

should achieve a high level of environmental protection for the affected area that results in a benefit to the environment or human health. Projects with negative impacts must provide actions to mitigate the impacts.		withdrawn, but an efficient pumping system will be established by regulating water distribution through adequately located storage tanks and a main water line that will encircle the city. The Santa Cruz Aquifer, one of the sources, is binational.
Compliance with Applicable Environmental Regulations. All projects certified by the BECC must demonstrate compliance with all applicable local, regional, state, and federal environmental regulations before project operations begin. The BECC may condition its certification upon the Applicant's ability to comply with applicable environmental regulations.	Yes.	The Environmental Impact Statement has been duly authorized. The corresponding decree includes the conditions that need to be met before it is authorized. The project has the permit to relocate the water wells by the National Water Commission (CNA).
Environmental Assessment. Every Applicant must submit an environmental assessment before the project may be considered for certification. On a case-by-case basis, the BECC may certify a project before the assessment is "final" according to applicable domestic environmental laws. In such instances, the BECC may condition the certification upon successful completion of the assessment.	Yes.	The Environmental Impact Statement has been submitted to BECC.
Conformance with Applicable Local and Regional Plans. All projects must address applicable local and regional plans as well as land use and zoning regulations.	Yes.	Project conforms to the City of Nogales Planning programs as well as with the Municipal Development Plan.
Conformance with Applicable International Agreements. Projects must comply with applicable international agreements.	Yes.	Project does not interfere with any international treaty between Mexico and the United States since it's based on improving the water distribution system without increasing the current extraction.

3. Technical Feasibility

Appropriate Technology. BECC will only certify projects which use appropriate technology and which are designed to be constructed, operated, and maintained in a cost-effective manner to achieve the project's purpose.	Yes.	Construction of a water distribution macrocircuit (encircling main line), regulation and distribution tanks, as well as improvements to the water extraction system by utilizing water wells that have higher capacity and are better located, as well as the use of conventional technology. Likewise, the pumping equipment will be updated and more efficient, using 20% less power resulting in a cost efficient operation and maintenance program.
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4. Economic and Financial Feasibility

Debt Coverage. Project revenues must be sufficient to cover debt amortization and operation and maintenance costs with an appropriate safety margin.	Yes.	The project has an adequate debt coverage, by increasing the revenues of the Water Utility from the sale of water rights, differential increases in the rates and the improvement of the efficiency of collection. Updating the user data base, presently underway, will allow an increase in the collection of fees.
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5: Social Issues

<p>Compliance with Applicable Cultural Resources Regulations. All projects certified by the BECC must comply with all appropriate cultural resource (i.e. historical, archeological, and ethnic) regulations.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>This project does not affect any cultural resources and the project will mainly be executed in an urban area where the water lines to be improved are already in existence.</p>
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6. Community Participation

<p>Comprehensive Community Participation Plan. Applicants must submit and implement a BECC-approved Community Participation Plan that will consist of meeting with local organizations conducting at least one publicly advertised public meeting, and may utilize a local steering committee.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Community Participation Program has been developed by the sponsor and BECC. The submittal of the final document is still pending. However, a great number of public meetings have taken place with different sectors of the community, therefore it is considered the criteria requirements have been met.</p>
<p>Public Acceptance. The Comprehensive Community Participation Plan report submitted to the BECC following implementation shall indicate the degree of public acceptance of the project.</p>		<p>The project has been accepted by a large portion of the community; however, the political opposition has rejected it unless the user fee increase is publically made known, as well as an explanation is provided in reference to the financial standing of the Alisos Aquifer project. The project sponsor has refused to explain the financial status of the project before the Advisory Council of the Water Utility, which is the only authority that can establish the user fee increases, decides to do so.</p>

