW treatment/distribution to address non-compliance of enforceable secondary standards; Non-compliance with WW discharge requirements; Improves WW treatment in transboundary watershed.

# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

- ◆ **Project Development and Funding Status – 25 pts maximum**
  - 15 Points:** Design documents available<sup>1</sup> and/or a completed Facility Plan, Preliminary Engineering Report, or similar document.
  - 10 Points:** Planning document (Alternative Analysis) available and/or the applicant can provide clear documentation of the conditions to be addressed by the project
  
  - ADD**
  - 10 Points:** Formal commitment of funds from another source for anticipated project development or construction costs
  
  - 5 Points:** Application submitted for other funding source(s) and/or the applicant can provide proof of land ownership for facilities to be addressed by the project.

<sup>1</sup>Design is used here as an indicator of technical development and is not expected to meet standard requirements for certification and funding.

# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

### ◆ Institutional Capacity Documentation – 15 pts (cumulative)

3 points will be awarded for each of the following for a maximum of 15 pts:

- Audited Financial Statements (previous year) and Current Year Budget
- Reserve accounts for O&M, Repair/Replacement, and/or capital improvements are established and maintained
- Rate structure along with billing and collection efficiencies data for previous fiscal year or 12 month period
- Organizational Structure including summary of qualifications/ experience of key management and operations personnel.
- Operational performance documentation (i.e. sanitary surveys, influent/effluent data, NPDES permits, annual reports, water production/use; pre-treatment program activities)
- Utility applies sustainable development practices (high efficiency equipment, implementation of leak detection or other water conservation programs, tiered rate structures, existing reuse practices, etc)

Documentation will be collected during the “Pre-selection” project review process.



# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

- ◆ **Degree of US Benefit – 10 points**
  - **10 points –**
    - Project is located in the US and provides new DW and/or WW connections;
    - Project is located in Mexico and addresses untreated WW discharges to transboundary water body.
  - **5 points –**
    - Project is located in the US;
    - Project is located in Mexico, within a transboundary watershed, and reduces untreated WW discharges or improves US water quality
    - Project is located in Mexico, within a transboundary watershed, and improves WW treatment, discharge quality, and/or provides first-time access to WW or DW services
  - **0 points – Project is located in Mexico and in a community contiguous to the border.**



# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

### ◆ Sustainable Development Component – 10 pts

**10 Points:** Integral SD element (anaerobic digestion/cogeneration, use of alternative energy to power processes, or efforts resulting in a decrease on the demand for potable water use or depletion of important water resources)

**5 Points:** Incidental SD element (solar power for power needs such as facility lighting, installation of high efficiency equipment for operations, or reuse of water at the respective facility)

# US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program



## EPA Region 6 Prioritization Methodology

### ◆ Cost per Connection (CPC) – 10 pts

Projects in:	US	Mexico
10 Points	CPC ≤ \$10,000	CPC ≤ \$2,000
5 Points	CPC > \$10,000 and ≤ \$20,000	CPC > \$2,000 and ≤ \$4,000
0 Points	CPC > \$20,000	CPC > \$4,000