



**NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
FACT SHEET
FABENS, TEXAS**

- Project:** Improvements to the Water and Wastewater Systems of the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District in Fabens, Texas
- Cost:** US\$11,995,714
- Sponsor:** El Paso County Water Control and Improvements District No.4
- Location:** The town of Fabens is an unincorporated community located approximately 28 miles southeast of the City of El Paso and 4 miles north of the Rio Grande.
- Background:** The existing water system is inadequate to meet the needs of the current and future population. Water pumped from groundwater supply wells does not comply with the secondary water quality standards for contaminant set forth by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). Additionally, the water distribution system consists of 2-inch diameter distribution lines, which are too small to provide the pressure necessary for the installation and use of fire hydrants. Given the age of the system, the existing water lines have deteriorated and, as a result, recurring line breaks and water leaks are prevalent throughout the District.
- The wastewater treatment plant consistently exceeds 75 percent of the permitted flow, as well as operates outside the parameters of its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by TNRCC. Furthermore, the existing wastewater collection system requires upgrading because the main interceptor has overflowed numerous times in the past year, discharging raw sewage onto the streets and presenting the potential for human contact with untreated wastewater.
- Description:** This project will address two major human health and environment issues: 1) A non-compliant water distribution system and bacteria growth due to high levels of iron and manganese; and 2) insufficient wastewater treatment capacity.
- Water improvements include:
- Installation of treatment units at well sites to remove iron and manganese
 - Two booster pumps and a 500,000 gallon storage tank to increase production capacity

- Replacing all of the remaining two-inch lines.

Wastewater improvements include:

- A new 7,000 linear foot fifteen-inch diameter interceptor
- Wastewater treatment plant expansion and rehabilitation
- Modular Oxidation Ditch (MOD) chlorine contact basins

BECC Certification: March 20, 2002

NADB Funding: Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF):
 Construction Grant Assistance: US\$4,748,414
 Transition Grant Assistance: US\$1,351,763
 Total US\$6,100,177

Loan & Guaranty Program
 Low-interest loan: US\$4,751,823

This loan is being provided through the NADB’s Low Interest Rate Lending Facility (LIRF) and will be made in the form of a municipal bond purchase.

Institutional Development Cooperation Program:
 A water and wastewater rate study was conducted.

Other Funding Sources: The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) will provide a loan. The District will use unrestricted cash reserves and issue municipal bonds to cover the rest of the project costs.

Benefits: This project will bring the systems into compliance with TNRCC rules and provide a higher level of public health and safety for more than 7,000 people, by improving the quality of drinking water, as well as treated wastewater discharged into the Rio Grande.

For more information, contact Juan Antonio Flores,
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