



**NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
FACT SHEET
EL PASO, TEXAS**

- Project:** Expansion of the Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant
- Cost:** US\$37,822, 343
- Sponsor:** El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board
- Location:** The county of El Paso is located in the far west part of Texas and shares the U.S.-Mexico border with Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.
- Background:** The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board (PSB) provides water and wastewater services to residents of the city of El Paso and El Paso County. While the PSB treats the water supply for the entire county, in some cases it is distributed by separate and independent utilities, including the Lower Valley Water District, the Homestead Municipal Utility District, and the East Montana County Water District. Two of the independent utilities have been cited by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for insufficient and non-compliant water supply systems and water resources. In addition, many colonia residents still get their water from wells.
- A study conducted by the University of Texas at El Paso in 1988 found that 100 percent of water samples taken from 66 wells in the San Elizario colonia were bacteriologically contaminated with fecal coli, while a study by the University of Texas Health Sciences in the same year determined that approximately 90 percent of the sampled population in the San Elizario area had been infected with Hepatitis A by age 35. According to a 1993 health report, El Paso County had five times the rate of Hepatitis A as the rest of the United States. Residents of these areas are aware of the dangers of disease transmitted by contaminated water, and many of them obtain drinking water from a piped supply or purchase purified water at a significantly higher cost.
- Description:** The main components of the project consist of:
- Expansion of the existing plant from 40 to 60 million gallons per day (mgd), which will provide water to the city, as well as underserved colonias in the city and surrounding areas
 - Additional backwash capacity for granular activated carbon (GAC) filters

- Connection of the stabilization ponds
- Additional pumping capacity
- Construction of a major transmission pipeline ranging in size from 42” to 54” to connect two existing pipeline systems so that the increased water production can be utilized.

BECC Certification: December 5, 1997

NADB Funding: Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)
Construction Grant Assistance: US\$14,906,458

Other Funding Sources: The remaining project cost is financed through municipal bonds and a loan from the Texas Water Development Board.

Benefits: The project will provide safe water supply to the colonia communities and additional treatment capacity for the city. The project will reduce health risks associated with environmental contamination of water supplies.

For more information, contact Juan Antonio Flores,
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