



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jesse Hereford, 210-231-8000, jhereford@nadb.org

More than US\$9.7 million invested in basic infrastructure projects in communities in Doña Ana County, New Mexico

- **Two ceremonies for new wastewater treatment plant in Sunland Park and for water system improvements in Mesilla**
- **Both projects received grants from EPA**

Doña Ana County, New Mexico – This morning, a groundbreaking ceremony to initiate construction of a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for the town of Sunland Park was hosted by the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA), followed later in the day by a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of a water system improvements project hosted by the Town of Mesilla. Both communities are located in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Alex Hinojosa, Acting Managing Director of the North American Development Bank (NADB); Maria Elena Giner, General Manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC); Brent Westmoreland, CRRUA Executive Director; Claudia Hosch, from Region 6 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); as well as representatives from the local offices of U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich for New Mexico, presided over the groundbreaking ceremony of this plant, which will replace the old North facility built in the 1970s and will treat 1.0 million gallons a day (mgd) of wastewater benefitting more than 6,000 residents.

The US\$11.7-million project is being funded by a \$9.0 million grant from EPA through the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) administered by NADB, as well as a \$3.7 million grant from the State of New Mexico. In addition, CRRUA is receiving US\$85,000 in technical assistance from the EPA-funded Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP) administered by BECC for an asset management study, which is expected to help the utility optimize its current assets.

“These grants will enable the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority to utilize its resources more efficiently and more effectively to benefit the communities it serves,” commented Senator Udall. “As CRRUA works to replace the aging wastewater treatment plant and lessen risks to the environment and public health, this grant will support the utility’s efforts to modernize and plan for the future.”

“The construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in Sunland Park was a much-needed investment to help the region with ongoing wastewater treatment problems. With this grant, the

Camino Real Regional Utility Authority can develop a management plan to optimize its current assets and better prepare for future demands,” said Senator Heinrich. “These smart investments in our border communities improve public health, strengthen the community, and contribute to long-term economic development”.

Subsequently, at the second event, Mesilla Mayor Nora L. Barraza presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of water system improvements benefitting more than 1,450 residents of the community located about 2 miles southwest of the City of Las Cruces.

The US\$762,000 project, which received US\$698,115 BEIF grant from EPA, consisted of the construction of three separate waterlines that will add looping to improve the distribution system and serve new hookups. The New Mexico Environment Department also provided a grant to support the project.

“These projects certified by the NADB-BECC Board of Directors in 2015, will allow these communities to meet current and future demand generated by urban development in this region,” stated Mr. Hinojosa. “Today would not have been possible without the support of EPA, the State of New Mexico and Senators Udall and Heinrich who have appropriated funds for priority water and wastewater infrastructure for communities along the U.S.-Mexico border.”

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NADB is a financial institution established and capitalized in equal parts by the United States and Mexico for the purpose of financing environmental infrastructure projects along their common border. As a pioneer institution in its field, the Bank is working to develop environmentally and financially sustainable projects with broad community support in a framework of close cooperation and coordination between Mexico and the United States. For more information, visit www.nadb.org.

BECC is an international organization established by the governments of the United States and Mexico that works to preserve, protect and enhance human health and the environment of the U.S.-Mexico border region, by strengthening cooperation among interested parties and supporting sustainable projects through a transparent bi-national process in close coordination with NADB, federal, state and local agencies, the private sector and civil society. For more information, visit www.nadb.org.