



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

- Project:** Marathon Water Supply & Sewer Service Corporation Water and Wastewater Improvements Project
- Cost:** US\$1,954,030
- Sponsor:** Marathon Water Supply & Sewer Service Corporation
- Location:** The community of Marathon is an unincorporated area in Brewster County, Texas, approximately 55 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. It is located on US Highway 90 between the cities of Sanderson and Alpine.
- Background:** Water and wastewater services are provided by the Marathon Water Supply & Sewer Service Corporation. The system has 330 water accounts and 290 wastewater accounts. The majority of these accounts are residential.
- The Corporation draws its water supply from the Marathon aquifer through two wells located near the town. This supply is sufficient to meet the needs of the community, but the water distribution system needs to be expanded to provide service to additional users.
- The wastewater treatment system was built in 1971 with a treatment capacity of 28,000 gallons per day (gpd). The treatment process consists of evaporating effluent in a detention pond. Currently, the plant is operating beyond capacity, with average monthly flows of 36,000 gpd and a daily peak flow of 115,000 gpd. Consequently, the Corporation is under an Enforcement Order from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- In addition, 36 residences are not connected to the sewer system and are discharging their wastewater into cesspools or outhouses. These on-site disposal systems pose a potentially serious health and environmental risk to the area's groundwater supply if they are not properly operated and maintained.
- Description:** The Corporation has undertaken a two-phase project to expand and improve its water and wastewater systems.

Phase I

This phase consisted of decommissioning the existing facultative pond and replacing it with a new 2.22-acre pond, which has already been completed.

Phase II

Improvements to the water and wastewater systems include:

- Expansion of the wastewater treatment plant from 28,000 gpd to 200,000 gpd
- Changing the treatment process from effluent evaporation to effluent irrigation over a 40 acre field of Bermuda grass
- Construction of an additional 2.22-acre stabilization pond, between the new facultative pond and other stabilization ponds
- Construction of a 0.71-acre effluent storage pond to equalize flows to a pump station.
- Installation of 36 residential wastewater connections
- Extension of water mains to connect 19 residences to the water system

BECC Certification: June 18, 2003

NADB Funding: Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF):
Construction Grant Assistance: US\$1,363,772

These funds will be applied towards the construction costs of Phase II project components.

Other Funding Sources: The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) provided a grant for the first phase, and the Corporation will cover the remaining construction costs with its own funds. The utility also received a grant from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission's (BECC) Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP) for the design of the project.

Benefits: Improvements to the wastewater facilities will bring the system into compliance with TCEQ regulations and ensure adequate treatment of wastewater, thus reducing potential health and environmental risks for area residents. Expansion of both systems will ensure 100% water and wastewater service coverage to residents.

For more information, contact Juan Antonio Flores,
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