



**NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
FACT SHEET
MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA**

- Project:** Wastewater System Improvements
- Cost:** US\$26,574,291
- Sponsors:** *Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali (CESPM)*, an autonomous entity that provides water supply and wastewater treatment services for Mexicali, and is a decentralized agency of the Baja California State Government.
- Location:** Mexicali is the capital of the state of Baja California. It is located in the northeastern area of the state and shares the U.S.-Mexico border with Calexico, California.
- Background:** The City of Mexicali does not have sufficient capacity to treat all the wastewater generated by its residents. Flows from the area known as Mexicali I are conveyed to the Zaragoza treatment plant. However, wastewater from Mexicali II is discharged untreated into a drain that flows into the New River.
- In December 1997, CESPM initiated a comprehensive sanitation program for the City of Mexicali aimed at upgrading portions of the city's wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure, including the rehabilitation and expansion of the Mexicali I Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), installation of wastewater collection systems in more than 46 subdivisions without service, and construction of the Mexicali II WWTP.
- However, because of opposition in the community to construction of the second plant at the site selected, CESPM proposed changing the location of the new plant from El Choropo to Las Arenitas. Effluent from the new plant will be discharged to a drain that flows north to south towards the Gulf of California (Hardy River). Because this move entails making significant changes to the original project, the plant had to be re-evaluated and certified by the BECC.
- Description:** The main components of the project to construct the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant are:
- Expansion of Pump Station No. 4 (PB4)
 - Phase I of the force main, which runs 8.9 kilometers (5.5 miles) from PB 4 to the original plant site at El Choropo

- Phase II of the force main, which runs 16 kilometers (10 miles) from El Choropo to the Las Arenitas plant site
- Acquisition of land and construction of the plant with an 880 lps (20 MGD) treatment capacity

BECC Certification: September 25, 2003

NADB Funding: Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)
Construction Grant Assistance: US\$10,108,625

These funds will be applied towards the construction costs of the second phase of the force main and the expansion of the pump station.

Other Funding Sources: CESPM is also obtaining a loan and grant from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC). The rest of the costs will be covered by Mexican federal, state and CESPM funding.

Benefits: With this plant, untreated wastewater discharges into the New River and Salton Sea will be eliminated, thus improving the environment and health of the current and future populations of Mexicali, Baja California and Calexico, California.

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