



**NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
FACT SHEET
ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
NEW MEXICO**

Project:	Pipe Installation on Unlined Earthen Laterals
Cost:	US\$8,494,705
Sponsor	Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)
Location:	The Elephant Butte Irrigation District is located within portions of Sierra County and Doña Ana County, in southern New Mexico. The district lies along the Rio Grande, extending south from the Caballo Reservoir to the Mexico and Texas borders.
Background:	<p>The district consists of three main irrigation systems: the Rincon Valley System, the Middle Mesilla Valley System and the Lower Mesilla Valley System. The three systems can deliver irrigation water to 90,640 acres of farms and small tracts within these valleys.</p> <p>The irrigation distribution system was built about 75 years ago and has become increasingly overtaxed in meeting modern agricultural demands. Overall water efficiency is currently estimated at only 45% to 50%.</p> <p>EBID initiated an overall system improvement program three years ago and has already completed improvements to eight laterals. The proposed project will complete the second phase of the program and will serve as a pilot for a larger scale canal improvement plan.</p>
Description:	The project consists of replacing 14.18 miles of open, unlined, earthen irrigation laterals with 48-inch aluminized steel pipe throughout the three main irrigation systems over a three-year construction period.
BECC Certification:	June 18, 2003
NADB Funding:	<u>Water Conservation Investment Fund (WCIF):</u> Grant: US\$4,000,000
	These funds will be applied towards the purchase of materials.
Other Funding Sources:	The District will contribute in-kind services to cover design, labor, heavy equipment and supervision costs.

Benefits:

The proposed improvements will virtually eliminate seepage and evaporation losses in the selected sections, resulting in a projected savings of 9,561 acre-feet of water a year, as well as increasing overall district operating efficiency to about 65%. Environmental benefits also include the reduced use of herbicides for weed control along the laterals and the reduced risk of water contamination as laterals will be protected from illegal dumping. The district will also save time and money as a result of reduced maintenance requirements associated with mowing, dredging and herbicide spraying.

For more information, contact Juan Antonio Flores,
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