7. Operation and Maintenance

<p>Operation and Maintenance Program. Project documents must include an operation and maintenance program, including an effective program for emergency planning, an occupational health and safety plan, training plan for operation and maintenance personnel, and where applicable, a pollution prevention plan, facility closure plan, and post-closure plan.</p>		<p>The works that will be implemented during this first phase are totally similar to existing infrastructure already operated and maintained by the water utility, and for which it plenty of experience, thereby it is considered that the operation and maintenance capacity aspects are sufficiently covered. Also, the CNA is able to help in institutional capacity building of the utility.</p>
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8. Sustainable Development

<p>Principles. Projects must adhere to the principles of sustainable development set forth above.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project adheres to the principles of sustainable development indicated in the BECC criteria.</p>
<p>Institutional and Human Capacity Building. Projects must demonstrate and strengthen the ability of the community for long-term support and maintenance, including measures to build human and institutional capacities.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>An ample public awareness program is available, that will allow the long-term continuation of the project. There is also the similar water-works of the Alisos Aqueduct, which the public has ample experience in following and keeping up to date.</p>

In addition, it would be desirable that the project include the following Sustainable Development characteristics:

Characteristic	Application
adopt a comprehensive approach to natural resource protection by implementing ecosystem management	Yes
combine source reduction and recycling into a comprehensive approach that minimizes residuals.	Yes
are designed to lower their life cycle cost by substituting energy and other resources.	Yes, Substitution of older equipment
increase the efficiency of energy production	Yes, More efficient pumps
Projects that improve the quality of drinking water in low-income communities	Yes, supply water to colonias
Projects that present an effective post-certification public awareness	Yes

efficiently, in an area where there is scarcity and it is difficult to manage. For Santa Cruz will be extended, by not increasing the extraction rate. It is maintained by substituting 20 low efficiency pumps with three new ones. For Nogales, Sonora, population. The wastewater treatment plant will be decreased, by rehabilitating the sewer system for stormwater and potable water, which receive unnecessary treatment. The city's water sources will be protected from the pollution generated by the areas of the network.

Sustainable Development Characteristics
Ecosystem Management. Projects that address resource management and environmental protection.
Project Life Cycle Planning. Projects that use an overall product life cycle approach that minimizes costs.
Project Life Cycle Cost. Projects that address reducing inputs of energy, equipment, maintenance, and other resources.
Energy Production Efficiency. Projects that use more efficient turbines.
Better Environmental or Health Services. Projects that provide environmental or health services (i.e. clean drinking water).
Post-Certification Participation Plan. Projects that have a certification plan with a goal of achieving community participation.
Other:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water resource will be used more efficiently. The useful lifetime of the binational aquifer will be extended. Important savings in power use will be obtained. Water will be supplied to 100% of the population. The operation costs of the binational wastewater treatment system and avoiding the introduction of stormwater. By rehabilitating the sewer system, the city will avoid wastewater spills in the highly damaged areas.

STAFF OPINION:

Requested by the City of Nogales, Sonora, to develop this project, in coordination with the City of Nogales, Arizona to develop binational authorities:

Study of the Santa Cruz aquifer in relation to the infrastructure that will be required in the second phase of this project.

Investigation for the future withdrawal of water from the aquifer.

Relocation of the treatment plant located in Nogales, Sonora to the treatment plant located in Nogales, Arizona.

Selection of the best option for both cities, on the wastewater treatment plant for the city of Nogales, Sonora.

Based on the BECC Fundamental Criteria, this project is eligible for certification.

The BECC recognizes the effort made by the binational authorities in coordinating with the corresponding binational authorities.

- Not develop more withdrawal wells and related infrastructure works that will increase the withdrawal of water from the aquifer until the corresponding studies have been finished.
- Review and establish the basis of coordination between the binational authorities of the Santa Cruz aquifer.
- Not increase the flow of wastewater from the city of Nogales, Arizona.
- Conclude the analytical procedure for the location and operation of the new wastewater treatment plant.

Based upon the project evaluation related to the project presented to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, January 18, 1996