



NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
FACT SHEET
NACO, SONORA

- Project:** Water Supply and Wastewater Collection and Treatment System
- Cost:** US\$2,070,308
- Sponsor:** The local water utility, *Organismo Operador Municipal de Agua Potable Alcantarillado y Saneamiento de Naco* (OOMAPAS)
- Location:** The city of Naco is located in the northeastern part of the state of Sonora, directly across the border from Naco, Arizona. It is near the cities of Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Bisbee, Arizona.
- Background:**
- The existing water supply system was unable to meet the needs of the urban area because of leaks and a failing pump system, which gave rise to chronic water pressure problems that adversely affected the quality of water services. In addition, the total absence of metering fostered inefficient water usage and billing practices.
- The existing wastewater collection and treatment system was also insufficient as it only covered up to 85% of the urban area and only 65% of the population was connected to it. In addition, the treatment system did not have the capacity to hold all of the wastewater generated by the community.
- The ponds operated as closed systems without discharges to a receiving stream, with the exception of small amounts of effluent used for irrigation. Since the amount of incoming sewage frequently exceeded evaporation and infiltration losses, severe overflows of partially treated wastewater often occurred. Due to the slope of the land, these overflows tended to runoff towards the international border line, flooding the wellfield that serves as a water supply for the city of Bisbee, Arizona. Recurrent failure of the pumping equipment due to wear and tear aggravated this situation.
- Description:** The main components of the project include:
- Upgrading the existing water supply wells and improving the water network
 - Constructing a new Eastside collector
 - Expanding the network of residential pipelines and outlets

- Upgrading and expanding the existing Eastside oxidation pond module and building a new pumping station to connect the existing ponds to the expansion units
- Updating the users registry and rate structure, as well as the management information systems

BECC Certification: April 30, 1996

NADB Funding: Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)
Construction Grant Assistance: US\$945,154

Loan & Guaranty Program
Market-rate loan: US\$149,667

Institutional Development Cooperation Program (IDP)
The NADB also financed a user registry update, water and wastewater rate study and management information system, including the purchase of hardware and software, as well as training in its use.

Other Funding Sources: The remaining project costs were covered by grant from the Mexican national water agency, *Comisión Nacional del Agua* (CNA), and an in-kind contribution from the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).

Benefits: Improvements to the wastewater treatment pond system and pumping stations have resolved the problem of transboundary sewage spills, thus protecting the local aquifer from contamination. Improvements in the water system have reduced water losses due to leaks and promoted a more efficient use of water, thus extending the useful life of the only local water supply.

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